



University College Chester Turns To Topaz To Achieve Educational Accounting “Dream”

University College Chester’s accounting team, like most of its peer groups throughout the UK, has often dreamed of achieving paper free, dispersed purchasing control to all faculties – including the monitoring of expenditure against budgets.

Now that dream is a little closer to reality thanks to Topaz Financials.

University College Chester’s long time financials and payroll supplier has recently delivered an integrated solution to a set of problems that bedevils most of education by combining –

- Purchase order processing
- Web Kiosk, a breakthrough technology which opens up easy access to data held on the systems to both users and non users alike
- Commitment Accounting, a module designed to tighten control over proposed spending

It is the Web Kiosk module – the latest offering from the Topaz development team - which is likely to have the biggest impact at University College Chester in that it offers a wide range of access and flexible data browsing entry points to the systems.

This “self service” approach means that all the College’s 60 plus budget holders will now be able to access all data relevant to them without going through the accounts department – yet without the latter giving up overall control.

Using intuitive screens, the Web Kiosk module offers budget holders full control over their purchasing requirements while the Commitment Accounting module ensures they cannot commit to what they cannot afford.

Once the latest Topaz implementation at University College Chester is fully up and running, it will also mean a dramatic reduction in the paper trail the college previously endured.

Whereas Topaz has been looking after the interests of University College Chester for more than ten years, the College did look at how other Higher Education bodies were handling the problem of giving access to budget holders without losing control.

“What we discovered was that the Web Kiosk seemed the ideal solution,” says Richard Waddington, the College’s Deputy Director of Finance.

The fact that Topaz was willing to work in partnership with the accounting team reflects the relationship University College Chester has with the software author.

“We have always looked on Topaz as being an extension of our department in that they have been there to help every step of the way, always reacting quickly to our IT requirements with Topaz Financials and Topaz EMS,” says Eddie Austin, Director of Finance.



Notes to Editors:

About Topaz Topaz was founded by a group of like-minded business professionals and began life creating bespoke software solutions and supporting third party applications. At the core of Topaz business solutions are software applications that have been developed by its highly experienced team of software engineers. From inception to delivery, Topaz solutions are produced with the highest level of professionalism.

The company's many years of experience in software development to formal specifications produce both highly flexible packaged solutions and bespoke applications. Topaz's strict quality procedures ensure software is produced to high, exacting standards to a common template that has evolved over many years.

Topaz EMS is an integrated Payroll and HR solution with an optional Time and Attendance module, its inherent flexibility and ease of use. Lends itself to many different sectors of the market providing numerous time and cost saving benefits. Whilst being competitively priced the solution is regarded as one of the most comprehensive systems on the market today. The consultancy services Topaz provide ranges from complex business process re-engineering to production of Gap analysis reports and ultimately technical specifications.

Topaz Financials covers all aspects of a financial accounting solution including sales, purchase and nominal ledgers, cashbook and fixed assets and specialise in key areas like credit control, commitment and project accounting. Their growing user base acknowledge the quality of software developed by Topaz but also the essential services and on-going support. Users come from a range of business sectors and include: Education, Recruitment, Manufacturing, Professional Services and Distribution.

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Please note a digital image is available of the Topaz team outside their headquarters building.

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