metso

"Polarion provides flawless traceability and reduces bureaucracy"

Dr. Mika Karaila, Research Manager

The Situation

Faced with the prospect of starting a new R&D project with his company's traditional Microsoft® Word/Excel® document-centered methods, Metso Corporation Research Manager, **Dr. Mika Karaila**, realized one thing: he couldn't face it. Juggling multiple versions of multiple specification documents (at least one document for every level of planning). Managing changes manually. Reviews and revisions tied to a whole document at a time. A couple of meetings and the documents would be frozen to "approved" status (after which the inevitable changes would have to be managed… somehow).

Dr. Karaila felt that in this day and age, there must be a better way… some solution that would give his teams more flexibility and enable the pace to move faster and more efficiently, but without loss of quality or the ability to comply with various formalities. His search for that better way led him to Polarion.

The Solution

The first step was to evaluate Polarion against the needs for workflow and other customizations, looking for potential bottlenecks. Polarion's ease of installation, administration and customization easily passed muster, and the process moved on to the careful planning of new working methods, and tailoring Polarion to support them. Throughout the assessment and tailoring, the Metso team, which included professionals from both the company and its subcontractors, received valuable help

and insights from **Pasi Ahola** (now CEO of Taipuva Consulting Ltd., Polarion's Finnish partner), who also delivered training sessions and workshops for Metso's users.

A major gain for the new planning process was the increased granularity in specifications. Every requirement and specification item in Polarion is an individual "Work Item", with a lifecycle and status independent of other items in the specification (which, by the way, is a web-based document that looks familiar to users and is quickly adopted with minimal training). Consequently, all items in Metso's specification can now be reviewed and approved independently — of each other, and of the containing document — online, using just a web browser, with all changes visible to stakeholders in real time.

Another major gain was the ease of implementing and maintaining traceability.

"One of the main objectives was to provide the required traceability without adding any bureaucracy", says Dr. Karaila. "Traceability also means that we see the version history of who has done what and when, and we can compare the changed content to previous versions."

Traceability refers to the relationships between artifacts : requirements to functional specifications, and test specifications to both types of specifications, for example.

In Polarion individual Work Items are easily linked to each other, after which the traceability is automatic. Metso's testing teams now link each test case to the specification item(s) verified by the test. Reports and coverage checklists quickly reveal any missing parts in

Faster
requirements processing

Real-time
information visibility

Products

Polarion REQUIREMENTS
Polarion ALM

Conclusion

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the design or the test coverage. With Polarion the traceability can even be extended to the level of source code. "If I want, I can check how a design change is implemented in the code", says Dr. Karaila. "Easy traceability also made it possible to review requirements again in the design phase. This process is iterative and converges towards consistent results."

In the first phase of the project (a pre-study of the project's technological challenges), there were a little more than 200 requirements. Since then, the Polarion-managed project has grown to over 2,000 Work Items. Despite the scale, requirements, functional specifications and test cases are easily accessible and very usable thanks to the various custom views created in Polarion. Dr. Karaila also praises Polarion's project templates and free Polarion POP extensions, with the aid of which the custom views and reports his team needed were quickly put together.

"And we know we still haven't made use of everything Polarion has to offer," he says. We haven't yet begun to exploit Polarion's capabilities in project and release management".

The Benefits

Research Manager Dr. Mika Karaila sums up the most significant benefits Polarion has delivered for Metso Corporation this way:

- **The processing of requirements is now faster,** and progress is easy to manage in small fragments (vs. large documents).
- **Traceability is visible to all stakeholders**. It's all a "social design process" – collaborating with others on-line.
- Everybody has a **real-time view of the latest information available.** Project staff can work in parallel, geographically distributed. No one has to wait for a particular document or the freezing of the requirements. Changes and their impacts have been brought under control.
- The data model in Polarion is **fully customizable**, which ensures the necessary **flexibility in imple-**

menting our processes. The practices and processes created in the project can immediately be re-used in future projects.

About Metso Corporation

Metso Corporation (www.metso.com) is a global technology group, specializing in sustainable technology and service solutions in mining, construction, power generation, automation, recycling and the pulp and paper industry. Metso employs approximately 29,000 experts in more than 50 countries. In 2011 Metso Corporation's net sales were more than 6.5 billion Euros.

About Polarion Software

Polarion Software's success is best described by the hundreds of Global 1000 companies and over 1 Million users who rely daily on Polarion's Requirements Management, Quality Assurance, and Application Lifecycle Management solutions. Polarion is a thriving international company with offices across Europe and North America, and a wide ecosystem of partners world-wide. For more information, visit www.polarion.com.

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