

"We were able to reduce our SAP database footprint by 30% with Gimmel and SharePoint."

- Jeff Stewart, GM Information Services, Wilmar Australia

AP and Plant Maintenance in SAP with SharePoint

Industry

Agribusiness

Customer

Wilmar International Limited, founded in 1991 and headquartered in Singapore, is today Asia's leading agribusiness group. Wilmar is ranked among the largest companies listed by market capitalization on the Singapore Exchange.

Technologies Employed

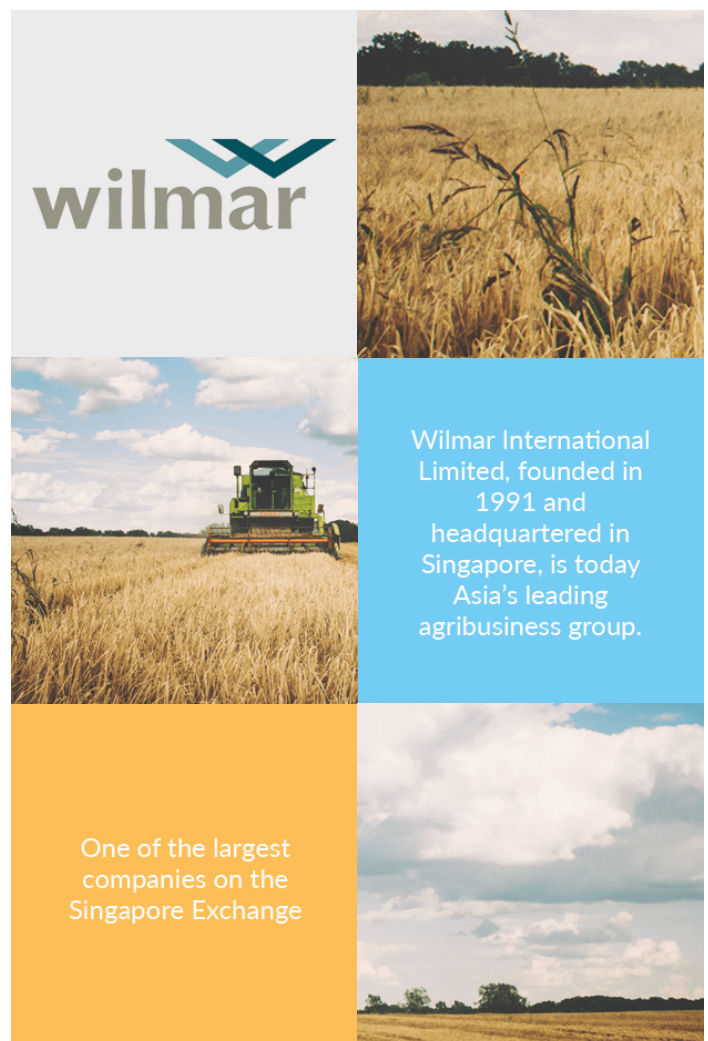
Gimmel Link

Challenges

- Deal with the high costs of their legacy ECM system
- Reduce content files bloating their SAP database
- Manage cash strategically and improve the efficiency of the Accounts Payable (AP) process
- Improve the efficiency of the Plant Maintenance (PM) system

Results

- Replaced a costly legacy OpenText Archive system for AP with a SharePoint-based system
- Reduced SAP database size by 30%, lowering costs and making the system more efficient
- Improved AP processes and better cash management
- Improved user efficiency with a best-in-class plant maintenance system



Background

Wilmar Sugar Australia, a division of Wilmar International, was established in 2011 after a separation from CSR Limited. SAP ERP is a key component of their IT strategy, implementing Accounts Payable, Human Resources/ Payroll, Materials Management, Plant Maintenance and other core systems. The Wilmar IT infrastructure is outsourced to a multi-tenant cloud, and SharePoint was introduced to the environment to provide a controlled document store. Wilmar had a goal to leverage SharePoint as a content repository across the organization as a way to lower their overall IT costs and improve the usability of their systems.

Solution

Wilmar took on the project in linked stages, each with its own deliverables and justifications. Gimmel Link was installed into the SharePoint environment hosted in Singapore, linking invoices in SharePoint to their associated SAP transactions for storage and retrieval.

Gimmel Link was then installed in their Australia environment, allowing the retirement of an OpenText content archive server. All invoice documents moved to the Singapore SharePoint environment.

Documents Stored in the SAP database that were attached to SAP transactions were moved to SharePoint and then re-linked to the appropriate SAP transaction. This freed up costly SAP database space.

Finally, Plant Maintenance work-order scanning was introduced. The multitude of documents associated with plant maintenance activities were scanned, tied to SAP transactions with Gimmel Link, and visualized in SAP with IntelliDocX DocSets.

Software and Services Used

Gimmel's distributor Dowser Group implemented a SharePoint-based solutions platform to support the organization's content-related needs. They began with an SAP AP environment, and then moved to improve plant maintenance and are poised to automate employee on-boarding processes.

- **Gimmel Link** to integrate SAP® AP and PM documents with SharePoint.
- Dowser Group's SharePoint and Document Management for SAP services to implement SharePoint based on best practices
- Dowser Group's content migration enabler tool helped to easily migrate 1M+ documents to SharePoint

Results

Each phase of the Wilmar Australia project yielded tangible and quantifiable benefits to the organization.

The new automated AP process allowed Wilmar Australia to better manage cash in the organization with an efficient and frictionless integration to SharePoint.

Wilmar eliminated their legacy OpenText ECM System, trimming IT costs by getting rid of both expensive maintenance fees as well as the need to find specialized OpenText experts for a point solution.

Moving content from the native SAP database to SharePoint reduced Wilmar Australia's overall storage in SAP by nearly 30%, providing significant costs savings in tier-1 storage. Wilmar used the best practice of keeping production, offsite, test, and development copies of their SAP database, thereby multiplying the cost savings.

The new plant maintenance work order process improved the maintenance process's efficacy, lowering the costs to the organization. Plant maintenance documentation is visible in both SAP and SharePoint, increasing user productivity.

Wilmar Australia now has a proven platform in place for future HR onboarding, employee records, and contracts applications.

About Dowser Group

Headquartered in Singapore, Dowser Group is the trusted advisor and partner to businesses worldwide as they look to enhance value with strong technology integration focusing on SAP and SharePoint Solutions and Services. Dowser Group has experts that combine strong domain knowledge of business strategy, information technology and management consulting with international experience to create customized solutions for clients that range from Fortune 100 companies to innovators. For more information, visit www.dowsergroup.com.