

# Case Study

## Sprint Teams-as-a-Service: When AppDev Isn't Your Core Business



### Introduction

The client is an education company who connects international schools with students who are interested in studying abroad. The client was having issues with their legacy systems. They also needed new applications developed quickly and wanted to stay in front of business priorities.

### The Challenges

The client didn't want a large IT staff because they're not in the IT business. The current team wasn't able to maintain their existing systems and complete new development at the same time. On the other hand, hiring in-house developers didn't fit with their long-term business goals.

The client had a backlog of legacy system updates and needed a partner to address them right away. They also didn't have the time to contract for a large development project to completely restructure the legacy systems.

Time wasn't the only factor. The client had both urgent tactical and long-term strategic goals. They knew that their requirements wouldn't be clear until they had the opportunity to address the legacy system backlog and determine how well the new features met their needs. The first priority was to focus on their most critical needs while considering a long-term technology strategy.

From a budgetary standpoint, the client had received proposals from several companies who recommended costly development projects. The client knew it would be a challenge getting that type of capital commitment from its board of directors.

## The Datavail Solution

Datavail proposed an approach completely different from the other vendors. It was one that would respond directly to all the client's needs.

Datavail's Sprint Teams-as-a-Service (STaaS) was the answer the client didn't know they were looking for. Here's how the service worked for this client:

- Datavail provided a software development team for two-week intervals, or "sprints."
- For each sprint, the team consisted of experts in a variety of disciplines based on the goal of the sprint, including architects, developers, testers, and others.
- The Sprint Team started by addressing the client's legacy system backlog to solve the bugs and errors.
- During the first interval, the team could easily change direction based on what they discovered, and the priorities set by the client.
- The Sprint Team provided regular feedback to the client to help them make decisions on how to move forward at each step in the process.
- Datavail assigned additional Sprint Teams to resolve specific problems or address new development issues, while the primary team continued to work on the legacy system backlog.
- The client budgeted the projects as a monthly operational expense, adding new sprints or sprint teams as the budget allowed.

## The Benefits

The STaaS approach helped the client achieve their technology goals without breaking the bank. The client:

- Established an ongoing relationship with the Sprint Team members, eliminating the problem of hiring individual developers for a one-time project.
- Could address technology issues with a Sprint Team being available on-demand, therefore without increasing the size of the permanent IT staff.
- Was able to address legacy system backlog and new development demands simultaneously.
- Wasn't forced into defining a long-term strategy before all the information needed to make that decision was available.
- Had control over the development process and could reprioritize every two weeks if needed.
- Could manage the monthly budget, rather than try to get approval for a large capital expenditure.

## About Datavail

Datavail is a company of over 1,000 professionals helping clients build and manage applications and data via a world-class tech-enabled delivery platform and software solutions across all leading technologies.