EPA OEI DSB Reusable Component Services

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) System of Registries (SoR) provides the EPA and its partners with a single, central location to register and catalog data assets and resources in support of other parts of the organization and its partners. A registry of XML schema existed for a few years but it did not meet the longer term needs of EPA. When the Data Standards Branch (DSB) decided to use a Reusable Component Service (RCS) registry to replace this outdated system, Software AG Government Solutions worked with EPA stakeholders to create a customized, easy to adapt, solution.

The end result of this process was a flexible repository for different types of data resources with a service-oriented architecture (SOA) governance structure that utilized existing information to limit redundant entries. With this RCS registry, EPA now has a centralized cataloguing service that provides users with access to over 1,000 data assets from a dozen different registries and sources with end-to-end governance. In partnership with Software AG Government Solutions SoR increased IT asset reusability with significant cost savings, faster deployments, higher quality and standards compliance.

Completed in 2011 nearly two years before President Obama's open data executive order in May 2013, the EPA's RCS registry positioned the agency as an early leader in providing the public with myriad of government data in open, machine-readable formats. Today, the EPA's RCS registry is enabling states to collaborate more effectively and efficiently in developing shared applications with EPA data. This RCS registry also serves as the backbone in efforts like the Apps for the Environment Challenge for the public to develop mobile applications using EPA-hosted application programming interfaces (API) and other data.