



VILLARA™ BUILDING SYSTEMS

Reducing Overhead Costs While Digitizing Processes Related to a Fluctuating Mobile Workforce

About Villara Building Systems

Villara Building Systems was originally founded in 1947 as Beutler Heating and Air Conditioning. Today, it offers a wide range of building services, from heating and cooling to plumbing and solar installations, for residential, multifamily and commercial properties. With a history of innovation, starting with the think tank atmosphere original founder Del Beutler ingrained in the company culture, whether it was improving the efficiency of air conditioning methods or consistently investing in their employees by improving business processes, Villara has become

the largest heating and air and plumbing company of its kind in the United States.

Villara invested in SAP to automate internal processes, and to keep track of cost, labor and material on more than 300 simultaneous projects. Villara was looking to increase field operation efficiency and deliver actionable, near real-time reporting instead of finding out what happened weeks later - however, the nature of their business and remote workforce offered a handful of challenges driving them to look for additional solutions.

The Situation

Villara's business has warehousing, manufacturing and remote job site work components to it, as well as seasonal fluctuations in their number of employees that work in these locations where connectivity to their core SAP system is not always guaranteed. They searched the market for an application development platform that specialized in mobile-enablement with direct integration to critical systems like SAP and other in-house applications that offered security, offline capabilities, and ease of development.

With these criteria met, they could turn existing manual processes and legacy applications into cloud-based SaaS applications that all workers could access from any device and could both input and pull data in real time for labor management.

Historically, Villara's mobile workforce would track their times manually with paper processes, passing along that paper to their full-time supervisors, who would, in turn, consolidate that time entry information weekly, passing it along to the internal payroll team back at headquarters. From there, the payroll team, consisting of five employees, would take three days to manually enter that time into their core SAP system. This was a particularly labor-intensive process.

Villara pays their employees on a weekly basis, and weeks containing a holiday in the work week required payroll staff to work during those holidays due to the labor-intensive and time consuming manual process that was in place. Also, because of this manual approach, there was a major risk of human error and inaccuracy on both the mobile workers time entry, as well as the data entry process into SAP.



Without a large development or IT infrastructure organization, they needed to tackle all these challenges in a fiscally responsible way, given the seasonal fluctuation of their business; supporting the peak amount of users from an infrastructure perspective offered its own challenges.

The Business Challenge

- Lengthy, manual paper process for time entry for mobile workers.
- Remote nature of the work did not guarantee connectivity back to headquarters and core systems.
- Legacy applications for other job sites and material operations.
- Fluctuating workforce created challenges with traditional approaches of building applications and supporting those applications operationally year round.

Pillir's Solution

- Designed and built a custom online app with a user-centric, customized experience that tightly integrates to SAP and is based on roles and authorizations with the ability to do time entry in real time.
- Deployment to multiple locations and users is done seamlessly.
- Hosted on Pillir's EdgeReady Cloud, there's no infrastructure or operational overhead added to Villara's plate.
- The simple, user-based pricing model for a fully customized enterprise scale application has the ability to scale up and scale down the number of paid users on a quarterly basis.
- Digitized worker time entry, supervisor approval, and payroll entry to SAP seamlessly integrated across the entire time entry process.

Benefits Overview

Streamlined and Efficient Processes

Process and productivity efficiencies gained - resulting in near real-time updates into SAP and greater visibility throughout the process, including single point of data entry at the source. Payroll process reduced from 3 full days and 5 FTE's to 2hrs for one FTE.

Deployed Quickly with Little-To-No Programming

Deployed with no programming and no infrastructure investments for Villara, or people overhead for operational costs.. Significant reduction of maintenance time and effort for future enhancements and support.

Ensuring Best Practices

SAP maintained as the core system of record but kept as standard and close to best practices for existing processes as possible - while still having customized user-centric experiences for edge use cases and processes. Avoidance of paying for infrastructure and software for full employee capacity year round, Pillir's cloud-based SaaS architecture and flexible user-based pricing model enabled this digital transformation with minimal upfront investment.

About Pillir

Formerly appsFreedom, Pillir is a low-code, cloud native, PaaS provider that specializes in enabling customers to generate resilient, always-available, self-managing applications that work in any connectivity landscape. Pillir's EdgeReady Cloud provides rapid application development with little-to-no programming and reusable objects; enabling companies to enhance speed to market and innovation. With pre-built integrations for SAP, Oracle, Microsoft Dynamics, Salesforce.com and other legacy systems, customers leverage Pillir to modernize any process or application in weeks, regardless of connectivity, device or back end system. Contact us to explore how Pillir can improve business productivity by enabling teams to build apps quickly on any device and tightly integrate with core business systems that are critical to your operations.