Shandong Rural Credit Union (SRCU)

StarTeam streamlines software development process through transparency and team collaboration.

Overview
Rural Credit Cooperatives (RCCs) were established in China to provide farming credit, increase agricultural production and rural economic and social development. Shandong Province Rural Credit Union has offices in 13 municipalities. Its 68,000 employees provide a wide range of financial services through its more than 5,000 business outlets.

Challenge
Shandong Rural Credit Union (SRCU) used several software version control tools across its organization. Without a unified repository to store and share project source code and documentation, teams were struggling to collaborate effectively.

Mr Li Lian, Software Configuration Administration Team Lead for SRCU, explains the challenge further: “With poor code branch management capabilities, our source code management administrators could not easily resolve code conflicts, manage permission controls, prepare deliverables, and arrange code rollbacks. The tools we had in place also did not enable us to accurately trace code requirements, issues, and changes. We realised we needed a solution that could unify all our efforts, and help us be more effective.”

A strategic project to develop a next generation banking system requires several geographically distributed development teams to work together and SRCU needed a transparent code collaboration solution.

Solution
Micro Focus® StarTeam was already in use at SRCU’s development center in Huangdao, and the experience there convinced the team this was the right tool to standardize on enterprise-wide. The team liked the fact that StarTeam can consolidate source code management with configuration management processes. This means SRCU can trace source code for all its development processes, such as change requests, defects, and new feature requirements.

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MR LI LIAN
Software Configuration Administration Team Lead
Shandong Rural Credit Union

At a Glance

Industry
Financial Services

Location
China

Challenge
Facilitate effective collaboration between development teams through a unified software configuration management solution.

Products and Services
StarTeam

Results
+ Effective team collaboration through different StarTeam project views
+ Integrated software configuration and change management processes
+ Improved code conflict resolution
+ Enhanced release control
With the new StarTeam implementation, several views are created in each StarTeam project so that colleagues from several teams with different roles can work on different views of the code. Developers can use either the CPC (Cross Platform Client) or IDE StarTeam plugins to check source code in and out of the system, and managers can easily track the version control of each file. They can also control the code quality much more efficiently and a baseline can be set so particular milestones within projects can easily be marked.

Mr Li Lian comments on an exciting development: “We plan to integrate our software configuration processes with our change management processes, using StarTeam as the unified solution. This will accelerate our overall change process and help us control the release scope, particularly in patch releases, much more precisely.”

StarTeam manages source code requirements, changes, and defects, but also the correlation between these items. This means that items can be merged between views, based on scope and version, and there is always the opportunity to activate a full code roll-back if anything is wrong. These StarTeam capabilities prevent SRCU from ever releasing unwanted code or changes.

StarTeam’s change workflow tools support SRCU in the implementation of a comprehensive code change process and enables managers to transparently track the entire change process. Mr Li Lian says: “Our developers are able to just focus on their core job: software development. StarTeam’s workflow processes take care of everything else.”

**Results**

Using StarTeam as its central source code repository enables SRCU to easily calculate the total application size. When building a new application, such as the banking system, this is an important metric for resource allocation. Having seen StarTeam’s capabilities in version control and change management, SRCU is now exploring the introduction of StarTeam into its continuous integration platform.

Mr Li Lian is clear about the benefits: “StarTeam has given us a visibility we never had before. We can easily see which files or code lines are modified by which user. The traceability enables different development teams to collaborate on the same project. Our new banking system is a multi-team effort, so this clarity is of the utmost importance to us. We have noticed a marked improvement in code conflict resolution and we have accelerated our overall release and change process.”

He concludes: “We look forward to implementing StarTeam to track our defects in the future as well. Micro Focus has supported us every step of the way and we value our partnership very much.”