

City of Kitchener builds plans with YPITData

"Building permits and engineering drawings are large and cumbersome. Managing and transporting them to jobsites wrecks havoc on the documents which are official City records. YPITData is helping us make those documents useable to staff *easily and cost-efficiently*."

About City of Kitchener

About 100km west of Toronto, the City of Kitchener sits in the center of a growing hub of innovation. With established companies such as Google™ and Blackberry™ nearby, new high-tech, health care and digital media companies are streaming into the area. As more companies flock to the region, the demands on City infrastructure and services has increased. A mix of heritage and new buildings, the redevelopment of the City is stretching engineering and inspection staff to be more efficient. For more info visit www.kitchener.ca



Industry Background

When a property owner or construction company undertakes the construction of a new or renovation of an existing building, they are required to submit engineering drawings and other documentation for review by City engineers. These submitted drawings are used to document deficiencies or adjustments required before construction can take place, as well as become the official City record used by City field inspection staff to verify that the completed building will meet all building codes and safety requirements.



The City of Kitchener Challenge & Needs

The documents used by field staff are large and unwieldy. Jobsites are not kind to paper being outdoors, in a dirt environment and constantly unfurled, so the risk to damage or loss of official City records is great and not acceptable. However, city inspection staff need access to the reviewed drawings to identify areas of concern from the engineers. So how does one go about safeguarding the official records while providing access to all the staff that would need to view those records?

Competitive Alternatives

With thousands of buildings across the city, the effort to store a large number of boxes, manage their storage and track who has 'checked out' these large format drawings is significant. However, the cost of copying thousands of large format 36in-by-48in colour drawings would be very expensive and not a viable option.

YPITData Solution

The original requirements provided by the City of Kitchener suggested that the digitized files could be named either using the drawing number or drawing title. After reviewing the requirements and tapping our corporate experience in best practices for user evaluating the user needs, YPITData recommended to the City that a combined drawing number and drawing title will significantly reduce the time and operational effort for staff. Furthermore, this could be done at a lower cost than currently available on the market using YPITData's patent-pending platform.

With nearly 7 years of drawings and associated documents sitting in boxes, the City of Kitchener engaged YPITData in a three-year contract to begin the digitization process. Since the records are active files, the City also included a requirement that drawings could not be held offsite for more than 60 days. This was not an issue for YPITData's workflow process. With regular updates on the digitization status, City managers know that records are returned within 30 days and their delivery scheduled a week in advance.

The Results

With the project now underway, the City of Kitchener's need are fully satisfied:

- ❖ 12,000 large-format engineering drawings digitized in 7 months;
- ❖ 35,000 letter and 3,000 tabloid sized associated pages digitized;
- ❖ Naming format that includes both parameters desired by City for no additional cost;
- ❖ Delivery of material in half of contractually required timeline;
- ❖ Regular updates to keep managers information of status.

Looking Forward to More YPITData Solutions

YPITData's performance and responsiveness to the City of Kitchener resulted in the first year's annual project budget limit to be reached within 7 months. As the remaining drawings and other documents are digitized, the potential uses of the data by other departments within the City are being considered.

Working with YPITData has been such a refreshing and enjoyable contractor experience. The project suggestions on how to best support the needs of our staff, and doing that at the same project cost has raised the bar. We look forward to getting started again in our next budget cycle.

About YPITData

YPITData is a provider of information management solutions to businesses looking to maximize their operational efficiency and eliminate the high-costs of unleashing the data locked within their records. With 100+ tech savvy employees, YPITData serves clients with business tasks of different complexities and sizes.

The YPITData suite of services eliminates the need to undertake tasks that are not a core competency or costly to ramp up and do in-house.

Advantages:

- ✓ Highly affordable
- ✓ Fast delivery thanks to patent-pending parallel processing
- ✓ Secure & confidential
- ✓ Simple & easy to get started
- ✓ Agile & flexible to address time-critical & large-scale projects

Solutions for:

Paper Intensive Industries

- Government
- Legal and Insurance companies
- Engineering firms
- Trucking firms

Variable Demand Industries

- Accounting & Bookkeeping firms
- Software developers / testing
- Researchers and Analysts
- Direct Mail companies
- Charities