



Messaging Security Firm Grows with Dynamics GP

Technical Case Study



CLOUDMARK®

Customer Profile

Cloudmark, Inc. is a global leader in carrier-grade messaging infrastructure and security solutions, delivering the industry's fastest, most accurate and most scalable messaging platform for fixed, mobile and social networks. The Cloudmark suite of carrier-grade solutions simplifies and advances the management of messaging abuse, increasing network utilization and reducing infrastructure costs. Cloudmark's patented solutions combine Advanced Message Fingerprinting™ technology based on innovative, highly efficient algorithms, a Global Threat Network™ consisting of trusted reporters across the globe, real-time, automated analysis of traffic and content patterns, along with security research expertise, to provide real-time security intelligence and filtering across carrier networks. Cloudmark solutions protect 1.6 billion subscribers for the world's largest networks, including AT&T, Comcast, MySpace, NTT, Swisscom and Time Warner Cable. Cloudmark is a privately held company headquartered in San Francisco with offices in London, Paris, Tokyo, and Singapore.

Software & Services

- Microsoft Dynamics GP
- Microsoft SQL Server
- QlikView Business Discovery Software
- Microsoft FRx

Benefits

- Improved Accuracy of Revenue Recognition Reporting and Audit Preparation
- Increased Cash Flow and Collections Visibility
- Automated Manual Processes by Adding Acquired Companies' Databases
- Improved Productivity from Staff Training

Modules

- Concur Integrator for expense reporting
- Nodus for credit card processing
- Scribe Connector between Dynamics GP and salesforce.com

Business Challenge

Cloudmark is an award-winning leader in carrier-grade messaging infrastructure and security solutions, with the industry's fastest, most accurate and most scalable messaging platform for fixed, mobile and social networks. Cloudmark selected Microsoft Dynamics GP and FRx to manage its financials, but experienced limitations with its original value added reseller (VAR) as the company experienced a huge growth trajectory from the time the software was originally implemented. Cloudmark had acquired companies throughout the world and needed a VAR with multi-entity, multi-country expertise. Additionally, as it grew, the technology firm experienced vast challenges around revenue recognition reporting and collections management.

Armanino's Microsoft Dynamics GP team came aboard in 2007 to assist Cloudmark in addressing these challenges and to optimize its investment in the Microsoft platform.

Business Benefits

Cloudmark originally contracted with Armanino for the creation of new SQL databases for each of its new acquisitions. Over the years, Armanino has created multiple databases to ensure each new company's data and financials are neatly tied into the Microsoft Dynamics GP system and reporting is timely and accurate.

Like many other technology firms, the San Francisco-based company with 130 employees also encountered difficulties with properly recording and reporting revenue for their sales of technology products with multiple elements (hardware, software, upgrades, etc.). Prior to 2010, technology companies were unable to recognize revenue from the sale of hardware (devices) that include software (and the right to upgrades of that software over the life of the device) at the time of sale unless they could substantiate the fair value of the undelivered elements, typically with the stand-alone sales price of these elements. Since the software and related upgrade rights were never sold on a standalone basis, the old rules (written in 1997) required the revenue for the entire arrangement to be recognized over the estimated life of the device.

Cloudmark also experienced challenges when its auditor could not substantiate the company's deferred revenue claims due to vast discrepancies between the backup documentation and the general ledger. Armanino developed a methodology with Crystal Reports to extract the proper data from each sale and licensing agreement, which total in the hundreds of thousands of line items. This massive amount of data is streamlined through Microsoft SQL scripts that download the proper calculations from GP to Excel.

As the company's sales volume grew, the Excel calculations for revenue recognition figures began to take more and more time to process. Armanino then developed a QlikView business intelligence dashboard to

summarize and analyze the deferred revenue data from the Excel spreadsheet, bringing clarity to a process for Cloudmark that had been fraught with complications and inaccuracy. Cloudmark has found that these reports that are produced on a “per contract” and “per invoice” basis are a benefit to its audit preparation and ultimately support the audit process.

“We’ve had a working relationship with Armanino for four years now,” said Jilbert Washten, Cloudmark’s vice president of finance and accounting. “We see them as problem solvers for our organization.”

Additionally, Cloudmark recognized an issue with the collection system for its more than 200 customers. Armanino installed the Collections Management module for Microsoft Dynamics GP and trained the Cloudmark staff on the new software. In the first run of collection letters, Cloudmark produced a stack nearly 12 inches high. Since the module has been installed, Cloudmark has made use of its multiple tools to follow up with customers and has experienced a reduction in its collection timeline of 10-15 days. The company is now on schedule and collection letters are sent on a regular basis to ensure payment.

Finally, Armanino helps Cloudmark optimize its investment in Microsoft Dynamics GP by providing training sessions for new employees. “Armanino’s training is what I rely on whenever I have new employees or a need for cross training,” said Washten. “They train with Dynamics GP best practices and this gets everyone up to speed very quickly.”

Business Benefits

- Neatly incorporated financial reporting of acquired companies
- Shortened collection timeline by 10-15 days
- Increased accuracy of revenue recognition reporting
- Improved staff productivity through best practices training

“We’ve had a working relationship with Armanino for four years now. We see them as problem solvers for our organization.”

Jilbert Washten
*Vice President of
Finance and Accounting
Cloudmark*

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft products and services, call the Microsoft Sales Information Center at (800) 426-9400. In Canada, call the Microsoft Canada Information Centre at (877) 568-2495. Customers in the United States and Canada who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can reach Microsoft text telephone (TTY/TDD) services at (800) 892-5234. Outside the 50 United States and Canada, please contact your local Microsoft subsidiary. To access information using the World Wide Web, go to: www.microsoft.com

For more information about Cloudmark products and services, call (415) 946-3800 or visit the Web site at: www.cloudmark.com.

For more information about Armanino products and services, call (925) 790-2600 or visit the Web site at amlp.com/microsoft-dynamics.

Microsoft Dynamics

Microsoft Dynamics is a line of integrated, adaptable business management solutions that enables you and your people to make business decisions with greater confidence. Microsoft Dynamics works like familiar Microsoft software such as Microsoft Office, which means less of a learning curve for your people, so they can get up and running quickly and focus on what's most important. And because it is from Microsoft, it easily works with the systems that your company already has implemented. By automating and streamlining financial, customer relationship, and supply chain processes, Microsoft Dynamics brings together people, processes, and technologies, increasing the productivity and effectiveness of your business, and helping you drive business success.

For more information about Microsoft Dynamics, go to: www.microsoft.com/dynamics.

© Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

This document is for informational purposes only. MICROSOFT MAKES NO WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IN THIS SUMMARY. Microsoft, BizTalk, Excel, Microsoft Dynamics, Windows, Xbox, and Xbox 360 are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

"Armanino" is the brand name under which Armanino LLP, Armanino CPA LLP, and Armanino Advisory LLC, independently owned entities, provide professional services in an alternative practice structure in accordance with law, regulations, and professional standards. Armanino LLP and Armanino CPA LLP are licensed independent CPA firms that provide attest services, and Armanino Advisory LLC and its subsidiary entities provide tax, advisory, and business consulting services. Armanino Advisory LLC and its subsidiary entities are not licensed CPA firms.

