

The Client

The Office of the Commissioner of Stamp Duties is obligated by Law to ensure the proper administration of the Stamp Duties Act and the Money Lenders Act.

In facilitating this obligation, the Commissioner is required to collect stamp duties on all legal documents being transacted under the Acts.

Project	Automated Stamp Duties System
Project Duration	March 2002 to Ongoing
Outcome	A core business application that computerises the lodgement of instruments, the calculation of duty payable and the embossing of the documents.
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Remote Stakeholder involvement • ASP.Net, VB.Net and Crystal Reports.Net business application • SQL Server Database • User interface design

The Brief

Since its inception during Colonial Administration, the Stamp Duties Office had continually stamped documents through the manual use of a die press machine until 1998 when it was replaced by a rubber stamp, which is still in use today. Though the replacement has provided some improvement in the rate of service delivery, it has not satisfactorily met recent growing demand or been able to fully guarantee the prevention of duplication and fraud.

It was considered that computerisation of the current work processes would uplift the standard and speed up the rate of the Office's deliverables. This would naturally result in an increase in the Office's revenue earning capacity, develop better and detailed recording system and utilise manpower resources effectively and efficiently whilst equally importantly protecting records from the risk of duplication and fraud.

The Solution

The Automated Stamp Duties System is an Intranet based system installed separately at both the Suva and Lautoka offices. It was coded using Microsoft.Net and Crystal Reports.Net and executes on IE6 browsers. The system enables the addition of frequent lodgers of instruments, such as settlement agents and solicitors, as well as those individuals who may only enter the office once. The instrument details, which vary depending on the instrument type, are entered and maintained in the system, and the amount of duty payable is automatically calculated. Payment of the duty is taken and the instruments are embossed and returned to the client. At the end of each day, statistical reports are run detailing daily, monthly and yearly revenue, daily cash balance, and the breakdown of the revenue into differing revenue codes.



The Result

The Automated Stamp Duties System was completed on time and within budget and has been implemented at the Suva and Lautoka Offices. Subsequent phases of development were completed during 2005, with additional development as an extension of the system to other areas scoped for 2007.