

Case Study

Helping Wrycan reduce NFPA's publishing costs and create new digital products

Challenge

To help the NFPA reduce the time and labour needed to compare hundreds and thousands of pages when a standard or code is updated.

Solution

Wrycan delivered a solution which integrated XML Compare with their Content Base product. This allows NFPA to manage all of their content in a single repository, adding automated comparisons in a product-agnostic form.

Results



Reduced the time to create each new publication from 70 hours to less than 1 hour



A total labour saving close to 3500 hours



New interactive HTML versions of the publications are now being planned



Senior technical specialists at Wrycan carried out detailed evaluations of the available technologies and concluded the best results and lowest project risk would be achieved by integrating XML Compare from DeltaXML.



The NFPA is a major standards body in the USA and has a catalogue of around 300 fire and electrical safety codes and standards. In print form they are typically hundreds or even thousands of pages long.

When a standard or code is updated, typically every three to five years, many of their customers – including officials, professionals and training and certification bodies – need to know exactly what has changed. The NFPA publishes detailed documents, 'Redlines', which compare the current and previous editions of a specific standard or code. In the past they were prepared manually, taking many hours of painstaking work, so it was only practical to create them for their top fifty publications and only in traditional form, not as interactive HTML products.

Challenge

The NFPA had tried to reduce this manual effort with different approaches. Tracking changes during the complex editorial process proved unwieldy, while adding change markers was prone to errors. Programmatic approaches looked promising, but quickly went wrong or became unreliable, for example when sections were renumbered or similar phrases were repeated in different sections.

As they embarked on a project to streamline digital product creation, they asked their chosen technology partner, Wrycan, to provide a fully integrated solution to automate comparing and differencing.

Build or buy

With their substantial expertise in publishing technology, Wrycan evaluated existing differencing products against the cost of developing the capability in-house.

They recognised the NFPA wanted flexibility, rather than adapting their working to suit the product; they needed fine control of the differencing for different situations; and there were numerous complex scenarios that it needed to handle.

