



Indiana Office of Technology
Powering a State that Works



Title: Reining in the Horses through State-developed SaaS - Horse Racing Management Systems

Category: State IT Recognition Awards - Cross-Boundary Collaboration & Partnerships

State: Indiana

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Project Initiation Date: 2020

Project End Date: Ongoing

Executive Summary

Horse racing is a significant economic driver across more than two dozen states. The Indiana Horse Racing Commission (IHRC) engaged the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) to create an online licensing portal (Horse Racing Management System - HRMS) to better manage all aspects of horse racing regulation – including tracking purse awards and other financial data, documenting equine-specific information, and processing license applications online.

Through a connection with a former Illinois Racing Board (IRB) associate, Illinois learned about Indiana's new HRMS system and reached out. Illinois' dos-based, old, inefficient, green screen system needed to modernize quickly. This was the first step toward the State of Indiana offering software-as-a-service.

With a new system installed next door, the IRB in 2020 engaged IOT to create a cloud-hosted adaptation of the HRMS to allow Illinois' staff to transition off their decades-old parimutuel information tracking system (PITS) system and create a safer, faster way to license Illinois racing participants and their associated persons and horses.

With the project underway during the pandemic, the teams were forced to work entirely remotely. Despite this hurdle, the IOT team delivered a Phase 1 product to Illinois just in time for the 2022 racing season.

Project Narrative

Idea

Horse racing is conducted and regulated by more than half of the states in the country. In Indiana and Illinois, it is big business. Purdue University released an economic impact study earlier this year and found that in Indiana, the racing and breeding business linked to horse racing has now reached just under the \$2 billion mark of economic impact (source: <https://on.in.gov/rlgzt>). An American Horse Council Foundation study in 2017 found that the impact of the horse racing industry on the Illinois economy was also \$2 billion (source: <https://on.in.gov/oh8ua>). With an industry this large, there needs to be a solid regulatory system that does not unnecessarily inhibit the sport.

Indiana and Illinois each require people involved and affiliated with the sport to be licensed. The IRB employs racing officials to represent the Board at the various racetracks (e.g., stewards and horse identifiers). In addition, the Board approves the following racing officials who are employed by the racetracks: General Manager, Association Steward, Racing Secretary, Assistant Racing Secretary, Paddock Judge, Patrol Judge, Placing Judge, Starter, Clerks of Scales, Track Veterinarian, Mutuel Manager, Director of Security, Track Superintendent, Outrider, Program Director, and Timer. All persons participating in parimutuel racing under the jurisdiction of the IRB must be licensed and fingerprinted. **In all, the two states license more than 14,000 individuals.**

Indiana needed to modernize its Horse Racing Management System to manage racing and breeding more efficiently. The state began updating in 2018 and continues to roll out new modules. Being neighboring states, it is not unusual for horses to race in both states, so there is a familiarity among the staff at IHRC and IRB.

Current IHRC Associate Judge Kevin Gumm once worked at the Illinois Racing Board (IRB). The IRB Executive Director, Domenic DiCera, heard about Indiana's new HRMS and contacted Kevin to learn about what Indiana was doing and how the system worked. DiCera knew they needed to update their old dos-based system.

IRB realized that Indiana had solved a unique agency need but that other states that participate in horse racing have this same niche need: a way to safely and securely license participants in the sport of horse racing.

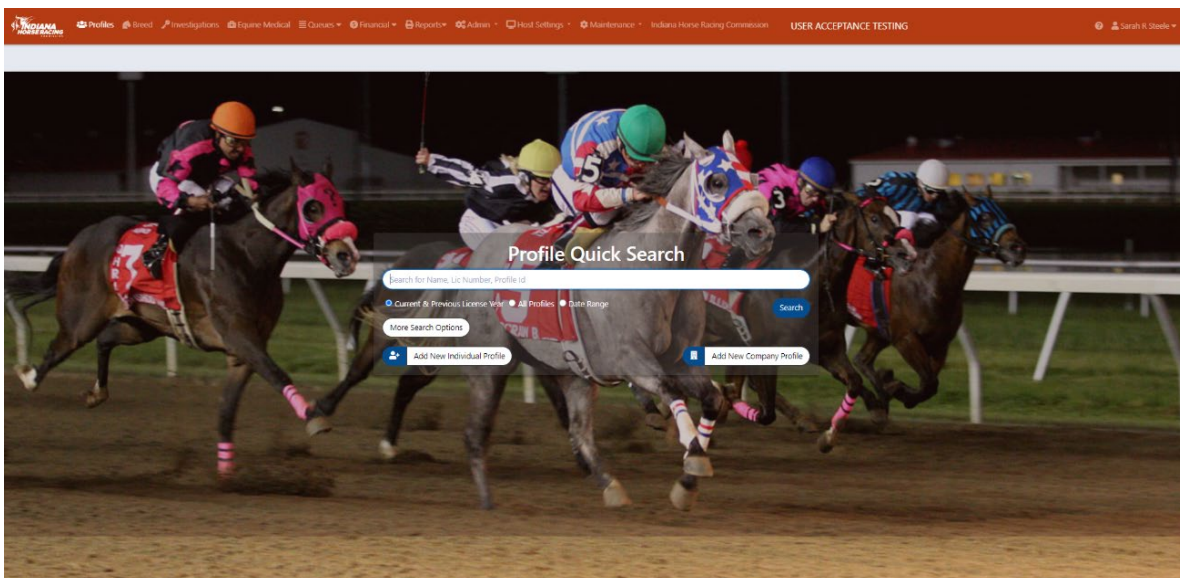
The IOT team decided to use the same code base they were using with Indiana's HRC for Illinois. They figured, "why use two separate systems when ONE code base (with segregated databases) could solve the challenge and share the expenses?" This **one code base** reduces state expenses for future developments with **either** HRMS because of the shared upgrade costs.

Implementation

IOT built and managed the legacy IHRC application and concluded a database modernization effort in 2018. The update positioned IOT to create a new online licensing portal named the Indiana Horse Racing Management System (HRMS). This new platform better met Indiana's needs for one because the mobile-first design allowed it to be used easily in the field.

The system allows users to do various things – including tracking purse awards and other financial data, documenting equine-specific information, and processing license applications online. It also enables customers/participants to apply online for required licenses for track employees, jockeys, owners, trainers, and veterinarians in the industry. **(Illinois does not have this feature active yet, but they will!)**

The new easy-to-use portal includes more details on medicines and steroids, all rules and regulations, track veterinarian licenses and fingerprinting.



Word spreads

The Illinois Racing Board executive director heard about the new project with the Indiana HRC and reached out to the IOT team in 2020 to create their **own** cloud-hosted adaptation of the Indiana Horse Racing Management System.

The new portal allows Illinois' Racing Board staff to transition off their decades-old system and creates a safer, faster way to license racing participants and their associated persons and horses.

Even working remotely, the IRB and IOT were able to gather requirements, test and deploy for the 2022 racing season.

Impact


Horse racing is an economic driver with an economic impact crossing \$4 billion between Indiana and Illinois. Legalized gaming also reveals the popularity of the sport. In 2021, Indiana realized \$380 million in wagers; in 2022, Illinois reported \$514 million in bets. With an industry this large, there needs to be a solid regulatory system that does not unnecessarily inhibit the sport.

The team continues to make improvements to both the Indiana and Illinois HRMS, and Illinois continues to have the option of taking advantage of all the same improvements.

The next steps will include modernizing the back end of the code, combining the two code bases with 'feature flags' for items that differ for the two states and lifting the Indiana code to Azure for a true multi-tenant framework.

With Indiana being able to offer this solution as a software-as-a-service model, all future developments with either system is a reduced expense. As more users or states take advantage of this solution, money will be saved, and data consistency will be increased.

Illinois' 30-year-old PITS system they were using was insecure and not compliant.

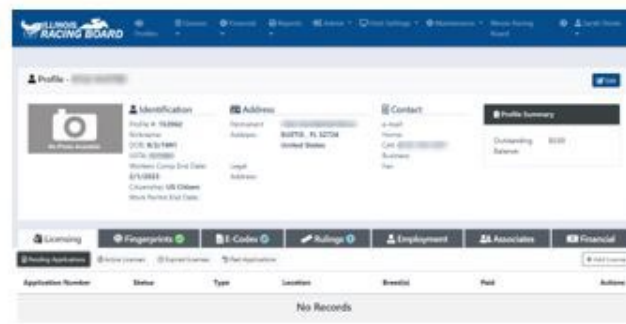
Here is an example of the old Illinois system compared to the new one. (See below) 

```
LIC0009
***** NOTICE *****
RETAIN THIS RECEIPT FOR YOUR RECORDS

SEPTEMBER 08, 2021
DRIVER-TRAINER-OWNER

FEE SCREEN
ILLINOIS RACING BOARD
DATE: 05/03/2021 YR 23
NAME LAST:
FIRST:
MI:
TYPE: DTO
STATUS: PERM PERMANENT
RACE TYPE: H TRACK: RAW CLERK: DAT
LICENSE FEE : X $25.00
PRINTS - BOTH : 90.00
RESUBMISSION : X $0.00 STNR:
REPLACEMENT ID: 90.00
TOTAL PAID -> $25.00
Chk: X Chg:

Prints, Last:
Reciprocity, State: MN Date: 07/01/2020
Work Permit Exp Date:
Comments:
Workmans Comp (Y/N): Y Exp Date: 08/29/2021
View only, Enter when finished.
Fee has been updated.
PFI - Clear PFI - Exit
```



Both Horse Racing Management Systems are ADA compliant, with tab stops and screen readers for visually impaired users, and the app has an impersonation feature to test roles and permissions.

In the new Illinois Racing Board HRMS, users now have a modern profile for everything they need, including application features, live financials, fingerprint reports and more analytics. (See below)

ILLINOIS RACING BOARD Profiles Queues Financial Reports Admin Host Settings Maintenance Illinois Racing Board Sarah Steele

Profile - [Name] [Edit](#)

Identification
Profile #: 152062
Nickname:
DOB: 9/2/1991
USTA:
Workers Comp End Date: 2/1/2023
Citizenship: US Citizen
Work Permit End Date:

Address
Permanent Address: EUSTIS, FL 32726 United States
Legal Address:

Contact
e-mail:
Home:
Cell:
Business:
Fax:

Profile Summary
Outstanding \$0.00
Balance:

Licensing Fingerprints E-Codes Rulings Employment Associates Financial

Pending Applications Active Licenses Expired Licenses Past Applications [+ Add License](#)

Application Number	Status	Type	Location	Breed(s)	Paid	Actions
No Records						

ILLINOIS RACING BOARD Profiles Queues Financial Reports Admin Host Settings Maintenance Illinois Racing Board Sarah Steele

Fingerprint
04/21/2023 - 04/21/2023
Card Type
[Run Pdf](#) [Run Xls](#)

License Detail
04/21/2023 - 04/21/2023
Date Option
Location
Breed
License Status
[Run Pdf](#) [Run Xls](#)

Worker's Comp
04/21/2023 - 04/21/2023
[Run](#)

Permanent Residency Expiration Report
04/21/2023 - 04/21/2023
[Run](#)

ECode Report
04/21/2023 - 04/21/2023
eCodes
Location

IRB Executive Director DiCera praises the IOT team for their ground-breaking work on the new Illinois HRMS.

“Working with Indiana has been even more successful than we had expected; the Illinois Racing Board has been using the HRMS successfully for over a year, and we are very pleased with the results.”

This collaboration between the states makes the sport safer, and there is a level of integrity to ensure the sport's future health.

For more information on the Indiana HRMS go to <https://www.in.gov/hrc/licensing/apply-for-a-license/>.