

Case Study

Counter Intelligence Web Application for Pinnacle Manufacturing, Inc.

What is Counter Intelligence

Counter Intelligence is an innovative Web-based application developed using Elite.NET Technology & Solution Framework and designed to meet the needs of countertop industry. Developed in tight cooperation with countertop fabricators, Counter Intelligence is a comprehensive shop management system. While it was established as an efficient and user friendly estimating program, Counter Intelligence Web service has become much more.

Beginning with the request for a quotation, there seems to be an endless stream of demands placed on fabricators personnel to perform at a high level of professionalism. Counter Intelligence provides the tools necessary to meet those demands in a unified and logical manner.

Counter Intelligence Web Application allows users to handle all of the daily routines associated with the countertop industry in a regular and consistent manner. Estimating, shop drawings, materials ordering, receiving and processing, job scheduling, customer communication and a number of insightful reports generated for each entry.

Web-based architecture

Counter Intelligence is logical N-tier Web application with the following features:

- Very modest requirements for client's system. The basic requirements include Microsoft Windows 2000 or Microsoft Windows XP operating system, Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 Web browser and connection to Internet.
- No need for lengthy and sophisticated installation procedure. The required software is downloaded automatically.
- Centralized and automated software update procedure. Once new version of software is installed on the central server, all updates are available to clients throughout the world and downloaded automatically.

On the server, Counter Intelligence application utilizes Microsoft .NET platform to get the highest level of reliability and performance possible. It relies upon ASP.NET technology and Elite.NET framework to run server-side code. These technologies also provide for easy administration, upgrade and maintenance procedures helping to keep software development and maintenance costs low.

Main features

The application is organized as a set of Web forms and dialogs that helps countertop manufacturer to go through the whole production cycle, from the initial customer request and countertop design to final shipment of countertops to the customer. It also offers tools to keep track of a variety of information stored in application database including customers, jobs, products, services etc.

Counter Intelligence main screen offers convenient menus and navigation bars to switch easily between form groups and separate forms.

Throughout all forms, powerful search tools, based on Elite.NET technology, are available. So one can easily find the record he or she is looking for, whether for particular customer or job or product.

All forms can be divided into several groups according to their purpose and functionality.

User Maintenance forms allow the administrators to manage all the users that are granted the access to Counter Intelligence Web Application, adjust their rights inside the system.

Customer maintenance forms allow the users to manage information about customers and edit customer-related data (billing information, contact information, address etc.)

Using the set of Products maintenance forms one can browse list of products and services available in the system, add, delete or edit the record for specific product or service. The system supports different entities to manage variety of products and services, including Manufacturers, Products, Services, Fabrication Charges, Colors and Color Series. This information provides solid basis for price calculation algorithm. The system supports several price types for the same set of products and services: retail price, wholesale price and user-defined price types.

Job Maintenance forms provide an access to all aspects of a particular job: job customer information, shipment information, price estimation and countertop design drawings. User can launch CounterCAD Designer module to produce high-quality design drawings just inside browser window. Once design drawing is ready, the system automatically generates the table that lists all products and fabrication charges involved. It provides job price estimation based on current price type, materials, products and fabrication charges. User can manually add products, fabrication charges or services that are to be associated with the job or edit contents of price estimation section.

Counter Intelligence Show Hide Menu | Help | Reports

Job Maintenance

Job Information

Customer Name: Stoncrafters, Inc. Customer Number: 111111

Job Reference: 65658 PO Number:

Price Type: Retail Job Status: Pending Approval

Salesperson: Quote Date: 09/05/2003

Estimator: Target Date: 09/05/2003

Project Type: Shipping Type:

Estimate/Proposal

Item Description	Units	Unit Price	Quantity	Price	Tax
Solid Surface Countertop (Color : F1-9065)	Square Ft.	11.54	25.5	294.27	<input type="checkbox"/>
Round Over (Color : F1-9065)	Lineal Ft.	10.00	14	140.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 cm Stone Std. Loose Backsplash (Color : 2A)	Square Ft.	35.00	5.5	192.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Custom Radius	Each	18.00	0	0.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Semi-Gloss Finish	Each	10.00	25.5	255.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notch	Each	18.00	1	18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scribe	Each	18.00	2	36.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Base End Corner	Each	18.00	1	18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Half Radius	Each	5.00	2	10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gloss Finish	Each	10.00	57.75	577.50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scribe	Square Ft.	18.00	2	36.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax Rate: <u>6%</u>				Subtotal	\$1,577.27
Discount Type: <input type="text"/>				Tax	\$94.64
Advance Deposit: <u>\$0.00</u>				Total	\$1,671.91

Comments

Comment Type	Date Created	Description
<u>Delete</u>	<u>Shop</u>	<u>11/16/2003</u>

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Design Submit

Counter Intelligence application can automatically generate a variety of printable forms (printouts) associated with the job: different kinds of invoices, job tickets, packing slips to name a few.



Company Name goes here

2/15/2004

Address line goes here
 City, State go here
 ZIP goes here
 Phone: ### goes here
 Fax: ### goes here

PROPOSAL

Bill To
 Stonecrafters Inc.
 Phone: (847) 525-9594
 Fax:
 Vendor# Terms: 45 days

Ship To
 Mike Johnson
 22, 10-th Avenue
 Los-Angeles, CA 33333

Job Reference: 65658
 Estimator:

P.O. Number: 22222

Group	Item Description	Units	Qty	Unit Price	TOTAL	T
Top w/Dbil Diag. Lt Ext. G / Rt G						
	Solid Surface Countertop	Square Ft.	25.5	\$11.54	\$294.27	T
	Color: APRICOT					
	3 cm Stone Std. Loose Backsplash	Square Ft.	5.5	\$35.00	\$192.50	T
	Round Slant	Lineal Ft.	14	\$10.00	\$140.00	T
	Elliptical Bump-out - Large	Each	0	\$18.00	\$0.00	T
	Rectangular Cutout	Each	25.5	\$10.00	\$255.00	T
	Granite Cut-out	Each	1	\$18.00	\$18.00	T
	Notch	Each	2	\$18.00	\$36.00	T
	Electric Outlet Cutout	Each	1	\$18.00	\$18.00	T
	Scribe	Each	2	\$5.00	\$10.00	T
	Half Radius	Each	57.75	\$10.00	\$577.50	T
	Gloss Finish	Square Ft.	2	\$18.00	\$36.00	T
				SubTotal	\$1,577.27	
U-Shaped Top						
	Solid Surface Countertop	Square Ft.	33.25	\$10.11	\$336.19	T
	Color: APRICOT					
	3 cm Stone Std. Loose Backsplash	Square Ft.	7.75	\$35.00	\$271.25	T
	Round Slant	Lineal Ft.	12	\$10.00	\$120.00	T
	Gloss Finish	Square Ft.	33.25	\$10.00	\$332.50	T
				SubTotal	\$1,059.94	

Accepted By: _____
 Print Name: _____

SubTotal \$2,637.21
 Taxes \$158.23
 Deposit \$0.00
TOTAL \$2,795.45

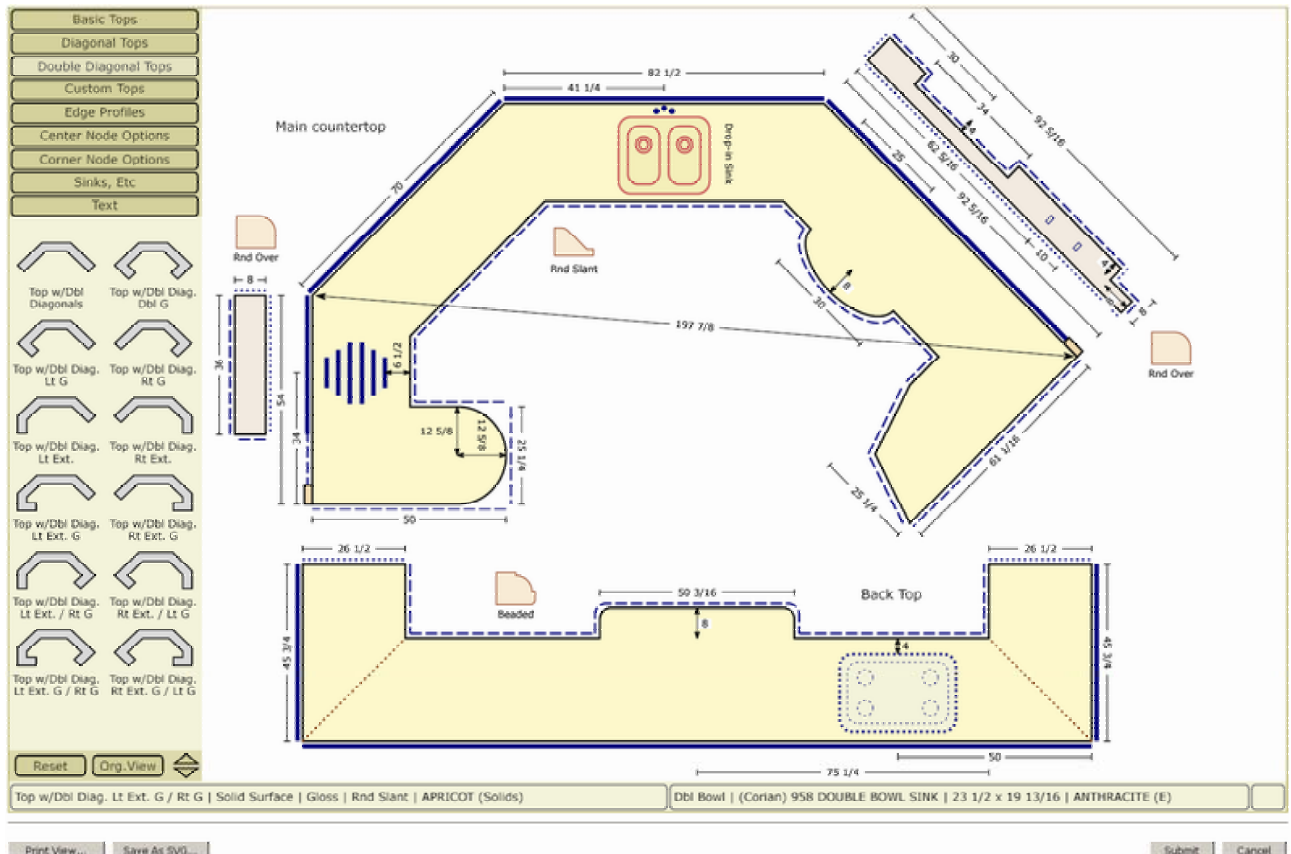
Warranty On Next Page

CounterCAD Designer module

CounterCAD Designer module delivers high-quality 2D graphics inside browser window. It utilizes Adobe's SVG plug-in (standard Microsoft Internet Explorer plug-in) to take advantage of high performance and quality for rendering vector graphics.

CounterCAD Designer module also relies on rich scripting capabilities of SVG plug-in to offer intuitive and user-friendly interface that allows the user to quickly create complex design drawings for countertops.

Designer module has built-in template library that includes large number of countertop templates and variety of products. User can select one of predefined countertop templates to start with or, alternatively, he or she can easily create and store its own countertop templates to use in the future.



Once countertop template is on the drawing board, user can customize different template parameters like countertop dimensions, materials, colors etc. Or user can add different products and features he or she needs for the countertop to satisfy client's demands. For example, one can place sink or secure space for sink cutout on the section of countertop, apply cutouts and bump-outs of different profiles to countertop sides and backsplashes, specify location for seams and electric outlets on the countertop, apply different corner treatments to countertop and its backsplashes.

CounterCAD Designer module can also generate printable version of design drawing. It can be printed out directly from the browser or user can choose to save it on the local computer.

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