

Client

Consumers' Choice Award, Inc.

Industry

Marketing Services

Number of Employees

10

Software

aACE 3

Go Live Date

8/15/08

Key Benefits

- Mac business software enabled business to switch from Windows to Mac computers
- Automated and streamlined business operations

**Avant Garde
Information Solutions, LLC**

For more information about the aACE Business Management Suite, go to www.agisllc.com or call +1.212.532.1378

2011
2010
2009
2008
2007
2006
2005**Client Overview**

Consumers' Choice Award, Inc. (CCA) annually presents business excellence awards to small and medium sized service companies as voted by consumers. CCA was founded in 1987 and developed its proprietary consumer research partnership with Leger Marketing (a member of Worldwide Independent Network (WIN) of Market Research) whereby the best service providers in seven core industries are selected in a given city. Today, the company has reached 10 Canadian and 5 American cities by granting business excellence awards to over 1000 businesses, annually. The most important assets of the company are intangible, including its base of loyal customers, brands, symbols, slogans and name recognition.

Each year, CCA commissions a proprietary survey that identifies businesses that have been voted "Best in Class" by consumers in seven core service categories and then offers the winners an opportunity to participate in their cost-effective marketing program. This includes use of the CCA logo, media exposure, and other brand equity and awareness tools that CCA has established over the past 20 years as a means to enable winners to differentiate themselves in the marketplace. It is no secret that in today's economy consumers have nearly limitless choices, all of which can be fulfilled instantly. CCA offers its winners a clear, exploitable difference - consumers have declared "You are the Best Business in your industry" and provides the means to leverage this distinction.

The Case for aACE Business Suite

When CCA found Avant Garde Information Solutions, LLC (AGIS) they were using a custom solution built in-house years earlier for their day-to-day operations. The solution ran on Microsoft Access in a Windows environment, but CCA was converting from Windows to Mac company-wide. The in-house solution had also become unstable given CCA's substantial growth and was prone to work-stopping crashes at the most heavily used times. CCA management recognized the immediate need for a reliable, scalable, and cross-platform business management software solution.

CCA management exhaustively researched possible options. They found that no out-of-the-box solution would work well for them due to their cross-platform requirements and



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“I think we finally got it. By the way, I would like to emphasize how much I enjoy working with such an efficient and accommodating team, especially you, Brian. I thank you for always being there.”

Cristina Marques

Consumers' Choice Awards

unique operational needs. When they found AGIS the choice was obvious: aACE Complete Business Management Suite. Within a month, the aACE implementation was under way.

The Implementation

The aACE software implementation for CCA was done on an accelerated schedule in order to be in place before the awards Gala. CCA management worked closely with AGIS developers to customize aACE, import data from CCA's legacy solution, switch CCA from Windows to Mac computers, and train CCA's staff on both new hardware and new software. The dedication paid off: CCA was successfully running aACE Complete Business Management Suite in just six weeks.

AGIS and CCA have continued to work together to expand CCA's adoption of aACE and to streamline day-to-day business operations. Continued expansion has included adding sophisticated accounting enhancements required to facilitate custom trade arrangements, promotions, Canadian taxes, and Award City-specific financial statements.

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