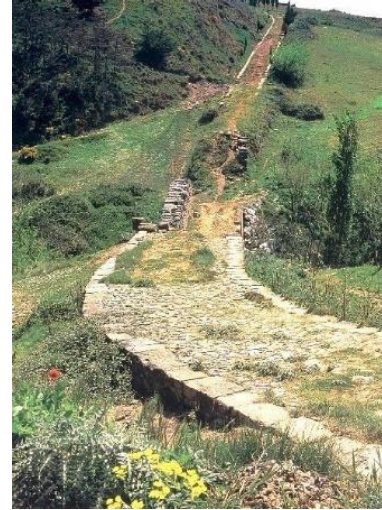


A Hamilton software company digs into locates.

Sometimes big innovations come about because of smaller, incremental advances. Take the Roman roads.

On the face of it, the Roman roads seem to be a simple means by which to transport goods, and in some ways this is true. They date back to about 300 BC and were used to transport people and military equipment around towns, plus as highways, which connected major cities and bases. Many of them had sidewalks for people to walk along, and drainage ditches on both sides.

Although the roads may be considered a small, albeit clever, innovation, these extensive networks are what allowed the Romans to spread their culture across broad regions of the world and maintain power for centuries.



Streamlining Locates

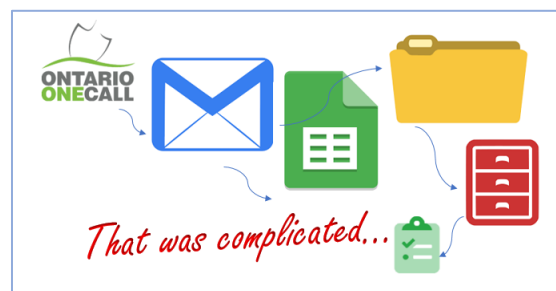
Another seemingly small innovation is being developed by a software company in Hamilton called, Webility. They worked with excavating companies in the area to develop an online locate request tracking tool. The concept is simple enough and solves a very specific problem.

Companies that take up the earth are required to get locates to mark underground utilities. The problem is that, although the process sounds simple, it involves many different people, and can be an administrative nightmare.

There a bunch of factors that make locate tracking a high stakes task. Multiple utilities are involved, sometimes up to 10 or even 15, which means that a hoard of people have to be notified, and dispatched. Sometimes locaters are late, and this can push the start date for a job, and force coordinators and project managers, to update expired locates that were already valid.

Plus, managing the paperwork is time consuming. Most coordinators copy and paste data from emails to Excel and print attachments that get put in file folders. Old emails get lost, or deleted, and the since it's the same utilities for each jobsite, searching through emails can get confusing.

Sound complicated? That's because it is. This doesn't mean the solution can't be simple, and with this new software, it is.



When a locate is requested through ON-1-Call, the information is automatically pulled into the online software. This allows project managers to track the status of all of their locates in one place, and they can print crew locate packages in one click.



They can also identify valid, expiring, and expired locates quickly, and they can organize their data in a number of convenient ways.

That's it. A simple, no frills solution, to a complicated problem.

Although the innovation may sound small, it has freed up valuable time for project managers, and coordinators, who no longer have to do the tedious, repetitive work, of tracking locate requests through old emails, spreadsheets and file folders. This gives them time to focus on other tasks and a sense of control when it comes time to request the next locate.

Like the ancient civilizations before us, some of us can't help but to be intrigued by innovations, both small, and large. We're drawn to them like water, and when we experience how they change things, they leave us wondering what the next innovation will be.

If you're intrigued by EasyLocates, try it out for free for 30 days – www.easylocates.com

We're including free online and onsite training to members of the ORCGA.

Have questions?

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