CSI is a public-facing web application that resides on the CAGE Public website. It allows the public to query the CAGE database for entities registered with CAGE. The application provides search results by using numerous search fields including CAGE code, DUNS, Legal Name, Phone number, State/Province, and Postal codes. The application also allows wild card searches in any search field.

BACKGROUND: Prior to the release of CSI in February of 2016, the Business Identification Numbers Cross-referencing System (BINCS) was available to the public to search CAGE. The CAGE Program realized it needed to redesign or replace BINCS to address management and access problems.

POLICY: FAR 4.18 defines the CAGE code and its required usage to identify errors and other entities in the contracting process. It is critical that these codes be accessible to the procurement and finance communities. The CAGE Program provides the public a continuously available tool to, quickly and efficiently, query entities within the CAGE database.

DEVELOPMENT: The redesign of the application layout to a more simplified and cleaner interface was approached by carefully studying the most common search related questions from the public. CSI was designed to be intuitive with first time, untrained users in mind. The CAGE Program extensively tested and reworked the design to ensure it met these objectives. The completion of this application required several phases including initial requirements gathering/consensus, development, functional deployment, testing, rework, and finally a production deployment and further testing.

IMPACT: The CAGE Program designed, developed, and implemented CSI to address problems with the proceeding application BINCS. CSI is hosted on the CAGE public website (cage.dla.mil). As such, the CAGE program has direct operational control to administer and make updates as necessary. CSI also has a much simpler, cleaner and easier to use interface. Customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the call volume of common search related questions has markedly reduced.

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