



## Explore Consulting Took the NFL Scouting Combine to the Cloud

*"The Explore team has been instrumental in helping us with our technology initiatives the past few years. They've delivered solid and reliable systems with utmost attention to availability and security, and the automation has allowed us to reduce our total manpower while growing our service and launching new projects. I cannot fully express how much I appreciate your support and all of the team's efforts!"*

*- Jeff Foster, President, National Football Scouting*

**Background:** Every February, over three hundred of the very best college football players are invited to participate in the [NFL Scouting Combine](#) (National Invitational Camp) in Indianapolis, Indiana. Top executives, coaching staffs, player personnel departments and medical personnel from all 32 NFL teams are on hand to evaluate the nation's top college football players eligible for the upcoming NFL Draft. This intense, four-day job interview is an exciting time for the athletes and a vital step in achieving their dreams of playing in the NFL.

Explore Consulting has worked with National Football Scouting for more than 8 years to provide innovative systems and data services that provide consistent data capture, sharing, and reporting from inception to delivery. Past projects include a custom developed scouting system for the NFS in 2007, providing technical support during spring and fall NFS Scouting initiatives and custom development of the NFL Combine system, APT Pro Days System, and Mobile Station Scout for the NFL Combine. In total, Explore Consulting has partnered with the NFS-NFL across 7 scouting seasons and Combines.

**Issue:** As the NFL Combine continues to grow year over year, the demand increases for cutting edge technology and customized data delivery. In past years, results from many NFL Scouting Combine events were captured on paper and entered into systems at a later time. Once the data was captured electronically, distribution of the data was completed by burning the results to physical media and mailing it to the various teams. This created a natural delay in

the evaluation and distribution of official results and created potential data security concerns. Additionally, due to an increase in media coverage of the event, the desire to immediately distribute results has surfaced.

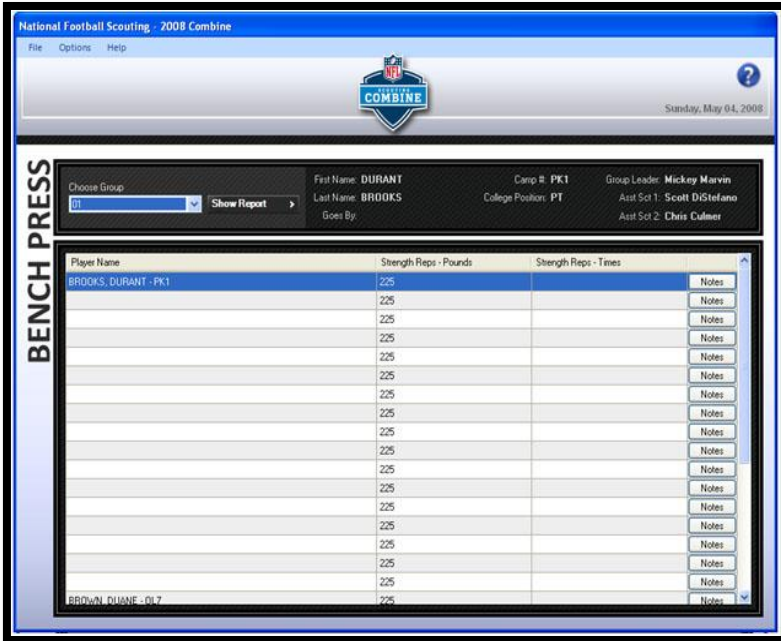
**Solution:** Working collaboratively with the NFS organization, Explore Consulting developed multiple custom solutions to ensure the most efficient and seamless execution of the NFL Combine possible. In 2007, Explore built a completely integrated suite of applications on the Explore Detachable Compact Application (DCAF) platform. Data captured in the field with a custom Windows application that can be used with or without an internet connection present. When an internet connection is available, the data is seamlessly merged with a master database via a secure connection over the web. Administrative functions are managed in the back office by a web-based Administrative Console.

Working in concert with the Windows application, the Administrative Console can be used to manage data, workflows, processes, operations, and communications with users in the field. It is also used for countless reporting options, as well as publishing data and other content to the NFL teams. A secure web site is provided for the teams to log in and view content, download published collateral, and subscribe to direct, secure SQL Server Data feeds once the data is published and released by NFS.

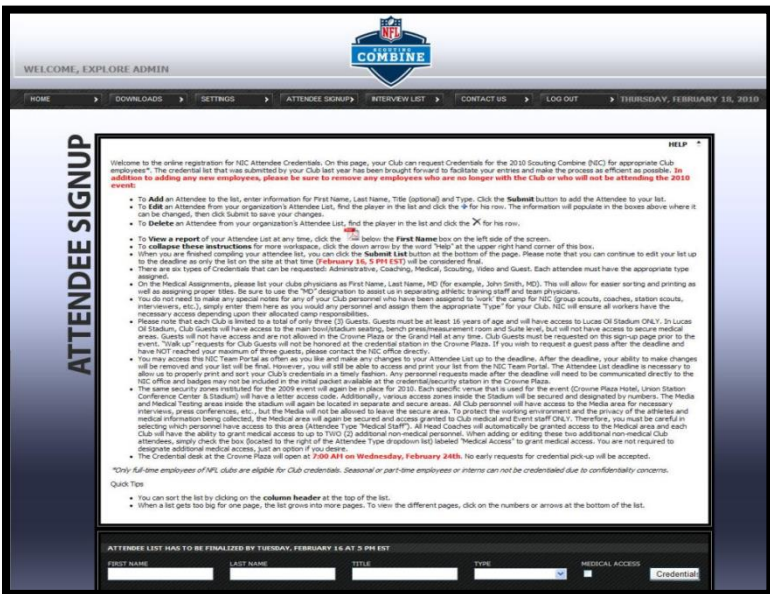
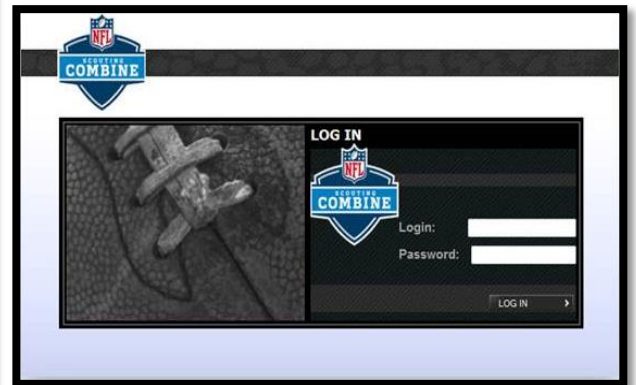
**Results:** With data at the NFL Scouting Combine being captured in real-time as the events are taking place and the process of merging and delivering this data

being automated, NFS can now provide much faster turnaround on the data delivery back to the teams. Additionally, the manual effort previously associated

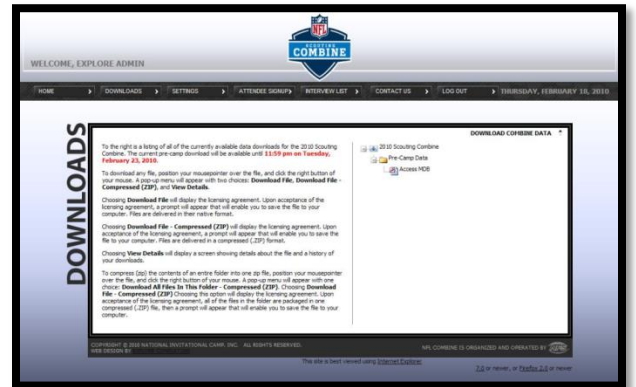
with this task has been significantly reduced thanks to the technology delivered by Explore Consulting.



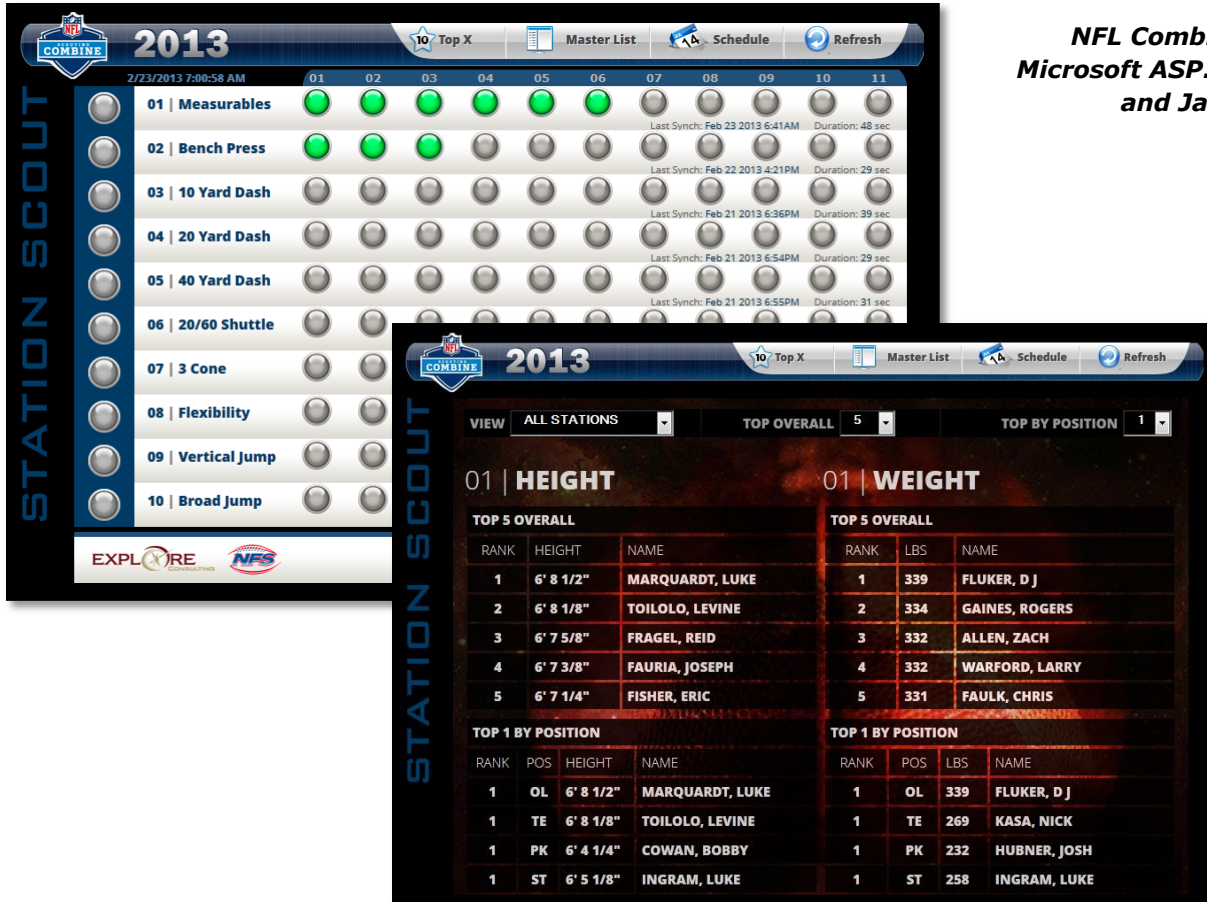
**NFL Combine Field Application –  
Microsoft .NET Winforms, Microsoft SQL  
Compact Database**



**NFL Combine Portal –  
Microsoft ASP.NET (C#), AJAX and  
JavaScript**



**NFL Combine Mobile –  
Microsoft ASP.NET (C#), AJAX  
and JavaScript**



## About Explore Consulting

Based in Bellevue, Washington, Explore Consulting was founded in 2001 and is a professional services company dedicated to providing innovative and cost-effective solutions for their customers' database and IT systems needs. Having specialized in cloud-based solutions for more than 13 years, Explore Consulting is the largest and most experienced NetSuite reseller and solution provider in the Northwestern United

States. Explore Consulting is well-known as a leader in cloud-based systems development, with more than a decade of supporting professional sporting needs from NFL Scouting and the NFL Combine, to eCommerce for the Seattle Storm and RECAPS for the Seattle Seahawks and Seattle Sounders. For more information, visit [www.exploreconsulting.com](http://www.exploreconsulting.com).