

CAB INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDY



CAB International celebrate continued Platinum status

FAST Ltd have helped CAB International achieve FSSC-1:2007 accreditation since joining the programme in 2002 and maintain Platinum status for over 3 years.

CAB International (CABI) is a not-for-profit international organisation that aims to improve people's lives by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. CABI has been a customer of FAST Ltd, the UK's leading authority in Software Asset Management and IT Compliance, since the beginning of 2002, after joining to manage its software and internal auditing process more effectively. CABI achieved FAST Gold Award in August 2004, Platinum in July 2007 and have maintained Platinum status ever since.

Starting as a small entomological - study of insects - service for Commonwealth countries, CABI soon developed into a truly international service in agricultural information, pest identification and biocontrol.

CABI works for and with universities, national research and extension institutions, development agencies, the private sector, governments, charities and foundations, farmers and non-governmental organisations.

Case Study Highlights

- Software reconciliation is now under control and the organisation knows where it is overspending so it can reclaim licences and understand where there may be any potential shortfalls
- FAST training has been superb and has really helped the team to get to grips with certain aspects of software compliance
- Implementation of clear IT policies and procedures throughout the organisation has ensured that the Software Asset Management (SAM) programme stays on track
- FAST's involvement has provided the organisation with a framework and structure for the way forward, and confidence in its ability to demonstrate compliance

About CAB International

CABI can trace its origins back to 1910, and was established by a United Nations treaty-level agreement between 40 countries to promote the advancement of agriculture and allied sciences through the provision of information and scientific and related services on a world-wide basis.

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The Road to Software Compliance

CAB International has 200 staff across two offices in the UK, and its IT team serves approximately 200 PCs and 60 servers, both physical and virtual. Prior to 2002, CABI didn't have proper systems or procedures in place to manage its software and software licences.

It was very reliant on the IT department keeping track of the software and licences via spreadsheets and there was no auditing tool available that would enable the IT department to conduct effective audits of all software. CABI therefore decided it needed to set up more efficient software management and auditing policies and procedures to ensure it was compliant in terms of its software usage.

CABI IT project manager Steve Trigg takes up the story:

"We decided that we would become a member of FAST Ltd because we wanted to make sure that we weren't breaching any copyright and ensure we were totally compliant when it came to our software. As a scientific publisher ourselves, we understand the ethics of it. We are always anxious that our own copyright doesn't get breached, so therefore we didn't want to breach anyone else's."

Strong Executive Support and Achieving Platinum Status

CAB International achieved the Gold Award in August 2004, renewed its Gold Certification in 2005, and by July 2007 it had reached Platinum standard. Due to expansion, the IT department hired an additional person to assist with the FAST accreditation process, and in October 2007 they developed new computer usage policy guidelines with the help from FAST. It outlined how the software is managed, how it is purchased, what staff can do with their PC, and what they can use the Internet and email for. This computer usage policy is now updated on a yearly basis, and FAST provides all general templates for this.

For Trigg and the IT department at CABI, strong executive support has been crucial to the Programme's success.

"When FAST first came to present to us about the benefits of the FAST Standard for Software Compliance, they initially presented to our senior management team which made them aware of what FAST and the programme was all about. The benefit of this is that right from the word go, we had the whole organisation on board and everyone was aware of the programme.

"I strongly believe that if it was just an IT project, we wouldn't have been able to get as far as we have done today in the programme. And, also the fact that FAST is so well-known in the industry gave the programme a bit more weight for senior staff to support too.

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Being Ethical When It Comes to Copyright and Software Licensing

Trigg strongly believes that when it comes to being ethical over copyright, the FAST Standard for Software Compliance has kept them on their toes.

"The programme has helped keep us on top of licensing and make sure that we're not loading software that we haven't purchased. It has ensured our software reconciliation is all under control. The programme also helps us to run regular audits and ensure there are strong processes and structure for software asset management in place. The programme encourages good business practice, has kept us focussed, and it has made people think more about the issue of software copyright. Today, our organisation now has effective, enforceable policies and procedures, adequate compliance resources, and a provable licensing position, all thanks to the support and advice received from FAST Ltd. I think without the help of FAST, things would have definitely drifted."

For more information please call **0844 815 5742**, email **contactus@fast-compliance.co.uk** or visit **www.fast-compliance.co.uk**