

For Immediate Release



Contact:
Abe Dane
(401) 787-6427
abe.dane@tizra.com

Download Screenshots From:
<http://tizra.com/press/hc>

Rhode Island Congressmen and Senators now armed with new tool to improve the health care reform debate

Rhode Island company provides almost immediate and easy access to health care bills and documents with the first tool combining near-real time web publishing with powerful document search and management capabilities.

August 28, 2009 (Providence, RI)— The escalating debate surrounding the Obama Administration’s efforts to reform health care just became more informed, based on a revolutionary new web-publishing tool made available to Rhode Island’s Congressional delegation by Tizra, a local software company. Using Tizra’s web-based software, information and documents related to the health care debate can be uploaded and made immediately searchable down to the individual word on any web connected computer, and on mobile devices such as iPhones. **Currently there is no known source for quickly and automatically converting the large numbers of massive and unwieldy health care bills and related reports and documents into fully web searchable and referenceable information. Introducing Tizra. Problem solved.**

In a letter to Senators Reed and Whitehouse and Congressmen Kennedy and Langevin, Tizra CEO David Durand, and COO Abe Dane, have offered Tizra as a tool for their offices to improve state and national access to information and bills essential to a more reasoned and accurate discussion about the options and issues. The company pointed out that using Tizra’s application, draft health care bills and related information can be made available to the public in minutes, with no specialized technical resources, software installation or programming, **and at no cost.**

“It appears to us that **perhaps the fundamental issue in this vital national discussion is less about politics and more about simply understanding,**” said Tizra CEO David Durand.

A prototype demonstrating the capabilities offered to the Rhode Island Congressional delegation can be found here...

<http://ridemo.tizrapublisher.com>

“When we observed the **growing concern over the lack of easily accessible and usable information available to our government decision makers, the media and the public,** we realized this was a perfect example of the problem Tizra was invented to solve,” said Abe Dane, Tizra Chief Operating Officer. “Like the Stimulus Bill, which we also web-published using Tizra, such an important topic demands rapid and effective dissemination of information, and the tools to quickly search within specific areas of interest, and share references to specific passages of text. **Our Government leaders and agencies like the US Government Printing Office simply do not have the tools to make all this information quickly and cost effectively available in formats that are easy to work with on the web.** With Tizra, all they need to do is upload standard PDF files and they are ready to go—fully searchable, referenceable down to the individual page, and accessible on via standard web browsers, including those on mobile devices such as the iPhone.”

While there have been other efforts to post some versions of the legislation and related documents, these have been scattered over numerous sites, with varying levels of usability and functionality. **Because of the efficiency of Tizra's publishing platform, government officials and their constituents can keep up with the rapid pace of events, adding and updating with minimal resources required.** In fact, once the desired documents have been identified and located, and a design decided upon, the system is capable of importing hundreds of documents at a time. The ubiquity of PDF files, which are now an open standards format, means that the documents may come from practically any source, with no content conversion required. **Once published through Tizra, every page within every document has its own separate address, so searches lead directly to the relevant page, rather than a whole document** that then needs to be downloaded before viewing. Page-specific links can also be bookmarked, emailed and shared via popular social software like Twitter, Facebook and Delicious.

Although Tizra is being offered for improving public access and transparency, Tizra also offers the ability to control access to content with great specificity, so groups can use it to web publish and manage information with their own branding for internal use and commercial sale. Well known publishers including MIT Press (<http://cisnet.mit.edu>) and Indiana University Press (<http://iupressonline.iupress.org>) are current users of Tizra.

“Obviously as parents and as co-founders of a small software company we are as concerned as everyone else about affordable and accessible health care. More importantly, **as professionals in information access and web-publishing, we were amazed at the difficulty of access to basic information like draft bills and original reports that are so essential for understanding.** We realized the growing urgency for more information about this health care issue gave us a golden opportunity to provide our software application as a way of unlocking this information, said David Durand, Tizra Chief Executive Officer. “Our hope is to contribute to an improved understanding of the options and issues, by dramatically accelerating and improving access to this information and of course showcase the innovation of the nation's smallest state.”

With speed of distribution and fast information access being mission-critical tools in this historic national debate, Tizra offers a new tool that may be a game changer.

About Tizra

Tizra's mission is to provide organizations large and small with unprecedented control over the distribution and presentation of online information. Tizra's first product, Tizra Publisher, is a hosted service that enables non-technical staff to create new online information products from existing content and deliver them over the web with complete control over branding, presentation, access control and ecommerce. The company is headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, and funded in part by Rhode Island's Slater Technology Fund. More at <http://tizra.com>.

Screenshot previews on next page. Download high res from...

<http://tizra.com/press/hc/>

Additional graphics available on request from: abe.dane@tizra.com, (401) 787-6427

Screenshots of Tizra Health Care Reform Demo for the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

Download high res from: <http://tizra.com/press/hc/>
Additional graphics available on request from: abe.dane@tizra.com, (401) 787-6427



