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NQ Plan Recordkeeping Services | Ease & Functionality

Website: Next Update Released Soon

New Design is Smarter and Better

We have always viewed our services as suited for custom plans that are affected by a company's needs— so we must keep building better systems.

How can we make it even better? Outside communication perspective. Balsar has collaborated with an award-winning web design expert, Engage, that specializes in delivering personal online financial information to end-users for airlines, banks, insurance companies, retailers and other companies. Together Balsar and Engage developed a process to rethink the deferral account website, and make it simpler, while adding more functionality. The results are new web pages that are more user-friendly, vibrant, readable and helpful to participants as well as plan sponsor users. As executive benefit plan specialists, we support a myriad of permutations of essentially the same concept in retirement solutions. One of the strengths of these deferred compensation arrangements is that they offer great flexibility and can be align to the corporation's objectives—and even specific executive goals. Administratively and technically, this requires a state-of-the-art benefits platform. From this stable foundation, we can build the right custom solution for any plan.



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Even though we regularly improve the system, this 2009 'facelift' is the most visual, front-end upgrade to plan administration since we began online service 14 years ago.

We have established processes to manage all upgrades and enhancements. Balsar uses a three stage environment for development, testing and implementation. Each environment is configured identically. Development initiatives are posted to the "Build" environment through the use of automated scripting tools such as ANT or Hudson. After full regression testing, the code is promoted to the staging environment for UAT.

"We crystallized our process about 3 years ago when we added multiple currency features that instantaneously converts currency exchange rates between USD, EUR, GPD, and so on," says Bill Schmitz. Application changes that have been fully tested and accepted by the "owners" are promoted to production during a weekly promotion window. Testing, acceptance and promotion artifacts are documented using a robust project management system. In 2008, the system was enhanced to accommodate more sophisticated alternative investments, and in 2009 Balsar's Blue Sky project improved the account detail function even more.

