

Internet Portal Development for a Startup

Client: Early Stage Provider

Location: USA

Client Description

The client is an early stage provider of end-to-end Workforce Talent Fulfilment solutions for an enterprise's staffing needs.

Business Need

The client's solution provided the corporate customer with the ability to plan, attract, evaluate, retain and develop their staff consisting of employees, contingency hires, temps, and contractors in one seamless Internet application. This portal also had to integrate various suppliers of services (B2B) seamlessly thereby providing one easy point of control. The client, a start-up with Level 1 funding, was interested in effectively using the funds available by using an offshore vendor to design and develop the portal.

Solution Offered

Using its Bootstrap Services (specifically defined for early stage product companies), Blue Star Infotech (BSI) provided the client with a cost-effective, risk-sharing, model in realizing the above solution. The model leveraged offshore capabilities completely throughout the design and development cycles. Using collaboration tools and conferencing mediums, the concept and proposed features were quickly transferred to the offshore team.

The first stage involved creating a working prototype that was used by the client to attract potential clients and investors and thereby secure more funding.

In parallel, the team, utilizing open source technologies to keep the costs down, designed the architecture and defined product specifications which were validated by the client.

Various open source frameworks like Struts, Lucene and ANT were used to boost the speed of development and reduce costs. The final solution was made available in record time and could be hosted either in-house or in an ASP mode.

As the product was still evolving, the team utilized an iterative development model which enabled the client to determine clearly the product direction and make the requisite refinements. This ensured latter-stage rework was minimized further keeping the development costs down.

Benefits to the Client

- Incremental development ensured that the client was provided with a constant visibility of how the product was shaping and bring in changes as early as possible that resulted in minimizing rework
- BSI identified and utilized the appropriate technology and tools based on client's need to keep development license and deployment costs down
- The prototype approach enabled the client to market his product successfully
- BSI's risk-sharing boot-strapping approach enabled the client to utilize his funds optimally

TECHNOLOGY

- Linux, Apache Web server, Jakarta Tomcat
- Struts, Lucene, ANT, Java (Servlets, JSP, Java Beans), HTML/DHTML, XML/XSL, XSLT, JavaScript
- Visual SourceSafe

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