

Product Internationalization

Client: Leading provider of PPM Solutions
Location: USA

Client Description

The client is a leading provider of project and portfolio management software that enables Fortune 1000 companies to efficiently manage, source and deliver professional services for major projects and initiatives.

Business Need

After its client/server-based suite of products, the client launched its web-based enterprise software solution in 2000. This product integrated portfolio management, budgeting and financial management, project and resource management, and external relationship management within a single, collaborative platform.

By 2002, the product was already in use at multiple locations of global organizations. In order to enable product usage at client locations worldwide and to address customer-acquisition opportunities in the European market, the client felt the need to internationalize, and thereafter localize the product in German and French.

Blue Star Infotech had been the client's extended product development arm since 1997 and its team has been involved with the product right from its conception.

Solution Offered

After a detailed code analysis, the development team at Blue Star Infotech (BSI) first identified environment-specific aspects within the code and created a list of code artifacts that had to be reworked. Some of the factors considered for internationalization were:

- Date/Time
- Numeric values such as currency
- Language

To make the code free of locale-specific formats/standards, the following approach was adopted:

- String externalization was first carried out to identify and separate the message fields, screen objects etc. in the code

- These were then grouped into resource files and each was given separate resource identification (ID) number. At their respective location in the code, the objects were replaced by their ID nos.
- The resource files were then translated as per geographical requirements. Different resource files were prepared for different geographies that the client desired to address.
- To achieve localization, a parser was built which would pick up the ID number from the code, parse through the resource file and find an object having the same ID number, and then substitute the ID number in the code with this translated object.

TECHNOLOGY

- Windows NT, Windows 2000
- MS-Exchange
- MS SQL 7 / 2000, Oracle Server
- Visual Interdev, Visual Studio
- VB, XML/XSL.
- ASP, HTML, DHTML, JavaScript and VBScript
- Visual Interdev, Erwin, Visual SourceSafe

Benefits to the Client

- Due to its extensive knowledge about the product and its architecture, BSI was able to internationalize the product in a very short timeframe and also ensure full coverage.
- Testing time was also reduced as BSI had built regression scripts.
- All of this resulted in a shorter time-to-market the product in the new markets.

For more information about Blue Star Infotech:

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