Siemens Financial Services Limited chooses JBoss technology to migrate its system to a new platform

A key element in choosing an open source solution, specifically technologies from the JBoss/Red Hat portfolio, was in order to reduce not only capital expenditure in the upfront cost of the software but also ongoing support and operational costs.

The corporate leasing marketplace is a fast moving and demanding sector of the financial services industry. The decision to place business with a provider of finance for capital expenditure items such as cars, computers, printers etc. is often based as much on the speed with which that offer can be formally made, and how attractive the terms are.

The Client

Siemens Financial Services Limited is a leading provider of innovative finance solutions to UK businesses and public sector organisations. With more than 250,000 customers, they have arranged finance for 90 of the current FTSE 100 companies and more than 50% of NHS trusts and local authorities. Siemens provide solutions ranging from £1,000 to many millions for a diverse range of financing needs.

The Challenge

To help Siemens Financial Services migrate its existing systems from an unsupported and non-compliant Microsoft platform to an up-to-date technology that met with corporate IT goals, utilising Java technologies inline with corporate IT strategy. This was to be achieved using a joint development approach with expertise in the new platform, provided by us, whilst in parallel migrating the in-house team to the new development toolset and approach. The existing systems were built on Microsoft technologies which had become defunct with out-of-date support.

Any changes to systems needed to ensure that on-going business was left undisturbed at all costs.

The Solution

We were engaged by the Siemens Financial Services initially in their capacity as the UK's leading training provider for JBoss. The Siemens Financial Services team attended one of our run training courses to evaluate one of the technology options they were considering and during the training were introduced to the breadth of the JBoss/Red Hat portfolio, which included some new technologies which seemed to solve a number of technical and business challenges that they were facing.

Client >
Siemens Financial Services

Sector >
Financial Services

Project >
Open Source Development

"We first started working with Advanced as a training provider training our team on JBoss technology. It was from this initial engagement that they quickly became a trusted advisor and key partner throughout the lifecycle of the project."

Bob Premji >
Head of Development >
Siemens Financial Services Ltd

CASE STUDY

Siemens reduces capital costs with JBoss

The UK team also provided IT solutions to other European divisions although some regional autonomy is permissible within an overall technical strategy.

Our project team consisted of Business Analysts working alongside the Siemens team to define requirements, whilst the technical teams from Siemens joined forces with to focus on delivering the right solution to budget and schedule.

The first step was to choose the correct technologies with JBoss' JBPM, Spring, Hibernate and EJB3 all considered as constituent parts prior to the final proof-of-concept selection.

In particular JBPM seemed to have developed precisely with Siemens needs in mind in that it offered a method to automate the approvals process in a flexible and configurable manner, whilst removing the technical complexity and high cost of many traditional workflow solutions.

The Benefits

The final solution brings together a selection of new technologies whilst re-using investment in the existing infrastructure and database as an interim step along the pathway to an end-to-end Service Orientated Architecture which will bring the speed of development and re-use to provide the business with the agility it needs to meet new market demands.

Bob Premji, Head of Development, Siemens Financial Services Ltd says, *"The ability to develop applications using open source code allows developers to create new applications and services in half the time, and shorter development cycles allow us to react to change and bring new products to market a lot faster than we were able to previously."*

A second key benefit of the new solution is the reduction in cost using the JBoss Subscription Service compared to a more traditional proprietary licensing model.

Bob adds, *"Using open source technologies like JBoss we have been able to greatly reduce capital costs but still receive professional support from Advanced and JBoss via their Subscription Service. This has enabled us to develop an enterprise level solution at half the cost!"*

Why we were chosen

Our unique position in the marketplace as the leading training and consultancy partner for JBoss, combined with a long history of delivering JAVA projects across a multitude of Application Servers positioned us well for the initial engagement. The flexibility, agility and commitment of the project team ensured that the project was successful; Siemens business team has gained a market leading position and decided to invest in the platform for the future.

Bob concludes, *"We first started working with Advanced as a training provider training our team on JBoss technology. It was from this initial engagement that Advanced quickly became a trusted advisor and key partner throughout the lifecycle of the project."*

More information

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