intelli*IDEA* 3.0

A senior developer at Documentum tried IntelliJ IDEA.
Four months later, this global company was using
IDEA for all Java development.

Enterprise knowledge management on a global scale is considerably tougher than traditional document management. Information now grows exponentially and Documentum, the market leader for enterprise content management, relies on Java for nimble, platform-independent knowledge management solutions. Documentum made its mark on corporate content management in the 1990s by creating the first enterprise-scale document management solution to combine standard relational database technologies with object-oriented methodologies. It has kept its lead as document management transformed into today's total corporate knowledge management for the global enterprise.

Information Management for an Information Age

With a customer base as dynamic and varied as Documentum's, a "good enough" approach is never good enough. To maintain leadership, Documentum creates highly scalable and resource-efficient solutions that can be precisely tailored to an enterprise customer's specific content management needs. Each customer presents unique needs that must be meshed with existing support infrastructures in order to stay ahead of rapidly evolving markets. The challenge to Documentum's ingenuity and the pressure on its software engineers have never relented as this market leader continues to move ahead with the technology.

Documentum Meets IntelliJ IDEA

"One day someone behind me looked over my shoulder, saw me using IDEA and asked, 'What is that?' That's how it started. Everyone we showed it to wanted to use it. Before long we concluded we needed licenses for everyone."

—Victor Spivak, Principal Software Engineer

Principal Software Engineer Victor Spivak was the first at Documentum to try IntelliJ IDEA. Knowing refactoring had not been widely adopted commercially because of its complex, repetitive and demanding nature, he was intrigued by an article in a Java developer's magazine describing IDEA's extensive refactoring capabilities. "At the time there were no IDEs with real refactoring support, so I decided to take a look," notes Spivak. "I downloaded it to my laptop, intending to try it out when I found the time."

When Spivak explored IntelliJ IDEA's approach to intelligent coding assistance and refactoring support, he quickly realized this Java IDE was at last giving developers the tools they needed to generate smarter code and create better applications. During his first trial, says Spivak, "Someone behind me looked over my shoulder, saw me using it and asked, 'What is that?' And that's how it started. Everyone we showed it to wanted to use it and, before long, we concluded we needed licenses for everyone."

Ken Watts, vice president of platform engineering, noted that Spivak had become a very effective proponent of IntelliJ IDEA, whose advocacy was propelling the Java IDE into ever

wider internal use. As the company's developers switched over at an accelerating pace, Watts helped Spivak secure the needed licenses.

"The first batch was maybe 30 licenses, then 20 more—very quickly we were up to around 80 licenses," says Watts. "There was a lot of word-of-mouth, one developer talking to another. A digital asset management company we acquired last year in Toronto makes heavy use of Java and heard about the group here. They tried IDEA and quickly purchased a dozen more licenses. When we had a similar experience with a company we acquired in Ottawa, it simply made good sense to standardize on IDEA and go to a single site license."

Every Java developer at Documentum now uses IntelliJ IDEA.

Benefits Noted From the Start

> **"IDEA 'knows' everything you want to do. The product boosts your productivity immediately and after that, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. "**
>
> —Ken Watts, VP Platform Engineering

The benefits to Documentum when they shifted to IntelliJ IDEA were immediate, but they didn't stop there. "They just kept growing," says Watts. Efficiency and productivity rose immediately as IntelliJ IDEA took over much of the detailed, repetitive work that becomes a black hole for time and productivity at many shops. The company's developers found themselves producing more and smarter code, in less time.

"IntelliJ IDEA improves both the quality and predictability of schedules, which improves customer satisfaction, so it has a positive effect on the bottom line," says Watts. His teams have used IntelliJ IDEA to develop such key Documentum products as the Web Development Kit (WDK) and clients, such as Webtop, Web Publisher and Digital Asset Manager, that run on WDK. IntelliJ IDEA was also used to create an extensive suite of QA tests, resulting in tighter, more bug-free programs, so standardizing on IDEA has helped all of Documentum's Java code become more portable and maintainable.

Watts says IntelliJ IDEA seems to "know" everything a coder wants to do. Before long, developers were sharing tricks and techniques with their colleagues, a collaborative practice the company actively encourages. "Every IntelliJ user in the company is in a Documentum user group now," he explains. "We use it to trade tips and techniques. IDEA is like a creativity seeder— it boosts productivity immediately, and then the more a developer puts into it, the more he or she gets out of it."

> **"Our people actually enjoy working with IDEA. We've developed our own templates for consistency of code and IDEA's high-speed parsing immediately highlights all mistakes. Most of our engineers do not get any errors at all during compiling because IDEA catches them all during editing. The time we save is remarkable. "**
>
> —Ken Watts, VP Platform Engineering

The Bottom Line

IntelliJ IDEA's intelligent assistance, productivity enhancements and increased developer convenience benefit both Documentum and its customers. The company's content management solutions emerge from development with fewer bugs, greater portability and enhanced maintainability on any scale—from local intranet to global enterprise infrastructure.

For Documentum, IntelliJ IDEA is helping the company maintain its position as the visionary market leader for enterprise content management, in keeping with its credo: "Uniting the world through content."™

Contact

To explore Documentum's exciting world of content management solutions visit www.documentum.com. Learn more about JetBrains IntelliJ IDEA 3.0 and download your free, fully functional version at http://www.intellij.com/idea.

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