

Easit

Easit's main product, Easit Manager Suite, supports inventory management, time and project management, and CRM is used in a wide range of industries and customers, such as the Swedish Maritime Administration, Volvo Finans, Sharp, and DHL Express. Now, faithful to the ground pillars of Easit, the revolutionary ZK based version has been introduced.

ABOUT EASIT

Easit was founded in 1999 with the vision and business idea to build easy-to-use web based applications for Incident Management, Project Management and Time Reporting, combined with a business model that allowed flexible licensing of ASP or LAN hosted systems.

„ For us ZK was felt like the correct choice and after over one year of developing, we know we made the right choice! “

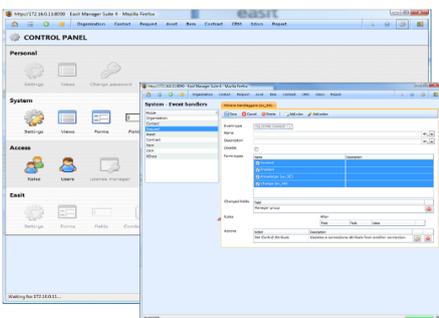
Easit's objective is to become a major player in enterprise customer service for midsize and large enterprises. IT service desks at IT departments are today's main business and entry point to the customers. In addition to IT departments, Easit reaches out to serve the core business of their customers and provide tools for industry and customer service, cross-departmental and cross enterprise.

THE CHALLENGE

As customers grew in both numbers and size, it is obvious that Easit need a platform based on a new technology, but still faithful to the ground pillars of Easit, 100 % web- based and easy to use. ZK, revolutionary among web applications, is introduced such that new technologies available only in desktop previously are applicable to web applications now.

“Like all software project, it is a scary voyage to set out to create a new version by using a new technology. We have a very small development team that also has to work on maintenance of the current version. We need to overcome the shortcomings of the web interface, painfully obvious in many business applications (including our own): endless scrolling, poor or nonexistent keyboard support.

And the most challenging part is that we have to develop a framework which we can configure and add customer-specific features to an installation without having different code for every customer.”



Why ZK

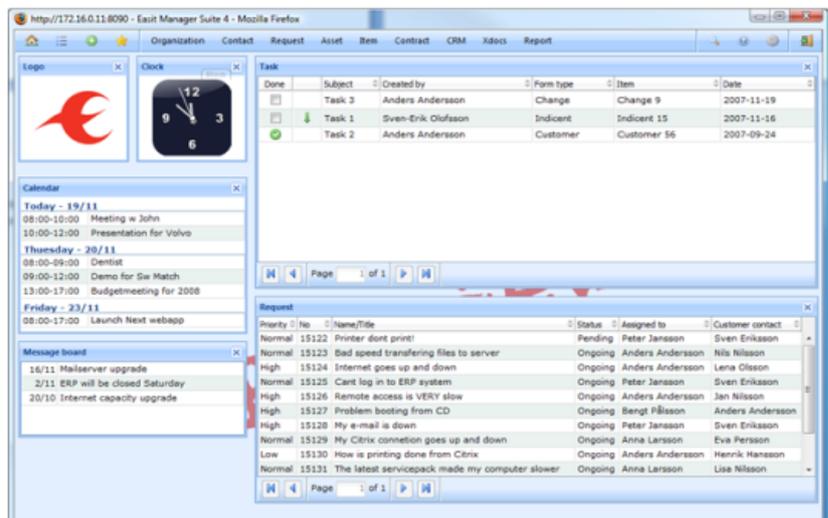
Easit tried a lot of development methods, starting out with a fully Enterprise Unified Process. Soon they realized that it was too heavy to move around with. Extreme programming (XP) was more suitable for them, so they started to write user stories, do pair programming, test first with continuous integration, hold stand up meetings and short iterations.

„ GWT was really nice but none of the developers liked it as much as ZK “

They also realized that there were a lot of great open source frameworks out there so they did a lot of “Spikes” tests. After evaluation, Easit came to use ZK with Spring and Hibernate.

For the Rich Interface part, they looked at ZK, GWT, and JSF with various AJAX frame-works such as Backbase.

“We did some tests with each framework, trying out how easy it is to get up and running, extending and changing the look and feel. We also looked at how easy it is to debug and find errors in the GUI and how well it integrates with other frameworks we are using. JSF with various AJAX frameworks is very well documented and a lot of information and samples are available all over the internet but we felt that it required too much knowledge of HTML and JavaScript. We want to remove the web-feeling even for the developers.



We ended up with a fight between GWT and ZK. GWT was really nice but none of the developers liked it as much as ZK. ZK's active community, with the core developers answering questions very fast was one of the first things we really liked. ZK removes the web feeling for both the user and the developer and that was one of our top priorities when searching for a GUI framework.”

Besides the active forum and ease of customization, there are several reasons that Easit likes ZK, such as

- Good and Easy API
- Easy to debug
- Updated often
- Web browser independency is handled automatically
- Bug free, having no major bugs compares to others
- ZK's live demo makes it easy to test simple GUI components and see new ones
- ZUL tag = Java class name makes it easy to develop GUI without having to read JavaDocs and ZUL reference all the time

The Result

"We had a preview showing in late Nov. 07' for customers and we got GREAT response.

We are doing a test program for selected customers, and we will also start using it in internal production. Everyone loved the new GUI and the speed of the application and GUI. For us ZK felt like the correct choice from the beginning, and after over one years of developing we know we made the right choice!"

About ZK

Potix Corporation develops and supports ZK, the #1 Ajax solution on SourceForge.net, the world's largest open source host. ZK has more than 1,500,000 downloads since its first release in late 2005. ZK is deployed by a large number of Fortune Global 500 companies, including Deutsche Bank, Barclays, Sony, Sun Microsystems and Toyota, providing them with the ability to rapidly create rich Ajax enterprise level applications.

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