

Marque Já!

Marque Já!, created by DaVinci - Soluções em TI, is a Brazilian project developed in Volta Redonda city. The target audiences of Marque Já! are companies and professionals who work with appointments such as lawyers, health professionals, architects, personal trainers, beauty salons, and their end customers.

ABOUT MARQUE JA

Marque Já! is an internet service which allows professionals and their customers to schedule their appointments on-line, and get informed in advance by receiving SMS messages on their cell phone. With the innovative concept of "Self-Service", user can place a request or commit an appointment anytime, anywhere.

The project is started in early 2007 by Bruno Bernardo Fonseca, a software architect, also the founder of DaVinci - Soluções em TI.

THE CHALLENGE

Marque Já! is developed with the Model Driven Architecture (MDA), and the MDA tool Bruno used was AndroMDA. This tool provides Struts and JSF for programming the presentation layer, which is developed through complex diagrams of activities (UML). However, with Andro-MDA 3.1, developers have to create diagrams of activities to indicate the sequence of screens and information that are passed from one to another.

The name of the cartridge is BPM4Struts and these diagrams are similar to those of JBPM. This cartridge generates numerous JSP pages that are assembled via Tiles.

"The architecture itself (AndroMDA) and the settings of layer transactions and business are quite simple, but the customization of GUI is complex.

Worst of all, it is almost impossible to reuse these activity diagrams to create new screens."

WHY ZK

"Initially the idea was to migrate the solution to Struts GWT, but when I experienced the ease of developing and creating dynamic Web components with ZK, I had no more doubts."

At that time, Bruno was testing the GWT in the first a few

„ Initially the idea was to migrate to Struts GWT, but when I experienced the ease of ZK, I had no more doubts. Luckily I took the right decision. “



prototypes of Marque Já! (sign-up, listings, etc.), and was not enjoying much of the results. One of his friends, who is also an entrepreneur and a software architect, presented ZK to him. "It was love at first sight!" said Bruno.

"I started my ZK project from prototyping. The first a few things I tried was inputs, grids, simple listboxes, groupboxes, and tabboxes.

I quickly experienced the dynamic creation of an entire window, and the relatively complex GUI for the clients which indicates where the business is in the map. I saw how easy it is to do very enjoyable programming in ZK."

„...the architecture of ZK + SPRING + HIBERNATE makes it much easier to understand and maintain. This high productivity, combination of ZK + AndroMDA, impressed us very much. “

"I remember there was a time during the development; I showed the "alpha" site of Marque Já! to another friend, Adrian Dantas, a system analyst and developer J2EE in Sao Paulo. He suggested a different way to use these Gmaps. This happened on a Thursday, and on Monday, at the beginning of the following week, the development was ready and working! This high productivity, combination of ZK + AndroMDA, impressed us very much."

"By integrating ZK into the system, it eliminates the use of cartridge BPM4Struts, and the architecture of ZK + SPRING + HIBERNATE makes it much easier to understand and maintain", said Bruno.

Besides the high productivity and ease of development, Bruno likes ZK as a whole, especially for its very rich APIs, and easiness to program 170+ off-the-shelf components. For example, he was very pleased with the combination use of control Image and Fileupload, by which he re-recorded the logos of his clients.

In addition, the ZK Calendar component displays the other party's time for scheduling a compromise, and the mechanism of data binding has accelerated the development of registration. Also, he has a great admiration for ZK Forge, particularly the ZK Gmaps-2.0.

THE RESULT

After one year development, Marque Já! has been published in February 2008.

One of Marque Já!'s clients, a law firm has reported that they are very happy with this service because now they can tell their clients before the hearings.

This new solution is expected to become a social utility that connects people to their friends or business partners. It is expected to be used in Brazil's emerging business -- eco tourism in the future as well.

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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