

Omnisys

Brendan Smith started developing Omnisys in 2008. It is a suite to track, diagnose, and manage complex and customized IT environments.

“None of this would have been possible, or look nearly as good without the ZK framework.

This is a shining example of what an open-source project should be. “

ABOUT OMNISYS

Open Management and Network Intelligence System (Omnisys) is an agent-less, free systems monitoring and management platform that provides many features typically exclusive to more costly monitoring and management solutions.

As an enterprise grade system monitoring management and datacenter automation suite, Omnisys focuses on ease of use and customization for managing customized enterprise infrastructures.

THE CHALLENGE

“Providing as much customization as possible without the user installing an agent, as I wanted users to be able to grab any piece of information out of a system possible, with setup comparable to simply logging into the server/service.”

Based on Brendan’s experiences, lots of management programs use plugins, where specific metrics are defined, but are not always easily customizable. This makes things easier for the software development team, but creates some limitations and delays for system administrators, which is the target audience.

In contrast, Omnisys provides an array of protocols with basic suggested metrics, with the user being able to easily and powerfully extend Omnisys to realize enterprise-type monitoring and management for all the home-brewed applications they may have.

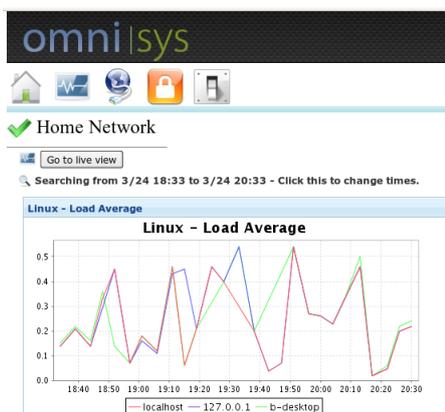
WHY ZK

“Once I had decided that the Java + Hibernate + Ajax architecture best fit my goals, ZK was a clear front-runner.

ZK made spring security a nice fit, as I didn't feel the need to compromise any additional development time with roles and granularity within the application.” said Brendan.

ZK was chosen as the ideal framework to carry through this project due to the 3 main reasons:

1. Best integration with other frameworks



Omnisys Group/Load Average Screenshot

2. Satisfactory documentation & Community support
3. Various & Well-Designed components

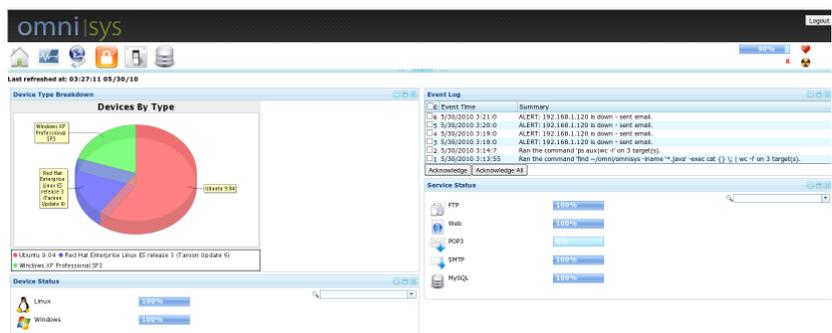
„ I can be confident that my application will always look fantastic and work seamlessly, when the only effort required on my end is updating a few libraries.“

“The amount of work the team had done to provide integration with other frameworks, as well as the Small Talks detailing much of what I wanted to realize in a project, it was a very easy choice. The components looked great and worked seamlessly with such minimal effort and the community and development team always had an answer to the problem. I very rarely saw that ZK couldn't do something, but when I did, the development team was there, eager to provide the feature.”

“Also, concepts like a live system update, which would typically become cumbersome to realize, were easily explained, and something that I coded very quickly due to the very cool Stock Chart Example. However, the very best part of ZK is that they are very clearly focused on designing cutting-edge components that always have a 'new' look and feel. I can be confident that my application will always look fantastic and work seamlessly, when the only effort required on my end is updating a few libraries.”

THE VALUE

“The components are very diverse, and work beautifully together. The ZUL markup saved me a lot of time, and didn't restrict my component options. There are very few places in the code where I had to use XHTML/JavaScript by hand, as using zscript tags and creating components on the fly with things like 'forEach' tags made it very versatile, which helped me realized rapid application development.”



Omnisys Dashboard Screenshot

To Brendan, ZUL markup is a huge plus, from there, it was exceptionally easy to recognize and utilize new components of ZK in a way that was intuitive, even to a relatively new developer.

“I haven't ever felt the need to seriously reevaluate that decision, as ZK has remained solid and predictable, adding new features even as it maintains standardization of its components.



Omnisys Action Screenshot

ZK seemed to really focus on a non-intrusive concept that would abstract everything it needed to, and nothing it didn't. Where I needed to write raw code, I was able to, and never felt the need to compromise functionality, or feel that an opportunity was missed as a result of the framework.

The main mantra behind my software is simplicity, and I feel that ZK fit best with this concept.”

THE RESULT

Omnisys was released not only as a fully-customizable systems monitoring and management platform, but also has a fully-customizable user interface, using ZK panels and other components, such as the slider, for selecting times to review metrics.

“My immediate focus is to get the beta, then stable release out, with a wide-range of protocols. For Omnisys '2.0', statistical trending and capacity modules are planned, as well as asset management, which seems like a natural progression for this project. The true goal is to create the simplest way to customize all of your monitoring and systems management in one centralized console.”

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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