CASE STUDY: Organization navigator (DKW)



Customer

Dutch provider of IT services with 15 years has experience in developing software for the childcare industry. DKW project that was initially also targeted by the customer for childcare domain was further extended and enhanced to become domain-independent.

Challenge

Organization navigator is a web-based informational system for management of locations (buildings), related document flow, locations maintenance workflow, planning actions and budgeting.

The main idea of the project was to give various levels of managers a tool to accumulate in one place information about all document workflow related to buildings and costs for maintenance. Additionally statistics and financial reporting features were developed as an important part of the system.

The goals of the project was to enhance the existing MS Access application by providing rich user interface, improvement and enhancement of existing functionality, making application web-enabled (available over the Internet and intranet) and customizable for multiple customers.

Solution

Windows Presentation Foundation was selected as a major technology for project realization. This choice provided possibility for building a rich user interface that exploits the full power of client computer and is easily available over the Internet and intranet through native XBAP support. User gets an impression that he uses desktop application through browser – user interface is as reach as desktop analogs.

XBAP applications are hosted in a sandbox. It ensures that the client's computer is protected against misuse and allows applying necessary restrictions to secure client-server interactions. ScienceSoft team has developed several ways to enable secure client-server interactions, which are applied to new WPF/XBAP projects.

The system's functionality was realized on web service hosted on solution provider's server. It considerably simplifies its maintenance. Direct access to provider's web services is denied, because XBAP applications are only allowed to interact with web services hosted on the client-part service. Client-side part interacts both with customer's side and provider's side web-services.

DM-V-VM architecture was chosen and implemented because since it fitted WPF technology in the best way.

Results

Version 1 of this product was successfully delivered. The product already exists in Beta version and is on its presale stage being presented at software exhibitions.

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Technologies and tools

Management:

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Visio, Microsoft Project 2003/2007, Sparx Enterprise Architect 7.0, iterative development, risk management, change requests management, team motivation

Project:

Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5, WPF, XBAP, C#, LINQ (Linq2SQL), ASP.NET Web Services, Microsoft Visual Studio 2008, Microsoft SQL server 2008 and Microsoft Reporting Services, Crystal Reports, Microsoft Windows Server 2003, 3rd party controls (Xceed WPF DataGrid v3.1, DevComponents WPF Scheduler), Cruise Control, NAnt, NUnit, Microsoft Internet Information Services.

Screenshots

