Challenges and solutions in Offshore software development

Usware works primarily develops software for offshore clients. As a result, we have deep understanding of the challenges associated with offshoring, and ways and means to mitigate these challenges.

Challenge: Timezone
It can hard to explain your requirements and vision to the development team, if your and the development team's timezone do not match.

Solution:
The office timings need to be organised to get an overlap, so that there is a amount of time, when all parties can communicate and discuss in real time. At Usware, we set the teams development time so that they have at least 2 hours(generally longer) of overlap with the clients normal office timings.

Challenge: Communication
If the development team is not proficient with your language, discussions and communication become extremly hard. Even with same language speaking team, telecommunication costs can become prohibitive.

Solution:
Choose a team where the team members are proficient with your language. At Usware, every person speaks English with near native fluency. Tools such as Skype and Gotomeeting.com provide ample means to communicate, without telecoomunication costs becoming prohibitive.

Challenge: Cutlural differnces
Differences in culture can make communication hard, and provide misleading information.

Solution:
Both the development team, and the client need to be sensitised to cultural differnces.

Challenge: Security
With an offshore team, you need to take care of your critical data against unauthorised access.

Solution:
Data should be used on a need to know basis, and destroyed after use. Code developed for the client should be removed from the systems after transfer to the client. At Usware we follow these policies.

Challenge: Legal framework
The contracts which are in place are harder to enforce across national boundaries.

Solution:
Work with a firm which values its reputation more than contracts. Have long term relationships in place. At Usware, we work primarily with agencies, which have the responsibility of having sane contracts with clients, and Usware has long term relationships with partner agencies.

Challenge: Progress tracking
With distances, keeping track of your project's progress can become hard.

Solution:

Work with an iterative approach. Your application should be developed in pre-agreed stages, which allows to keep track of the health and overall progress of the project. At Usware, we work with an iterative methodology. We use Unfuddle as our project management tool, which allows you to easily track and manage tickets and overall health of the project.

Want to build an web application? Talk to Usware(www.uswaretech.com) or mail at sales@uswaretech.com.