NIMBUZZ
Spring Helps Nimbuzz Improve Applications and Developer Performance

Nimbuzz!

SPRINGSOURCE RESULTS

Spring delivers the following business results to Nimbuzz:

- Reduced Development Lifecycle
- More Innovative Functionality
- Greater Application Quality
- Improved Application Performance
- Rapid Developer Ramp Up
- Improved Staff Skills

TESTIMONIAL

"Spring cuts down the development lifecycle by mega factors, saving a huge amount of time and allowing the R&D organizations to implement their own applications."

"Our application has better performance because it is derived from Spring, and the services it offers are very robust, stable and scalable with high performance."

"Spring has an immense impact on the development team. It improves the staff's development skills."

Nimbuzz

Nimbuzz, based in the Netherlands, provides a mobile social messenger application combining instant messaging, (geo) presence and VoIP. The free application enables users to connect with contacts across popular communities, including Skype, Windows Live Messenger, Yahoo! Messenger, and social networks including Facebook and MySpace – all from a single application. Nimbuzz has positioned itself to become the largest global communications platform for seamless IPbased communication among mobile devices and social media platforms. Working in a cutting-edge software market requires the company to maintain cutting-edge development practices.

Challenge

"Before introducing Spring into our development process, we had a variety of monolithic standalone applications written in a variety of languages and platforms," explained Yehuda Hofri, Director of Server Development, Nimbuzz. "I do not believe in reinventing solutions that are not part of our line of business. When I arrived at Nimbuzz, I wanted to take the proprietary infrastructure components out of the system. When it comes to implementing a platform, I trust a proven solution over a proprietary solution."

Hofri says that inherently a product company or an Internet company's development team does not have the expertise to build infrastructure components as fully realized solutions. Their core competence is development of instant messaging and social network applications, not infrastructure.

When you must perform these tasks in-house, the developers are objectively more concerned with the specific functionality needed for the application, and are compelled to complete the component within a tight schedule. Consequently, some important aspects might be neglected.

While the component might function for the application at the time, it required a substantial amount of work to be updated as the application evolved, and it could not be implemented into other applications without significant modifications. Hofri notes that this is not a challenge specific to Nimbuzz, but rather a situation he has seen at many startup companies and R&D organizations that develop with Java.

"The problem was that it took a lot of time to develop, modify, maintain and debug the infrastructure components," Hofri adds. "Every hour spent on implementing something that is beyond the line of business is a waste of time."

Solution

Nimbuzz now does all Java server side application development on Spring, the de facto standard platform to build, run and manage enterprise Java applications. Spring also opened up opportunities for Nimbuzz to integrate the top tier of open source Java technologies such as Hibernate, Apache Tomcat and more, and benefit from these proven solutions and their advanced functionality.

Benefits

SPRING DELIVERS THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS RESULTS
TO NIMBUZZ:

Reduced Development Lifecycle

"Spring cuts down the development lifecycle by mega factors, saving a huge amount of time and allowing the R&D organization to implement their own applications," says Hofri.

"Because of Spring, development has become very smooth," he adds. "Development is now easier, cleaner and faster, delivering attributes such as performance, stability, and testing, and that of course reduces the development lifecycle and allows us to get new product releases out faster."

More Innovative Functionality

Hofri finds that the developers have more time to create innovative functionality because they do not have to waste time building the framework components that are already provided by Spring. Hofri also says that Spring itself is a very innovative platform, offering new and fascinating solutions that can be incorporated into Nimbuzz applications.

Greater Application Quality

"The quality of the application is improved because the quality of Spring is great," says Hofri. "When you use a code base like Spring, you adopt the approach and the language, and you are directed to implement your code correspondingly, and the quality of the application increases. Adhering to Spring's guidelines improves our coding conventions. I see Spring as one of the main guiding entities in open source Java because the code is brilliantly written." Hofri also points out that Spring enables Nimbuzz to test the application more, via unit testing, simulation, and other means. Nimbuzz is a heavy user of Spring's testing capabilities, and this also improves application quality.

Improved Application Performance

"Our application has better performance now because it is derived from Spring, and integrates the high-performance services that Spring offers," says Hofri. "Consequently, Spring makes our application very robust, stable and scalable."

Rapid Developer Ramp Up

Nimbuzz has revised the job description for new developers – Spring is now a must-have. With Spring, it is extremely easy for a newcomer to join Nimbuzz, start coding and become productive right away. "Spring saves weeks on developer ramp up time," Hofri confirms. "An experienced Java developer would take 4-5 hours to ramp up on Spring. Even a novice developer would take a couple of days at most."

Improved Staff Skills

"Spring has an immense impact on the development team," Hofri concludes. "It improves the staff's development skills. When a developer works with Spring, they dig into the code, debug, and work closely with it. Then they start to adhere to Spring's guidelines and program correspondingly. They learn, advance, and improve." "I can really see our staff learning a lot from using the Spring platform," he adds. "Spring is like a tutorial. For a programmer, just being able to look at and debug the code is inspiring."

About SpringSource

SpringSource, a division of VMware, Inc., (NYSE: VMW) and the leader in Java application infrastructure and management, provides a complete suite of software products that accelerate the entire build, run, manage enterprise Java application lifecycle. SpringSource employs the open source leaders who created and drive innovation for Spring, the de facto standard programming model for enterprise Java applications. SpringSource also employs the Java and Web thought leaders within the Apache Tomcat, Apache HTTP Server, Hyperic, Groovy and Grails open source communities. Nearly half of the Global 2000, including many world's leading retail, financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, technology and public sector clients are SpringSource customers. For more information visit: www.springsource.com.