

TOMTOM

ACCELERATES DEVELOPMENT AND REDUCES RISK WITH SPRING ROO

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RESULTS

Spring Roo delivers the following business results to TomTom:

- Accelerated Development – development time cut by at least 50%
- Optimized Developer Resources
- Fast Developer Ramp Up
- More Functionality & Higher Quality
- Freedom to Innovate & Reduced Risk
- Business Side Confidence & Improved Developer Experience

TESTIMONIAL

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"The initial goal was to only use Spring Roo to develop the prototype as fast as possible...We decided it would be a good decision to keep using Spring Roo for our production application, so that we could benefit from the productivity it gave us to maintain the application in the future."

"Many technologies that I would not have contemplated adding to the application, because of time constraints, are now possible... Spring Roo gives me more freedom to experiment with various technologies."

TomTom

TomTom, based in Amsterdam is a leading global provider of location and navigation solutions. More than 45 million people use TomTom solutions every day, in the form of dedicated portable navigation devices (PNDs), in-dash car systems or tracking and tracing solutions for fleet management. In addition, hundreds of millions of people use TomTom digital maps on the Internet or via mobile phones.

Challenge

One of the newest projects for TomTom's TSQ team is Road Report, a Web portal that translates real-time traffic information from TomTom digital maps into human-readable text format, so that it can be read by radio stations and other media.

When starting the portal project, one of the top priorities was productivity. The TSQ team consists of highly-skilled backend enterprise developers who were looking for a new productivity-enhancing tool to build prototypes for customer facing web applications using Java and common Spring technologies.

"Productivity in building prototypes is very important in the early phases of the project to align all business stakeholders and give the high-level requirements a concrete aspect, making it easy to visualize," explains Christian Tzolov, Technical Lead, TTSD, TomTom. "In addition, TomTom values the ability to be able to quickly make changes to the prototype and keep up with rapidly changing requirements."

Solution

To accelerate the development process, TomTom chose to develop the Road Report portal in Spring Roo, a lightweight Spring-based application development tool that makes it fast and easy to deliver instant results.

"The initial goal was to only use Spring Roo to develop the prototype as fast as possible," says Tzolov. "We were not planning to use Spring Roo in production, but we realized that the quality of the code generated by Spring Roo was good enough for production use. We decided it would be a good decision to keep using Spring Roo for our production application, so that we could benefit from the productivity it gave us to maintain the application in the future."

TomTom used Spring Roo throughout the entire project development process into production, and the portal is currently being evaluated and used by major radio stations across Europe and United States.

Benefits

SPRING ROO DELIVERS THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS RESULTS TO TOMTOM:

Accelerated Development

"Spring Roo helps us develop faster" says Tzolov. "There are a lot of good practices in Spring Roo, and this helps to speed up our productivity."

"With Spring Roo, we were able to develop a full-fledged Web portal application in just two weeks," he continues. "It would have taken much more time to create the web application without such a tool."

Optimized Developer Resources

Spring Roo empowered the developers in TomTom to gain significant productivity in the Web application prototyping phase.

"We had been looking for a tool that would allow us to optimize our developer resources," Tzolov says. "Spring Roo did a great job, helping us get up to speed and deliver good quality Web applications."

More Functionality

Spring Roo is extensible, which allows the company to extend it and adapt it more closely to the specialized requirements of the application. Tzolov observes that it is very easy to add a specialized feature from scratch in Spring Roo, compared to previous development environments used at TomTom. He sees this as another factor that can boost productivity.

Higher Quality

Spring Roo improves the quality of TomTom's applications in a couple ways. First, since Spring Roo provides built-in best practices, it generates good quality code. Second, Spring Roo generates integration tests for the application, which helps to improve the testing coverage easily and ultimately makes it easy to ensure higher quality.

"I like the way Spring Roo generates integration tests," Tzolov says. "It correctly wires with the rest of the system so we don't have to spend the time doing so ourselves. I find Spring Roo's approach natural and it is easy to complete the testing of the application and improve the quality."

"The combination of good practices and support for quality testing helps us achieve good product quality," he adds.

Freedom to Innovate

A significant benefit Tzolov found is that the time saved by Spring Roo provides freedom to innovate and experiment with different ideas and technologies.

"Many technologies that I would not have contemplated adding to the application, because of time constraints, are now possible," says Tzolov. "Spring Roo gives me more freedom to experiment with various technologies integrated by Spring Roo and decide whether it makes sense to use that functionality."

Reduced Risk

Spring Roo reduces the risk of application development, because prototypes can be developed and adapted to changing requirements quickly. Consequently, not much time is wasted chasing incorrect requirements, according to Tzolov. For example, on the portal

project, TomTom delivered a prototype application in about a week. After presenting to the business side, the development team realized they did not have all the correct requirements. With Spring Roo, they were able to easily fix the issues and quickly deliver a working application with all the right requirements.

"In a traditional development environment, it takes much longer to deliver the first iteration of a prototype," Tzolov explains. "It is also well known that the later the requirements change, the more expensive they are to develop. With Spring Roo, this risk was averted."

Business Side Confidence

"The business side at TomTom appreciates being able to have a concrete prototype to experiment with," Tzolov notes.

Improved Developer Experience

"I enjoy working on Spring Roo much more, when compared with other platforms I have worked on," Tzolov concludes. "I feel much more productive on Spring Roo, than previous platforms."

About SpringSource

SpringSource, a division of VMware, Inc., builds Java infrastructure software which eliminates the complexity of enterprise Java. SpringSource created Spring, the de facto standard platform to build, run and manage enterprise Java applications. SpringSource also employs the leading committers for Apache Tomcat and is the leading Tomcat support provider. 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 please visit springsource.com.



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