SKY.COM
Accelerates Release Cycle Six Fold with Groovy and Grails

SPRINGSOURCE RESULTS

Groovy and Grails deliver the following business results to Sky.com:

- Greater Productivity – Increased by at Least 400%

- Accelerated New Release Cycle – Weekly Instead of Every 6 Weeks

- Fast Response to Business Needs

- More Innovative New Functionality

- Rapid Developer Ramp Up – Productivity on Day One vs. Several Months

- Economical Team Resources

TESTIMONIAL

"Groovy is so much quicker and simpler to write code, so we can get applications up and running faster. With Groovy and Grails we can create a new feature in a week, when before it could easily take a month or more."

"Now using Groovy and Grails, we release every week to production, compared with every six weeks previously."

"With Groovy and Grails, a Java developer can become productive immediately … You can get started on day one."

Sky.Com

Sky is the UK's leading entertainment and communications company, operating a multi-channel television service with 9.4+ million customers - a third of households in the UK and Ireland. Sky also operates multiple websites to deliver entertainment, news and other content to customers, and the company is the UK's fastest growing broadband and fixed-telephony provider.

Sky's network of sites extend the company's reach, attracting millions of unique users each month who contribute to over 1 billion monthly page impressions. The home page of sky.com links to content across a variety of sites and plays a vital role in helping Sky achieve its goal to increase traffic across all sites and gain new customers for its portfolio of services.

Challenge

Sky.com faces a daily challenge to constantly update the home page with articles, images, video, feeds and navigation to other Sky web pages. Before using Groovy and Grails for the home page content management system (CMS), Sky ran into limitations with the existing solutions.

"It took a long time for developers to ramp up on the previous system," explains Jon Mullen, sky.com ScrumMaster.

Even more important than the developer issues, Sky's flexibility to deliver new functionality and ability to finalize new releases were both hindered by the previous platform.

"We had a six-week release cycle, which was just too long," he continues. "We were not being very responsive to the business because every new feature took a long time to develop. We needed to be more flexible."

Solution

The Sky.com home page development team switched to Groovy and Grails to rebuild their CMS, gaining speed, productivity and flexibility without sacrificing application performance. Groovy is a dynamic language for the Java Virtual Machine, that offers a flexible Java-like syntax all Java developers can learn in a matter of hours, and Grails is an advanced Web-application framework based on Groovy.

Benefits

GROOVY AND GRAILS DELIVER THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS RESULTS TO SKY.COM:

Greater Productivity

"Groovy is so much quicker and simpler to write code with, so we can get applications up and running faster," Mullen confirms. "With Groovy and Grails we can create a new feature in a week, when before it could easily take a month or more."

Groovy and Grails is faster partly because the platform provides all the basic infrastructure code that the team would otherwise have to write themselves. In addition, Groovy and Grails offer a range of valuable feature plug-ins that save development time. In fact, Sky.com conducted a multi-week comparison, with teams working concurrently on the same project in pure Java and Groovy and Grails, proving the productivity advantage offered by Groovy and Grails.

"The Java group spent the first week at least just building infrastructure, so they weren't producing functionality," Mullen notes. "The Grails team was able to start working on features quite early on because they didn't have to build any of the infrastructure."

Another reason Groovy and Grails streamline development is the ease of making modifications. While other platforms have to be restarted every time a change is made, David Stott, Senior Developer at Sky says that in Groovy and Grails they can see the impact of any change immediately, without having to reboot – a significant time savings.

Accelerated New Release Cycle

The productivity boost afforded by Groovy and Grails has enabled Sky.com to accelerate the new release cycle for the content management system by six fold.

"Now using Groovy and Grails, we release every week to production, compared with every six weeks previously," says Mullen.

Fast Response to Business Needs

"With Groovy and Grails, we are able to respond quickly to business needs, and turn ideas into real functionality on the home page very rapidly," Stott explains. "Because Groovy and Grails make it much easier to develop workable features, we can spend more time working on what the business really wants."

More Innovative New Functionality

The flexibility and speed of Groovy and Grails empower the Sky team to tryout innovative new features, test popularity with the website users, and then push them to the main page. If the features don't work out, however, the investment and risk has been minimal.

In addition, the home page development team continuously provides new CMS functionality that makes it easier for the system users, the website editors, to experiment with content and features, and ultimately generate an improved user experience and more productive site.

Rapid Developer Ramp Up

"With Groovy and Grails, a Java developer can become productive immediately," Stott explains. "There is no big overhead in learning to use Groovy. You can get started on day one."

Economical Team Resources

Because Groovy and Grails are so easy to learn, the Java development team has been able to reallocate resources in a more cost effective manner and give their developers a chance to learn cutting edge skills.

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.

---

springsource®
A division of **vmware®**

North & South America	Europe/Middle East/Africa	Asia Pacific
+1 877-486-9273	+44 1276 414300	+61 284040150