



Full Degree Saves 600% in Development Costs by Integrating Reactor 5 Process Engine

Embedded workflow solution saves company hundreds of thousands of dollars—and year's worth of programming time.

The Challenge

Like many software developers, the professionals at Full Degree needed to find a workflow solution that would integrate easily and fully complement their product information management application. This was necessary so that the firm could continue to support their enterprise, retail and manufacturer customers without over-committing the invaluable engineering resources needed for core development efforts.

Full Degree's need was particularly acute as reliable task automation is at the heart of their flagship Symphony Workbench product. By cutting inefficient business processes out of a company's workflow and enabling all business users to update, share, and access product information in real time, their product helps clients shorten production cycles, improve customer satisfaction, and accelerate time to market.

Full Degree knew that the promise of an automated product information management system could only be fully realized with an embedded workflow solution.

Third Party Alternatives

Full Degree evaluated a wide range of products, including BEA WebLogic Process Integrator™, but none of the vendors they considered was able to provide the solution they needed. Each came up short for one or more of the following reasons:

- Prohibitive cost for deployment
- Limited to working with a single platform
- Inflexible product design
- Onerous integration requirements
- Constantly changing APIs

Build vs. Buy

The company also explored the possibility of building the program themselves in-house - only to determine that a fully functional solution would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and consume more than a year's worth of programming time.

The Reactor 5 Solution

Full Degree then turned to Reactor 5 from Oak Grove Systems. Robust, easy to integrate and platform independent, Reactor's J2EE, XML-driven source code solution provided Full Degree with a cost-effective solution they could implement almost immediately.

The Oak Grove Solution provided Full Degree with:

- A single up-front fee with no ongoing royalty costs
- Application server and database neutrality
- Flexible product design
- Preconfigured integration points
- Standard sets of APIs for integration and user interface customization

The total Reactor 5 integration time covered a period of approximately six weeks. This involved a short time for the Full Degree programmers to familiarize themselves with the code, followed by the three weeks it took to integrate the program into their development environment and get it running with WebLogic—and then a few more days to integrate Reactor with their systems.



The Final Results

Since deploying Reactor 5, Full Degree has already estimated that they will achieve a final return on investment in excess of 600% based on the development costs saved by integrating Reactor 5. Faster time-to-market has also been a result by cutting the time to add this core functionality by at least one year.

Most importantly, was the functionality of Reactor itself. "At Full Degree, our customers demand nothing less than a best of breed product through and through," said Mike Seilnacht, chief architect at Full Degree. "And if I'm going to integrate someone else's software into my application, it had better be at least as good as if we had designed it ourselves. And on that count, Reactor fills the bill."

About Full Degree

Based in Palo Alto, Calif., Full Degree (www.fulldegree.com) is reinventing the way enterprises manage, distribute and publish detailed product information. The company's software and service solutions make enterprises easier to do business with by ensuring that the most consistent and complete product information is available across the enterprise value chain and at every customer interaction. Full Degree's modular and scalable system can be customized for businesses of all sizes and industries. In addition, Full Degree complements its product offerings with business consulting, application design, technical support, training, and installation and implementation services. Full Degree is privately held and has received funding from Convergence Partners, a leading Silicon Valley-based venture capital firm, among others.

About Oak Grove Systems

Oak Grove Systems, a privately held California corporation founded in 1998, is commercializing powerful Internet-based process coordination technology developed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for the NASA Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs.

Today, Oak Grove Systems is a leading provider of Business Process Management (BPM) tools for enterprise applications built on the J2EE framework. Java programmers use our lightweight, high performance tools to rapidly develop workflow management applications that streamline collaborative business functions within and between enterprises.

Our J2EE-based, XML-driven tools reduce development costs and accelerate time-to-market by reducing the need for coding, simplifying integration, and enabling systems to be more easily adapted to the changing business environment.