



RT Logic Customer Success Story

Codebeamer: a customizable, convenient and affordable solution to RT Logic's requirements



Started by seven entrepreneurial engineers, RT Logic has become an industry leader in providing innovative products for the space industry.

With this steady and exciting growth over the past years, RT Logic has faced many challenges, from material and defect tracking to effective source code management and document control, always head-on, always seeking a straightforward, extensible, and scalable solution.

After facing a turning point in its business model – too large to be considered a small company, and too small to be called a large enterprise – RT Logic needed an affordable enterprise-wide solution to provide sufficient management of its real and intellectual property, and not get in the way of its agile systems development lifecycle.

Having CVS and Bugzilla in house, RT Logic initially searched for a source code management tool with an integrated defect tracker. RT Logic evaluated GForge, the open-source branch of SourceForge Enterprise. While using it for delivering a couple of projects, the company found its features behind the curve of current technologies. The application was also cumbersome to install. At the time, GForge only supported CVS, and RT Logic was in the process of migrating to Subversion for source code management.

RT Logic had decided to consider proprietary solutions. During this time, RT Logic added the requirement for ISO certification support. RT Logic first considered SourceForge Enterprise, due to the in-house open source orientation.

This was followed by an evaluation of Rational ClearCase. Both products are very good at what they do. Each provides excellent in-house installation and setup support.

Each of the auditors had very positive comments about the company's project portals, and were especially impressed that each person with whom they spoke was able to find the requested information on the portal and demonstrate its age and persistence.

*James Sullivan
Development Engineer, RT Logic*

Evaluation criteria and the solution

However, three factors ultimately determined the outcome: The first was customization. While capable, each product would require dedicated man-hours to support the kind of per-project customization that RT Logic required. The dedicated man-hours was the second factor. Due to RT Logic's agile work environment, full-time application administration is unwieldy. Finally, both products carry a hefty sticker price. Considering all three factors, RT Logic chose to continue searching.

RT Logic discovered Codebeamer collaborative development platform through the Jolt Awards and Software Development Magazine. Upon downloading an evaluation version, Codebeamer stole the show with its ease of installation, integration with both Subversion and CVS (among others), highly customizable trackers, and role-based permissions.

Installing Codebeamer was as simple as executing a binary file on a Linux machine and specifying the installation directory, mail host, and port number on which to run. By following the directions in the Administration Guide, RT Logic was able to immediately configure Codebeamer to use the existing LDAP implementation, thus giving all users immediate access.

Customization of the application was just as straightforward. Using the built-in trackers as a guide, RT Logic defined its own trackers, allowing to schedule test equipment for calibration, follow-ups for customer support, and sales opportunities. After setting up several template projects, RT Logic was able to quickly create new projects with customized roles, permissions, and documentation structure.

The Wiki-based pages allow each project manager to define the information presented on each project page. Role-based access allows each project manager to decide who may commit, edit documents, or close tracker items. RT Logic has extended Codebeamer by programming around the Java API provided by Codebeamer. From a daily script to remind engineers to update trackers, to a project generator using the above templates, Codebeamer has become a one-stop shop for each of RT Logic's projects.

RT Logic has termed Codebeamer as its Project Portal. It is the Project Portal that allows a new engineer to quickly come up to speed on all aspects of a particular project, from proposals and requirements, to the bill of materials and delivery. RT Logic currently has more than 100 active projects within Codebeamer.

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Codebeamer X is an integrated Engineering Lifecycle Management (ELM) platform for life sciences companies with regulatory process & compliance support.

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