Interactive Tutorial Developer Migration

The client is a UK based company established in 1989 offering e-learning solutions, tutorial development products and supporting tools to clients in legal, defense, government, healthcare, retail and Pharmaceutical sectors. The Project was to migrate the client's interactive tutorial developer product from VB6 to the new and more efficient .NET platform.

Challenges

The Objective of this project was to adaptively migrate the client's interactive tutorial developer product from VB6 to the new and more efficient .NET platform while making the product more user-friendly, compact, and time-saving than existing version.

The client wanted to migrate this product to .NET so as to adapt their product line with technological evolution. In this process, they wanted to completely revamp the product from a usability perspective as many customers had provided feedback it was not quite intuitive and difficult to use for users who are not computer savvy. Help documentation in form of PDF document with 150 pages was not well accepted by many customers. Clients were also facing problems in using the product in new Windows platforms like Windows XP.

Solution

Keeping in view the product was already successful and didn't suffer from any major technical issues, we decided to go for Limited Migration whereby we would reuse internal components to the extent possible and restructure the overall application framework using typical 3-tier .NET architecture. As a first step, an assessment was performed to determine reusability and following reusable components were identified:

- The component that generated courseware in AICC compliant structure
- The component which compiled the courseware into executable
- The components which integrated Interactive Tutorial Developer with other products in client's product lines

The related source code was compiled as independent dynamic link libraries for reuse in new product. In parallel to this reusability assessment process, a new user interface prototype was created by

customizing an open source framework called SharpDevelop to provide a drag and drop interface to all tutorial artifacts that were managed using toolbars and grids in existing product.

With UI improvisations decided and reusable components identified, the rest of the application was migrated using typical software development lifecycle.

Technology Stack

Microsoft.NET

Conclusion

e-Zest applied well thought out and optimal migration strategy addressing clients concerns in older version of the product, also provided right platform to the client to maintain their product for next few years.

e-Zest