



Customer: SoftFluent
Web Site: www.softfluent.com
Customer Size: 10 employees
Country or Region: France
Industry: Software development

Customer Profile

Software development company SoftFluent was founded in 2005 in Paris, France.

Software and Services

- Technologies
 - Open XML Formats

Solution Provider Expands Its Enterprise Application Offerings with Open XML

“Thanks to Open XML ... we were able to create a robust and sophisticated enterprise application that favors collaboration and that can be quickly adapted to the specific needs of our clients.”

Jack Fouillet, CEO, Cofastel

French solution provider SoftFluent has taken advantage of the new capabilities available in the standardized Open XML Formats to create Calypteo, a customizable energy-management application that helps clients' management applications be more collaborative and interoperable. With Open XML, any application that supports XML can access and work with data in Calypteo—whether it uses a Web client or a rich client.

Business Needs

Founded in France in 2005 by engineers who specialized in software development, SoftFluent is a young company that strives to help businesses transform software innovation into a real competitive advantage. Combining technical and strategic skills, SoftFluent's offerings range from complete business project development to auditing and consulting services. For Daniel Cohen-Zardi, CEO of SoftFluent, “Software development is a production process that should be approached with the same precision and the same goal of rationalization as any other production process.”

SoftFluent takes advantage of its own development accelerator, the Software Factory, which is driven by CodeFluent models. CodeFluent is the new product from SoftFluent that empowers developers to build professional applications with a simple and pragmatic approach. The Software Factory is a development framework used to create robust, scalable applications quickly and at a low cost. This approach supports excellent results for clients: better adaptability for users; full process functionality; predictable, usage-based costs; and native Web services interfaces. SoftFluent used this Software Factory framework to develop a solution for its client Cofastel.

Founded in 1986, Cofastel offers management consulting and conducts studies on optimizing energy use. At the beginning of 2005, the company was working with local governments, including those of the cities of Marseilles and Poitiers, and decided to update its energy-management application to help its clients optimize their electricity usage. The initial application was written by non-developers; it consisted primarily of macros in a spreadsheet software client, had a poor user interface, and didn't allow for multiuser collaboration. Cofastel subsequently turned to SoftFluent for assistance in improving the solution.

Solution

Ease of use, fast time-to-market, and performance were top concerns for Cofastel's clients, so after meeting with SoftFluent, Cofastel decided to take advantage of the opportunities provided by Open XML Formats to update its application. "We're not computer specialists," says Jack Fouillet, CEO of Cofastel, "but with Open XML and SoftFluent, we were able to develop a powerful solution that was completely compatible with our clients' enterprise needs." The new energy-management application designed by SoftFluent integrated complex and extremely variable enterprise rules (such as fee schedules, specific usage analysis, and so on) to reflect the variety of municipal energy needs: swimming pool management, street lighting, and more.

SoftFluent designed the updated application, which it named Calypteo, to support collaboration. Users can create and use databases of electricity and natural gas delivery points, and customize the application to reflect organizations' current management rules. The application accesses a central database that can be accessed by either a rich client or a Web client application.

Benefits

SoftFluent can use the benefits of Open XML to quickly create applications that make its clients' management applications more collaborative, and flexible enough to meet whatever industry needs may apply. Open XML simplifies development, helps ensure data layer separation, and provides a model that encourages application scalability. It has helped to improve file and data management and interoperability with line-of-business systems. Any application that supports XML can access and work with data in the new file format. In addition, the Calypteo application is user-friendly and flexible.

Interoperability and Continuity

Being an open standard, Open XML provides advantages in terms of interoperability and continuity. Even far into the future, the Open XML reports generated by Calypteo or other customized applications will still be readable in any XML-compatible application. And the clients of any business that has adopted an Open XML application will be able to easily integrate these reports into their own information systems.

Compact Format and Cost Savings

Finally, there is one more advantage that Omid Bayani, Associate Director at SoftFluent, notes: in addition to the quick development time it offers, "Open XML is a very compact format. It takes up very little storage space or bandwidth, which translates into substantial savings for companies." This will be a good selling point for any industry.