ETRAK-PLUS

"We needed to manage our growing code base and speed up the creation of artifacts in our application. NetBeans IDE responds to these needs out of the box. Plus, it keeps you from making code errors because it points them out early enough. Our code is certainly much more manageable and cleaner than it would have been without NetBeans IDE."

Company: eTrak-plus

Location: Charleston, SC, USA

Url: http://etrak-plus.com/

Industry: Parks & Recreation Management

Oracle Products & Services:
- NetBeans IDE
- Java Servlets
- Java Server Pages
- Java Applets

Related Software:
- Flex/Flash
- MySQL
- Tomcat
- Jasper Reports

Executive Summary

eTrak-plus has been offering products and services to the parks and recreation market for more than 30 years. The core product consists of a complete user-friendly, efficient, and cost-effective parks and recreation management solution with 24/7 customer support and training facilities.

Customers range from small recreation facilities to county-level and state-wide organizations that manage multiple recreation centers simultaneously. The eTrak-plus solution helps customers manage facilities via a web-based system that registers entities such as participants, space, memberships, and payroll tracking.

Organization

The eTrak-plus solution is currently managed and maintained by a team of three developers in Charleston, South Carolina. The quality and breadth of services offered by eTrak-plus has led to increased demands for the product, with additional developers being hired to meet that demand. Two new developers hired from India will join the development team in mid-2012.

The Business Issue

eTrak-plus saw the scope of its solution continually evolving and growing. Initially focused on managing an organization's registrations and reservations, the product grew to encompass membership tracking, payroll handling, electronic timekeeping, and scheduling. eTrak-plus needed a tool to help manage the growing requirements and to easily create and view the related artifacts in the application.

Key Challenges

- Multiple related solutions are offered under the eTrak-plus umbrella.
- Customers use subsets of the solutions offered by eTrak-plus and several have specific demands requiring tweaks to the system.
- The eTrak-plus system has hundreds of simultaneous users.
- Millions of children's names are stored in the databases managed by eTrak-plus; this responsibility means the system needs to be reliable and secure.

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Solution

- NetBeans IDE lets eTrak-plus manage its large and diverse project all in one place, providing all the tools and code generators needed for all the company's various needs.
- The NetBeans Projects window provides an effective view of the application structure and lets eTrak-plus quickly drill down to specific parts of their code base.
- The NetBeans Java Editor is effective in pointing out code errors at an early stage of the development process.
- The artifact generators in NetBeans IDE enable eTrak-plus to generate new Java classes, such as servlets, efficiently and consistently throughout the application.
- Tools such as the Debugger and Profiler enable eTrak-plus to rapidly identify threading problems and bottlenecks in their code.

Business Value

- The eTrak-plus project is far more manageable than it would have been without NetBeans IDE.
- The ability to efficiently manage the system means that the eTrak-plus developers can easily identify the parts that require customization when needed.
- New developers joining the team can quickly get started because the IDE provides tools to help understand the code.

Credits:

Carl Kabbe

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