Microsoft Team Foundation Server deployment and customization for integrated software development lifecycle management at Thomson Reuters Elite

CUSTOMER PROFILE

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The Client

Elite, a Thomson Reuters business, provides an end-to-end Enterprise Business Management solution for medium to large law firms and professional services organizations. 80% of AmLaw 200 firms use Elite solutions to operate their businesses efficiently.

The Challenge

Elite has several concurrent development projects across their global offices ranging from legacy client-server applications to the best-of-breed enterprise web-applications. The only common thread for all these projects was that they used Visual Studio for code development, though not necessarily the same versions. They used different systems for source control and versioning (SourceSafe and Starteam), project management (MS Project), document management (Sharepoint and Wikis), issue-tracking (Pivotal, and Starteam) and CRM (Pivotal and CRM On-Demand) that did not integrate wll with each other and created bottlenecks for release management and customer support.

In 2012, it was decided to unify all these applications on Microsoft's Team Foundation Server to leverage its end-to-end application lifecycle management capabilities and reduce the number of systems to two- TFS and CRMOD. However, the project was complex given the different processes, technology platforms and maintenance needs of their various products.

Our Process

As we had helped develop several of the software products, we were acutely aware of the differences that had the potential to derail the rollout of TFS. We worked closely with the different departments to establish a baseline for TFS collections, templates and forms as well as customization processes to enable product specific needs in their own collections. Once the strategy approval was achieved, migrations were repeatedly tested to ensure that final migration would be problem-free.

The Outcome

Over the course of the established project plan, Nidaan was able to accomplish the following milestones:

a. Configured and tested the TFS 2013 multi-tier environment.
b. Planned, organized and executed the migration of product based source control with full revision histories and issue management to corresponding TFS Collections.
c. Automated build processes for developer initiated incremental builds and QA initiated full-release builds.
d. Expanded the build automation processes to include integration and smoke tests with accurate reports.
e. Integrated CRMOD with TFS to provide full visibility of bugfix schedules and release to the customer support organization.
f. Nidaan personnel were contracted long term to manage and administer the TFS farm at Elite.

If you'd like to hire our experienced software professionals, or want to outsource software development services to us, please feel free to get in touch with our expert team.