

GFT Microsoft Practice

Services Summary

Microsoft Partner

Gold Application Development
Silver Devices and Deployment
Silver Small Business

GFT Microsoft Practice

GFT's Microsoft Practice was created in 2013 and is currently composed of 80 consultants and developers with on average 8 years of experience developing custom solutions for corporate market. Most of the team holds Microsoft certification, and among them we have 2 Microsoft MVPs.

The practice has been focused on developing hybrid solutions for web, desktop and mobile platforms, being delivered from Brazil to clients in US and Latin America. Our services include:

1

Legacy Migration

Most companies nowadays have lots of legacy applications and systems. Considering technologies are evolving fast, keeping all systems up to date and supporting legacy is more and more challenging.

Legacy Migration presents several challenges, such as business rules complexity encapsulated in those systems, lack of documentation and lack of migration strategy. These are the most common problems when dealing with Legacy Migration.

GFT developed a Legacy Migration strategy based on our experience delivering more than 30.000 hours of migration projects for our clients. We can help your company migrating from VB6, classic ASP, COM+ distributed applications, VBA and much more. All this with the right strategy for your scenario.

3

Continuous Integration (CI) Consultancy

A common problem companies encounter when implementing CI with their development teams is identifying when and where to start; GFT's Continuous Integration teams ensure the process starts with appropriate goals and strategies to meet those goals. The CI practice incorporates the process of tracking code changes and of automating the build, test, and deployment processes.

Lack of experience in automating the build, test, and deployment processes and in the selection of appropriate tools to accomplish each task is also a common cause of failure. For this reason, GFT's expertise in Agile Development is a key element of the CI practice, as evidenced by the success of the company's project for one of the world's largest independent alternative asset management firms, which was based on Agile Development best practices and the Continuous Integration development model.

To automate application UI tests, GFT's Brazil team built a framework to support Selenium and White, improving developers' productivity when writing automated UI tests for web or desktop applications.

GFT also has a strong background in Visual Studio Team Foundation Server, Go Server, DevOps CHEF, SQL Brokers, Control-M jobs, and PowerShell.

2

Microsoft ALM (Application Lifecycle Management) Consultancy

Application Lifecycle Management covers Requirements Visualization, Requirements Management, Feature Management, Modelling, Design, Project Management, Change Management, Configuration Management, Build Management, Testing, Release Management, Deployment, Monitoring, and Reporting Workflow.

Microsoft's Visual Studio Team System provides tools to support each phase of the development cycle; agile development practices are supported by Visual Studio templates, making the process of ALM adoption easier.

The current team includes senior professionals with a strong background in implementing ALM using Microsoft tools, and most of the team worked with Visual Studio Team System for a number of years.



4 Cross-Platform Mobile Application Development (iOS, Android, Mac and WindowsPhone)

When thinking about mobile application development, it's easy to forget that, in addition to Windows Phone applications, Visual Studio also supports native iOS, Mac, and Android application development through its use of the Xamarin platform.

This means that the identical C# source code can be used to create a mobile application supported across all major mobile platforms, so GFT can build, distribute, and support mobile applications more easily than on any other development platform.

5 UI Automated Tests

In 2014, GFT developed a UI Automated Test Framework to improve developer productivity while writing automated UI tests for both desktop and web applications. Benefits of adopting this framework include:

- ¬ Developers are freed up to focus on cases, features, and business rules to test, writing high-productivity code using C# or VB.NET.
- ¬ Support for Selenium(r) for Web applications and White(r) for Desktop applications.
- ¬ Tracking and monitoring test execution using a Go Server interface.
- ¬ Customizing the test framework to add or change features according to project requirements.

6 Custom Software Development

GFT's team has a strong background in working with the Microsoft Development Platform on design, implementation, testing, deployment, integration, and support applications for the web, desktop and mobile devices using C# or VB.NET. Entire systems can be built from scratch or code implemented according to customer specifications. Experience includes:

- ¬ ASP.NET (MVC or WebForms)
- ¬ Desktop Development (WPF or WindowsForms)
- ¬ Mobile Development (iOS, Android, Mac or Windows Phone)
- ¬ SQL Server Database
- ¬ SQL Server Analysis and Reporting Services
- ¬ Oracle Database
- ¬ Service Layers (WCF, WebServices, WindowsServices)
- ¬ Legacy Migration from VB6 and ASP Classic to .NET Platform
- ¬ Performance, Load and Stress Tests for Microsoft-based Applications

Success Stories

Application Lift Out & Migration (2014)

By using agile development practices and a continuous delivery model, GFT helped one of the world's largest independent alternative asset management firms to lift out and migrate twenty-eight applications from a traditional development environment to a continuous integration framework. As a result, the company benefited from complete automated build, test and deploy processes for all applications, which significantly improved maintenance efficiency for this application group.

The Business Challenge

On the source side, there was legacy code; heavy dependency on integration among the legacy applications; mixed technologies from VB6 and Classic ASP, through COM+ and different .NET Framework versions (2.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5), ASP.NET, WPF, to Web Services, Windows Services, WCF Services, Control-M jobs, and SQL Server Brokers. On the target side, the project goal was a robust and comprehensive continuously integrated environment, based on Microsoft TFS + PowerShell + Go Server + DevOps CHEF with Ruby.

Migrating from a conventional environment to a continuous delivery model in eight months, considering all the technologies involved, posed significant challenges.

Results

The team was able to successfully complete the migration process for all applications within the planned timeframe. The code was adapted for the new CI environment, all processes were automated using PowerShell, Go Server, and DevOps CHEF. Unit tests and UI automated tests were implemented using Selenium and White to ensure all applications were working as expected. At the end of the process, the company saw a 35% improvement in average application performance, the automation process dramatically improved the time required for build, deploy and test all 28 applications to less than eight hours, the level two support team was able to reduce its original 23 dedicated resources to just eight.

Asset Capture System (2014)

By using agile development practices and a continuous delivery model, GFT assisted a large global financial institution, currently offering banking, investment, life insurance, and retirement services, in migrating from a legacy, decentralized asset capture program to a flexible, scalable system. As a result, the company was able to completely automate the workflow to capture assets from all important sources, apply transformations and validations, and even deliver all data to the legacy applications.

The Business Challenge

The primary challenge was to create a flexible application that would take in different resource streams and apply complex transformations to generate a comprehensive asset capture program. After absorbing all the business requirements, GFT's engineering team created a simple and robust architecture based on Service Transport Layer with WCF and MEF (Microsoft Managed Extensibility Framework), providing a flexible solution that allows new plugins to be attached going forward without requiring any code changes.

Results

This small team was able to successfully complete delivery of the project using an evolutionary agile approach which continuously improved delivery while still anticipating and allowing for potential problems. Unit Tests were the foundation and were audited at the completion of each task. This application is now a generic tool available to any customer needing work with asset feeder subscriptions.



Employee Intranet (2014)

The client, a public company providing services in registration, central securities depository (CSD), trading, and settlement of assets and securities, needed to build and deploy an integrated intranet for its employees. GFT was able to accomplish this in partnership with the client's development team, using an integrated development system to deliver a platform that enables the marketing and HR teams to keep the employees updated on news, systems, and facilities.

The Business Challenge

Creating cross-company development teams can be challenging. Using a locally based Team Foundation Server, which the client's developers were trained to use, GFT and the client together designed and built an environment that would be heavily used by the 1000+ employees across two units in multiple locations. This was achieved by creating an ASP.NET MVC system to serve as the backend for a front end system that brought together HTML5, CSS 3, and JQUERY UI.

Results

GFT was able to successfully deliver the desired environment with the required scalability, to the extent that GFT has several times been rehired to continue spreading the new Microsoft system across the company and to create new modules for the Intranet.

Web Extract, Transform, Load (ETL) Application (2014)

GFT was asked to develop an extract, transform, and load application for one of the world's three largest audit companies. Initially, the project sponsor was based in New Jersey and the entire project was developed between GFT Brazil and GFT New York.

The Business Challenge

In addition to the development of a web-based ETL tool available to all users of the client's tax practice and the centralization of related information, the client was targeting a new development model, application lifecycle process, and methodology consultancy that could serve as a reusable model for other development projects.

Results

Using agile development practices, a continuous delivery model, and the support of CMMI methodology, GFT delivered and deployed the project on schedule after 15 months of work.

By deploying the web-based ETL tool, the client was able to reduce the amount of manual work and time wasted when users were consolidating tax reports coming from companies being audited. Through the establishment of a comprehensive development process and application lifecycle, GFT was able to meet all the goals initially defined by the client.

As a consequence of this project's success, a new engagement was established for FY 2015 between GFT and the client. This new engagement targets the creation of a standalone version of the initial ETL application and the integration of its main features into the global tool used in all the client's branches around the world.

Success Stories

High Value Payments (2013 to present)

GFT has used its wide knowledge of technology skills and strong financial business knowledge to work for the past three years with one of the world's largest international banks to expand, maintain, and improve their high value payment applications.

The Business Challenge

This project required working with multiple technologies (VB.NET, C#, JAVA, C ANSI, PERL) and allowed only two months onsite to learn the business and understand how all the different applications worked and communicated. After the initial two months, GFT had completed the first .NET project and established a 10-person local team in Brazil to work together with the client's team for the remainder of the project.

Results

The team was able to maintain and successfully enhance the functionality of the applications, leaving the client very satisfied and resulting in a strong partnership between GFT and the client that continues today.

Contact Us

We invite you to learn how GFT's Microsoft Practice can help your team reach its full potential.

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GFT at a glance

GFT is the sector specialist in providing reliable but innovative IT solutions to the finance sector, with services spanning consulting, technology and application management for a broad range of use cases. Combining technological expertise and seamless project management with a deep understanding of the financial industry, GFT has become a reliable partner for some of the world's largest and most successful retail banks.

Headquartered in Germany, GFT has stood for technological expertise, innovative strength, and outstanding quality for over 25 years.

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