

Sodifrance decreases development time by standardizing on IBM Rational for System z

Overview
Sodifrance SA Saint-Gregoire, France www.sodifrance.fr
Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Services
Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBM® Rational® Team Concert for System z® IBM Rational Developer for System z
For more information ibm.com/rational



“Building an agile development team requires a multiplatform approach, and Sodifrance uses Rational Developer for System z and Rational Team Concert for System z to help application teams synchronize their efforts and improve collaboration. Rational on System z offers a powerful and valuable combination for any company that wants to boost its development team’s productivity.”

—Hugh Smith, Project Manager, Sodifrance

Sodifrance SA, an IT services company, provides IT modernization services principally in France and Benelux. Through its Mia-Software division, the company delivers solutions for application lifecycle optimization, helping business and IT staff monitor, control, and standardize their applications.

Challenge

For Sodifrance’s many complex mainframe modernization projects, the company’s staff often required different tools for each phase, including requirements, change management, agile development process management, builds and more.

In order to accelerate the development and migration involved in modernization, Sodifrance sought an open and powerful integrated development environment (IDE) that could be integrated with its own Mia-Software products. With a single unified tool to manage projects and control modernization phases, developers could create and maintain multiplatform applications while benefiting from the advanced functions of the Mia-Software products. A single tool could also improve visibility throughout the migration process to reduce errors and improve the overall quality of global software delivery.

Solution

Seeking to leverage the open nature of the IBM Rational Jazz collaborative software delivery platform to integrate its own Mia-Software products, Sodifrance evaluated IBM Rational Team Concert for System z (RTCz) and Rational Developer for System z (RDz) software on an IBM System z9 Enterprise Class server running IBM z/OS® 1.10 at IBM’s Montpellier zTech center. The company sought to test the project management functionality of RTCz and the ability to add plug-ins to RTCz. This enabled the project team to add modernization phases and functions to the solution and manage them from RTCz. The combination of RTCz with RDz was shown to allow Sodifrance to improve team efficiencies and project visibility with a single multiplatform IDE and common code paradigm, regardless of language or development role.



As part of this implementation, Sodifrance developed plug-ins based on its products, including Mia-Discovery, Mia-Mining and Mia-TaskManager. These plug-ins were integrated with RTCz in the Eclipse environment. The team implemented use cases where a developer or a project manager can execute Mia-Software products' functions from within RDz or RTCz. By including these features, Sodifrance is able to provide customers with a fully integrated collaborative application lifecycle management solution covering the entire global software delivery process.

Benefits

- Decreases development time by 15 to 20 percent
- Increased visibility across teams through a unified dashboard helps improve development quality, minimizes errors and rework, and reduces time necessary to recognize and address issues
- Integration with Sodifrance's Mia-Software allows team members to access many time-saving functions directly from the IDE, such as cartography, nonconformity checking, program logic, data flow and more
- In the future, RTCz will ease development between Sodifrance headquarters and remote customer sites through improved communication and optimized code check-in and management features

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