

THE CUSTOMER

NetBeans was introduced to the open source community by Sun Microsystems. netbeans.org is the project that develops NetBeans IDE, the full-featured integrated environment for Java Developers and NetBeans Platform, the widely adopted infrastructure backplane for complex desktop applications.

Sun Microsystems

Headquarters: Santa Clara, California and
Prague, The Czech Republic
Founded: 1982
Employees: 35,700
www.sun.com
NetBeans: www.netbeans.org

INDUSTRY

- Manufacturing

SOLUTION AREAS

- Partner co-development
- Distributed software development

CHALLENGES

- Effectively focus on core competence areas and not system administration.
- Use NetBeans software as a platform to improve the productivity of Java developers.
- Use an open source license model to create a level playing field for co-development.
- Make baseline NetBeans free and offer additional tiers for a fee.
- Correctly navigate the challenges associated with contributing projects to open source.

SOLUTION

- CollabNet environment for NetBeans.org, delivered as a managed service.
- Community management and support.

RESULTS

- In 2003, there were over 2 million downloads of the NetBeans IDE and 35,000 downloads of the NetBeans Platform.
- www.netbeans.org has 27,000 registered users and 11,000 unique subscribers on top-level mailing lists.
- Each month www.netbeans.org has visitors from over 130 countries who are using and contributing to NetBeans.
- 4 companies distribute versions of NetBeans with additional functionality.
- 19 companies and organizations develop products built on the NetBeans Platform.
- 40 companies and organizations build third-party modules and plug-ins for NetBeans.

Sun Microsystems NetBeans.org

Open source and CollabNet make the NetBeans platform a success for all involved

AT-A-GLANCE

NetBeans software is a platform for software development that has been introduced to the open source community by Sun Microsystems, Inc. The NetBeans platform, not just a development tool but rather a tools platform, is already being used as the basis for an important Sun product, Forte for Java technology. Soon it is expected to become Sun's standard development environment for all languages. Other organizations will also benefit from the development ease and speed advantages offered by NetBeans software—whose implementation is free to all.

Introduction

CollabNet was Sun's ally in readying the NetBeans platform for the open source community. CollabNet contributed the CollabNet environment and substantial experience in licensing and other important open source expertise. With CollabNet's help Sun met its deadline for launching www.netbeans.org, which has proven extremely popular. Five months after its launch, over 9,000 visitors were hitting the site over 146,000 times per week. Three major new modules were contributed.

NetBeans - An IDE for Expediting Java Development

Sun Microsystems, Inc. grew in recent years from a workstation and server supplier to become one of the major forces in the world's Internet economy. The Java technology that Sun invented has become the language of choice for developers of all kinds, especially for creating Web-based applications. To make Java technology an ever more valuable development environment, Sun continually enhances it both at the core level and as a full development environment.

One of Sun's recent steps in enhancing Java technology was to develop NetBeans software, a modular, standards-based integrated devel-

NetBeans Success

Sun ONE Studio, formerly the Forte for Java IDE, is a core component of the Sun Open Net Environment (Sun ONE), which is Sun's vision, architecture, platform, and expertise that enables the development and delivery of services on demand. The Sun ONE Studio is based on the NetBeans open source platform.

NetBeans Distribution

Four companies distribute versions of NetBeans with additional functionality:

- Sun Microsystems: Sun Java Studio
- HP: NetBeans for OpenVMS
- Compuware: OptimalJ 3.0
- ObjectVenture: ObjectAssembler, UML Bridge

opment environment (IDE), written in the Java language. It currently has support for the Java programming language, but its architecture lends itself to supporting other languages as well. A comprehensive tools platform, the NetBeans platform provides a way to integrate third party tools seamlessly into the development environment, and creates a standard for tools integrations. Sun is using NetBeans technology for an important product, Forte for Java software, and intends to make it their standard development environment for all languages.

Sun saw open source as a way to offer the benefits of NetBeans software to other developers while at the same time bringing several benefits to the company:

- By enlisting development assistance from many talented sources, NetBeans software can become a better platform that further improves the productivity of Java developers.
- By building this product open source, Sun creates a level playing field and provides a “safety blanket” for third parties building tools that integrate with NetBeans software.
- By making the baseline tier of the NetBeans solution free to all and offering additional tiers for a fee, Sun can build a base of customers who over time add to the revenue stream.

NetBeans Awards

- Java Developers Journal Readers' Choice Awards: Best Java Debugging Tool 2003, 1st Runner-Up Best J2EE IDE 2002, 1st Runner-Up Best Java IDE Environment 2002, and 2nd Runner-Up Best J2SE IDE 2002.
- Developer.com Product Of The Year Awards: Java Tool of the Year 2003; Finalist, Open Source Tool of the Year 2003; Finalist, Technology of the Year (NetBeans Platform) 2003.
- Codie Awards, ongoing: Finalist, Best Open Source Product or Service 2004; Finalist, Best Software Development Product 2004.
- Crossroads A-List Award 2001, NetBeans Framework (Platform) .

CollabNet Brings Open Source Expertise

Sun knew that expert counsel would be invaluable in identifying the best way to go about open sourcing the NetBeans platform. As explained by Tim Boudreau, Sun's Senior Product Manager, NetBeans Open Source Platform, “We wanted to concentrate on our group's core competence, which is NetBeans software, rather than getting into the business of administration and infrastructure of the site.” Sun's search for open source expertise quickly led to CollabNet. “CollabNet impressed us with the infrastructure they offered and the experience of their team,” said Boudreau. “The demonstrations of the CollabNet toolset in action, and their vision for the future of Web-based open source project management, fit very well with our needs and expectations.”

On-Schedule Deployment, Nearly Instantaneous Results

Sun and CollabNet struck an arrangement that ideally fit Sun's goals. “We retain the flexibility to do the site content, look and feel, etc., while leveraging the experience of the team at CollabNet in administrating and working with open source,” explained Boudreau. CollabNet provides the infrastructure needed for key developers to collaborate effectively across organizational boundaries and geographical distances, especially important since NetBeans development is centered in Prague, The Czech Republic. With CollabNet's help, Sun launched www.netbeans.org, exactly on schedule in June. Within four hours, when the first code from an external source was posted, rewards of the effort began. This fast result foretold a stream of successes that would follow shortly. Five weeks after launch, hits per week stood at over 32,000 and page views at over 19,000. Approximately 2,300 unique visitors were conducting nearly 3,800 sessions per week that averaged just over seven minutes in duration. The site's popularity has continued to surge. Hits per week grew unabatedly, reaching about 146,000 by November—a growth rate of over 351% over July. Page views grew even faster, by 384% to over 92,000. More than 5,000 unique visitors were conducting over 9,000 sessions weekly, with an average duration of 12 minutes plus. Three major new modules have been contributed.

NetBeans Popularity

By April, 2004, hits per day were 1,082,726; 10,556 daily sessions were accounting for 63,810 daily page views. Monthly, www.netbeans.org receives traffic from nearly 150,000 different sites.

This dramatic increase in participation and traffic demonstrates the scalability of the CollabNet environment. Page views increased by a factor of 5, sessions a factor of 8, and hits per week, which demonstrate overall project popularity, increased by a factor of 52.

NetBeans Applications

Nineteen companies and organizations develop products built on the NetBeans Platform:

- Bright Software: BrightBuilder
- 3DGeo Development Inc.: INSP
- AquaFold: Aqua Data Studio
- BEA: BEA Campaign Manager for WebLogic
- Department of Computing Science, University of Glasgow: BioBeans
- e-Sim, Inc.: RapidPLUS
- ECSI: MINEX V integrated mine planning
- eWarna: LabWorks Pro 2.0
- Incomit: iWarf
- KEBA AG: KEMRO.teachedit.4, KEMRO.service.4
- MC4J: MC4J Management Console
- Ming Software AB: DbVisualizer
- Novell: exteNd
- Openwave Systems: Openwave Mobile SDK
- Project XEMO: XEMO ICE
- Republica Corp.: X-Fetch Wrapper
- RockyRoad: RockyRoad P2P
- Strategic Test Solutions: CAT Tool
- Yospace: SmartPhone Emulator Forte Edition

Open Source Benefits User and Developer Alike

Developer enthusiasm is typified by Robert Greig of thinkAnalytics Corporation, a company that provides data analysis tools that meet the 100% Pure Java Certification Standards. "NetBeans software is a great addition to the Java platform community," said Greig. "It is great to have a powerful development tool supplemented by a very close interactive environment between developers and users. As a user, I can discuss the design and implementation of new features with the people who are going to be writing it. The result: a product that is prioritized by the people who actually use it rather than a marketing team. Conversely, as a developer I can do my best to try to improve the product. If a bug is important to me, I can fix it or get help fixing it. With non open source tools, if I wanted to contribute features I couldn't."

"CollabNet did a very good job of organizing the whole project," Greig added. "Everything has gone very smoothly, including getting the new project and the various web page administrative tasks set up."

Greig is contributing a CVS library that provides direct access to CVS repositories from the Java programming language, without requiring a platform-dependent executable to be installed. He also runs a Java technology based course at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, where the NetBeans platform is used as the IDE.

NetBeans Extensions

Forty companies and organizations build third-party modules and plug-ins for NetBeans:

- Cincom Systems, Inc.: Cincom Tiger
- OpenSourceArmenia: VCB CBD Tool, Graph Editor and SVG Viewer
- CavaSoft Inc.: Integrating CavaTools
- Cortex: Clover
- DataMirror Corp.: DataMirror DB/XML
- Drala Software: Workflow Engine/Event Broker
- ej-technologies GmbH: JProfiler
- Embarcadero Technologies: Describe
- Equilibrium: MediaRich
- Etnus: CodeRoad JNI Bridge
- Gentleware AG: Poseidon for UML
- HiT Software: Allora Wizards
- Hybris: Hybris jakarta
- HYWY Software Corp: Java Productivity Environment (JPE)
- I-Ware: NBAM (NetBeans Annotation Module)
- INFORMATION ARCHITECTS: IA SmartCode
- InsiTech Group: XTT Technology
- IONA Technologies: Java and CORBA deployment servers
- lopsis: lopsis iNlight
- Jcorporate: Open Source Espresso Framework
- koaLa developers: koaLaGML
- MAKE Technologies: MAKE SBA
- Modelistic: Modelistic CASE
- mslinn.com, inc.: JSP Explorer
- NaturalLogic: FPGA CAD
- No Magic, Inc: MagicDraw UML
- Open Source Armenia: VCB IDE
- ParaSoft Corp.: Jtest
- PushToTest: TestMaker
- Quest Software: JClass
- RefactorIT: Refactoring Browser
- Regnis: SmartCVS
- SIP Technologies Limited: SIPtech
- SolarMetric: Kodo JDO
- Systinet: Systinet WASP
- Teamstudio, Inc.: Teamstudio Analyzer
- Thought Inc.: CocoBase Enterprise O/R
- Trita Software: Code Beautifier
- Virtuas Solutions: Virtuas Jtag JSP
- VisualSoft Technologies: VisualSoft Tools

Read More Client Profiles

The CollabNet environment is being used by hundreds of thousands of developers at Fortune 500 and industry-leading enterprise companies around the world. To find out more, contact CollabNet at www.collab.net, info@collab.net, or (888) 778-9793.