

Project Note

Agile stabilisation of a legacy application

Zühlke assisted the Innovation Group in stabilising a business-critical legacy application. Iterative re-engineering and continuing agile development ensure that the solution can be maintained for the rest of its planned lifetime.

Task

The Innovation Group is the leading provider in Germany of motor vehicle claims services. The range of services offered extends from outsourcing, efficient management and optimisation of the process chain right through to full settlement of claims. More than 90% of insurers in Germany and 40 fleet customers use solutions prepared by the company.

A VB.NET Rich Client Claims Management application was originally developed for the Innovation Group by an external supplier. As maintenance and enhancement of this system became costly and time-consuming, the company decided to gradually migrate to a more up-to-date application developed in-house using .NET. During the course of the migration it was necessary to continue extending the original application to support new business critical requirements. Zühlke engineers took on the task of documenting and maintaining the legacy code in a stable and reliable manner.

Implementation

Zühlke engineers documented the legacy application using BPMN for the business processes and UML for the data model, system and application architecture. As a basis for further development they transferred and restructured the existing source code in a version control system. Processes for requirements management and defect tracking were defined. An architectural extension made it possible to integrate new features with a minimum of changes to the existing code. Automated tests for new functions as well as transparent, manual user tests in relation to the existing system were carried out for quality assurance. Zühlke also assisted in the introduction of Scrum to the Innovation Group's development team.



Technical Data

- .NET (C# u. VB.NET)
- Unity Application Block
- White UI Testing Framework
- Visual Studio Team Suite
- TFS
- Enterprise Architect
- Business Process Visual Architect
- SQL Server

Customer benefits

- The methodical, agile approach used by Zühlke in the case of documenting and re-engineering the application rapidly restored its maintainability. The fact that the extension architecture can be implemented in stages means that the old application can be customised and extended easily and with little risk.
- The Innovation Group has gained from Zühlke's experience in the introduction of Scrum, requirements engineering, software tests and software engineering best practice.

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