

Intetech

Case Study

The Client

Wood Group Intetech (WG Intetech) is a leading asset-integrity company working with many of the biggest players in the oil and gas sector – these include Shell and Statoil. A Wood Group business, its software products are widely used to monitor corrosion rates and provide real-time risk ranking of operational well integrity. Its software team consists of a core group of around 20 developers, testers and project managers.

The Challenge

WG Intetech wanted to get software releases out to the market faster. It also wanted to increase the frequency of its product updates. In order to achieve this, however, it needed to speed up its development process by becoming more efficient.

“We had to become more agile in our approach. If we didn’t, the consequence would be slower releases and our time to market would suffer,” said Ged Lunt, Manager of Technology at WG Intetech. “We had to look at our business processes and the technology available to us. The pace of technological change is always getting quicker and we needed to stay on top of this.” WG Intetech realised it could become more efficient by introducing more automation to its testing processes but deploying this required some upskilling within its development team.

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The Solution

WG Intetech invited Open Credo into the business to work with its development team and provide a set of recommendations which would deliver the efficiencies required. Open Credo evaluated the business processes that WG Intetech had in place and technologies being deployed, before producing a roadmap of improvements. Consultants then worked on premise to train the WG Intetech team and help implement a series of changes. These included:

- The introduction of a new iterative development process. This broke down the requirement gathering procedure into manageable workloads and allowed the development team to become more responsive - and also reprioritise as business needs evolved over time.
- The creation of a new deployment pipeline. This provided a test environment which would support test automation and enable problems to be identified at the earliest possible opportunity.
- The deployment of testing automation. This would reduce the time needed to verify that requirements are being met. This can be introduced to regression testing so that previously verified requirements could be re-tested every time a new change was made.

The Business Benefits

WG Intetech established a more efficient development process which met the desired objective of reducing the time taken to get products to market. This was not all, however. By introducing new business processes and testing automation, the company also gained a number of additional benefits which have had a significant impact on the business.

Better products at lower cost

Greater efficiency has allowed WG Intetech to develop higher quality products, with more features, within the same time period. “It now takes less manual effort to get products out of the door,” said Ged. “It means we can develop features which would have just taken too long before. In the time that it used to take us to produce three features, we are now producing four or five.”

The combination of testing automation and an iterative development process has also enabled WG Intetech to identify problems quickly and address them before they become a major issue – saving the company time and money in the rectification process.

Ged said: “We are more streamlined and faster – and we catch problems sooner. We can deal with problems immediately, which is crucial as the longer we leave a problem the more costly it becomes to fix.”

Improved morale

The upskilling of staff alongside the deployment of cutting edge techniques and technology, has also had a significant impact on team morale, according to Ged.

“People want to know they are working in the most efficient way. They want to be delivering things faster and know they are continuously improving,” he said.

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More effective management

Creating a more efficient development process has also freed up managers to concentrate on other areas of the business. "I previously had to micromanage the development process but I don't need to do this anymore as the team is much more self-sufficient," said Ged.

"This has allowed me to concentrate on other important things, such as medium-term planning. Instead of being continuously involved in the development process, I can take a look at what else is going on in the market and spend more time talking to customers."

Open Credo

OpenCredo believes great consultancy is founded in deep and broad real-world experience. Our highly capable and experienced people provide applied knowledge of the latest technologies and best practices to all our blue-chip clients. These capabilities stretch across the entire spectrum of the development process from architecture through software engineering to dev ops.

Transparent, objective driven and pragmatic, OpenCredo acts as a trusted advisor to its clients. It is a company founded on excellence in software engineering, and our approach is to lead and support through deed and example - delivering tangible value, not slide decks or fluff.

Challenge

To reduce the time it takes to get software products out to the market. WG Intetech needed to become more efficient by upgrading the technology and business processes used in its development process

Solution

Open Credo's consultants worked with WG Intetech to introduce an iterative development process, a new deployment pipeline and automated testing. These changes reduced the amount of manual verification required and helped the team identify problems, and react to changing business needs, sooner.

Benefits

- With upgraded technology and business processes installed, WG Intetech is now able to release products and upgrades more quickly.
- Higher quality products, with more features, can now be developed in the same time period, and at lower costs.
- Team morale has been raised and managers have more time to focus on areas of business other than development.

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