Exadel Tames the Open Source Frontier

Exadel enables companies to leverage open source technologies at a completely new level to realize significant savings in costs and time. Exadel offers a variety of products and services for these companies, including Exadel Studio for powerful Web development.

The maturation and widespread availability of open source technologies is fundamentally changing how enterprise applications are developed today. Many of the world’s largest organizations, including Yahoo!, GE, Google, and NASA, are already realizing significant cost savings by harnessing open source solutions to power business-critical enterprise applications. These companies and thousands of others are discovering what the trailblazers have known for some time: that open source software products are highly reliable, secure, and cost-effective—in other words, perfect for the most demanding enterprise-level projects.

While the software is readily available, few organizations have the expertise and experience to navigate through the “wild” open source frontier and effectively leverage these technologies. To address this need, California-based Exadel (www.exadel.com) has created an innovative suite of development tools, training programs, and consulting services all geared toward making adoption of open source Web application development technologies easy — and profitable.

The Web Development Challenge

Building industrial-strength Web applications is no trivial task. Creating a robust design involves evaluating corporate business needs, technologies, hands-on functionality, and much more. Every project wrestles with big questions, such as:

- How do you design the user interface?
- Where do you put the business logic?
- How do you map business objects to persistent storage?
- How do you make the application’s tiers loosely coupled and easily modifiable?
- What technologies should you use to implement each tier?

The questions go on, but there is good news. Many developers have already addressed these complexities and built frameworks around them to help make building Web applications easier. The majority of these frameworks (JSF, Struts, Spring, and Hibernate) are open source, meaning they are extensible and backed by a strong community of users and developers.
Though extremely powerful, effectively using these frameworks requires extensive technical expertise and lengthy programming time. Developing with Struts or JSF, for example, is particularly cumbersome, as developers must hand-code everything and create scores of XML files that describe configurations and page navigation. In addition, there's no alternative to the labor-intensive task of manual reference validation and error checking. It's an unfortunate fact that developers often spend more than 50 percent of their time on these tedious tasks when they could be leveraging technology that allows them to concentrate more on business logic.

Leveraging Open Source Frameworks with Eclipse

Exadel's solutions makes accessing the power of open source Web application frameworks easier and, in doing so, significantly speeds up the development process.

How does Exadel do it? The key to its technology is Eclipse. Eclipse is an open, extensible architecture that enables developers to create an entire custom development environment by adding just the components they need. The components, or plug-ins, cover all parts of the development process, ranging from the user interface to the database to business objects.

The Eclipse architecture is essential to leveraging the power of open source technologies. Only Eclipse provides a way to integrate open source frameworks and tap into their functional richness. Eclipse constitutes a unique ecosystem of people and technology with a mass following of members, customers, tool vendors, and independent open source communities all working together to exponentially expand and improve this powerful technology. The platform ultimately provides a rich soil for tool developers and for combining the efforts of many different tool vendors.

Exadel's Development Tool Suite

Exadel's development tools, packaged as Eclipse plug-ins, provide powerful incremental functionality for building Web-based applications. The technology works within Eclipse to harness the power of open source Web development frameworks. Now, developers can improve their productivity by significantly reducing development time, testing time, and the need to make changes after production.

Exadel's latest generation of Web development tools addresses a variety of developer needs:

Exadel Studio (Standard Edition). This new integrated product provides a comprehensive Web application development environment for leveraging JSF, Struts, Hibernate, and Spring technologies. With this tool, developers can extend the established Eclipse environment for efficient industrial-strength Web application development, work in an environment full of aids to prevent a host of errors as early as possible in the development cycle, and switch seamlessly among visual editing modes and an under-the-hood source-editing mode with perfect instant synchronization among all of the modes. Developers can download a license of this product for free at www.exadel.com.

Exadel Studio Pro (Professional Edition). With this extended version of Exadel Studio, developers can further leverage the established Eclipse environment for efficient industrial-strength Web application development. Among the many added features of the professional version are significantly more interactive visual editing, more aids to prevent errors, and more enhanced navigation within a Struts or JSF project. This product retails at $99 and is available for purchase through www.exadel.com.
Exadel's Professional Services and Training

Technology products are only half of the Exadel story. Since its inception in 1998, Exadel has not only developed innovative tools, but also built teams of experts and developers to help drive enterprise-wide solutions for their clients. Exadel's professional services include:

- Enterprise open source strategic planning
- Application architecture
- Project revitalization, training, mentoring
- Enterprise deployment planning
- Application implementation
- Information management

The Exadel professional services team assists companies with both their large-scale strategic IT planning and actual system design and implementation using Exadel's suite of tools. These experts focus on helping clients improve Return on Investment (ROI), as well as Value of Investment (VOI) for their enterprise-wide development projects. Using a well-defined and proven methodology on top of Exadel's technology helps guarantee that new solutions are delivered rapidly and cost effectively while leveraging existing business processes, organizational structures, and technology assets.
Exadel also provides educational services for clients who wish to design and build their Web applications in-house using open source frameworks. Exadel offers online training that provides hands-on examples and tutorials for JSF so that developers can quickly become JSF mavens and create JSF Web applications of their own. Custom training is offered onsite for Java, JSF, Struts, Hibernate, and other application frameworks.

How the Open Source “West” Was Won

To many Fortune 1000 and leading-edge companies, this value proposition has already paid off. Exadel has used its technology and development expertise to build robust, secure, mission-critical Web applications for companies such as ABN AMRO Bank (www.mortgage.com), AT&T, Bank of America, eBay, E.&J. Gallo Winery, Echopass, GE, and Time Warner. Projects have ranged from small custom integration projects to extensive customer service applications, ERP solutions, e-commerce platforms, and extensive transaction processing systems. These high-profile implementations provide a testament to the real value of Exadel’s technology and services.

Today, as corporations begin to look at open source for the future, it’s important to quickly acquire as much expertise as possible. Instead of travelling into the open source Wild West alone, partner with the company that has already shown that it can tame the open source frontier: Exadel. Don’t be left in the dust! To learn more, please visit www.exadel.com.