A world leader in wireless technology and services plays to win big in a highly competitive mobile device market. The constant need to innovate and get product to market faster led this company to implement Stackato, the enterprise private Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) technology from ActiveState. In less than a year in production, Stackato has enabled the company to move quicker, manage its clouds better, and deliver innovative mobile solutions on a global scale.

Developers now deploy apps five times faster, and that’s only the beginning.

The Challenges: Nurture Good Ideas, Improve DevOps, Then Get to Market Faster

Advances in digital wireless technology arrive at a lightning pace—Fastest to innovate wins. For this company, speed to market, rapid response, and developing bleeding-edge technology are crucial keys to success in the consumer market.

Headquartered in North America, this Stackato innovator is a globally-focused wireless technology leader with more than 150 offices worldwide. The company set up separate R&D groups to operate like incubated start-ups, solely focused on the highly competitive mobile market. Innovation drives the groups towards the goal of producing new, competitive products.

Despite this setup, backlogs and delays cropped up (and persisted). The incubation teams were agile…too agile: IT was unable to respond to the groups’ needs quickly enough. And that tempted some developers to “go rogue”: To keep up with the speed of their own creativity, some R&D groups turned to the public cloud where they could quickly spin up applications and test environments. But that meant that potentially sensitive WIP and data were outside the firewall (and outside IT’s immediate span of control).

To remain agile and fast, the company needed to find a way to support development’s urge to innovate without sacrificing IT’s need for control. The company decided to look at PaaS technologies to improve deployment, better manage private cloud installations, and accelerate speed to market.

The Ideals: Automated Configuration, Joyful Development, Dynamic Deployment

The company identified the need for a flexible cloud-middleware solution to make teams more agile and more responsive. That solution had to allow developers to self-serve their IT, and that mandated features like auto-configuration and one-click deploy. And the solution should be extensible and open to quick-and-easy customizations.

Initially, the company considered an open-source Platform as a Service (PaaS), but the idea was quickly abandoned because of limited documentation and a lack of commercial grade support. That’s when this mobile industry leader turned to Stackato PaaS technology from ActiveState.

In contrast with the open-source alternative, Stackato delivered easy setup, cluster administration, and enterprise-level SLAs. The company quickly established a robust and flexible application runtime environment that offered self service to development teams to deploy and run applications while minimizing the distractions of lower-level operations and infrastructure.

Sharing the Roadmap: Collaboration When and Where It Matters Most

Stackato supports a broad set of languages, frameworks, and services: It instantly supported the organization’s use cases, and enabled the company to consider extending its development work to new Stackato-supported technologies that they might not otherwise have considered.

The ActiveState team collaborated with the company on product strategy, giving the customer organization the opportunity to contribute to the Stackato roadmap. Several features critical for this wireless technology company have since been incorporated into subsequent Stackato releases. These included Stackato’s “AOK” LDAP authentication and an API connector add-on for Oracle database services.

“[Deploying with Stackato] is at least five times faster. Not having to set up more infrastructure to support somebody’s new application is huge.”

—Development Engineer, Wireless Technology Company
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Stackato in Production: An Agile Solution for an Agile Enterprise

So far, the company has deployed applications into both private cloud test and production environments. Two Java/JavaScript mobile applications (supported by a MongoDB connection) are already being used by more than 25,000 users.

Another custom application running on Stackato hooks into the company’s corporate directory to check user status in various places (including Microsoft Lync) and then writes that information back to the corporate directory. The app receives between 300,000 and 400,000 user-status requests per day. Stackato runs a wrapper that handles exceptions on the upstream service. The deployed code manages all of those issues, handles traffic via throttling, and sends the detailed information back to the directory service.

The Stackato Future: Five Times Faster Deployment, More Services, More Capabilities

In its first year of deployment, Stackato has helped the company deliver innovative wireless solutions with more rapid development and dynamic deployment. That seamless automation frees developers from the headaches of deployment administration, letting them be more agile and creative. This wireless technology leader can get apps to market faster than its competition.

“With Stackato we...maximize ‘Joyful Dev’ by automating as much of the ‘Frustrating Ops’ away as possible.”

—Development Engineer, Wireless Technology Company

The Stackato initiative has been so successful within R&D that the company now plans to roll out Stackato PaaS deployments to other enterprise groups. (“The word is getting out,” notes the company’s IT manager.) The company has also integrated Stackato with New Relic and Hyperic for measurement and utilization monitoring.

For this mobile industry pioneer, Stackato accelerates the flow of work through the enterprise, fosters innovation, and enables the company to get wireless technology products and service to market quicker. And that’s what it takes to sustain competitive advantage in the fast-moving global wireless market.

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—Development Engineer, Wireless Technology Company