ORBITAL
TECHNOLOGIES INC

Building a Mac Client to Interface Skype
with a Mobile Handset

Challenge

Orbital was presented with a project to develop a Mac version of an innovative Windows-based product that interfaced Skype with a Mobile handset for low-cost long distance calling. Orbital's client had limited Mac development resources and needed a software development partner with extensive Mac OS X development experience. Adding to the challenge, the Windows-based product, which was to provide the basis for the Mac product, was pre-release and minor development work was still being completed.

Solution

To complete the Mac version of its product, the client chose Orbital. Orbital leveraged both its Mac development expertise and its wireless application development knowledge to complete the work. Orbital built a Mac UI for the product, incorporating many Mac specific idiosyncrasies for optimal usability and performance. Orbital also assisted the client to complete Mac versions of the product's core components. Finishing the project, Orbital integrated the Mac-based front-end with the client's core back-end and built an installer to get the application up and running on Mac OS X.

Results

Orbital delivered the completed Mac UI and installer to the client, working very closely to transfer project knowledge to best ensure easy maintenance of the product going forward. The client successfully added a Mac version of its innovative product to its line-up, offering both Windows and Mac versions to its customers.

One of Orbital's clients was in the process of developing a new product that interfaces a user's PC-based Skype™ client with the user's mobile phone. This innovative pairing would allow users to stay in touch with their Skype contacts on-the-go, as well as make and receive long distance phone calls via Skype's VOIP capabilities at a significantly reduced rate. In the process of developing the Windows-based version of the product, the client decided that it would launch a Mac version of the product as well.

However, with limited Mac development resources to complete the work in-house, the client needed a software development partner with extensive Mac OS X development experience. Furthermore, in order for the client to have the option of maintaining the Mac product in-house going forward, it would require the development partner to be willing and capable of transferring all project knowledge and intellectual property (IP) to its developers. Increasing the project's complexity, minor development work on the Windows version of the product was still under way, and the Windows version would provide the basis for the Mac the product. To expertly deliver its Mac product for launch, the client chose Orbital.

Orbital developed a Mac User Interface (UI) for the product. This UI had to account for various differences between a Mac and a Windows-based computer, and Orbital incorporated additional features into the Mac version of the product to ensure optimal usability and performance within the Mac OS X environment.

"Orbital worked very closely with the client to transfer all project knowledge and IP to ensure the utmost ease in maintenance."

Given that the client's core product components were pre-release and still undergoing minor development, Orbital assisted in making necessary adjustments to the core components to enable integration with the new, Orbital developed Mac UI. With successful integration, Orbital then developed an installer to get the completed solution up and running on Mac OS X.

The completed solution provided the user with a Mac client that could be easily and quickly installed on the user's computer. This client would then interface with the user's computer-based Skype client, which in turn would enable the connection with the user's mobile phone.

The client required that the Mac version of its product be easily maintainable in-house going forward. As such, Orbital worked very closely with the client to transfer all project knowledge and IP to ensure the utmost ease in maintenance.

Orbital delivered the Mac UI and installer, integrated with the client's core components to enable mobile connectivity with Skype. The client successfully launched the Mac version of its product alongside its Windows version.

About Orbital Technologies Inc.

Orbital Technologies Inc. (www.orbitaltech.com) is an established and trusted leader in software development services that provides custom software solutions across a range of platforms and technologies, including Windows, Mac, UNIX, Linux, .Net, J2EE, J2SE, J2ME, Apple iOS, Android, Windows Phone, Palm webOS, Symbian OS and other mobile embedded systems.

Orbital specializes in developing software for software companies. Orbital works with the world's leading software and technology companies – like Adobe, Broderbund, Business Objects, Microsoft, and Riverdeep – to develop custom software components or entire applications for often complex or resource intensive projects.

For more information about Orbital's services, visit www.orbitaltech.com or call +1 604.681.7237.

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