

Case History

www.wimba.com



Project: Software Development



The Company

Wimba is a pioneer in the field of collaborative learning software solutions, publishing solutions and services to the Further/Higher Education and K-12 markets. Since its inception a decade ago, Wimba has strategically partnered with technology and industry leaders to build solutions compatible with both industry standards and leading course management systems.

The Wimba Collaboration Suite™ of products includes - the Wimba Classroom™ virtual learning environment, the Wimba Pronto™ academic messaging platform, the Wimba Voice™ audio tool, and the Wimba Create™ content authoring tool - enabling institutions to bridge the gap between technology and pedagogy by supplementing course management systems with the proven disciplines of in-person learning environments. Over a hundred of secondary, higher and further education institutions from around the world use Wimba's specialized products.

Wimba is headquartered in New York City, with offices in Cambridge, United Kingdom; Sophia Antipolis, France; and Atlanta, Georgia.

Challenges

An ever-increasing customer base, integrating Wimba Collaboration products with leading course management systems and support for already deployed solutions demanded shorter product development and QA life cycles.

With stringent time lines, lesser time to market, shorter release cycles and inception of new products a resource crunch and time warp got created.

Technologies

The project uses a good breadth of the Java Enterprise stack, inclusive of JSF, SEAM, Spring and Hibernate. The JSF front-end also imbibes a

healthy dose of the Prototype and Scriptaculous JavaScript frameworks for non-synchronous interaction with the back-end using AJAX.

Solution

To mitigate the time, cost and resource challenges, Wimba adopted a hybrid 'Agile' methodology and partnered with Techizen.

The initial assignment was setting up a dedicated QA team at India, which would QA the already existing products and work closely with the respective development teams. The synergy in the team across different time zones resulted in high quality work being delivered round the clock. Communication across the team is done using Wimba's products aka Pronto and Live Classroom on a daily basis. A centralized wiki, defect tracking tool and test case management tool ensures both horizontal and vertical traceability. Other frameworks, processes, tools and protocols were devised and agreed upon mutually to ensure seamless task execution. The team performs manual, load and automation testing on the collaboration products. Today the QA team at India has grown to a considerable number and is raring to increase by the day.

With the success of the QA team, a development team was set up in India to work closely with developers in France and US. The product under development boasted of the latest and greatest technologies. Centralized artifact repository, automated build, remote runs of test cases, version management system, release management system et al were some of the tools employed towards successful delivery of the product.

Impeccable quality, timely delivery, effective communication, cost effective operations etc have ensued a renewal in the engagement between Techizen and Wimba.