



Answer gave Bluefin the Sprint to expand their software as a service



Bluefin



Employee benefits.
When you get them right, everyone benefits.

Orbit:
market-leading benefits
technology

CHALLENGE

Bluefin had to respond to accelerating demand for their online service with over 100 clients and 50,000 employees.

Performance and maintainability were key business drivers but at the same time Bluefin wanted to enhance their services through the facilitation of new channels and partner integration. No small brief, particularly when you add the objective of reducing maintenance and licensing costs.

"This was a business critical migration and we knew that choosing the right partner was essential. From the onset Answer brought an assured vision of not only technical solution but, crucially, how it could be delivered"

Des Matthewman, Bluefin.



Answer accepted the challenge, quickly identifying an approach that would deliver a step change in Bluefin's online services, provide scalable performance and significantly improve speed-to-market.

ENSURING DELIVERY SUCCESS

When Bluefin posed the question 'can this be done?', Answer, through its Engage Agile Solution Development Service, brought a structured methodology to ensure project success. Engage guaranteed rapid project delivery through:

AGILITY: The use of Agile techniques that have been honed over many similar projects, supporting collaborative delivery and incremental release.

INNOVATION: Combining Bluefin's market knowledge and Answer's technical leadership.

AUTOMATION: Orchestration and automation of the build, test and release processes, provided by the Engage platform.

ENGAGE ENSURED END-TO-END DELIVERY

Solution Acceleration: In a six week period, Answer established the project foundation through delivery of a proven target solution architecture, business requirements definition, functional specification and a robust project plan.

Engineering: The plan proposed 5 engineering increments over an eight month period. Each delivered 'production ready' functionality to the business, thereby continually verifying the approach and conformance to plan.

Implementation: Pilot customer implementations were selected for incremental roll out of the solution, leading to successful go-live. Answer project management coordinated all activities, incorporating Answer and Bluefin team members. To meet the pressing timescales the team successfully ran parallel increments from two development centres, in Leeds and Woking.

THE TECHNOLOGY

Significantly, the project was delivered using the best of breed in Java (JDK6) and open source components, including Spring 2.5 (Core and MVC), Spring Security, and iBATIS. Bluefin benefits from proven frameworks for security, front end customization,



internationalization and legacy database integration, and because it is based on open standards, Bluefin now have the flexibility to choose application infrastructure according to business requirements (where previously they had been 'locked down' to one proprietary infrastructure solution).

BUSINESS WINS

Bluefin is now primed to enhance its leadership position by bringing innovation in the online provision of Employee Benefits. The new Orbit application delivers scalable performance, a rapid response to emerging business needs and lower maintenance costs.

"The new Orbit platform runs on clustered infrastructure which vastly improves scalability and reliability. The engine is Java Spring powered, and is built on domain based architecture. These elements and more, enable us to keep our platform ahead of the game."

Bluefin

ABOUT THE ORBIT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SYSTEM

Bluefin, part of the AXA Group, provides an employee benefits Software as a Service (SaaS) for over 100 clients including, Google, Yahoo and The Carphone Warehouse. Employees of those companies use the Orbit online system to manage their own benefits. Available 24x7, the personalized web pages allow individuals to plan and manage their pension and other benefits using interactive tools. Bluefin clients gain from the intuitive toolset that heightens the awareness of benefits, improves productivity in HR and delivers better cost control for Finance. It is a winning proposition that requires fast service delivery, inherent flexibility and a rapid response to changing demands.

ABOUT ANSWER CONSULTING

Answer, formerly UPCO, is a creator of business solutions for some of the world's leading companies. Creators of bottom-line benefits for all sorts of big and small businesses in every sector, for a decade. It's not a simple thing, it's not a straightforward process, there's an art to it. From global telecommunication gateways to applying white lines on motorways, Answer understands that each business challenge is unique. <http://www.answerconsulting.com/>

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