



Success WITH CA

AllFusion™

Client Info AT A GLANCE

Company Name:

Computer Associates
International, Inc. (CA)

Industry:

Software

Geographic Location:

Headquartered in Islandia, NY
with offices worldwide.

CA Solution Used:

AllFusion™ Harvest
Change Manager

Biggest ROI:

Eliminates the need
for multiple point solutions.

CA Framingham Development Center Solves Multi-Platform Development Management with AllFusion™ Harvest Change Manager

The Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA) Framingham Development Center is one lab location where the efforts of developers worldwide come together to create and improve CA software solutions. In order to simplify the management of development projects among heterogeneous environments and improve productivity, the Development Center needed a Software Configuration Management (SCM) solution that would scale across the Development Center.

Ed Abt, Framingham's project leader in charge of finding and implementing the solution, didn't have to look far to find the right product. After evaluating the options, Ed found that CA's own AllFusion Harvest Change Manager (AllFusion Harvest CM) was the best tool to address all the lab's SCM needs. AllFusion Harvest CM, a software change and configuration management solution, helps organizations effectively manage complex, enterprise-wide development activities throughout the entire application development life cycle.

Separate "Point Solutions" for Each Environment Slows Development

Prior to implementing AllFusion Harvest CM, the Development Center used several platform-specific point solutions to manage development in separate homogeneous environments. However, the code base the developers were attempting to manage was frequently multi-platform. They would have to perform additional steps, such as "FTP'ing" (File Transfer Protocol) code across these platforms and onto the platform where the point solution management product resided. "These extra steps added another facet to our development cycle," said Abt.

The point solutions also lacked centralized management, and they created far too much "out of scope" work for developers, like backup and maintenance tasks. "Basically, we needed a solution that would support a team development environment. We have multiple autonomous development groups that report into different organizations," said Abt.

Many CA developers reside in different countries throughout the world, yet they are part of project teams whose code needs to be aggregated centrally. Therefore the ability to support remote clients was a major consideration. "The solution we chose had to provide a high level of security and maintainability, yet at the same time not 'hobble' our developers or impede their creativity."

CA Development Teams Required a Comprehensive, Robust Solution

Three distinct groups within the Development Center pressed for a better solution. The UNIX group utilized utilities such as RCS (Revision Control System) and SCCS (Source Code Control System) and wanted to find a more comprehensive toolset. The PC-based developers were using simple check-in/check-out utilities, which lacked the structure and organization of a life cycle management tool. One development team was using multiple configuration management products for each of their development platforms. They needed to implement a solution that crossed platforms and provided complete process control.

Comprehensive Software Change and Configuration Management

AllFusion Harvest CM provided all teams in the lab with a flexible SCM environment for multiple independent development groups working on diverse projects. In contrast to the point solutions, AllFusion Harvest CM allowed them to centrally manage project life cycles, parallel development efforts, problem tracking and related events for all of their development projects. Some of the point solutions offered pieces of this functionality, but none delivered a heterogeneous solution in one easy-to-use package.

"With AllFusion Harvest CM, we had the ability to not only automate and centralize security and maintenance, but to free the development groups from those responsibilities," said Abt. Upgrades, backups,



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“
*By eliminating
multiple
disparate
solutions,
our return on
investment was
immediate.*

”

Ed Abt
Project Leader
CA Framingham
Development Center

archives and restores, are now simplified and centralized. AllFusion Harvest CM enforces processes and ensures life cycle management throughout maintenance and development activities, which allows the developers to concentrate on their programming tasks.

Eliminating Point Solutions Provides Immediate Investment Returns

“Using AllFusion Harvest CM, we can easily integrate our administrative activities into our existing workloads, ensuring our code assets are fully protected without adding additional overhead,” said Teresa Donovan, senior vice president of CA Research and Development. “This ensures that our development teams can focus on developing excellent products, not worrying about backups and related tasks,” Donovan said.

By standardizing on AllFusion Harvest CM across the Framingham Development Center, it also creates shared expertise, which can reduce training and implementation costs for future projects. As more developers become familiar with the solution, that knowledge base helps shape the direction of AllFusion Harvest CM. “By eliminating multiple disparate solutions, our return on investment was immediate,” said Abt. “And, we expect to see greater ROI as we roll out this solution to other Development Centers.”

Advanced Features Deliver Flexibility and Integration Enhancements

Several specific features of AllFusion Harvest CM have proved invaluable to the Framingham group. “The ability to create ‘User-Defined Processes’ gives us great flexibility in supporting many peripheral developer activities such as coordinating and augmenting the build process,” said Abt. The UDPs can be DLLs, EXEs or simple scripts.

The Development Center also uses AllFusion Harvest CM forms to create their own customized electronic forms. The AllFusion Harvest CM forms assist users in tracking change request information and many other common development activities. The use of these forms introduces a level of auditability, process control and problem tracking not found in other SCM products.

CA ServicesSM and Support

Though support issues were minimal, the AllFusion Harvest CM support team provided prompt, professional assistance. “The support team treated us like any another CA client,” said Abt. “Our customer tech support team has experience from hundreds of actual customer implementations and provided excellent support through every step of our implementation from planning to actual rollout,” Abt said.

Lessons from the Implementation

When planning an AllFusion Harvest CM implementation across multiple development groups, Abt emphasizes the need to seek input early on from the “major players” or stakeholders in each of the groups. “Work with them, listen to their needs and concerns, then prototype a solution,” Abt said. “From there, establish a pilot project to further ‘sell’ the solution. Refine and redefine if necessary, based on the feedback from your target users. Once ‘buy in’ has been accomplished, phase in the implementation and you’re set.”

According to Abt, AllFusion Harvest CM is a robust full-featured solution that can be easily configured and implemented. “As your needs change and grow, AllFusion Harvest CM can easily scale with those changes and accommodate growth across multiple development groups within your organization.”

**For more information, call 1-800-225-5224
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