

ZintaK

The RAD Meta-framework

Take it easy baby

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The Road Ahead.....



Introduction:

Lets see how software are generally made

Monday: Customer has high level meeting with management which feels certain module/application must be ready before q3 ending(so that they can show this off in board meeting or maybe to support a new product launch/requirement or to replace some, stupid old software they were using) . Customer calls business Analyst says the stuff ready in two 3 weeks, he in turn calls (and argues) your PM who first states this is impossible but later reluctantly agrees (like always) and calls you & team members (followed by a boring meeting). Now you were already reading about this new framework/design pattern on this Sunday (motivated by your desire to make things better or sleepless night spent on previous project due to bad design or manual coding) . You gather up courage and take this matter up with your PM ...he saysthiswhat ?He has never heard of it & gives you (a free) lecture on how much he appreciates your initiative but you got be practical and all that management crap . Also after hearing half team members who skeptical and half who support you ...you finally decide may next time or you say hell with itand the story goes on .

Next scenario is your team is making next big thing after sliced bread (at least what customer is made to believe) which will change the life of customernow management this time wants to implement all those frame work A for MVC, B for DB persistence , C for form handling and so on...they have hearing about (which also helps them make their presentations look sexy) . After months of figuring out how make it work & and spending tons of money, over runs . They decide to implement only some part of the(minimal) patterns /framework and somehow complete it (with least amount of further embarrassment)

Welcome to real world !! (which our software also reflect)

Moral of Story

- Just because you got a framework(s) is not enough (you need know if it best for you, learn it, use it & adapt it to existing code base)
- No framework is enough (typically a framework only focuses on one single thing like MVC, component service etc)
- You need something that lets you start real fast (so that your PM/customer knows what are you talking about) and latter also allows you to add custom or low level stuff
- It should make you life (& Product life cycle) real easy not complicate things

What we need

- We need something to get us started real quick (RAD) & real easy, without sacrificing code quality (in fact using the best design patterns / framework on earth)
- That something should abstract us from gazillion of framework related crap which can someone real sick (like name of classes to include, conventions etc) and allow us to work and know only on the concept level stuff
- Since No framework/pattern cover everything we need a that something to glue best of breed frameworks
- Takes care of both group, guys who make other people work (management) & guys who really work (developers)
- Integrates best of the breed Project management techniques directly into framework like XP which enables maximum productivity & returns to business, lowers the overall project risks and makes management real happy (usually all that's end well or succeeds make them real happy)
- Gets fun back into our project & life (which mean more time for our girlfriends/family , fav TV show/video games or outings)

ZintaK

Mission :

“ ZintaK will allows us to create an application(small to medium) or complete one iteration(if part of large application) within 3 business days while producing high quality code(SEI CMM Level 5)”

Notice I am NOT saying its framework which does blah blah and with all that deadly theoretical stuff, what I am saying ZintaK will provide whatever it takes for creating a business class application in short period (3 days)

ZintaK will support two languages Java & PHP thus covering 70% of web development

Target application groups

We if look around we usually work with following types of application

1. **Database Manipulation:** This is simply, Add/Edit/Modify plus query application. Which is most common we guys work on (50 -60%)
2. **Workflow :** Most of business requirements focus around a workflow, you do this after that (say approval or invoice clearance etc), accounts to 20-30% of application

3. **Reporting** : Managers love reports, they really need all graphs and data. This might be be current application or for third party tool for an existing application (10 -20%)

Maintenance

Every application once built need time to time changes/ debugging / integration or need to make it more scalable as requirement or usage increases . This is kind of dirty work all application need it (usually company earn more money by supporting a app rather than building it)

1. **New functionality** : You may need to extend some existing functionality or add some any functionality all together (ZintaK component based architecture makes it real easy)
2. **Integration**: You need to integrate your app with some other (ZintaK components can be easily exposed thru automatic wsdl creation)
3. **Debugging** : if its third-party application (not built on ZintaK).You clean you own shit

ZintaK effect

Application:

For building **Database Oriented Application** (Add/Modify/Query)

1. Complete ER Design tool that lets you get started without single line of SQL(and also generated documentation)
2. Automatic Entity Bean generation, after you designed schema ..press a button and zap Entity Bean is generated (its abstracted for libraries like JDBC, Hibernate so that you switch to your favorite)
3. Default ADD/Modify actions code will automatically be generated
4. Define your own validation with help of wizard and a form generators
5. You can modify the code & select your favorite UI component (Struts, Velocity or Mavrick)
6. Automatic Form persistence
7. Use Query builder to build query applications

Workflow Engine

1. Complete WYSIWYG workflow engine
2. Outputs to intermediate XML (which you customize to your liking)
3. Use Role based security

Reporting

1. Complete WSYWYG Report designer
2. Output in many formats like HTLM ,RTF, PDF

3. Complete Graph library

Regulars

1. Role based security which can be drilled to each action
2. Site Navigation Generation
3. WSDL generators
4. Session handling
5. Automatic documentation generation & adherence
6. Bundled CVS and integration
7. Bundled Open Ldap
8. Bundled Database (MySQL, PgSql or Hypersonic)
9. Unit Testing framework

Admin Stuff

1. WSYWYG database manager for MySQL & PostgreSQL
2. Application monitoring tools with alerts
3. Complete Logging support in various formats
4. Tools for Automatic migration to Development to Production and Vice versa
5. Custom application performance/usage/ access reports
6. Cluster tools , A set of tools for advanced clustering & infinite horizontal scalability
7. Build manager , automatic builds & testing and deployment

Program management Stuff

1. tightly integrated PM techniques like XP
2. New project also lead to new XP project
3. Assign each activity to developer
4. Project velocity, iteration tracking and reporting

Developers

- Collaboration tools like wiki, chat, XP
- Automated testing
- Automated Documentation generation
- Complete development environment (with database, build system , server, cvs etc)
- CVS integration
- Online Community

As you can I got lot to do and I will doing with help open source projects that already works (like struts, pear etc) and building on top of it . My main is to make every one life a bit easier and full of fun (life is more than programming or

management) .ZintaK is way of life which also seems to say you can do it in harmony will having fun and life can be a pleasant experience even facing all its challenges . You are also most welcomed to join my ride . So GET Ready to ROCK Steady

Note : I am not against managers (who think developers as Geeks lost in their world ignorant enough to understand business) or pro developers (who think only think management knows about is power point and excel sheets and making ambiguous comments which means nothing).ZintaK aims to make life of both groups a lot easier . Its about creating harmony , fun & joy so that we can also enjoy our work