

TeamCity

Milliman

Industry:

Insurance & Actuarial Consulting

Employees: 2400

Other JetBrains products used:

ReSharper, dotTrace

Milliman, Inc

Seattle, WA

<http://www.milliman.com>

Milliman, Inc. is one of the world's largest independent actuarial and consulting firms. Founded in Seattle in 1947, Milliman currently employs 51 offices worldwide, with a staff of 2,400 and 2008 revenues of USD 585 million. The Milliman MG-ALFA practice, which builds actuarial software for life & health insurance, is a leading actuarial software package in the US and is growing globally as well.

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Kelly Leahy,
Architect, MG-ALFA system

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Adopting TeamCity

Initially, MG-ALFA did not use any CI builds, apart from a less than enthusiastic experience with setting up TFS and nightly builds. They had a “manual” automated build where they could one-click build their part of the system (the User Interface), but still used this “manual” process to build their releases on the developers’ machines.

One day, Kelly Leahy, the architect of the MG-ALFA system, heard a colleague talk about TeamCity. One trial setup on her laptop was all it took her to get hooked.

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TeamCity’s Benefits for Milliman

Awareness and increased quality

Everyone knows almost immediately when someone broke the build, and so does the ‘guilty party.’ MG-ALFA has achieved better check-in quality now that people are tired of getting those ‘compilation failed’ emails.

MG-ALFA also benefits from TeamCity’s ability to watch their source control server for updates, as well as its ability to run any arbitrary command line, NAnt, or MSBuild (or many more) task in response to those updates.

Results availability

There is always a source to go to for a current build – no need to get the sources and build on your own machine, or go ask a build master to get you a build.

TeamCity

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MG-ALFA takes advantage of the fact that TeamCity can host build artifacts. This allows testers and other team members to obtain binaries whenever they like, and avoid any complicated deployment of files to an FTP site or some other hosting location.

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Load distribution

The ability to set up different build agents is a nice bonus too. They are used to segment the calculation engine builds from the user interface builds, since the calculation engine builds routinely take 20-30 minutes for a build versus less than 5 minutes for UI builds. This way, the UI team gets very quick feedback without being stuck behind a CE build that takes very long to finish.