Success Story

JetBRAINS

www.jetbrains.com

TeamCity

uSwitch.com

Industry: IT
Employess: 100
JetBrains products used: ReSharper, TeamCity

uSwitch Ltd
London, UK
http://www.uswitch.com/

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>
> ***Mark Durrand**, Director of IT, uSwitch*

About uSwitch

uSwitch is one of the leading price comparison sites in the UK offering the facility for users to compare prices and switch products in a number of vertical industries, including utilities, insurance and personal finance.

uSwitch employs around 100 people in the UK and almost half of those are within the IT department. All development is done in-house, with the use of the Microsoft stack (.NET, c#, SQL Server) in conjunction with a variety of other 'best of breed' tools. Examples of supporting tools used for development include JetBrains Resharper, TestDriven .NET, JetBrains TeamCity, Cucumber, WATIR, FitNesse, and Selenium. uSwitch has been steadily evolving an Agile/Lean environment over the last 2 or 3 years and now employs a mixture of Scrum, XP and Lean or Kanban practices.

Migrating to Teamcity

Having previous experience with CruiseControl, uSwitch migrated to TeamCity looking for better support with implementing continuous integration. After almost a year of use, the tool has definitely proven its worth.

TeamCity's benefits for the company

TeamCity provides uSwitch with a truly integrated solution to continuous integration and deployment. "TeamCity is not only running our builds and unit tests, but also runs our acceptance tests against our test, staging and live environments," says Mark Durrand, Director of IT, uSwitch. "The integration with Subversion means the acceptance tests automatically run on change, and we also make use of the scheduling feature to run hourly and over nightly acceptance runs as needed. This gives us confidence in new development work and removes the need for manual regression testing."

At uSwitch, TeamCity quickly became an integral part of the release process. With no end-of-cycle testing, they rely on TeamCity running their automated acceptance and giving the "green light" to go. TeamCity is also used during the release by the IT operations team to run smoke tests to verify the release. This gives the IT operations team a user-friendly interface to run the tests and a red/green light feedback on the success of the release.

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Summary

TeamCity contributes to uSwitch's success by making a lean development process possible. The company relies on the tool to provide feedback on their codebase and quality of their site without the need for manual testing. TeamCity also provides a common interface for developers and IT operations to use, ensuring that release process is as lightweight as possible, and that uSwitch can release on demand.

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