

RWorks

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ABOUT RWORKS

[RWorks](#) (a trading name of RWave Software Limited) is a startup company based in Wexford Ireland. The company's goal is to produce software solutions for the management of dispersed teams. For large organisations and outsourcing companies with remote workers, one of the problems has always been communication between the remote worker and their managers. RWorks is a cloud based workforce management system that automatically tracks progress on tasks and projects, and facilitates inclusive communication in an outsourced or remote workforce.

Unlike existing task and project management applications, RWorks automatically gathers progress on tasks by matching what a user is doing with the tasks assigned to them. As a result it provides an automatic view of task and project progress, time and attendance and productivity. This information is then used to a variety of useful timesheets and project management reports.

THE PROJECT

ZK is used in the main RWorks web application. The application allows managers of remote workers to assign them tasks and then to see progress on those tasks without workers having to fill out timesheets or task status reports. In addition, the information that RWorks collects can be used by project managers to get a more accurate view of a project status than asking for estimates of work to be done.

In addition RWorks can also be used by self-employed individuals. For example, RWorks provides a clear view of how they are spending their day including a measure of their own productivity on tasks. The web application show how this information trends over a period of time.

RWorks is comprised of two parts - a Java Swing desktop application and a web application for managing tasks and people and reporting. The web application forms the heart of the system and it is built using ZK 5.0.5. The web application of the project was started in

January 2010 and completed in September 2010 by a single developer. As RWorks is a cloud solution, it is open to the public on a monthly subscription model from www.rworks.com.

The architecture of the project is a Java Swing client which communicates with the ZK based server application using web-services. The client collects data about what the user is doing and matches it against tasks assigned to them. The information is then sent to the ZK web application for reporting and managing tasks and users. The database is a MySQL cluster with JPA providing objects which map to tables in the database. ZK is then used as the MVC and presentation layer.

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THE CHALLENGE

The biggest challenges in doing the project were not related to the web-application but to the desktop/Java Swing application. Our product requires that the application talks to some native operating system calls and getting this to work correctly from Java has been the most challenging. The ZK web application was much easier to develop.

WHY ZK

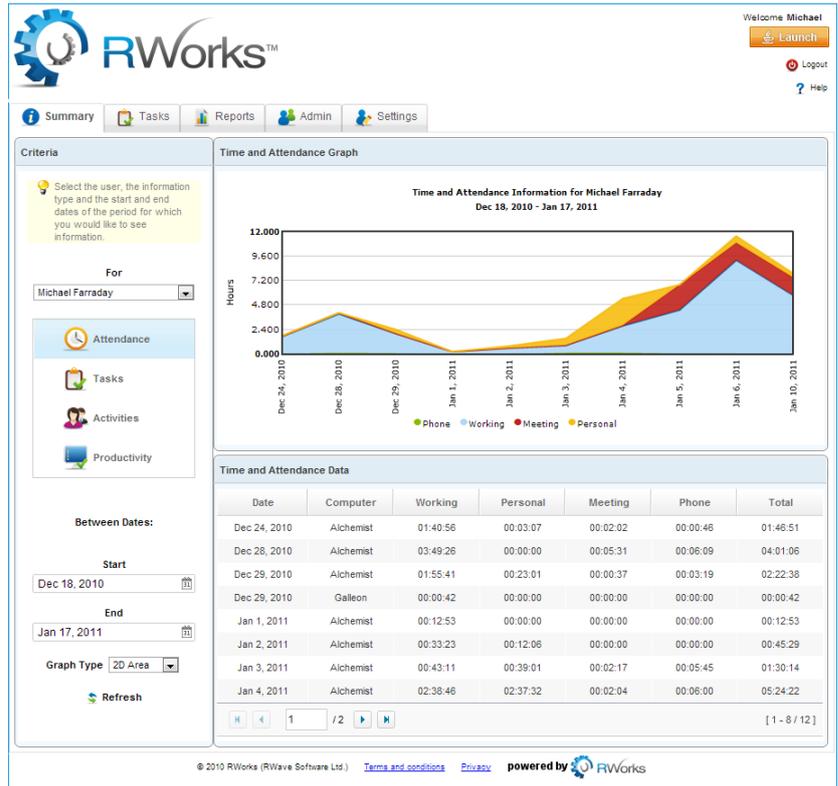
We spent quite a few months weighing up AJAX frameworks. There was two criteria; it had to look good and it had to be rapid to develop in, not requiring specialist skills to get going. The alternatives we looked mostly at were JSF and GWT. With GWT, we felt that it would need an additional custom look and feel to meet our requirements and that would require more time and effort. While the JSF implementations we looked at provided a good look and feel, the productivity level of JSF is much lower than ZK/ZUML.

Also as RWorks is a small company , we needed to be productive fast and we need to be able to revise and upgrade our application quickly. To our mind, only ZK provided that level of business agility.

The screenshot shows the RWorks Task Manager interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Summary', 'Tasks', 'Reports', 'Admin', and 'Settings'. The main content area is titled 'Task Manager' and includes a search filter for 'Michael Farraday' and a 'Show Tasks for' dropdown set to 'Individual'. Below this is a table of tasks with columns for Title, Description, Due, Priority, Actual, Assigned, Status, and Auto. The tasks listed are:

Title	Description	Due	Priority	Actual	Assigned	Status	Auto
Proposal for Ace One Project	Create a Microsoft Word Document that describes the proposal for STAR suppo...	Oct 26, 2010	medium	00:59:24	Michael Farraday	in progress	✓
Business Expo Collateral	Create a powerpoint presentation for the RWorks Stand at Wexford Business E...	Sep 22, 2010	medium	00:25:49	Michael Farraday	in progress	✓
Define Project Requirements	List the project requirements	Oct 1, 2010	medium	00:18:40	Michael Farraday	in progress	✓
Ace Delta Marketing Plan	Finalize the marketing plan for Ace Delta	Oct 26, 2010	medium	00:01:54	Michael Farraday	in progress	✓
RWorks Presentation for Government	RWorks Presentation for meeting with Politicians	Jan 5, 2011	high	01:40:08	Michael Farraday	in progress	✓

At the bottom of the interface, there is a footer with copyright information: © 2010 RWorks (RWave Software Ltd.) and links for Terms and conditions, Privacy, and powered by RWorks.



The values in ZK which we recognized the most are good documentation, very easy to start with - the fact that you can have a moveable window in a web page in a few lines is incredible. Also, when we needed to ask technical questions, they we answered quickly and correctly.

The parts we liked the most were the rapid prototyping. Also the fact that it came pre-integrated with tools like JasperReports. We used JasperReports as our reporting engine and to be able to get up and running without having to figure out how they will integrate with our web-pages saved a lot of time.

In addition, the size of the UI component library provides a compelling case for ZK - there are very few frameworks that provide such a variety of components.

THE RESULT

Some of the best features of the product are around it's easy of use. The AJAX and event based underpinnings of ZK allow us to retrieve and present information without having to move to a new page to display it. This makes the application more responsive to the user.

The next move for the product is to bring our unique view of task management and productivity to the mobile world with Android as the next platform to develop for.

Time Sheet

Employee: Michael Farraday
From: Saturday 18 December to Monday 17 January 2011

Date	Computer	Meetings/Offices	Home	Working	Personal	Attendance
09-Jan-2011	02:41:04	00:00:00	00:00:00	02:49:33	00:00:00	02:49:33
09-Jan-2011	01:20:08	00:00:00	00:00:00	01:05:13	00:00:00	01:05:13
10-Jan-2011	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00
12-Jan-2011	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00
13-Jan-2011	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00
14-Jan-2011	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00
15-Jan-2011	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00	00:00:00
17-Jan-2011	02:07:19	01:11:03	00:00:00	01:46:22	00:04:22	04:42:46
Totals:	12:05:36	01:26:06	00:00:00	20:47:22	02:16:22	23:04:08

About ZK

Potix Corporation develops and supports ZK, the #1 Ajax solution on SourceForge.net, the world's largest open source host. ZK has more than 1,500,000 downloads since its first release in late 2005. ZK is deployed by a large number of Fortune Global 500 companies, including Deutsche Bank, Barclays, Sony, Sun Microsystems and Toyota, providing them with the ability to rapidly create rich Ajax enterprise level applications.

Contact us

Potix Corporation

info@zkoss.org

www.zkoss.org