Hybrid Cloud Enabler Improves Time-to-Market for Multiple Products

Company: Hybrid Decisions
Web Site: www.hybriddecisions.com
Country or Region: United States
Industry: Technology

Company Profile

US-based Hybrid Decisions is an independent software vendor, value-added reseller and systems integrator, focusing on strategic enterprise computing for energy, oil & gas and financial services clients.

Software and Services

- Microsoft Visual Studio
  - Microsoft Visual Studio Ultimate 2012
  - Microsoft Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2012
- Technologies
  - Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5
  - C++ Accelerated Massive Parallelism
  - Application Lifecycle Management
- Microsoft Office 2013
- Microsoft SharePoint 2013
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012

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Anthony Moreign
Founder & Chief Architect
Hybrid Decisions

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www.microsoft.com/visualstudio

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Anthony Moreign, Founder and Chief Architect, Hybrid Decisions

Hybrid Decisions, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner (ISV), used Visual Studio 2012 and Team Foundation Server 2012 to improve its processes while updating its product lines to work with the latest versions of Microsoft products. It leveraged improvements to application lifecycle management as well as improved capabilities across the IDE to speed time-to-market by at least 12%.

Business Needs

Hybrid Decisions is a niche technology enabler that believes in giving its customers what they need to be successful from a technology perspective. It takes into account their customers' existing investments, and available resources to achieve their short-term business targets without sacrificing their long-term business goals.

Hybrid Decisions embodies the 'hybrid' concept in its name and leverages its hybrid applications with the hybrid cloud as part of its various offerings that cater to the collection and processing of data, such as global pricing data, financial data, geological data and research data.

The company has multiple data analysis and insight offerings that work together to provide an end-to-end data capture, analysis, insight and delivery solution. HDC.GlobalOffice is used to create, capture and analyze data using Microsoft Office as the user interface. The HDC.SyncExcel Appliance maps and synchronizes data into marketable information based on a live, constantly evolving interdependency map of linked Excel spreadsheets. HDC.ePubPoint delivers data using e-publishing standards and formats leveraging the hybrid cloud. It also has a fourth suite that is focused on Customer Relationship Management and Customer Consumption Insight.

Microsoft

To date Hybrid Decisions had used the Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate integrated development environment (IDE) and Microsoft parallel computing tools, including the Task Parallel Library (TPL), TPL Dataflow (TDF), Visual Studio Async CTP capabilities from Visual Studio and .NET 4 in conjunction with various other Microsoft products.

As the underlying Microsoft technology evolves, Hybrid Decisions prides itself on updating its products quickly to take advantage of the latest technologies prior to their release dates. These early development efforts enable Hybrid Decisions to continue to empower its customers with technology, which gives its customers an edge over their competition.

Solution

Hybrid Decisions updated its entire product line to prepare for the upcoming release of Microsoft Office 2013, Microsoft SharePoint Server 2013, Microsoft Windows Server 2012 and Microsoft Windows 8. It used pre-release versions of Visual Studio Ultimate 2012 and Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2012 to perform the updates and handle application lifecycle management (ALM) for the projects.

Handling Complex Programming Needs
Visual Studio 2012 enables Hybrid Decisions to simplify complex development projects, and build hybrid-cloud products that leverage Microsoft Windows Azure, Microsoft Office365 and Microsoft High Performance Computing (HPC). "Visual Studio IDE greatly enhances our developer throughput by catering to our hybrid application needs, while integrating ALM efficiently," says Anthony Moreign, Founder and Chief Architect at Hybrid Decisions.

Improvements to Visual Studio 2012 such as the streamlined designers, preview tab, multi-monitor support, search everywhere, intelligent copy/paste, enhanced graphic tools, diagnostics as a whole and specifically IntelliTrace for Production, are welcome enhancements to everyone at Hybrid Decisions.

Providing Better Support for Unmanaged Code
Performance is critical and Hybrid Decisions is taking advantage of the additional C++ capabilities available in Visual Studio 2012 to enhance its offerings as well as to work more efficiently. C++ Accelerated Massive Parallelism (C++ AMP) for parallel computing and Casablanca for cloud computing are two important capabilities that facilitate new functionality in Hybrid Decision's products. The support within the IDE to do visual debugging for C++ is also being used to speed development.

Making Web Development Easy
The updated Web APIs and the simplified implementation of Windows Communications Foundation (WCF) within Visual Studio 2012 coupled with the new functionality such as Blend for XAML for designing Windows apps using HTML5 and CSS3 are speeding Web development. Blend for XAML also enables more visual authoring and provides better platform support, such as support for building native C++ applications for Windows 8 with a XAML-based user interface.

Implementing More Agile Processes
With its deployment of Team Foundation Server 2012, Hybrid Decisions recognizes that the design, development, and test teams are sharing information and collaborating more efficiently, even though they are not located in one place. "With Team Foundation Server 2012, our stakeholders have better visibility and Insight into the progress of our projects and the ability to provide timely and more precise input that directly impacts our bottom line," says Moreign.

Benefits

With Visual Studio 2012 and Team Foundation Server 2012, Hybrid Decisions experiences many significant improvements, as well as enhanced ALM capabilities, which enabled it to update its offerings and also take advantage of new features in multiple Microsoft products, specifically Microsoft SharePoint 2013, Microsoft Office 2013, Microsoft Office365,

Microsoft SQL Server 2012, and Microsoft Windows Server 2012. Customers can upgrade to the new releases of Microsoft products knowing that Hybrid Decisions' products are already updated for maximum value.

Faster Efficient Development
"Visual Studio 2012 and Team Foundation Server 2012 are pivotal to our everyday life as an ISV and Embedded Provider, especially given our distributed teams. Visual Studio has been and is still, undisputedly, the best IDE for us," notes Moreign. "Changes to Team Explorer such as the My Work window and integrated search, the enhanced debugging experience and IntelliSense, the file preview tab, and multi-monitor support, enable us be fast and efficient."

For example, debugging production environments using IntelliTrace has helped the team optimize products and rapidly troubleshoot issues. "Normally when we're working with the HDC.SyncExcel Appliance, we can't see what's going on inside the box," says Moreign. "By using the IntelliTrace standalone data collector, we can get insight and be extremely responsive. For us, that one feature alone is worth upgrading to Visual Studio 2012."

Improved Project Management
Hybrid Decisions is expanding to new offices in Asia and Europe. "Visual Studio 2012 and Team Foundation Server 2012 are critical to our expansion as it is now more important than ever for us to be able to manage distributed hybrid projects. The ability to collaborate with the designers, developers, testers and stakeholders across the lifecycle of multiple products, while reducing on-boarding delays, due to the real-time visibility into the progress, is exactly what we need," says Moreign. "Time is money and Visual Studio 2012 and Team Foundation Server 2012 save us time!"

Microsoft