

CASE STUDY

FOXit creates award-winning, cross platform mobile app with Telerik RadControls for Windows Phone and Kendo UI



Predicting demand for mobile integration with Microsoft EPM, FOXit used [Telerik RadControls for Windows Phone](#) and [Kendo UI](#) to develop a mobile interface for EPM which would be easy to customize and extend. Their choice was vindicated when they delivered a cross-platform mobile EPM app (METROit) that was leveraged for a major mining enterprise on time and under budget, saving 100 developer hours in the process.

OVERVIEW

COUNTRY

South Africa

INDUSTRY

Software/Services

CUSTOMER PROFILE

FOXit is a South African-based Microsoft Partner delivering world-class PPM solutions based on the Microsoft Business Productivity stack

BUSINESS SITUATION

FOXit supports many of Microsoft's solutions, including its Enterprise Product Management (EPM) suite. However, development within that platform is often difficult. FOXit wanted to create a mobile interface that would make development more seamless.

SOLUTION

FOXit utilized Telerik's RadControls for Windows Phone and Kendo UI for the development of the mobile app--METROit. With more than 40 controls and the ability to target multiple phone and tablet platforms with a single UI codebase using HTML5, FOXit leveraged Telerik technologies to achieve award-winning success.

BENEFITS

- Telerik tools map to Microsoft standards, ensuring ease-of-use with minimal training necessary.
- Platform specific theming limited the need to recreate themes, saving 100+ man hours.



BACKGROUND

FOXit was formed to create an award-winning portfolio of products and solutions, based on the Microsoft Business Productivity Stack. The Microsoft Gold Certified company has gained ground within the enterprise solution development and application space.

With its focus on becoming one

of the leading PPM providers in South Africa and beyond, FOXit was looking to push the envelope with new and innovative solutions. As such, when one of its large, enterprise customers came to FOXit with the need for a cross-platform mobile app, the company jumped into action.

THE CHALLENGE

Project and Portfolio Management (PPM) helps organizations gain visibility and control, enhance decision-making, improve alignment with business strategy, maximize resource utilization and enhance project execution to optimize ROI. However, Microsoft Enterprise Project Management (EPM) can be a difficult environment to work in. Because of this FOXit saw an important market need that was not being addressed – a mobile interface that makes development in EPM easier.

The company needed a set of development controls that was robust and polished – as well as easy-to-use. The app required visual displays, navigation and appropriate messaging as part of the controls package. Additional requirements included the need to look native to the environment and to capture data quickly. An added bonus would be a tool that mapped to Microsoft standards. Further, they needed all of this to be built for cross-platform development without having to recreate themes across individual devices.

• FOXit was recognized as "2012 Microsoft Mobility Business-to-Business Application Partner of the Year."

At the same time, the company was working with a large mining organization that was in desperate need of such an app., but also needed cross-platform functionality.

THE SOLUTION

FOXit selected Telerik Windows Phone Controls and Kendo UI. RadControls for Windows Phone offer a wide range of capabilities and provide the most comprehensive learning resources and support available. It is also the most robust and polished toolset on the market. The FOXit development team leveraged five-to-six controls at any given time, throughout the development cycle – BusyIndicator, DatePicker, TubTile and JumpList, to name a few.

Specifically, RadDataBoundListBox is used to load data quickly and requires less resources than standard controls, RadCalendar quickly accesses specific data or a selected day, RadMessageBox notifies user or action and RadJumpList sorts and groups of data by projects.

"We needed a development platform that would minimize the need to recreate the wheel for each individual device. There were no other solutions on the market that could even come close to what Telerik was doing which is why we opted to work with them," says Wessel Fick, Mobility Product Manager, FOXit.

Key to the success of the project,

“Their tool set is robust and the capabilities of Kendo UI were beyond expectation.”

Wessel Fick, Mobility Product Manager, FOXit.

they were able to build an app that looked-and-felt native on iOS, Android and BlackBerry by targeting multiple phone and tablet platforms with a single UI codebase, using only HTML5 and JavaScript. Kendo UI enabled speedy development across mobile platforms because themes only needed to be created once and were then shared across devices. With a single theme taking up to 40 hours to create, generating individual themes to cover the profusion of mobile devices would have required hundreds of hours. Kendo UI eliminated this burden, freeing FOXit's team to concentrate on developing functionality.

"The other solutions on the market could just not compete with what Telerik had to offer. Out of the box it provides more than 40 controls – everything from animations to charting capabilities – it had everything we needed. Further, its charting capabilities were unreal. I was very happy to have the technology in hand, without having to develop my own. Even

better, Telerik ensures with every new release that it is mapping to the latest Microsoft standards, which makes the technology very easy to use," says Wessel.

THE RESULT

Through the use of Telerik RadControls for Windows Phone and Kendo UI, FOXit created the METROit application. Surfacing information from Microsoft Project Server, optimizing the workday and allowing the proactive management of project work, FOXit was able to provide clients with easy access to business resources that help them both operate efficiently and gain a competitive edge, regardless of location or mobile platform preference. The app helps accelerate business cycles, reduce operating costs and enable a business customer to extend their infrastructures and provide an exceptional user experience.

Because of its innovations, FOXit was recognized as a "2012 Microsoft Mobility Business-to-

Business Application Partner of the Year," quite an accomplishment for a company still in its infancy. The annual awards honor Microsoft partners for delivering innovative solutions during the past year that directly address customer challenges. Award winners are chosen from nominations from around the world and focus on their commitment to customers, their solution's market impact and exemplary use of Microsoft technologies.

"As the Mobility Business-to-Business Application Partner of the Year, FOXit has demonstrated a commitment to business productivity by creating its METROit application, surfacing information from Microsoft Project Server, optimizing your workday, and allowing you to manage your project work proactively. FOXit provides clients with easy access to business resources that help them both operate efficiently and gain a competitive edge." says Randy Kath, general manager, Windows Phone Division, Microsoft Corporation

THE VERDICT

"I've been very pleased with Telerik's tools and will continue to use them for future projects. I've received calls from other vendors, but it would require extensive re-training to use another solution, as they don't map as closely to Microsoft as Telerik and the technology offerings just don't match up – it's just not worth my time," says Wessel.

“ Because of the level of satisfaction I have with Telerik, I've already earmarked additional budget for more developer licenses in the coming year.”

Wessel Fick,
Mobility Product Manager,
FOXit.

ABOUT RADCONTROLS FOR WINDOWS PHONE BY TELERIK

RadControls for Windows Phone help developers create apps that users love and other developers envy. Designed to shorten app time-to-market, productivity boosters include 45+ components, 50+ design templates and a wide range of capabilities to complement the stock UI Toolbox. Using RadControls for Windows Phone, developers can engage more deeply with end-users, earn more ratings and achieve better app rankings.

ABOUT TELERIK

Telerik is the market-leading provider of end-to-end solutions for application development, automated software testing, agile project management, reporting, and content management across all major Microsoft development platforms. Telerik is trusted by more than 100,000 customers worldwide for its innovation and industry-best technical support.

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