CASE STUDY

Digitalmason.net –
Jack of Tools Comes to Windows 8
with Help from Telerik's RadControls
for Windows 8

OVERVIEW

COUNTRY
US

CUSTOMER PROFILE
Jonathan Isabelle is an independent developer, founder of Digitalmason.net and the author of the well-known Jack of Tools app.

CHALLENGE
Jonathan wanted to migrate Jack of Tools to Windows 8 and offer an additional premium 'Pro' version.

SOLUTION
Using the RadControls for Windows 8 by Telerik, Jonathan released both versions of Jack of Tools two months ahead of the official Windows 8 launch.

BENEFITS
• Reduces learning curve for Windows 8
• Quicker app time-to-market
• Helps comply with Windows 8 Store criteria

> " Telerik tools are solid and robust, offering capabilities beyond that of the competition."
>
> Jonathan Isabelle
> www.digitalmason.net

With a very successful app for Windows Phone already downloaded more than 200,000 times, Jonathan Isabelle of Digitalmason.net wanted to make his "Jack of Tools" available for Windows 8. Through the use of Telerik's RadControls for Windows 8, Jonathan was able build his app and get it approved for the Windows Store well before the platform launch.

www.digitalmason.net

BACKGROUND

When independent developer Jonathan Isabelle set out to create Jack of Tools, he wasn't looking for a way to make money. Rather, he wanted to create a tool that was useful and thought a "Swiss army knife" of the phone would be a good idea. The app contains features such as an LED flashlight, compass, geographic camera, virtual level, geo-location, altitude, speed and heading (including average and maximum speed markers), base distance and a sound meter.

In just over a year, Jack of Tools has achieved 200,000+ downloads and Jonathan has built on this success with the creation of close to a dozen additional apps.

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THE CHALLENGE

Given the success of his phone app, Jonathan wanted to make it available for Windows 8 on both the desktop and tablet. He also wanted to offer two versions – a free download and a "Pro" version that would offer additional elements for a nominal fee.

Jonathan wanted his app to be in the Windows 8 Store ahead of the platform launch. However, he needed to fit the project around his full time role as technical lead and software architect at a unified messaging company, adding pressure to his already tight deadline.

THE SOLUTION

Jonathan chose RadControls for Windows 8 by Telerik for the project. Having first learned of Telerik at a Windows Phone Unleashed code camp in April 2011 and having used Telerik's RadControls for Windows Phone for more than a year, he knew the tools to be powerful, feature-rich and capable of providing significant time savings.

"Telerik's tools are solid and robust, offering capabilities

beyond that of the competition. With the release of its RadControls for Windows 8, they did not disappoint and with each new release, they are bringing more and more of the tools developers are familiar with to the forefront," says Jonathan.

Using RadControls for Windows 8, Jonathan created a hybrid of the Jack of Tools app – a free downloadable version and a "Pro" version offering additional features for a small fee. Building the new app, Jonathan leveraged the Charting and Gauge controls saving considerable development time.

"Without Telerik, I would have had to create these controls by hand, which would have taken days or even weeks to do myself. I did not have time to do that, especially since the project is something I was doing in my spare time," says Jonathan.

THE RESULT

Jonathan was able to build both apps and have them certified for posting in the Windows 8 Store two months ahead of the official Windows 8 launch. "I love that

people use the apps and love the feedback I'm given for new and additional features. Also, I'm already getting positive feedback about my app being in the app store so early on. There is no way I would have been able to do that without the use of Telerik's controls."

THE VERDICT

"I will absolutely continue to leverage Telerik's controls for Windows 8 as well as Windows Phone. Since the creation of Jack of Tools, I've already created additional apps that have been submitted to the Windows Store. I also have future plans for an app geared toward pilots, bicyclists and anyone who would benefit from a dashboard of sensor inputs."

FIND OUT MORE

Go to www.telerik.com

Call us +1-888-365-2779

Email sales@telerik.com

ABOUT RADCONTROLS FOR WINDOWS 8 BY TELERIK

The first third-party Windows 8 toolset to reach the market, RadControls for Windows 8 by Telerik fills the gaps in WinRT, helping shorten the development cycle and drive successful app development with rich UI capabilities, whether the target is the enterprise or the consumer marketplace.

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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