

Northwest Door, Inc.

Northwest Door gets to Java 60x faster with m-Power than with an IDE.

A case study from **mrc**

The Basics

With nine plants on nine separate databases, and nine plant managers who all had their own way of doing things, Northwest Door's executives were finding that comparing business intelligence reports between plants was apples to oranges. And that was a major problem. Compounding the situation further, when IT was called upon to create reports, each individual IT developer had their own reporting expertise, so two executives could end up looking at the same data from the same plant, but in completely non-uniform formats, depending on the developer asked to deliver the report.

The Challenge

Additionally, there was an increased demand on IT by executives for more and more reports, and with the non-uniform reporting issues, it became clear to IT Manager, Jean Patterson that a better solution was immediately needed.

She wanted to give Northwest Door's (NWD's) executives a centralized place to access uniform reports live and tied directly to their Frontier ERP system as well as the data from their nine separate plants.

"We knew if we were going to build a centralized place to access all the necessary data, like a dashboard, we were going to have to create specialized menus with each menu running off of a separate database," explained Patterson, "And, more importantly, we needed to make sure individual users would only see the data they needed to see, or had permission to see."

But, that level of complexity was particularly worrisome to NWD's IT department because no one in the department had any prior Java or Web experience at all.

The Solution

"After looking at all our options, m-Power was the one tool that not only allowed us to create all of the different Java servlet applications we wanted, but it also took out all of the backbreaking labor." With mrc's m-Power™, and just a 3-day training course under their belt, NWD's IT department created an executive dashboard with all of the permissions and security they required.

The Value

Aside from the obvious improvements in business intelligence and the immense time savings for both IT and NWD's executives, it's important to note that using m-Power allowed Northwest Door to avoid the enormous expense of Java consultants and costly training courses.

Java's learning curve alone is estimated at between 6 months-2 years. However, by using m-Power, after just three days of training and twelve weeks of planning and development, Jean Patterson, and her IT colleagues designed, built, and presented their Java-based dashboard system to Northwest Door's executives.

That's a 60x faster speed-to-productivity, at the very earliest end of that learning curve, or a 98% overall improvement.

"The best part is, it doesn't stop there," says Patterson. "Now we can quickly create new Java Web solutions for any department. We're planning to convert some of our HR and payroll applications over, and bring them to the dashboard hub."

"In other words," she says, "I get to do the fun stuff, and make it look nice, and take the pat on the back when it comes out so quickly."

