

Objectivity Case History

Customer Information

Customer: CS Institut (CSI), Paris, France

Industry: Various industries, including software development

Application Domain: Training

Status: Operational

Platform: All

Compiler: C++ and JAVA

Other Tools: Various (see CS Institut "Technologies Objets" training brochure)

CS Institut is the in-house training establishment for Groupe CS. Originally Groupe CS was Compagnie des Signaux (the Signals Company) and they were involved in Radar, Telecommunications, Signal Processing, etc. Defence was naturally a major market for them, as was telecoms. Other divisions of CS specialised in transport (including the French TGV (Train Grand Vitesse) and "route" which included the French highway toll booths (Peages). CS Route manages a number of American highway toll booths. To provide systems for all of these markets, there were originally a number of software companies which offered custom systems, standard packages and people to manage and staff projects. These companies included CISI and 3ip (Objectivity's French distributor).

In recent months Groupe CS has been going through a relaunch and reorganisation. The company is still to be known as Groupe CS, but the definition of CS is to become Communications and Systems. As part of this reorganisation, 3ip and CISI will merge into one organisation and relocate to new offices on the outskirts of Paris. The new organisation will have in excess of 600 staff.

A key part of this overall modernisation of the group has been to set about re-training existing staff to meet the challenges of today's systems demands. CS Institut was formed for this purpose and Object Oriented techniques were considered to be particularly important. Courses on offer at CS Institut include CORBA, OLE with MFC, many C++ and JAVA techniques courses and, of course, Objectivity, with JAVA, with C++ and Objectivity Administration. These are the techniques in which Groupe CS personnel will be trained, so as to provide their gained expertise to other organisations throughout France and other countries of the world.

Buying Criteria

The choice of Objectivity was not a foregone conclusion, even though 3ip are Objectivity distributors. Most commercially available object database software is in use somewhere in the group and the expertise of their consultants encompasses all of these systems. Naturally, Oracle 8 was a major consideration because of the number of Oracle systems in use in the group and throughout their client base.

The major issue was the quality of the JAVA interface, as JAVA is seen to be highly strategic at Groupe CS. However, JAVA was not enough by itself, the chosen product should be highly compatible also with C++. The fact that Objectivity could offer more than this was a bonus.

Another issue which weighed heavily, although it was not part of the choice criteria as such, was the availability of good course materials and the co-operativeness of the supplier concerned. On both these issues Objectivity scored very high points.

Why Objectivity

The richness of the Objectivity features list was a major issue in making the choice, as the product could provide a base for training in all aspects of object database design and implementation. The product was demonstrably reliable and well documented, so that Groupe CS felt at ease with quality issues. Of course, the backing of 3ip did have some bearing as did the choice of Objectivity by CERN, who are highly influential on European buyers (CERN is geographically more than 50% in France).

The Courses

CS Institut offers three Objectivity-based courses. These are; Objectivity Development in JAVA (*Developpement Objectivity en JAVA*) a three day course running from 8th February, 6th April, 16th June, 26th July, 11th October and 6th December; Objectivity Development in C++ (*Developpement Objectivity en C++*) a three day course running from 15th March, 5th July and 2nd November, and; Objectivity Administration (*Administration Objectivity*) a two day course running from 10th May and 8th November.

Further information is available by visiting the web site at www.csinstitut.fr

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