

Objectivity Case History

Customer Information

Customer: MCC
Industry: Software Tools
Application Domain: Software Testing Tools
Status: Development
Platform: Solaris
Compiler: Sun C++
Other Tools: Ada

Application is called Quest. It is a source code analyzer for testing purposes. It analyzes testing coverage and does path analysis.

The Quest project initially started using O2 because Motorola gave them an O2 license that was not being used. After significant difficulty and schedule slips, however, they began investigating alternatives. Lane had worked with Objectivity at Lockheed in Palo Alto and had a positive experience with it then. They evaluated Objectivity, then purchased a development license and ported off of O2.

MCC is a research consortium funded by member companies. The members for the Quest project include Motorola, NASA, Nortel, and Honeywell. Because of the funding arrangement, this can be a strong reference to be used for the member companies. There was one project at [REDACTED] that was close to selecting O2 that did not because of the experiences of the MCC group.

Buying Criteria

ODMG Compliance: Since the result of the project might be picked up by different member companies, compliance to standards is an important requirement. Even though Objectivity was not as ODMG compliant as O2, it was close enough to not be disqualified.

Stability: Predictability and consistency in the development and deployment environments was very important to their selection. This was largely due to the bad experience with O2 in this area.

Why Objectivity

Robustness: Objectivity behaved predictably in the development and deployment environments. Any problems encountered were much easier to debug than compared to an O2 problem. Objectivity was “not as idiosyncratic.”

Strong Support: The turn-around time on a support issue was much less with Objectivity as compared to O2, which often required a response from France to get resolved.

Native STL support: The ability to use native STL collections persistently was a strong plus for Objectivity.

Less Intrusive: O2 forced them to work in the O2 environment. You have to use their makefile generator, they modify your code, etc. Objectivity’s build environment was more open and configurable to their needs.

Improvement Requests

Improved indexing and organization of documentation

Event notification, and/or callbacks on handle opens and closes.

Contact Information

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