

Frontech Solutions, Inc.

Valuable product lifecycle insight

Software developer builds powerful and flexible product lifecycle management (PLM) tools with Adobe ColdFusion



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Results

- Supported up to 741% ROI over 10 years by reducing reporting workloads by 72%
- Reduced solution development time by up to 20%
- Gained flexible, fast workflows that preserve the functional reach of the underlying technology
- Improved customer visibility into processes with a powerful, scalable solution
- Improved collaboration and communication with document integration and reporting in a web-based solution

Quick, agile organizations have a greater chance of success in today's global economy, and Frontech Solutions develops the type of fast, responsive software that helps its clients get ahead. The FAN PLM System, built using Adobe ColdFusion, is product lifecycle management (PLM) software that gives users the ability to see and manage workflow data easily on any browser.

Designed for all stakeholders in the lifecycle, from developers and designers, to suppliers and customers; The FAN PLM System helps development teams collaborate and enables managers to visualize the exact costs, development time, and business opportunities for every product they sell. The results are lower operating costs, accelerated delivery, and increased profits.

Maximizing opportunities through strategic alliances

Frontech understands that companies need solution partners that fully understand their industries and can provide invaluable guidance on how to implement new solutions to address business challenges.

"Domain expertise is vital to building a successful PLM system," says Lenny Holden, principal, Frontech Solutions. "Our industry-specific subject matter expertise enables us to deliver comprehensive solutions. Similarly, the thought leadership and technology leadership that Adobe offers in the realm of rapid application development, adds tremendous value to our core product."

Frontech chose Adobe ColdFusion as the foundation for the FAN PLM System because of its ease of implementation, developer community support, scalability, and reliability.

"Adobe ColdFusion enabled us to realize our creative vision for an end-to-end PLM solution," says Boris Djordjevic, CEO, Frontech Solutions. "We chose Adobe ColdFusion as the foundation for the FAN PLM System because it provides a more secure development and application delivery environment while reinforcing our commitment to open standards. It also gives us the flexibility to expand the application to scale with our customers' changing demands."

Unprecedented integration realized with Adobe ColdFusion

Frontech is poised to release a new set of apps that will further enhance the experience for every stakeholder and potential contributor in the product lifecycle development process.

Once hindered by geography, time zones, and file sizes, and recognizing Adobe Illustrator CC as the leading tool for fashion and graphic designers, Frontech developed an Adobe Illustrator plug-in. The plug-in allows designers to access the FAN PLM system right from Illustrator CC or their Creative Cloud environments. Frontech will soon add to the app with a new merchandising and planning component; creating the first fully automated complete apparel, footwear, and accessories tool in the industry.

Additionally, a newly developed FAN PLM Mobile app, will allow all stakeholders in the product lifecycle to have secure access to pertinent data points within FAN PLM systems in real time.

Ease of implementation, developer community support, scalability, and reliability are reasons why Frontech chose Adobe ColdFusion as the foundation for the FAN PLM System. With Adobe ColdFusion, Frontech was able to build dynamic reporting into the solution so that information can be delivered in real time using formats that stakeholders are already using.



Challenge

- Rapidly developing and deploying PLM solutions for customers in competitive industries
- Providing thought leadership on industry best practices and high-performance technology
- Rapidly building a PLM solution for an international brand with dispersed stakeholders

Solution

- Leverage Adobe ColdFusion and Adobe ColdFusion Builder to create a versatile, web-based, open-source PLM solution that can be rapidly developed and deployed
- Focus on advancing the business value of technology by integrating multiple Adobe solutions into its core PLM product

Systems at a glance

Adobe ColdFusion
 Adobe ColdFusion Builder
 Adobe Illustrator CC

"By design, FAN PLM simplifies communication, especially in multi-time zone and multilingual environments," says Holden. "We've built dynamic reporting into the solution, so that information can be delivered in real time using formats that stakeholders are already using like XLS, DOC, XML and dynamic two- and three-dimensional graphs. Adobe ColdFusion makes this all possible."

Frequently lauded for its intuitive user experience and its ability to coordinate across enterprises, Frontech evaluated other applications such as .NET, Java, and PHP, but realized that building an application that offers such rich capabilities as FAN PLM, would have been much more difficult to develop. Adobe ColdFusion was chosen for its high performance, low cost of administration, speed, and agility; ultimately trumping all other technologies.

"Adobe ColdFusion lets us develop powerful applications using less code, which is critical for mobile applications," says Holden. "The new Adobe Illustrator plugin will also help us grant customers direct access to their product and material libraries within FAN PLM. With Adobe ColdFusion, we are advancing the business value of our applications."

Quiksilver, a Frontech success story

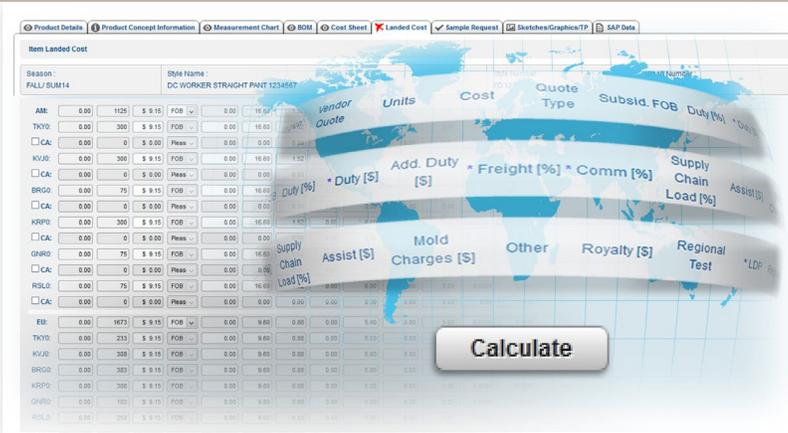
Frontech has been supporting clients in the apparel and footwear industries for almost 20 years. Recently, FAN PLM was brought on by outdoor lifestyle brand, Quiksilver, to revamp an existing and cumbersome PLM solution.

Having successfully launched FAN PLM at Quiksilver's DC Shoes with zero-downtime and immediate increased workflow efficiencies, Quiksilver was confident in Frontech's ability to deliver a rapid and phased launch, to replace their legacy system.

Frontech's clients benefit from the strong integration and collaboration features enabled in Adobe ColdFusion applications, especially with respect to sharing content in popular Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. Furthermore, the built-in, Eclipse-based IDE, Adobe ColdFusion Builder, delivers the promise of an end-to-end web development experience for Frontech, which supports accelerated development without compromising capabilities in the final application.

"We started mapping the development, technology, and costing portions of the system while establishing seasonal libraries for all materials, graphics, and other content," says Djordjevic. "We had 10 developers working on the project, whose backgrounds are in Java, PHP, .NET, and MySQL. By using Adobe ColdFusion, we estimate they put in about 20% less working time than if we'd used other development environments."

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Boris Djordjevic, CEO, Frontech Solutions, Inc.

With the enhanced Frontech application, Quiksilver was able to unite information and workflows from its design, production, and distribution facilities worldwide.

The dynamic task management built into FAN PLM with Adobe ColdFusion allows individuals to organize their own work and become more efficient. Because the PLM solution is event-driven, it allows ongoing updates related to product lifecycle, documentation, alerts, and messages to be distributed through the organization in a clearly defined and structured manner.

Quiksilver is now realizing faster time to market and an improved ability to base business decisions on data. This is not unusual for Frontech customers who typically see returns on their investment in FAN PLM of nearly 244% in the first year alone, with ROI in some cases estimated at 741% after 10 years.

"The enterprise applications we build with Adobe ColdFusion help clients dramatically reduce the hours spent on reporting and report processing," says Djordjevic. "We often see worker-hour savings of 72% with users of FAN PLM."

For more information

www.adobe.com/products/coldfusion-family.html

www.adobe.com/products/coldfusion-builder.html



Adobe

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