



Custom Application Development Methodologies

Our solutions work in real-world environments and deliver on fundamental business goals identified by our clients.

Akcia's main objective is to produce tangible benefits and high returns on our clients' investment in technology. Our process is one that ensures results and is rooted in the Unified Modeling Language (UML – Booch, Rumbaugh, Jacobson) – an industry standard model of technology project management. The central focus of our approach is the end user and their interaction with the system. Our goal is to make the user experience highly productive and intuitive, thereby ensuring that business objectives and high levels of benefits realization are achieved.

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► Mission Definition

- A high level discussion is conducted between Akcia staff and our client. In this stage, the business' vision of their process and elements for success are defined. This definition is lead by exchange between the client's staff and Akcia's staff with our experience helping to develop the rapport and pointed discussion that leads to highly productive sessions. This stage is usually, depending upon the scope, conducted without cost to our perspective client and identifies how Akcia can assist the business in attainment of their goals, both business and technological.
- Deliverable – an understanding of our clients needs, goals and vision. This is communicated via a high-level document authored by Akcia. Its content includes a set project cost for Discovery and a target dollar cost and timeline for complete development and implementation of the project.

► Discovery

- During this process, Akcia delves into the detailed requirements of the system. It is broken down into manageable components. For example – field data gathering, billing, approval, management, reporting, etc. are separated into logical pieces so that they can be clearly defined and completely researched. This immersion into the client's processes ensures that our solution delivers on the needs outlined in the mission definition. Other factors such as cost concerns, technologies and timeline requirements are taken into consideration during this phase and an appropriate roadmap for success is created.
- Deliverables:
 - 1) Detailed design documents – Visual and textual descriptions of user applications and other elements of the system.
 - 2) Prototypes – Simulators of the applications can actually be "clicked" to allow the user to maneuver through the prototype to further define the experience. Tangible illustrations and applications can be discussed and tested for fitness of application.
 - 3) Architecture – Data modeling is performed to ensure that information is captured logically and all reporting and input requirements are met. This is presented to our clients in the form of an ERD or Entity Relationship Diagram - a roadmap of the database.
 - 4) Report mockups – All reporting requirements, sometimes the most important portion of the system and very often the area of highest return, are illustrated with sample reports detailing layout and content.

► Development

- The obvious goal – High quality software that is efficient, highly responsive and easy to maintain throughout its lifespan. Each application is coded to Akcia's exact standards to ensure uniformity in the interface and the highest possible level of performance. After development, rigorous testing is conducted in-house to identify issues and possible points of weakness so that they can be effectively addressed before the software is released. Testing is performed at multiple levels: unit, integration and system testing – all conducted to ensure that the individual components of the system not only work by themselves, but also work in concert with each other and any existing infrastructure leveraged for the project.
- Deliverable – The system itself. Fully tested with complete user documents, our client receives the software and database elements that compose the system.

► Implementation

- No matter how sophisticated or robust the system, there are other elements that contribute to its acceptance, usage and ultimately its effectiveness that go beyond the software itself. Client education is conducted and knowledge transfer is performed with our client's technical personnel to alleviate any dependence on Akcia's staff. Upon delivery, Akcia offers an alternative to alleviating any burden on your organization to maintain and provide the hardware, system and network expertise and time necessary to implement and run on the platform.
- Deliverables:
 - 1) Client classes
 - 2) Technical turnover meetings
 - 3) Support agreements
 - 4) Application Service Provider relationships
 - 5) Prognostic forecasts and project outlooks

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