



## BORLAND CASE STUDY

### lastminute.com

#### FAST FACTS

##### COMPANY

Launched in October 1998, lastminute.com is an online provider of last-minute travel and leisure solutions.

##### INDUSTRY

Travel

##### GEOGRAPHY

Worldwide

##### CHALLENGES

- Manage design, modeling, quality assurance, and deployment of software development projects.

##### SOLUTION

- Borland Together® ControlCenter®

##### RESULTS

- Enabled development teams to standardize on one modeling tool across multiple teams and projects.

#### ABOUT LASTMINUTE.COM

Launched in October 1998, lastminute.com, an online provider of last minute travel and leisure solutions, had grown to become one of Europe's most popular and successful e-commerce sites offering a range of travel, entertainment and gift services.

#### THE CHALLENGE

To select a development platform that would allow team members to effectively manage the design, modeling, quality assurance, and deployment aspects of software development projects. The software development teams at lastminute.com were focused on specific business areas such as flights, hotels, and leisure. lastminute.com anticipated that the new development platform would help it deliver further functionality in these key business areas to enhance customer experience and generate increased revenues.

“Following initial discussions, we amassed key selection criteria for the modeling environment. These included: support for all significant UML™ 1.3 models; ease of use; facilitation of collaboration across teams; the ability to map business requirements to technical uses cases; the ability to generate documentation from the command line for ease of automation; and the ability to generate models from source code, and to maintain models in sync with their corresponding source,” explained David Hodges, Development Process Engineer, lastminute.com.

lastminute.com identified a need within its development teams for a standard UML® modeling tool; but while modeling code would make a tool attractive, that alone was not sufficiently compelling for them to adopt it.

“We identified that real benefit would come from a tool that keeps our models seamlessly in sync with our source code and allows us some degree of control over the nature of the generated source,” explains Nigel Beighton, CTO of lastminute.com. “The use of standard patterns and templates means that we can standardize on best practice code solutions, and incorporate new solutions as and when we discover them.”

“The generation of models from code is not only appealing from the point of view of day-to-day development,” comments Hodges, “generating models from source will help lastminute.com developers get up to speed on legacy code far quicker than reading through Java files or out-of-date project descriptions.”

J2EE™ development is not yet dominant within lastminute.com, but it is on the increase, and that trend will grow over time as the company looks to standardize on this technology. lastminute.com wanted any modeling/development platform purchased to be of use in a J2EE context, e.g., deployment descriptors, home and remote interface generation, EJB™ references and EAR deployment.

## Borland Case Study: lastminute.com

**“Together ControlCenter(’s)...ability to maintain seamless integration between UML modeling and the source code was a particular feature of the tool which appealed to us.”**

— DAVID HODGES, DEVELOPMENT PROCESS ENGINEER, LASTMINUTE.COM

### THE DECISION

“When making our decision we went through an extensive two-month evaluation period,” commented Hodges. “During that time we fully assessed a comprehensive number of competing products, trying to use them within our day-to-day environment. We researched further by attending seminars, and speaking with many of the product representatives.”

After completion of their evaluation procedure in July 2002, lastminute.com opted for the purchase of Together® ControlCenter® to be used by a 50+ strong development team.

“The reason behind our decision to choose Borland, over its competitors, was in short that Together ControlCenter met more of our key criteria than the others,” explains Beighton. “Together ControlCenter is a product we trust, which give us the best route forward with our existing development capability, supporting our strategic move to J2EE and a greater use of Open Source solutions.”

“Together ControlCenter delivers the functionality we required,” explains Hodges. “Its ability to maintain seamless integration between UML modeling and the source code was a particular feature of the tool which appealed to us. Being able to adopt two very different views of the same code is quite powerful and simply could not be achieved using the other tools that we assessed.”

### THE SOLUTION

One of the many benefits Together ControlCenter brings to lastminute.com development teams that it allows the standardization on a single modeling tool across multiple teams and projects.

Commenting on the benefits of the tool to lastminute.com, Hodges remarked: “The tool brings three key benefits — the use of patterns and templates allows us to assimilate the efficacy of our development teams code solutions, while generation of models from source code makes it considerably easier to assess legacy code. Finally, management of documentation from the one development tool makes it more likely that documentation is complete and consistent across multiple teams and projects.”

“Together ControlCenter is a stable, well-crafted tool which really appealed to our developers,” explains Beighton. “Integrating Together ControlCenter was straightforward. The tool makes no demands on how we structure our code, so we were able to begin using it right from the start.”

### ABOUT BORLAND

Borland Software Corporation is a global leader in platform independent solutions for Software Delivery Optimization. The company provides the software and services that align the people, process, and technology required to maximize the business value of software.

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