OCI GRAILS CASE STUDY: BRINQA

RELEVANT BACKGROUND

A leading provider of unified risk management, Brinqa uses its award winning software and cloud services to leverage an organization’s existing investment in systems, security, and governance programs to identify, measure, manage, and monitor risk. Brinqa’s solutions are trusted by Fortune 500 companies across risk and security disciplines, such as information technology risk, vendor risk, security operations, and vulnerability management.

OPEN SOURCE FIRST APPROACH

“From an adoption point of view, we always try to use Open Source first.”

Brinqa’s leadership are long time advocates of Open Source. Brinqa CEO, Amad Fida, enthusiastically shares:

“I am a big believer of Open Source technologies. Open Source is a different mindset, culture, and skill set. It is about engaging and learning with a community that’s doing interesting work – to collaborate, contribute, grow, and improve a technology together.

Maintaining and supporting proprietary software development can be quite painful. There is no way to look at or improve code, or exchange ideas. You are stuck with a company to resolve your issues and don’t have many options.

Open Source technologies allow you to stay on the cutting edge of software. It provides an ecosystem where everyone is contributing to the technology.”

EARLY ADOPTER OF GRAILS

Brinqa began looking at Grails in 2008 to support and ease the burden of some substantial code development and configuration efforts. Brinqa was immediately drawn to Grails because of its convention-over-configuration foundational approach, and because it was written in Groovy, which offered the same functional programming and flexibility as Java. Brinqa’s development team was largely Java developers, familiar with the Spring Framework. Coupled with ORM, convention-over-configuration, and lots of built-in plug-ins, Brinqa’s Grails adoption was an easy and sensible transition. Brinqa cites the following benefits of adopting Grails:

- Use of Grails enabled quicker project development efforts and upgrades, greatly improving overall responsiveness to business demands.
- The Grails feature set was tailored specifically for the organization, ultimately resulting in streamlined learning, development efficiency, and support responsiveness.

PROJECT DETAILS

“It was a natural choice for us to work with OCI for this effort. We needed help from the guy who wrote GORM; this was a fairly complex effort, and we didn’t think anyone else could handle it.”

In June 2015, Brinqa was looking for development support around a Neo4j plug-in for Grails. Brinqa knew this effort was complicated, as it required particular expertise in Grails, GORM (Grails Object Relational Mapper), and Neo4j. As Home to Grails, OCI was uniquely positioned to support Brinqa in this project. Ultimately, the effort involved two projects and two versions of Neo4j. The first project was an upgrade to Neo4j 2.x, allowing use of the new technologies available. The second project required a rewrite of GORM for Neo4j, as an even newer version of the Neo4j Bolt Driver for Neo4j 3.x became available.

FEATURE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Since the beginning, Brinqa has used and advanced Open Source technologies whenever and wherever possible. Over the past few years, Brinqa’s team has developed and sponsored the development of a Neo4j plug-in that connects with GORM, which has since been made available to the community. Brinqa’s investments in this regard have certainly showcased Brinqa as a leader in overall product stewardship, with Neo4j and the community at large.

“The real benefit to us is that we want to see Grails continue to grow, for us and for the community. We are not really looking for recognition but it would be great if more people know about and use the plug-in, which would lead to its continued evolution and improvement.”

The Open Source product development model depends on companies like Brinqa, who invest in and rely upon the development, testing, quality improvements, security hardening, and overall advancement of Open Source technologies. As Brinqa’s CEO shared, Open Source technologies are the product of community collaboration and contribution, and Brinqa has demonstrated its commitment to Grails and the community.

OVERALL BUSINESS OUTCOMES

Grails continues to evolve and add capabilities, and Brinqa continues to incorporate and enhance their Grails environment to aid productivity and overall business support. But more importantly, Grails continues to deliver on the initial promise that drove Brinqa adoption and use of Grails a few years back – to make Java development faster and easier.

OCI ADVANTAGES

- 24+ years’ experience with Open Source product development & building high performance, real-time, mission critical systems
- Graids co-founders lead the OCI Grails team, along with subject matter experts from around the globe
- Engaging the Grails core team enables quicker project upgrades, improving overall speed-to-market
- Engaging the OCI team affords access to OCI’s network of Open Source technologists, delivering quick and seamless support for other projects

We write some of the world’s most powerful software solutions, are deeply committed to Open Source, and have trained over 50,000 developers. We proudly sponsor the Graids framework, and stand ready to help you enhance your Graids journey. Please contact us today to discuss your next Graids project.

OCI | HOME TO GRAILS

+1 (314) 579-0666 • info@objectcomputing.com • www.objectcomputing.com