

Collaborative Software Development: Creating an integrated workflow process

Randy Wyatt, US Navy, Memphis Tennessee; my title is application engineering branch head.

What we do is essential for the Navy mission; we put the right people with the right skill set in the right place. Okay, so that means ships, planes and subs.

My group supports these Legacy systems, there are three major systems, 45 applications, or sub-systems of those applications from three disparate geographical locations; that's Pensacola Florida, Memphis Tennessee and New Orleans Louisiana.

Now, you have to understand that the Navy has been around for a long time and corporate mainframe systems still exist; these are Cobol mainframe applications that run personnel systems from years past. What we're trying to do is take them into the next generation, or fourth generation software systems.

The great thing about the Rational Team Concert and how it's helped me do my work is, it's actually brought this team together, and not only from the collaborative point of view where we have a lot of good tools like the Sametime and project management tools, but it's brought the lines of business to the IT shop, whereas before what we had was we had a lot of business analysts; we'd go out and have stake holder meetings and we'd get requirements and they'd put them into RequisitePro, which is a tool that we used before, they'd be handed off to the development team and they really didn't understand the customer's lines of business. They really didn't know the process, and because of the Rational Team Concert's ability to translate that to our IT or development shop, they've actually seen more involvement into the workflow process with the stake holders.

It's been a more tightly integrated group, not only from the business analyst and quality managers and testing units, but from the stake holders; the actual lines of business owners, and they've gotten more involved into the development process, whereas before it was just a hand-off to my shop.