



Visual Localize .NET- decreases localization costs and time-to-market for NexWatch, the leader of multilingual access control management systems

September 2003

When NexWatch began designing the high scalable version of its security management software suite "Pro-Watch™", they needed the best localization approach to receive a terminological and consistent translated product in time and budget for currently six countries. AIT's software localization tool "Visual Localize® .NET" and their software localization process met the requirements, enabling NexWatch to deliver a completely translated, cultural adapted security solution that can be shipped to local markets within a very short time range. The benefits by using Visual Localize® .NET for the localization of Pro-Watch™ were increased productivity due to a smarter localization process, better quality of localized software and easy to learn localization tool. In addition to this, NexWatch experienced a significant reduction in their product lead time to market, giving their company a significant business advantage.

Situation

NexWatch is an industry leader for access management needs. With its worldwide support and advanced system solutions the customers of NexWatch know that their systems are the most secure, convenient and reliable in the world.

A quarter century ago NexWatch invented proximity access control and the access control industry was changed dramatically. NexWatch's proximity technology allowed authorized personnel to gain access to secure areas by simply presenting a Command Key to a sensor. No physical contact was necessary; the sensors were able to read a Command Key even when it remained in a user's purse, pocket, wallet or briefcase. NexWatch started the hands-free access control revolution.

NexWatch quickly gained worldwide reputation as a manufacturer of high-quality access control systems and began its domination of the proximity access control market.

In order to cover the global needs for access management solutions NexWatch was confronted with the challenge to localize their flexible and highly scalable Pro-Watch™ software very quickly.

Solution Overview

Customer Profile

NexWatch is a division of Honeywell and is an industry leader in security solutions. NexWatch provides most access control hardware and software like access control panels and DigiReaders. More than 50,000 locations around the world rely on NexWatch systems to handle the full spectrum of today's access control needs.

Business Situation

NexWatch wanted to optimize the localization process of their security solution in order to gain new customers with a localized product in a very short time range.

Solution

The company selected AIT AG's software localization tool Visual Localize® .NET to accelerate their localization process into different European and bidirectional languages.

Benefits

- The localization tasks could be shifted from the developer AND the translator to the sole responsibility of the translator. This fact
- Saves expensive IT resources and
- Raises developer productivity.
- Provides faster time-to-market
- Reduces localization complexity

Solution

To address these challenges, NexWatch optimized their existing localization process because of the huge amount of manual work with Visual Localize® .NET. NexWatch has been able to minimize the manual work and streamlined the whole localization process. Also the core translation phase, which has been outsourced for the first language versions to their local offices and “Visual Localize® .NET makes NexWatch developer's and translators life easy and definitely saves time compared to the native way of creating multilingual software applications. In addition to this, Visual Localize® is very user friendly and the introduction to new users is easy.” says Eric Green, Technical Development Director at NexWatch.

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Eric Green
Technical Development Director,
NexWatch

One Tool for different source file types

Another challenge was to find a solution for localization, which was able to handle different file types (e.g. Microsoft SQL database, XML files and binary application files) in ONE tool in order to reduce the preparation tasks and the risk of incomplete translated software.

NexWatch is now able to translate their software only once and reuse the translation for future software versions. All changes in a newer software version are automatically recognized by Visual Localize®. Just these improvements have to be translated in order to ship a new version to the NexWatch customers. “The centralization of the localization process helps us to achieve a very short reaction time for the needs of our world wide customers.” says Anton Fischer, Product Manager Europe.

Latest Enhancements to Increase Developer Productivity

NexWatch initially began development with multiple different language libraries when Pro-Watch™ was released for the first time. All this files were shipped to the translators. Very often just half of the files came back translated. Visual Localize® organizes a localization project always in a single project file – even when the results are multiple files with language specific information. The advantage in the handling of a single language-dependent project file was recognized very early. This enhancement saved significant time when localizing a new software version. “In case of an update we only have to ship a single project file to the translators. The error-prone handling of hundreds of files and the associated version administration issues is eliminated”, says Jonathan Lawry, Software Engineer at NexWatch. “Having the language dependent phrases included in one language library file saved hours of time to build a complete localization project.”

The dramatic improvement of quality of the translated software is another benefit of using Visual Localize® .NET. The risk of incomplete translations, faulty or inconsistent software and the associated liability risks are dramatically reduced. Garbled dialog layouts, which can make an application useless, are identified automatically. “Since no source code is needed for the translation the risk of an accidentally changed code fragment is eliminated.” That will lead to much less time for quality tests of the localized software releases.

Benefits

Time- & Cost Saving through Automatic Reuse

With Visual Localize[®], NexWatch built a security solution which can be nearly localized without the help of a developer. Eric is convinced that taking these measures will help to increase the number of new Pro-Watch[™] customers. He points out that the companies primary motivation for taking this path was to streamline the whole localization costs by decreasing the localization tasks of his developers.

“A significant benefit has been the almost complete automation of translating direct matches in software updates. These can now be processed in-house or in our local offices instead of being sent to localization vendors. The elimination of the vendor cost for further product upgrades has already saved the costs of the Visual Localize[®] licenses during the first use”, says Mr. Fischer.

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Anton Fischer
Product Marketing Manager,
NexWatch Europe

Visual Localize[®] .NET decreases Time-to-Market

According to Eric, another major benefit for NexWatch is the ease of performing last minute update requests from customers and changing markets.

“The ability to leverage from previous translations using Visual Localize[®] ensured that software updates were quick and easy to schedule within our translation workflow. Prior to the introduction of Visual Localize[®] managing software updates was a major bottleneck in our process, not only in terms of time, but also in IT resources”, says Mr. Green.

Quality Improvement

As Visual Localize[®] works independent from the source code it prevents the translator from introducing any bug into the application. Furthermore, Visual Localize[®] improves the quality by the use of context sensitive dictionaries, automatic upgrades from previous versions, visual context information in the form of previews, dialog layout error checking and automatic reuse of already translated phrases in order to obtain important competitive advantages.

As a company offering a wide selection of security solutions for all types of enterprises, NexWatch need to maintain the quality, style and terminology of the localized material consistent through their product base. Visual Localize[®] has allowed them to reuse previously localized and validated material in all new software products.



Visual Localize® .NET

Visual Localize® is an application that fully supports the software localization process of Microsoft Windows applications (including .NET applications), MS databases and XML files. It dramatically reduces cost, effort and complexity of software localization.

For more information about Visual Localize® .NET and localization services, please visit the product homepage:

<http://www.visloc.com/>

AIT AG

AIT AG is one of the pioneers in the area of application development for MS Windows software in Germany's industrial sector. AIT AG has offered concepts and tools for software localization for many years and is one of the leading solution providers for distributed software solutions based on MS .NET technology.

For more information about AIT AG and their services, please visit the company's homepage:

<http://www.aitag.com/>

NexWatch

NexWatch is a division of Honeywell and is an industry leader in security solutions.

NexWatch provides access control hardware and software for more than 50,000 customers in the world.

For more information about NexWatch and access control management, please visit the company's homepage:

<http://www.nexwatch.com/>

More Information

For more information about AIT's products and services using the World Wide Web, go to:

<http://www.aitag.com> (AIT AG company website)

<http://www.visloc.com> (Visual Localize® .NET – Product homepage)

For more information about NexWatch's products and services, visit the Web site at:

<http://www.nexwatch.com>