

At the Java edge

Another important development this year for OCS has been the increase in the amount of Java development and support work we have been asked to undertake. It seems as though the need to be able to utilise services outside of the usual contract model is increasing. Recently we have undertaken; short term consultancy review work, fixed price development, part-time support and irregular periods of on-site secondment. This increase in demand has meant that we have invested in increasing the size of our Java team to meet your needs.

Our continuing success in delivering Java solutions has also generated strong interest in our staff capability from both current customers not previously using OCS' Java skills and from new customers who are finding us on the web. I'm pleased to see that we are now delivering Java expertise to nearly all our enterprise customers in one form or another which is excellent, as staff are rotating around customers gaining and keeping knowledge in various domains and environments so they can be utilised as and when required.

Having built up experience for more than a decade with a track record of delivery coupled with our adoption of Agile methods across the board have made us an excellent partner for companies who want to tap into a proven pool of talent.

Whether the requirement be a short term review, long term assignment or a self contained project, OCS is able to help with staff covering Project Management, Architecture, Development and Testing within Java / Agile environments, so if you're interested in finding out more please get in touch or visit:

www.ocs-consulting.com/JavaServices



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Let us help with the old when bringing in the new

Probably, like many of you, all we really want for Christmas, New Year, 2013 and for the foreseeable future is for the UK to continue to stay away from recession, start to grow and generate the sort of prospects that will provide us with secure, busy and good times ahead. Of course, our kids depending on their age might disagree. No doubt, the younger ones will want some sort of mobile device to play on, the teenagers will want something fruity such as an Apple or Blackberry and those entering their 20's and finishing their education, I suppose actually more like us, it would be good if they had improved career prospects and the opportunity to secure the sort of work they would like... perhaps even in IT ☺.

Mind you, having said that we have started to see some improvement in business activity, as mentioned in previous newsletters, which does bode well for next year. Slowly companies are starting to progress on both their strategic IT investments and operational discretionary projects and this Summer and Autumn we have seen a continued progression. In particular, as well as the leading edge developments, of which more on Page 2, we are continuing to see a shift towards more on-site or local support of applications, environments and technologies, which are going through a state of modernisation or replacement. Be it due to large strategic SAP, Oracle or Java programs or due to global or local reorganizing and re-architecting

of systems, many valuable staff with inherent business and environmental knowledge are being moved into new areas. It has been recognised that older, core applications will need to be looked after for some time and carefully, often for a number of years until such time they will be replaced. This is where we have seen an important growth to our business, supporting many of these core often older systems.

OCS' long tradition and experience of straddling old and new technology have made us the ideal partner to work with customers in this kind of situation. Working at the customers pace, replacing in-house staff with OCS staff picking up the business and technical knowledge and building the team as required either through current staff, or recruited staff especially for the role. Our view is, who better to do the looking after of these important old systems than a team that looks, feels and behaves like those that moved away, a team that values the work and the experience, a team that can flex as required and will invest as required in those old systems.... An OCS team.

So, if you are considering how to best staff up and manage your way through a modernisation program of balancing current systems whilst developing new ones

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Customer experiences

Joining the Global Support Team

International corporate reorganisation, is certainly a growing area and more often than not IT systems form a core component of achieving global efficiencies. One of OCS' customers is going through one such change and has requested for OCS to join its global support team as the service centre for specialist systems based in the UK. As part of this move, OCS is being integrated into the customers' automated help-desk and service management function, will be managed by its global support partner based out of the far east and will be delivering support to users based internationally.

At the Leading Edge

With our long-term track record of successfully delivering Agile / Java projects, OCS has been awarded a major project development contract to deliver a leading edge web delivery platform for an International Publisher. The platform which will eventually support the distribution of multiple publications will be developed at OCS' office in Borehamwood.

Straddling the old and the new

Working within this international logistics supplier for many years, providing point support solutions for both core legacy systems and modern Java based systems from our office in Borehamwood, OCS has become core to the knowledge around certain solutions. With this in mind and with internal decisions to reorganise functional responsibility, OCS has been awarded an increase in scope to contracts which now cover 1st, 2nd and 3rd line support for both developed and 3rd party delivered software.

Increasing the local support team

As more in-house staff move on to exciting new strategic projects for this financial services customer, OCS has been asked to increase the size of its team to provide back-to-back cover in all application, database and infrastructure areas. The success of the initial team and seamless nature of the transition has given confidence that level and commitment of OCS staff provides a sound basis for the accessibility of key internal staff to new projects.

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give us a call to hear first-hand how we can work with you and make the transition as smooth as possible.

Finally, as we approach the festive season, we have some reason to be optimistic. The economy feels better, you our customers are entrusting us with longer term engagements and we are looking to expand our team. Hopefully we can continue this more positive cycle into the year ahead.

I'd like to thank all of you for your support this year—the 28th in OCS' history and I hope that as we move into 2013, you will receive everything you wish for... and the kids get their devices as well ☺.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at OCS.



It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.....

We would be delighted if you can join us for festive riverside drinks and food at:

Doggetts Coat & Badge (The Terrace Bar)

1 Blackfriars Bridge, London SE1 9UD

(nearest tube/mainline station: Blackfriars)

On Thursday 6th December 2012

From 7.00 p.m. 'til late

(please feel free to pop in at anytime)

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