

Jeppesen Center of Excellence Implements IBM Rational Build Forge, Cutting Build Time Up To 94%



Snapshots of Build Forge Performance

Project 1

A single eight-hour build was reduced to 29 minutes. (94% reduction)

Project 2

A four-hour manual build was reduced to 31 minutes. (87% reduction)

Project 3

A build that formerly took two hours is now done in 15 minutes. (88% reduction)

“There is a lot more potential for our teams to gain efficiencies using additional Build Forge functionality, but even scraping the top of the iceberg, the payoff of implementing Build Forge was pretty much immediate. People throughout the organization are hearing about it and interest is growing. I now have a long list of development team requests to implement Build Forge on their projects.”

-Ali Saloom

Sr. Software Configuration
 Management Specialist
 Center of Excellence

Situation: Jeppesen Technology Services (JTS) used manual build procedures that required a considerable amount of expertise to execute. They were highly reliant on human intervention and produced varied and unreliable results. When builds failed, there was a considerable amount of guesswork required to pinpoint the problem. SCM Specialists were spending most of their time producing and troubleshooting builds, leaving little time for the customer support aspect of their jobs. Developers, Quality Assurance Engineers and other team members were often unable to get immediate tool support, delaying work and risking slips in schedules.

Challenge: The Center of Excellence, a JTS resource that provides expertise on project management and development best practices, evaluated several automation tools to fulfill their strategic objective to introduce consistency into the build process through automation. Their goal was to implement a tool that would integrate with other tools already in use, allowing the development cycle to progress around the clock, rather than through serial steps requiring manual intervention that limited progress to the 8-5 work hours. At the same time, they needed to be sure that the solution wasn't just a technological fit, but it satisfied JTS user needs as well.

*“Jeppesen recognized build automation as a necessity and did a thorough proof of concept. **cognence** had a history with Jeppesen for improving processes and implementing automation, so we continued the partnership to implement Build Forge at the Center of Excellence.”* –Mike Baker, **cognence** Consultant

Solution: After careful evaluation and vendor demonstrations, the Center of Excellence chose to implement IBM Rational Build Forge because it fulfilled their requirements for flexibility, scalability and the ability to invoke several tasks in parallel. **cognence**, an IBM Rational Partner and expert in automated tool integration, installed and configured Build Forge and provided customized training for the Center of Excellence and JTS engineering teams.

Result: With the help of **cognence**, the Center of Excellence has migrated nearly 50% of their projects to Build Forge over 8 months. Builds can now be kicked off by anyone on the development team, no longer require human intervention and can even be scheduled to run at night. The Build Forge tool allows for repeatability and automatically generates reports. Its implementation has improved the efficiency of engineering processes and allowed SCM Specialists to apply their knowledge in more effective ways. Build Forge has taken the guesswork out of where the problems are in the build process and allowed them to cover more projects in the same amount of time with greater reliability.

