

CVS Concurrent Development Capability and Branching Implementation

Snapshots of Concurrent Development

- Set up branching functionality in CVS tool
- Trained developers on how to set up workspaces and merge branches
- Created automated reporting to keep track of progress

“When I need a process improvement consultant, I typically need them immediately. **cognence** has been exceedingly responsive, providing us with experts in as little as 24 hours. The **cognence** consultants that I've worked with have not only brought product expertise but also efficiency in knowledge transfer to our projects. When they leave, our staff is well prepared to do their jobs.”

Pat
 Director of Process
 Improvement

Situation: One of **cognence's** high tech clients was preparing to release a disc-based storage array and needed to create code branches, which allow progress on new software versions while engineers simultaneously fix bugs in the original code. Engineers can then merge the branches, keeping new development intact while introducing bug fixes to the next release.

Challenge: The client did not have in-house experience with the branching functionality of their CVS configuration management tool and developers were having trouble keeping their work areas in sync with the CVS repository.

“We were approaching a standstill and it was important to get help with configuration management as we moved into a new code base.” -Pat, Director of Process Improvement

Solution: First, **cognence** brought in a configuration management expert to address the client's needs. Within a couple of days, he had the first branch up and running and then created the capability to merge branches. He hosted training classes for the developers to teach them to set up their work space in the correct branch, wrote a training manual and left behind documentation with technical and theoretical detail on the CVS environment. He also trained the new configuration manager on the CVS scripts, SCM body of knowledge, and strategic management so that he was well-armed to move forward.

To resolve the difficulties in keeping work areas in sync with the repository, he created a series of reports that automatically run against the CVS repository nightly and post key metrics to a Web site, helping the client to better manage the project.

“As with any company, there are internal processes we need to go through before bringing in a consultant, but in this case my needs were immediate. Our ongoing relationship with **cognence** allowed me to move forward when it was critical, before our developers were at a standstill. I needed an expert, and they provided one.” - Pat, Director of Process Improvement

Results: **cognence** brought in a configuration management expert who not only set up branching immediately but also trained the client's developers to successfully move forward with the project. After training, the team had the ability to set their work space to separate branches, allowing some developers to work on new versions while others were fixing defects in the old code. Ultimately, they could confidently merge the two branches.

The client was left with extensive documentation on the CVS tool and an in-house expert on software configuration management.

“Hiring **cognence** was money well spent. If we hadn't brought them in, we could have lost weeks of time to market.” - Pat, Director of Process Improvement

