

Microsoft Visual Studio.NET

Microsoft launches eight international versions of Visual Studio.NET, providing a fully localized programming suite

The Business Challenge

Microsoft Corporation wanted to extend the success of Visual Studio.NET in the United States by releasing it internationally. This undertaking, Microsoft's largest single software package localization ever, would provide the first development environment to be entirely localized into eight different languages. Achieving success in this project would require the following:

- **Developing** new tools and processes to produce the localized versions on time.
- **Localizing** over 14 million words of documentation and close to 1 million words of software user interface into each language (French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese and Korean).
- **Deep understanding** of Visual Studio.NET and its technical nature.

A vendor committee within Microsoft set out to find the ideal vendor in each region: East Asia and Western Europe. After reviewing several options, Microsoft chose L10N Technology (LT) for both regions. Microsoft saw cost-effectiveness and time-to-market benefits in outsourcing to a single multilingual vendor (MLV).

"We decided to use LT because it has put in place a worldwide structure capable of han-

dling a project of this size and complexity and of delivering the technical quality our customers around the world require," said Fabrice Fonck, director of international development at Microsoft. "Using a hub-and-spoke model in Europe and East Asia, we were able to streamline training, communication and support throughout the 16-month project. We were extremely pleased with the quality and timeliness of all LT deliverables."

The LT Solution

At the outset, LT assembled strong centralized project management and communication pathways; these factors were especially important for the efficient functioning of a large and dispersed team of more than 400 in-house localization specialists and hundreds of external resources.

Due to the complexity and highly technical nature of the material, team members underwent training to learn the product thoroughly. In addition, they were trained on the tools that would facilitate production. These included:

- **Microsoft** proprietary localization tools.
- **Industry** standard tools such as Trados.
- **Tools** developed by LT for glossary extraction and preparation.

Throughout the process, LT teams worked in close cooperation with local Microsoft subsidiaries in order to tailor the product to the unique conditions of each market.

The Customer Benefits

Microsoft launched eight localized versions of Visual Studio.NET, a core product of its .NET strategy, within weeks of the product's U.S. release.

LT's localization of this tool was integral to Microsoft's .NET initiative, allowing developers throughout the world to create state-of-the-art applications and XML Web services.

To learn more, contact us at mcgcompany@naver.com or find us on the Web at www.liontech.co.kr.