MSDLT, Oxford University

Medical Sciences Division Learning Technologies focuses on the development of student exam and feedback systems, e-learning systems, and research and administrative computer systems in University of Oxford.

ABOUT MSDLT, OXFORD UNIVERSITY

MSDLT (Medical Sciences Division Learning Technologies), Oxford University, is responsible for the development of e-learning, research, and admin systems across departments in the division.
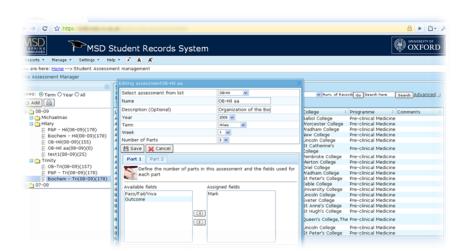
MSDLT has successfully delivered computer systems in different areas, such as e-learning content management platform, assessment and feedback systems in the past few years.

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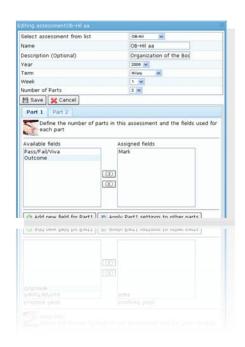
THE PROJECT

Student Record System is designed to replace multiple spreadsheets currently used to manage student information.

The system will be used by a wide range of departmental administration units across the Division (e.g Pre-Clinical Faculty Office, Medical Sciences Office, etc.).

THE CHALLENGE

For MSDLT, the biggest challenge is the performance issue as the data is huge, and users don't want the returned list box result to be paged. So it becomes necessary to be able to display 500 listrows in one page, where each row may contain more than 15 listcells.

Why ZK

ZK was chosen as the ideal framework to carry out the project not only because the combination of turbo-boosted ZK with WebKit engine based browsers (Safari and Chrome) delivered a satisfying performance.

The "Full stack" presentation of ZK also minimized workload on implementing Ajax component greatly. Plus, ZK is extremely easy to learn for experienced Java developers, thus improved productivity, and reduced costs.

High profile in integration with other systems and browser-independent which provides identical user experience across different browsers are also important points in the decision as well. With the easiness of integrating with other systems, MSDLT built their solution with ZK, Spring (SpringWS and Spring Security - Acegi), and Hibernate with minimum effort.

The Result

"None of other systems in the market were able to provide these features.", said MSDLT.

"With ZK, we are able to develop web-base rich client system without any investment on training and staff development."

In contrast to their old way of managing student data in Excel spreadsheets, users can access the system from any terminal with internet connection and changes can be seen by other users immediately.

Solution delivered with ZK is more affordable, and of great worth.