Success Story

Prodin's Journey to Web Modernization with webforJ

> The ability to reuse our core Java business logic while modernizing the front-end in webforJ was a game-changer for us. We avoided the complexity of multi-stack development, kept our entire solution in Java, and dramatically sped up delivery.

Introduction:

Prodin Business Solutions, a Dutch ERP software provider with over 45 years of experience, was faced with the task of modernizing its robust, Swing-based Java ERP application for a web-first world. After exploring various options, including Low Code platforms and a Java backend combined with front-end frameworks like Angular and React, Prodin ultimately chose **webforJ**. This decision enabled them to transform their ERP system into a browser-based solution without compromising their existing business logic or development flexibility. Here's how Prodin successfully navigated their modernization journey and why webforJ stood out as the optimal choice.

The Challenge

Prodin's ERP system was built on a reliable Java Swing-based architecture. While it served their customers well, the desktop-bound nature of Swing limited the scalability, accessibility, and modern features that today's users expect. Prodin explored various modernization paths, including **Low Code platforms** and **JavaScript frameworks** paired with a Java backend. However, each of these alternatives presented challenges that made them less appealing.

■ **Low Code Platforms:** While attractive for rapid development, Prodin quickly realized that Low Code

platforms would ultimately require a complete rewrite of their ERP system. Additionally, these platforms often impose tight development constraints, limiting the ability to fine-tune functionality and user experience. Prodin needed the flexibility to customize their application without being boxed in by the rigid frameworks of Low Code solutions.

■ **Angular/React with Java Backend:** Although modern front-end frameworks like Angular and React are popular for building web applications, integrating them with a Java backend proved to be overly complex. This approach would have required a **multi-stack development** process, forcing Prodin to divide their development efforts across different technologies and teams. The overhead of managing two separate codebases and ensuring compatibility between them was too costly and time-consuming.

The Solution

Why Prodin Chose webforJ

After evaluating these alternatives, Prodin found a better solution in **webforJ**, BASIS International's dynamic Java UI framework. webforJ offered a **unified development environment** that allowed Prodin to **preserve their existing Java-compatible business logic**, some of which had been written over two decades ago, while transitioning seamlessly to a modern web interface.

The key reasons Prodin chose webforJ over Low Code or Angular/React solutions include:

- **Reuse of Existing Java-capable Code:** webforJ enabled Prodin to avoid the costly and time-consuming process of rewriting their entire application. They could migrate their core business logic to the web while maintaining control over every aspect of their ERP system.

- **Unified Full-Stack Development:** Unlike Angular or React, which would require maintaining separate front-end and back-end systems, webforJ empowered Prodin to use **Java for both the front-end and back-end**. This streamlined the development process, making it more efficient and reducing the need for specialized front-end developers.

- **Customization and Flexibility:** webforJ offered the flexibility to fully customize the user interface and functionality, something that Low Code platforms could not provide. Prodin retained full control over the user experience, ensuring that their application continued to meet the specific needs of their customers.

- **Zero Deployment:** webforJ enabled Prodin to **achieve zero-deployment architecture**, where updates are automatically rolled out across the web without requiring end-user intervention-eliminating the complex client-side management required in Swing-based systems.

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The Implementation

Rapid Modernization and High Developer Productivity

Prodin assembled a six-member Java development team, including junior and mid-level developers, to assist in the migration. Thanks to webforJ's developer-friendly environment, the team quickly adapted to the project, collaborating with existing staff. The consistent use of Java across the entire stack allowed all developers, both new and experienced, to work efficiently, leading to **high productivity** and quality outcomes.

Within **four months**, Prodin delivered their first web-based modules to customers. These initial releases featured a **modern, responsive UI** and improved functionality, demonstrating the potential of their webforJ-powered ERP system.

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Seamless Collaboration and Support from BASIS Throughout the process, Prodin benefited from BASIS International's **growth accelerator support** program. Regular Q&A sessions and personal access to the core webforJ development team ensured that Prodin made optimal use of the framework, minimizing obstacles and accelerating project delivery.

Looking to the Future: SaaS Expansion With the successful migration of key modules to the web, Prodin is now poised to expand into the **SaaS market**. webforJ's flexibility enables Prodin to offer cloud-based services, broadening their customer base and increasing the scalability of their ERP system. Prodin can now confidently offer both on-premise and SaaS solutions, backed by a web-first architecture.

Key Results

- **Time to Market:** First web-based modules were shipped within four months.

- **Cost Savings**: Avoided the expenses of a complete rewrite by reusing existing Java code.

- **Improved Productivity:** Junior and mid-level developers adapted quickly, increasing overall team efficiency.

- **Enhanced User Experience:** A modern UI that is responsive across various devices improved customer satisfaction.

■ **SaaS-Ready Architecture:** Prodin is now positioned to expand into the SaaS market with webforJ.

Why webforJ Stands Out Compared to Alternatives

■ **Low Code Limitations:** While Low Code platforms promise quick development, they ultimately require compromises in flexibility and may lead to significant technical debt. Prodin found that webforJ provided the customization and long-term scalability that Low Code could not.

■ **Complexity of Multi-Stack Development:** Angular and React are excellent front-end frameworks, but they come with the burden of maintaining two separate codebases. webforJ eliminated this complexity by providing a **unified Java-based solution** for both front-end and back-end development, reducing project risk and speeding up time to market.

■ **Cost Efficiency and Future-Proofing:** With webforJ, Prodin could continue to leverage their Java expertise while keeping development costs low and maintaining a future-proof system that scales effortlessly.

> webforJ gave us the best of both worlds – modern, responsive web interfaces and the ability to leverage our Java codebase, some of which was written over 20 years ago. This seamless integration allowed our development team to stay productive from day one

Conclusion

Prodin's Modernization Success with webforJ Prodin's journey to web modernization is a compelling example of how **webforJ** enables businesses to upgrade legacy Java applications without compromising on flexibility or functionality. By choosing webforJ, Prodin retained control over their business logic, avoided the pitfalls of multi-stack development, and delivered a modern, responsive ERP system to their customers. As Prodin expands into the SaaS market, webforJ continues to support their growth, ensuring they remain competitive in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. ■

Prodin
Business Solutions

Prodin Business Solutions was founded in 1975 and is a Dutch developer and provider of ERP software. The ERP software supports companies in increasing the efficiency of their administrative, operational and financial processes.

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About us

BASIS International

We are a global software company – large and stable enough to be a reliable partner for thousands of companies worldwide, yet small and flexible enough to deliver tailored solutions that meet today's business challenges.

For almost 40 years (20+ years of delivering technology built on Java), BASIS International has been a trusted partner, delivering software tools and frameworks to develop and modernize mission-critical business systems for both large international corporations and SMEs. More than 1.2 million users worldwide rely on IT solutions created by BASIS or its customers and partners, specifically tailored to meet individual requirements.

With offices in North America and Europe, as well as partnerships in over 30 countries, BASIS is well-positioned internationally. The "big little software company" is privately owned and independently operated.

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