

# Case

# Study

ZK - THE SIMPLEST WAY TO MAKE WEB APPLICATIONS RICH.

Mecatena's Software Division is specialized in SOA, ECM and BPM. Recently, Mecatena concentrates its great expertise on an ECM project for public administration which has so much to do with Alfresco and ZK.

**“From continuing tests and works, we keep getting back to the same final truth: NO technology delivers yet as well and as easy Ajax as ZK does.”**

## ABOUT MECATENA

Mecatena is a Spanish technology company dedicated to full office solutions, specializes in open source based systems integration and J2EE development. And Mecatena software development department is specialized in building ECM/BPM systems and SOA architectures.

Mecatena's has 3 biggest divisions: Mecatena Systems, Mecatena Printing, and Mecatena Software. Also, Mecatena is an official partner of Alfresco, Ricoh and Acer.

## THE CHALLENGE in ECM PROJECTS

According to past experience, Mecatena knew that the biggest challenge in ECM projects is to deal with the specific needs of customers and to choose the right ECM product/suite as the platform to build the solution on.

Most of the time, developers try to twist original product's interfaces to get closer to what customer expects, but always end up with all promised future incompatibilities with the future releases of the ECM product they worked with.

Also, ECM/BPM projects are usually expensive. If developers put an enormous extra time dealing with too specialized and complex interface work, they are at the same time making the project even more

expensive and most probably for the worst.

It's essential for Mecatena to work with a technology that best suits the flexibility to build the interfaces customer wants in time, with the real benefits on scalability and future compatibility developers should deliver to them.

## WHY ZK

To overcome these problems, MECATENA starts to seek a best combination of easy and fast development, with beauty and flexibility for the client web interface. ZK looks great in the sum combined of all these factors. ZK's built-in Spring Integration was also a significant help on the choice.

“What ZK keeps offering to our customers is the fastest way of getting interfaces that fits their look and needs, with Ajax powered, and with a very small and smooth knowledge curve. It complies well with the ECM specific requirements the user had about electronic administration.”

Most of all, ZK has the biggest flexibility in developing modern interfaces, without getting in the limited possibilities available by changing the ECM product interface directly.

## HOW MECATENA uses ZK

ZK has been applied in portlet development for Electronic Administration and Content Centric solutions, as a front-end technology of web applications, with a server bone in Spring+ Hibernate.

And in particular, ZK is used in integration for portlets with Liferay and applied with Alfresco (RESTful Webscript Framework).

## THE RESULT

Mecatena's customers always amazed at how their HTML designers can recast the application within a day as their Ajax interface developers does.

“One of our customers is about to change its ECM platform just because of the limitations on the definition of the application interfaces and the complexity of dealing with the product with JSF based interface. After he tried out ZK and Rest based SOA, it became so easy for him to make portlets, web applications, and so on, with all the flexibility he needed, naturally good looking and with the minimum effort possible.

“From continuing tests and works we keep getting back to the same final truth, no technology delivers yet as well and as easy Ajax as ZK does. So we keep saying the same thing to each new customer: the path to your happiness is SOA and ZK!”

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