



## Solution Provider Cuts Development Time for User Interfaces from Days to Minutes

### Overview

**Country or Region:** United States

**Industry:** Professional services—  
Software engineering

### Customer Profile

Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, ComponentOne offers tools and solutions for software developers. The company is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with worldwide offices.

### Business Situation

ComponentOne wanted to help organizations of any size work more efficiently and design better applications. It realized that many development teams need help designing user interfaces.

### Solution

To ease development, ComponentOne updated its offerings to support Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and the Microsoft .NET Framework 4. New user interface controls extend design capabilities.

### Benefits

- Cuts development time
- Streamlines projects
- Extends capabilities

“People gravitate toward Visual Studio 2010 and ComponentOne design tools because they can create better applications in less time.”

Todd Schick, Director of Business Development, ComponentOne

For more than two decades, ComponentOne, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, has offered tools and controls for the Microsoft Visual Studio development system. The company’s goal is to simplify development for its customers, who need help designing user interfaces for a variety of applications. ComponentOne recently updated its product line to support Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and the Microsoft .NET Framework 4. The company implemented features that make it easier to create Microsoft Silverlight applications and data-driven Web sites and conduct automated user interface testing. By using the Microsoft tools and ComponentOne controls, customers can complete design and testing tasks in a streamlined environment. ComponentOne states that customers can cut development time from days to minutes while building more compelling user interfaces.



## Situation

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, ComponentOne has provided solutions based on the Microsoft Visual Studio development system since 1987. Its customers include software developers, technical communicators, and IT professionals. ComponentOne offers its solutions through 80 resellers and distributors in more than 50 countries.

The company's flagship product, ComponentOne Studio Enterprise, is a suite of applications that seamlessly integrate with Microsoft Visual Studio tools. The snap-ins give developers access to hundreds of controls that can be added to user interfaces for a variety of applications. The suite offers broad support for the Microsoft Silverlight browser plug-in and components in the Microsoft .NET Framework, including Windows Forms, Microsoft ASP.NET, and Windows Presentation Foundation.

ComponentOne customers range from single-person businesses to global corporations. Regardless of their size or industry, the customers want to work more efficiently and bring products to market faster. They simplify development with Visual Studio tools, and they often want to extend their capabilities further. "For example, not all companies have designers on staff," says Todd Schick, Director of Business Development at ComponentOne. "Developers want to create applications that look good, but they don't necessarily have the flexibility and power that designers have."


Developers use ComponentOne controls, which work with all versions and editions of Visual Studio, to enhance forms with customized grids, charts, reports, and a variety of interactive features. The company

wants to help customers stay on top of emerging technology trends by offering them the most current tools. "We take advantage of enhancements to Visual Studio products so our customers can benefit from them," says Schick. "It's important that we stay up to date with the most current offerings."

## Solution

In August 2009, ComponentOne started working with beta versions of Visual Studio 2010 tools and the .NET Framework 4. ComponentOne believed that its customers would be particularly interested in enhancements in the ASP.NET 4 unified Web development model, including ASP.NET Dynamic Data. With Dynamic Data, developers could automatically generate Web pages with data-bound controls for each table in a database. The company also wanted to take advantage of the fully integrated support for Silverlight development in Visual Studio 2010. With the new Silverlight designer in Visual Studio 2010, developers can easily build application user interfaces by clicking and dragging controls.

Working closely with Microsoft, ComponentOne began updating its product suite for the Visual Studio 2010 release. One of its most important enhancements builds on ASP.NET Dynamic Data. In the past, developers would separately analyze each table and create controls for every data field to create an ASP.NET Web application with database-editing capabilities. Now, developers can select a project template in Visual Studio 2010 and create a Dynamic Data Web application that could target any relational database and generate a user interface within minutes. ComponentOne extended that capability further with controls such as GridView, which displays items from a data



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source in a customizable table. Eve Turzillo, Communications Manager at ComponentOne, says, “By using our controls in Visual Studio 2010 project templates, developers can turn simple data-entry forms into powerful Web applications.”

Eager to take advantage of the fully integrated support for Silverlight development, ComponentOne decided to offer more Silverlight controls. In earlier versions of Visual Studio, designer support for Silverlight projects was limited to a read-only preview window. Now, developers can use the new Silverlight designer in Visual Studio 2010 to create Silverlight applications. ComponentOne offers more than 50 Silverlight controls that can be used with the designer, including a high-performance data grid.

ComponentOne also ported Silverlight controls to its Studio for WPF product. As a result, developers can use much of the same code to build both Web and desktop client applications. By working with a single platform, they can reduce the number of controls they need to learn, and cut development time and costs.

ComponentOne also believes that the automated testing capabilities built into Visual Studio 2010 Ultimate and Visual Studio 2010 Premium will help its customers. The coded user interface tests are faster to run than manual tests, provide functional testing of the interface, and validate its controls. Schick says, “We think that coded user interface testing in Visual Studio 2010 will be very valuable to developers, and we’ve made changes to some of our own products to fully support it.”

The company’s updated suite includes seven products that support the

development of applications for desktops, Web browsers, and mobile devices. ComponentOne debuted Studio Enterprise 2010 v1 in March 2010 and is already working on new capabilities in its other products. For example, it is using its Silverlight controls to create custom, interactive Web Parts for its ComponentOne SharePoint Web Parts offering. Schick says, “We anticipate future opportunities to use Silverlight and other technologies in more contexts.”

## Benefits

ComponentOne helps developers create user interfaces more easily with Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and the Microsoft .NET Framework 4. The company’s customers can simplify projects with the integrated tools while extending their design capabilities.

## Cuts Development Time

By using ComponentOne products with Visual Studio 2010 and the .NET Framework 4, companies can cut development time and costs. For instance, they can quickly create interfaces for modeling and editing information in any database. Schick says, “People gravitate toward Visual Studio 2010 and ComponentOne design tools because they can create better applications in less time.”

Turzillo says that support for features such as ASP.NET Dynamic Data offers significant benefits. “Developers can save countless hours of work and improve their user interface and data validation with ASP.NET Dynamic Data,” she says. “Projects that took days to complete can now be finished in minutes with as little as one line of code.”

## Streamlines Projects

ComponentOne products work with Visual Studio 2010 to ease development by



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Todd Schick, Director of Business Development, ComponentOne

providing a simplified environment for a wide range of tasks, including interface design and testing. Schick says, “Developers can implement ComponentOne controls in Visual Studio 2010 instead of writing their own or using another product that’s less applicable to the task.”

Schick points out that Visual Studio 2010 offers similar benefits for testers. “Automated user interface testing is a huge asset in Visual Studio 2010,” he says. “Developers don’t have to turn to tools from other vendors—the capability is built-in and intrinsic to the development environment.”

#### **Extends Capabilities**

The company’s customers can use its products with Visual Studio 2010 to create sophisticated user interfaces for a variety of applications and platforms. ComponentOne has worked with Microsoft for more than 20 years, and the companies have similar goals. Schick says, “Microsoft strives to make work easier for developers by reducing the amount of code they need to write, and we like to facilitate those kinds of capabilities too.”

ComponentOne is also using enhanced support for Silverlight and the .NET Framework to help its customers implement new technologies more easily. “There have been a lot of improvements to the designer surface in Visual Studio 2010 that simplify working with the Silverlight plug-in and the .NET Framework,” says Schick. “Microsoft is going in the direction of helping developers with design aspects, and so are we.”

## For More Information

For more information about Microsoft products and services, call the Microsoft Sales Information Center at (800) 426-9400. In Canada, call the Microsoft Canada Information Centre at (877) 568-2495. Customers in the United States and Canada who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can reach Microsoft text telephone (TTY/TDD) services at (800) 892-5234. Outside the 50 United States and Canada, please contact your local Microsoft subsidiary. To access information using the World Wide Web, go to:

[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

For more information about ComponentOne products and services, call (800) 858-2739 or visit the Web site at:

[www.componentone.com](http://www.componentone.com)

## Microsoft Visual Studio 2010

Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 is an integrated development system that helps simplify the entire development process from design to deployment. Unleash your creativity with powerful prototyping, modeling, and design tools that help you bring your vision to life. Work within a personalized environment that helps accelerate the coding process and supports the use of your existing skills, and target a growing number of platforms, including Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010 and cloud services. Also, work more efficiently thanks to integrated testing and debugging tools that you can use to find and fix bugs quickly and easily to help ensure high-quality solutions.

For more information about Visual Studio 2010, go to:

[www.msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio](http://www.msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio)

### Software and Services

- Microsoft Visual Studio
  - Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Premium
  - Microsoft Visual 2010 Ultimate

### • Technologies

- Microsoft ASP .NET
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4
- Microsoft Silverlight

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