

Eiffel Software

Goleta, CA

EiffelStudio

➤ Integrated Development Environment for .NET



CUSTOMERS AT WORK

A financial services firm, a defense contractor, and a manufacturer of electronic business equipment were among the reference customers. Common strategic objectives included:

- Developing a large, complex, mission-critical application
- Delivering high-quality code while minimizing time and effort
- Achieving the promised benefits of object-oriented development for maintenance and reuse

WHY EIFFEL SOFTWARE?

EiffelStudio is an integrated development environment for the Eiffel Language. Eiffel is the only language to enable developers to use a clean object-oriented model with genericity and multiple inheritance, and is self-documenting. EiffelStudio addresses the whole development cycle via Design by Contract. Design by Contract allows you to catch almost all errors at execution. EiffelStudio compiles to and provides portability (including the UI) across Windows (Classic and .NET), UNIX, Linux, VMS, and embedded systems. For interoperability with an existing code base, EiffelStudio generates code in C, C++, or the .NET Intermediate Language. A companion product, Eiffel ENViSioN!, enables developers to use the Eiffel Language to create truly object-oriented code while using Microsoft's Visual Studio .NET.

COMPANY INFO

Eiffel Software is a private company with 45 employees.

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BUSINESS IMPACT

Near-term value: Companies have developed and implemented major mission-critical software projects with the Eiffel Language and EiffelStudio. Compared to similar projects, Eiffel teams have consistently developed more code of higher quality with fewer people. Unlike C#, C++, and Java, Eiffel makes it both impossible and unnecessary to backslide to procedural programming. Because it interoperates with .NET, business logic programmers using Eiffel can work productively in an organization committed to the Microsoft .NET environment.

Enterprise innovation: With strong intrinsic code quality and an excellent debugging environment, Eiffel enables companies to get it right the first time when delivering software to their customers.

Technology gains: With Eiffel's true object orientation and simple, clear syntax, domain experts, analysts, and developers can create realistic models of the problem space; then developers can carry those through to implementation. Genericity, multiple inheritance, and automatic garbage collection save time and deliver compact, maintainable code. Developers praise Design by Contract. When the "require," "ensure," and "invariant" clauses are used, functionality is documented effectively.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Project strategy: The Eiffel Language is not yet a mainstream choice, but strong technical merits make it easily justified to businesses with confidence in their technical leadership. To prove Eiffel's merits, reference customers recommend proposing it for an important project that is seriously behind schedule.

Skills: The move to an object-oriented paradigm can be more difficult to absorb than the choice of language per se. With seasoned architects as project leads, reference customers report success in staffing projects with college hires. (They have no bad procedural programming habits to unlearn and may have had some academic exposure to the Eiffel Language.) Visual Studio shops can start with the companion product, Eiffel ENViSioN!.

Resources: With Eiffel, as with any object-oriented approach, success requires up-front learning time and architectural thought. From then on, you can expect smaller teams to deliver more code sooner with fewer errors and less testing required.

Fit: Customers recommend the Eiffel approach without hesitation to those serious about delivering developer productivity and software quality with object-oriented development methods.

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ABOUT THE CROSSROADS A-LIST AWARDS

The Crossroads A-List identifies the best newly proven products and services transforming business today. Winners are determined after an analysis of the vendor's strategy followed by confidential, in-depth interviews with early adopters.