user friendly business apps 4 desktop +web



Matthias Zimmermann, Jochen Krause 29 March, Eclipse Con 2012



Two years ago





- User friendly CRM desktop solution
- CRM platform based on Scout framework
- Platform simple to extend / integrate
- Good running business
- Scout going Eclipse





One year ago



Web based/mobile → growing demand

We DON'T want

- Abandon desktop solution
- Maintain separate web/desktop clients
- Additional costs with new CRM releases

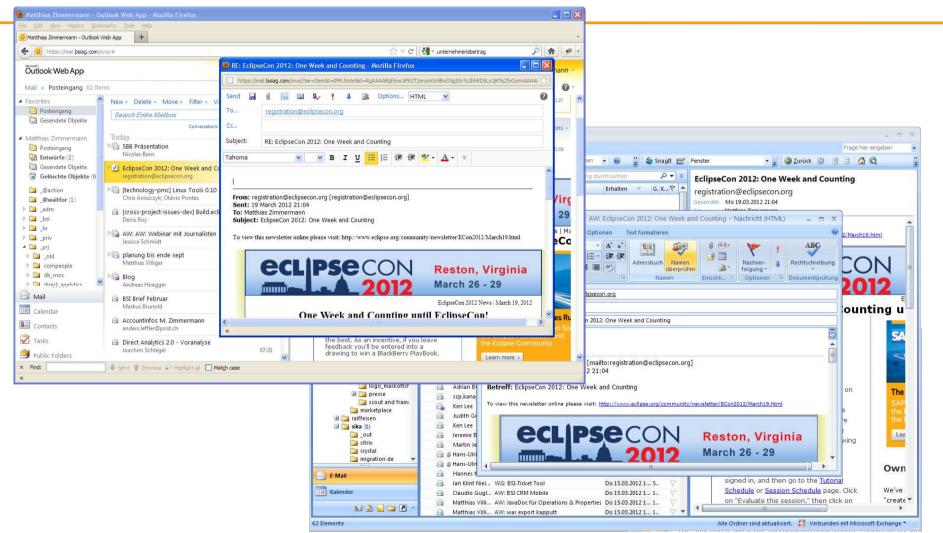
We'd like to have

- Identical functionality
- Identical L&F



Less of this

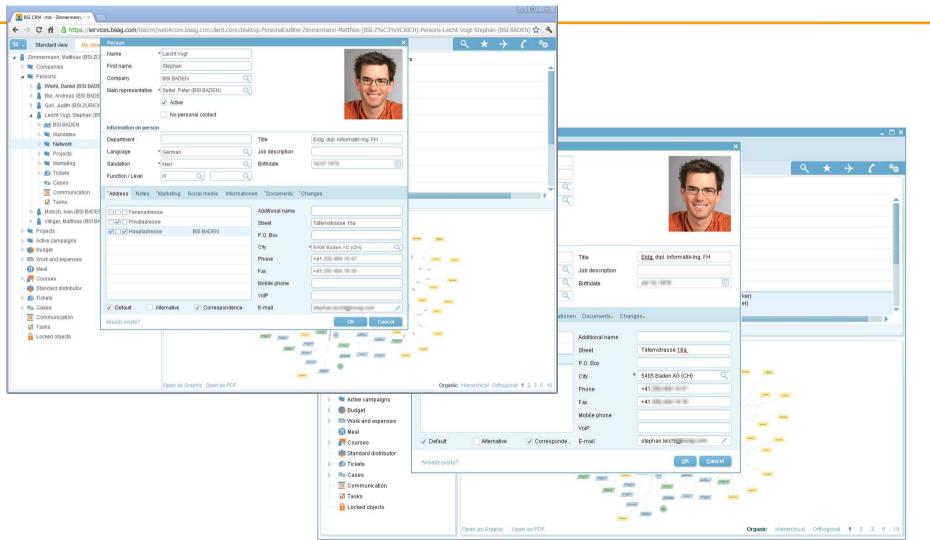






More of this







How we got there ...





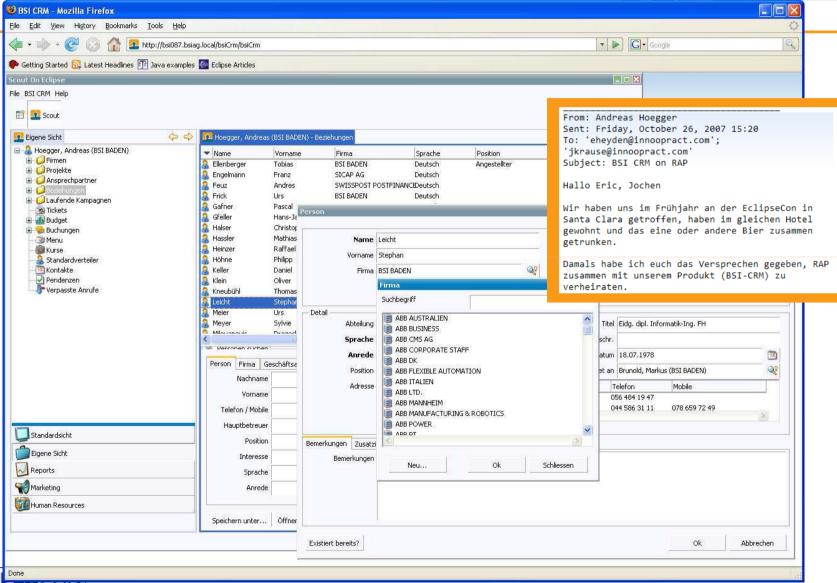




2007 RAP







RAP Pros and Cons





Pros

- Fast results
- Single sourcing works well

Cons*

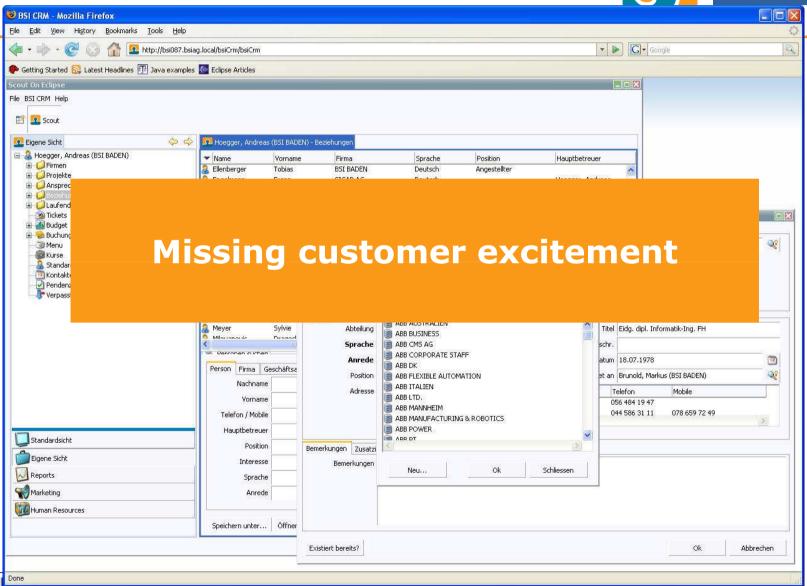
- Requires Eclipse Workbench (Scout doesn't)
- Perceived as "heavy-weight"
- Styling: too restricted



*: RAP 2007

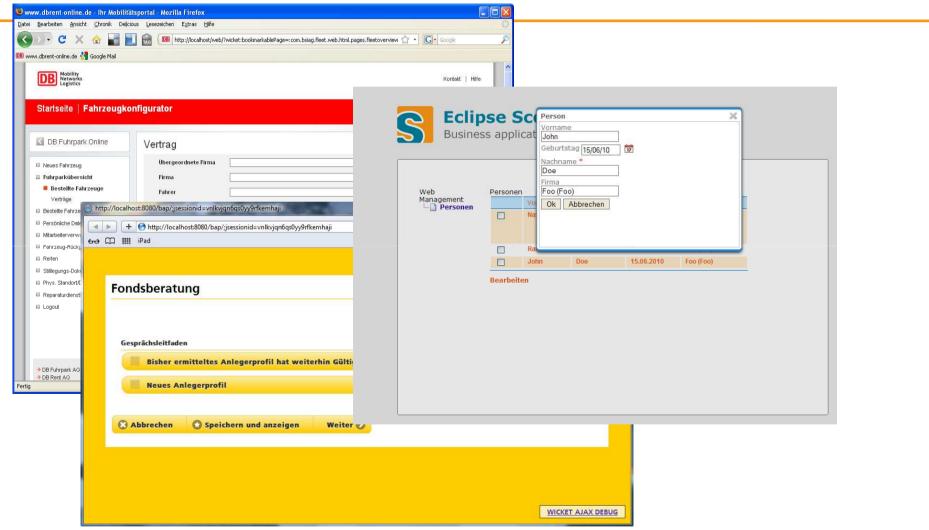
RAP Too early ...





2010 Wicket







Wicket Pros and Cons





Pros

- Exact fit into customers web pages
- Business logic in Java

Cons

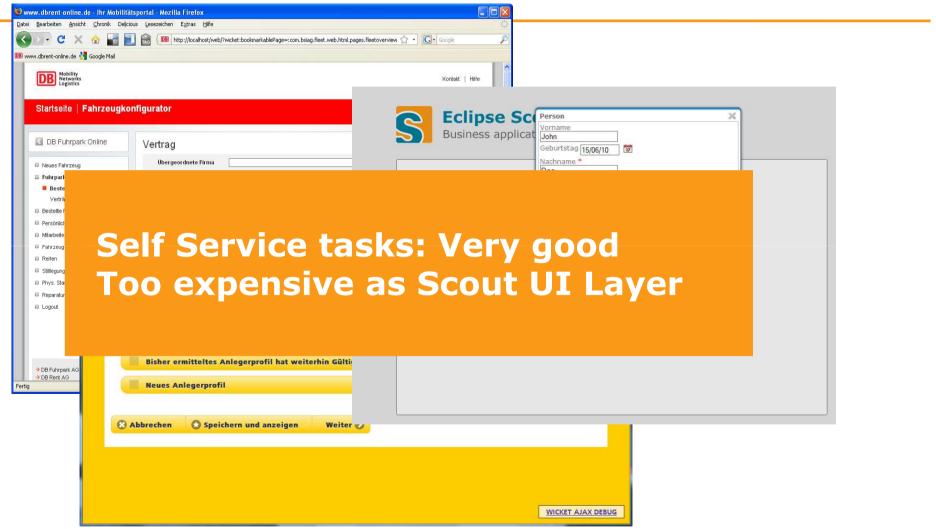
- Familiarity with HTML, CSS, JavaScript required
- Good L&F requires additional JS Libraries
- Integration into Scout SDK not straightforward
- Fiddling per form required (1h+)



Wicket The good, the ...





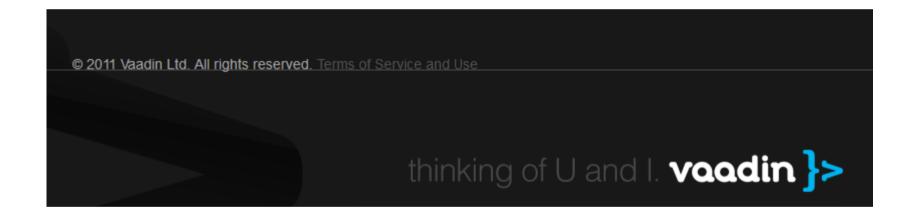




2011 Vaadin









Vaadin Pros and Cons





Pros

- Good looking components
- Worth trying as Scout UI Layer

Cons

- HTML, not Pixel oriented
- Failed to get good results for simple CRM Form
 - Two column layout
 - Proper label/field alignment
 - Field label OK, column header NOK



Two Column Layout





Main representative * Seitel, Peter (BSI BADEN) ✓ Active No personal contact		
Information on person		
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March 2011



RAP Too heavy ...
Wicket Too expensive, L&F?
Vaadin Very Expensive too ...

Now what?



Eclipse Con 2011









Demo Scout with RAP





☑ BSI CRM - mzi - Zimmermann, ×				
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Lessons learned



- Finding the "right" framework takes time
- Integration itself takes time
 - Scout and RAP: 1 man year (and counting...)
- Benefit for Scout developers
 - Scout applications are web and desktop applications
 - The exact same Java code is used for both
 - No need to learn HTML, CSS, JavaScript



@EclipseScout



What is user friendly?





Subjective key aspects (for CRM)

- Training time for user < 4h
- Navigation, user doesn't get lost
- Simple data entry
- Powerful search
- Good integration of Office, Lotus Notes/Outlook
- Good integration with backend (ERP, ...)

