Overview

Delays in deployment
Developers used open source containers for development and supported containers for deployment. This practice led to delays in deployment.

Lightweight solution
IBM® WebSphere® Liberty profile enables developers to develop, assemble, test and publish web applications to a lightweight runtime with fidelity to the full WebSphere Application Server profile.

Faster deployment
Getting the Liberty profile up and running takes only 10 to 15 minutes. Its small footprint and fast restarts enable rapid development.

Aviarc Global, Ltd.

Small-footprint IBM WebSphere Liberty profile is up and running in less than 15 minutes

IBM Business Partner Aviarc Global, Ltd., part of the Core Technology Group of Companies, is a software development company with close to 70 employees. The business is based in New Zealand, with offices also in Australia, and a recently established beachhead in Singapore.

The need

Aviarc faced the same challenge that other software development companies deal with: convincing developers to run supported containers in their development environment. The developers were apt to get frustrated using supported containers because of the length of time it took to restart servers and to propagate changes. So they developed using open source containers such as Apache Tomcat and deployed using supported containers such as IBM WebSphere Application Server.

However, the impact of using open source containers in development and supported containers in deployment is that inconsistencies arise between the two environments. "We have changes in configurations and changes in libraries when we go to deploy," says Geoff McIver, senior consultant for Aviarc Global, Ltd. "We don't want any surprises when we are deploying. We want the product to come swiftly out of development and straight into deployment because the first deployment is what the customer sees. We need that to be as smooth as possible."

"With the Liberty profile and IBM WebSphere Application Server Developer Tools for Eclipse, developers can develop, assemble, test and publish web applications to a lightweight runtime which has fidelity to the full WAS profile."

—Geoff McIver, Senior Consultant, Aviarc Global, Ltd.

According to McIver, there hasn't been a supported container that is good for both development and deployment—until now. "People have realized that the tipping point has arrived and we do actually need a light, small-footprint container for development and deployment," he says.

The solution

What has brought about the change is IBM WebSphere Application Server, Version 8.5, Liberty Profile—a lightweight, small-footprint profile of WebSphere Application Server engineered specifically for developers. "With the Liberty profile and the accompanying IBM WebSphere Application Server Developer Tools for Eclipse, developers can for the first time develop, assemble, test and publish web applications to a lightweight runtime which has fidelity to the full WAS profile," says McIver.

IBM invited Aviarc to participate in the Liberty profile Beta. "We expected it would take a couple of days to get the product up and running," says McIver. "But in fact it took 10 to 15 minutes to get it bootstrapped, which was quite good. The Liberty profile is easy to configure, unlike a lot of the products in the Beta stage that we get from vendors."

"The biggest advantage of the Liberty profile is the small footprint and fast restart time," McIver continues. "We are often considered to be a rapid development group, so we need to be fast. One of our challenges is the fact that we are a small team. We can't afford downtime, and we can't afford to be taking a long time. We need things to happen very quickly."

One of the options with the Liberty profile is the embedded server deployment approach. "Because of the small footprint and the easy configuration, we can actually ship the entire deployment in one package, which really saves on administration overhead and deployment overhead and also limits surprises around deployment time," says McIver. "And we know that what we tested is actually being deployed, which makes it far more reliable than the alternative method."

The benefits

- 10 - 15 minutes to get the Liberty profile up and running
- Small footprint and fast restarts enable rapid development
- Shipping the product and runtime in one package minimizes errors

For more information

To learn more about IBM WebSphere Application Server 8.5 Liberty Profile, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit the following websites:

- **ibm.com**/software/webservers/appserv/was/features/
- www.wasdev.net (Developer Forum for Liberty profile)

WSC14424-USEN-00