

Comment on: "Sistemica"

The history of Smalltalk exhibits lots of experiences about challenging projects timely driven to success by a tiny group of motivated smalltalkers.

To get the picture, imagine a single individual team located not in the US or Europe. Think of a guy working from a small, rural city, in South America. The guy is a smalltalker with a computer and an Internet connection. That's it. Somehow he gets in contact with a company in Belgium that is being tempted to adapt their own workflows to an important local software provider. In a matter of days the programmer shows a prototype so appealing that gets hired. One and a half year later, our programmer has built a professional system that allows the Belgian company manage their businesses in real-time, along 1200 different geographical locations. But that's not all. The system is used to collect data entered by truck drivers and that's why we find out that it consists not just of a desktop application but of a Mobile system that runs on industrial PDA devices connected thru a WAN. The guy not only designed and implemented model and GUI. He also had to port the Squeak VM to the Mobile operating system, remove many subsystems, including Morphic, to make it fit on the PDA, conceive and implement a new graphic framework and built on it a *device-oriented* GUI appropriate for truck drivers which is so delicate that takes into account even the amount of natural light of the environment.

This talk is about this incredible project and the solitary programmer will tell us more regarding it. More importantly, we will be given some clues of how this kind of magic is actually possible.

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