

The Facts

"Technology projects very seldom fail for technology reasons... By far the highest percentage of failures results from human communications issues."

From **Information Week**

"Only 28 percent of IT projects are delivered on schedule and within budget — which tends to suggest that nothing much changes within the IT world ... similar levels of project failure were being trotted out 20 years [ago]..."

From **Unisys World**

"What are the odds that your next IS development project will be delivered on time, under budget, and to user expectations? Pretty grim, unfortunately, according to IS industry analysts (Meyer, 1998). Meta Group estimates that half of all new United States (U.S.) software projects will go way over budget. The Standish Group says 52.7% of information systems (IS) projects overrun their schedules and budgets, 31.1 % are canceled, and only 16.2% are completed on time and on budget (Hayes, 1997). Ambler (1999) found an 85% failure rate in the development of large-scale software projects."

From a **Stanford University Study**

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Fact: The majority of software projects fail.

Industry studies and years of real-world experience reveal two common reasons for this universal problem:

- ▶ **Inaccurate, inflexible design**
- ▶ **Undisciplined development**

The **zTools™** application engine is a new dimension in rapid application development (RAD). Programmers write "as little code as necessary" using its objects and data-driven architecture.

zTools™ helps developers accomplish more in far less time. Security, menus, data entry, reports – it's all built-in. It isn't just a collection of widgets; zTools is a whole new development philosophy.

zTools: minimal coding...by design.

Ideal Systems has designed and developed successful software and taught others how to do the same since 1992. Let Ideal Systems be your catalyst for successful software.

 **ideal systems**

Why settle for anything less than **ideal**?

The Problem

Reason #2 for most software project failures: *Inconsistent, redundant code and difficult maintenance*. These failures doom many software projects.

- ▶ **Redundant coding**
Traditional development can be mind-numbingly redundant. Undisciplined developers find themselves writing the same kind of code over and over again, wasting precious time and resources.
- ▶ **Inconsistent coding**
Traditional application development teams often end up solving similar problems in different ways, leading to software that is both inconsistent and difficult to maintain and debug.
- ▶ **Difficult maintenance**
Business needs change quickly, and applications must change to meet those needs. When an application relies on hand-chiseled solutions, even the simplest software changes tend to require significant re-coding, recompiling, and testing.

Unnecessary, inefficient development squanders resources, hinders quality assurance, misses deadlines, and results in the delay/cancelling of new projects.

"zTools is the perfect tool these days as customers are demanding developers to "do more with less" with both time and resources."
- Aman C., Designer/Developer

The Solution

The zTools application foundation gives developers the tools they need to build flexible, consistent, easy-to-use apps only as much code as necessary.

- ▶ **Minimal coding**
zTools provides the objects and methods to handle all of the most common coding tasks. Full-featured data maintenance pages with built-in security can be quickly created with less than a dozen lines of code.
- ▶ **Consistent methodology**
zTools provides the core functionality every database application requires. By simplifying these common redundant tasks, developer code is more consistent and readable.
- ▶ **Simple application maintenance**
Data-dependent UI objects (such as drop-down lists, menus, etc.) are defined in the zTools extended metadata. Therefore, any changes to these objects can be made simply by modifying data in the database – no re-coding or recompiling necessary.

zTools eliminates the most prevalent roadblocks to efficient, reliable application development, maximizing your time, money, and reputation.

"zTools controls offer me an extended variety of methods, properties and events that help me build web projects right on time for any schedule."
- Cesar R., Developer

The Tool

zTools provides a powerful foundation for building secure, reliable, browser-based applications quickly. Its flexibility makes maintenance quick and easy.

- ▶ **Extended SQL metadata**
zTools extends SQL Server metadata to include UI-related elements such as column labels, control definitions, and client-side validation. The UI can be configured and modified without recompiling the source code.
- ▶ **Extended coding objects**
zTools includes an extensive library of functions for .NET that accomplish common tasks such as data access, list management, control creation, menu security, and much more.
- ▶ **Simplified data manipulation**
With zTools, data can be created, retrieved, and modified with minimal code. An unlimited number of named data subsets can be quickly accessed and manipulated. These operations can also be performed through our comprehensive web service API.

Ideal Systems provides the tools and training to help your development team create great software in record time. Why settle for anything less?

"I'd gladly take two BEAM/zTools experts against ten .NET/SQL programmers any day of the year."
- Glen R., Project Manager