

Dörffler & Partner Sees Up to 10x Grid Performance Improvement with Infragistics Data Grid

Dörffler & Partner is an IT consultancy based in Germany, which specializes in developing and implementing custom business intelligence (BI) and data warehouse solutions. With a client base that spans financial services, banking, insurance, automotive and energy & utilities, the solutions they build must be enterprise-grade to handle the data volumes and workloads of their customers.

“ Even if a company only needs a data grid control, I’d recommend Infragistics because the control is already worth the price of the whole package. ”

Danny Smith, Senior BI Consultant, Dörffler & Partner



Industry

- IT Consultancy based in Germany

Challenges

- Need to provide data visualizations and grids that can support large data sets and high volumes of queries in real time
- Experiencing performance issues with the existing data grid
- Difficulty binding data from the data warehouse to the data grids
- Issues with technical support from existing vendor causing weeks of delay

Solution

- Infragistics Professional UI Tools

Results

- Up to 10x data grid performance improvement
- Fast data entry and ability to query data in parallel as it loads
- Fastest technical support response time

Challenge

When Dörffler & Partner builds custom BI and data warehouse applications for its clients, the data grid embedded within each application is a critical component. Because their clients in financial services, insurance, automotive and energy & utilities process thousands of queries per minute, grid performance is a top requirement. A slow-performing grid means wait times while screens refresh with new data — an unacceptable situation for a financial services company, for example, with a need to respond to the hundreds or thousands of market updates that are streaming live, every millisecond.

For Dörffler's developers, the ability to easily bind data in the data warehouse to the grid is also important. The longer it takes to bind data or to load data into the grid, the more time a developer spends waiting and not being productive.

But the data grid that developers at Dörffler & Partner were using fell far short.

"I had tried the grid from Microsoft and the grid from another licensed component vendor, and we always had problems either with performance or the handling of the grid," says Danny Smith, Senior BI Consultant at Dörffler. "We often had problems every time a new release came out."

The issue with the vendor's data grid was stability. "We found its data grid to be unstable," says Cornelius Bode, Senior BI Consultant at Dörffler & Partner. "Each time they brought out a new release, we'd update the new code, recompile it, and it wouldn't work. We had to go back and forth with the vendor, and oftentimes it took us weeks to finally resolve, delaying the app release."

Enterprise-Grade Data Grid with Superior Performance

In response, Dörffler purchased Infragistics Professional with the Ultimate UI for Windows Forms toolkit. Ultimate UI for Windows Forms offers a complete set of Windows Forms UI controls, including data grids, high-performance charts, Microsoft® Office-style user interface tools, dashboards, and reports with touch and gesture support.

The team at Dörffler immediately noticed the difference in the performance of the data grid. According to Smith, "when I started using the Infragistics grid, a lot of my problems just went away."

Fully Featured Grid

Not only did Dörffler see performance improvements, they were also impressed with many other features of the Infragistics data grid.

“Once I got used to the Infragistics data grid, I started using more of the advanced features like inline editors, pulldowns, data validation (especially dates), specific cell formatting in the InitializeRow event — the list goes on and on,” adds Smith. “I especially like the ability to export the data in the grid to Excel, XML and pdf files with only a few lines of source code.”

Dörffler also appreciates how fast it can enter data into the grid. Infragistics UI toolkits come with templates with custom editors that match the column data type and allow easy entering of data within the cells. The data grid also features many flexible options for handling data with components that allow for easily adding or deleting rows, performing data validations in realtime, and more.

Filters		Reseller Sales Amount		Date/Calendar		Category		Business Type	
		All Products		All Products		All Products		All Products	
		Resellers		Resellers		Resellers		Resellers	
All Periods	CY 2001	36	\$7,395,348.63	\$34,376.34	\$615,474.98	\$883,585.55	\$2,906,389.21	\$4,275,460.54	
	Q2 CY 2004	17	\$2,716,128.86	\$83,642.49	\$577,138.55	\$206,214.94	\$1,566,009.28	\$1,643,254.85	
CY 2004	H1 CY 2004	04	\$2,659,342.71	\$85,046.96	\$530,154.29	\$309,100.27	\$1,414,552.02	\$1,591,622.72	
	Q1 CY 2004	07	\$1,453,124.71	\$44,573.65	\$148,126.89	\$163,239.47	\$753,364.56	\$745,943.29	
CY 2003	H2 CY 2003	15	\$2,355,283.26	\$52,691.23	\$273,657.16	\$260,598.67	\$1,311,493.78	\$1,128,674.35	
	Q4 CY 2003	21	\$6,238,291.15	\$151,992.32	\$657,492.43	\$685,900.89	\$3,530,228.54	\$2,886,555.68	
All Periods	H1 CY 2004	4.33	\$13,399,243.18	\$386,031.16	\$2,091,011.92	\$1,339,196.48	\$7,370,498.30	\$7,328,367.81	
	CY 2004	4.33	\$13,399,243.18	\$386,031.16	\$2,091,011.92	\$1,339,196.48	\$7,370,498.30	\$7,328,367.81	
CY 2003	H1 CY 2003	48	\$10,084,590.46	\$297,080.37	\$1,570,299.01	\$747,355.55	\$6,217,177.27	\$9,035,714.51	
	Q3 CY 2003	2.67	\$7,933,502.82	\$330,872.01	\$2,521,508.59	\$728,927.11	\$4,082,211.19	\$6,115,057.79	
CY 2003	H2 CY 2003	74	\$1,873,948.53	\$68,240.81	\$310,932.80	\$151,757.92	\$882,573.65	\$1,247,784.30	
	Q4 CY 2003	84	\$2,853,785.61	\$85,209.78	\$533,350.50	\$266,456.09	\$1,556,360.12	\$1,888,132.53	
All Periods	H2 CY 2003	15	\$2,805,947.65	\$90,461.21	\$546,406.39	\$353,064.09	\$1,428,487.85	\$1,701,609.46	
	Q4 CY 2003	2.73	\$7,533,681.79	\$243,911.80	\$1,390,689.69	\$771,278.09	\$3,867,421.63	\$4,637,526.29	
CY 2003	H2 CY 2003	5.40	\$15,467,184.61	\$574,783.81	\$3,912,198.28	\$1,500,205.20	\$7,949,632.82	\$10,752,584.00	
	CY 2003	2.88	\$25,551,775.07	\$871,864.19	\$5,482,497.29	\$2,247,560.75	\$14,166,810.09	\$15,788,298.59	
All Periods	CY 2002	35	\$19,956,014.67	\$485,587.15	\$3,610,092.47	\$2,285,823.40	\$10,523,819.73	\$11,334,786.53	
	All Periods	7.93	\$66,302,381.56	\$1,777,840.84	\$11,799,076.66	\$6,756,166.18	\$34,967,517.33	\$38,726,913.48	

“ The Infragistics data grid was 5x to 10x faster than what we had been using. One of our customers is now loading 1,000-plus rows per second with no lag time. ”

Cornelius Bode, Senior BI Consultant at Dörffler & Partner

The DateTime Editor with its pulldown Calendar makes entering dates simpler, and the grid's validation function means that false, missing or bad dates are no longer being sent to the database.

With Combobox Editor, Dörffler's customers can more quickly choose from a list rather than typing text, avoiding misspellings. And Combobox Editor lists are not limited to one list per column, users can dynamically change the list items per row, or accept input from a different cell in the grid.

"In one grid I made, I was showing a list of suppliers in one column and depending on the selected supplier I would show a list of the names and emails of the contact persons for that supplier," adds Bode.

Company		Lifetime Sales		Market Potential	Assets Cash	Accounts Receivable
Country	City	Quarterly	Yearly		Assets Books	
Add new row						
Sportan		40,882,580.18		4,210,805,124.61	264,714.71	63,084.44
VU	Oceola				7,534.74	
Rapelye Street		430,845.78	1,197,420.17			
Delete row						
Cancel Done						
Hoyt Street		227299.97	1486467.06		12507.92	
Hydrocom		35628528.18		4930069033.99	403038.64	56183.05
KE	Cornfields				8113.52	
Sunnyside Court		226007.91	1092555.78			
Eclipto		20178683.42		2488740024.16	237368.76	50048.48
TZ	Orin				13100.31	
Remsen Avenue		319645.81	1249194.57			
Paprikut		25575955.42		1923959087.58	235064.57	74596.25
LR	Motley				17057.85	
Bay Parkway		347046.85	1611555.66			

Dörffler also likes the ability to view data in parallel, while it's loading into the grid. "This enables me to query in real time, making it simpler and faster to use," adds Smith. "I can also easily move data from one database to another.

"I especially like being able to change all the text inside the grid control, like the names of the operators in the filter dropdown list. I was able to translate all the text into German. And it's not just limited to grid control, it can be done for the other controls also."

“ When I started using the Infragistics grid a lot of my problems just went away.. ”

Danny Smith, Senior BI Consultant, Dörffler & Partner

Another feature that the Dörffler team values is the AppStylist program, which enables them to easily recolor all parts of Infragistics' Windows Forms controls: from the backgrounds and foregrounds, to the active rows, selected rows, and enabled/disabled controls. "You can change almost everything in your GUI to correspond to your customer's corporate identity," says Smith. "At one customer site, we used this feature extensively, pouring much love and sweat into finding just the right combo of colors to make the end users happy."

Fastest Support

Support often goes unnoticed until it's needed. But for developers who are working on deadline, the ability to get real-time, responsive support from a real person is invaluable, especially when it means the difference between making a client deadline and having a project stall.

"I can remember cases where I was stuck and just couldn't figure something out," says Bode. "With Infragistics, I would contact customer support and I would always have a solution within 1 day, without fail. I've worked with other companies where I wouldn't get a resolution for 3 weeks and I had to literally stop the project. Infragistics' responses always come fast and they always provide a complete solution to the problem."

Bode also says that he finds the Infragistics support forums to be very active and notes that "you can find a lot of information just by exploring these forums, which are categorized by system (desktop, web, and others) and/or control, including grid, chart, and much more."

“ In all the years that I've used the Infragistics controls, I've only submitted 5 tickets to support and they weren't because of bugs. I asked, "how do I do this ..." and promptly got answers that let me quickly close all my tickets, with all the right answers. ”

Cornelius Bode, Senior BI Consultant, Dörffler & Partner.

Grid Stability

Infragistics releases updates to its UI toolkits, components and controls multiple times per year, providing new features and functionality, based on customer feedback and market needs. But the team of developers who support them always performs rigorous testing, before each release. User experience is built into each component, control and release, so that customers know that when they upgrade their toolkit, they can be confident that it will be a quick and easy process, and that everything will work.

This wasn't always the case.

"Each time the other licensed grid component vendor brought out a new release, we'd update the new code, recompile it, and it wouldn't work," says Bode. "We had to go back and forth with the vendor. It sometimes took us weeks. I've never had this problem with Infragistics, I upload the new code, update it, recompile and that's it – it just works."

Cross-Framework Features and Controls

Dörffler is now planning a project for a marketing customer where they intend to place Infragistics chart controls on a website built with ASP.NET.

"This is another plus of using Infragistics Professional," adds Smith, "you don't have to buy different products for desktop, Web or mobile. It's all in one package."

About Infragistics

[Infragistics](#) provides the world's largest enterprises with tools and solutions to accelerate application design and development, and foster team collaboration. More than two million developers worldwide use Infragistics' enterprise-ready UX and UI toolkits to rapidly prototype and build high-performing applications for the cloud, web, mobile and desktop. Infragistics' *Reveal* reimagines what business users can achieve with self-service business intelligence visualization, while its newest application, *Indigo.Design*, introduces design-to-code efficiencies during the designer-to-developer handoff. Infragistics clients represent 100% of the S&P 500, including global software providers who rely on Infragistics when reliability and performance are non-negotiable.