



SuperStream speeds up time to market for new product by 25%

The company strongly supports global companies from Japan with the relaunch of management foundational solution "SuperStream-NX"



Carrying out a version upgrade of any software is not easy - especially when you need to keep more than 8,000 medium-to-large companies (as of March, 2017) happy. When more than 10% of those clients are in the Fortune 500 or are publicly listed companies in Japan, it could seem near impossible.

"SuperStream" series provided by SuperStream Inc., has been available for more than 20 years, since its launch in June 1995. SuperStream needed to renew the user interface of SuperStream-NX, the latest version of SuperStream after 7 years in the market.

Their goal was launch Version 2.0 of the desktop app within a 24-month project window.

Leveraging the components and tools from Infragistics Ultimate UI for WPF, and integrating ReportPlus Embedded, SuperStream NX-Ver. 2.0 launched six months ahead of schedule, and with more features than initially conceived, helping companies optimize core tasks in accounting and human resources management.

SuperStream Chief Technology Officer Makoto Yamada, who directly heads the project development team, said, "We wanted to modernize and move to WPF with Version 2.0. Working with Infragistics, we migrated all our UI/UX components to Infragistics' library."

"We also added a lot of functionalities that our customers have requested over the past 7 years, with Infragistics Ultimate UI component library we managed to complete the upgrade in 1.5 years instead of two, despite of the size of our ERP package. We also added embedded analytics to SuperStream-NX Ver. 2.0 which was not in the initial plan," said Yamada, who also serves as a director and Chief Marketing Officer.

Supporting Business Change

This launch was more strategic than a simple software update. "This is to strongly support the overseas business expansion of our Japanese clients so they can have a connected accounting system and substantially cut IT investment costs as a whole," said Yamada.

Realizing it would be impossible to achieve everything they wanted for the revamp by coding from scratch, Yamada – who first joined the firm in 1998 – and his team decided that SuperStream should collaborate with US-based UX component vendor Infragistics and integrate its [Infragistics Ultimate UI for WPF](#) components for richer UI features. They quickly leveraged the sample code to integrate the multi-row layout grids and it made their product sing. SuperStream also relied on Infragistics support team to get expert answers quickly. In addition to the Grid control, the team leveraged the [Calendar](#), [Pivot Grid](#), [Property Grid](#), [Rich Text Editor](#), Infragistics [Drag and Drop Framework](#), Infragistics [Excel Engine](#) and [more](#).

"We've adopted a simple yet elegant page layout for data, with a flat and universal design that is most user-friendly," said Yamada, who added that SuperStream managed to develop some input grid controls together with Infragistics.

One such handy function is the "cursor skip" feature that allows cursor to move intelligently between cells without having to the return key - effectively accounting data can be input just by using the numerical keys. This is a very welcome feature for core tasks in accounting and human resource operations, explained IT Architect Jun Sato.

“ The journal entry screen corresponding to free layout, and report function with advanced grid technology are very convenient and highly evaluated by our clients. ”

Jun Sato, IT Architect

A timely visit by Infragistics' CEO Dean Guida led to the integration of BI tool ReportPlus Embedded to SuperStream NX-Ver. 2.0 as well. The wide range of dashboards with preset themes to customize colors and fonts helps to make sense of data sets of all sizes and make trends easily distinguishable for informed business decisions based on the latest global data. The data visualization from Infragistics' ReportPlus Embedded provides robust BI data processing and graphic presentations to complement the grids and controls that they were already building in to the product. The project went from modernizing the product, to transforming it.

By embedding ReportPlus, SuperStream-NX Ver. 2.0 makes it possible to easily visualize the actual data displayed on the screen using this ReportPlus Embedded, so it becomes possible to visually grasp the business situation. SuperStream customized and branded the dashboards seamlessly; customers can't tell it is a white label solution.

Work on the upgrade started in the summer of 2015, and was projected to finish in 2018. However, the tools from Infragistics helped the team to write even faster than anticipated, and to the delight of partners and user clients, SuperStream-NX Ver.2.0 released six months ahead of schedule, on June 1, 2017.

“ We not only launched it ahead of schedule, but with more features and functions than originally planned. ”

Takashi Matsui, Technical Support Manager of the Product Development Team.

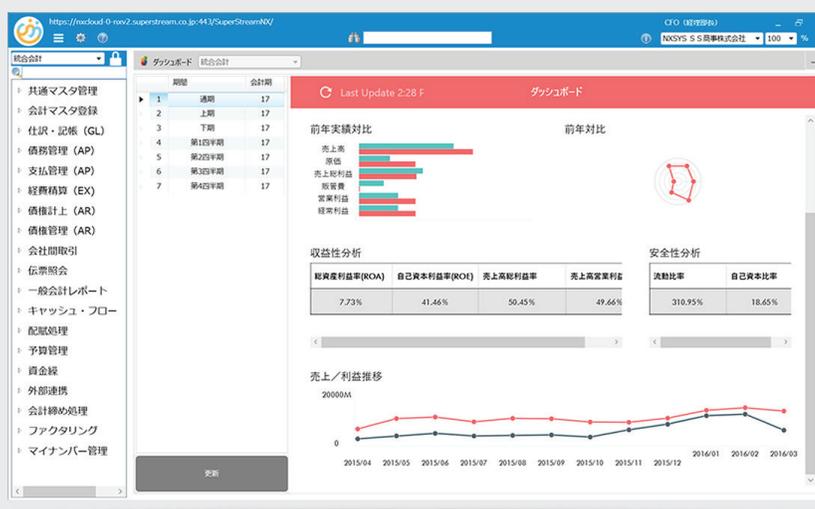
Embedded Business Intelligence Leads to Better Insight

“Our customers use management accounting via SuperStream to support BI analysis not only for entire company but also across multiple organizations using segmentation and project codes via ReportPlus Embedded,” Matsui explained.

For example, managers at the Japanese headquarters can refer to financial statements of their overseas branches instantaneously, improving the accuracy of financial consolidation. Data can also be compared with outsourcing results in easy to visualize graphical form.

“ Integrating ReportPlus Embedded was easy and fast, with minimum coding needed. Time is of the essence when it comes to a software revamp and relaunch. Not having to write complex code to achieve what we wanted helps a lot. ”

Takashi Matsui, Technical Support Manager of the Product Development Team.



Despite the late-stage decision to include ReportPlus Embedded in SuperStream NX-Ver.2.0, the easy integration of ReportPlus and help of Infragistics' technological support staff allowed the addition without any delay in the launch date.

"We managed to incorporate the ReportPlus Embedded features in just three months. The sample code provided by the Infragistics' support team was very helpful," said Sato.

Added Matsui, "The sample browser that we were provided with allowed us to easily envision the possibilities with Infragistics."

Empowering Global Connectivity

To cater to the need for greater accounting transparency and stricter corporate governance, SuperStream-NX Ver. 2.0 provides "multilingual framework" which can create environments meet each countries' language and accounting system.

The system is also available in Japanese and English controls for ease of global use in the cloud, allowing the HQ and overseas operations to open the same screen and perform the simultaneous operations.

Additionally, reporting features were vastly improved in the new version, in large part because of the synergy of working with both Infragistics' WPF tools and embedded BI.

"For the SuperStream-NX Ver. 2.0, we have provided types of report functions, Excel Report, Pivot Report, ReportPlus, Excel plug-in. Since the reports created can be put out in Excel or PDF format, we believe that it can contribute to effective utilization of accumulated accounting data and improvement of productivity", Sato explained.

Sampling the Possibilities

Matsui also felt that the provision of a WPF sample browser made it easy to visualize the possibilities with Ultimate UI for WPF.

"The powerful functionality of grid tools was most impressive and helped us address the lack of such features in the older version," said Matsui. "In terms of cost control and given our timeframe, we wouldn't have managed to do the relaunch in time without Infragistics' UI library that were easy to integrate and ready-to-use. The technical support team also gave us sample code, so that really helped save a lot of time."

Yamada highlights 4 core features of SuperStream NX-Ver.2.0 – Visualization of Management; Comfortable Operability; Flexible reporting and Form creation; and the provision of the Internet of Accounting.

The company plans to migrate all clients to SuperStream Version.2.0 within the next two years, and aims to bring the total tally of clients using the product to 10,000 firms by 2020, says Yamada.

“Moving forward, we look to add to our IoA services, such as AI, FinTech and robotic process automation. We hope SuperStream-NX Ver2.0 will help revolutionize the accounting and HR management framework,” said Yamada. “With our new capabilities we look forward to expanding our mobile solutions suite next year.”

Start Your Own Success Story

To get your company’s success story started, check out these samples to learn more about how [Infragistics Ultimate UI for WPF](#) enables developers to build high-performing modern web applications quickly and easily on every device. To add embedded analytics with [ReportPlus Embedded](#), learn more about how to help your customers make better business decisions with the powerful analytics provided by ReportPlus. Then try Ultimate UI for WPF and ReportPlus along with the full suite of Infragistics developer products available [for a free 30-day trial as part of Infragistics Ultimate](#). Get a free one-hour consultation with our Data Visualization Concierge team with the ReportPlus trial. We will help you create your first data dashboard quickly to see the difference it can make for your business.

About Infragistics

Infragistics is a worldwide leader in providing tools and solutions to accelerate application design and development, insights and collaboration for any organization. More than two million developers use Infragistics enterprise-ready UX and UI toolkits to rapidly prototype and build high-performing applications for the Cloud, Web, Windows, iOS and Android devices. Infragistics Enterprise Mobility solutions ReportPlus and SharePlus, give business users the latest advancements in self-service business intelligence and collaboration software. Additionally, Infragistics offers expert UX Services and award-winning support.