



# **An Accidental Programmer's Journey to Offshore Development & the Shortcuts He Learned Along the Way**

## Building New Software

- **Internal Use** – like in a laboratory or IT department for company-wide use
- **Products** – multiple releases, at startups and established companies

Many companies HAVE TO develop software to grow their business & increase productivity but few companies are prepared to deal with:

- Describing requirements and writing specifications
- Software development process
- Required IT infrastructure

## Getting started with outsourcing

- **Software test & QA only**
- **Individual contractors added to your internal team**
- **One or more independent & autonomous teams**

## Artifacts recommended for describing software

- **Domain Model**
  - Describes database schema and objects modeled by the software
  - Glossary of terms used in the functional specification
- **Wireframes**
  - Simple mock-up of user interface
  - Annotated with callouts to describe UI elements
  - Callouts are small functional specification snippets
- **Functional Spec**
  - English description of the software

## Too much information!

- **Giving too many details inhibits creativity & innovation**
- **Details are assumed to be hard requirements and not suggestions**
- **Information not tied to the user interface is usually ignored**

## **Create a “clickable” prototype? Not recommended.**

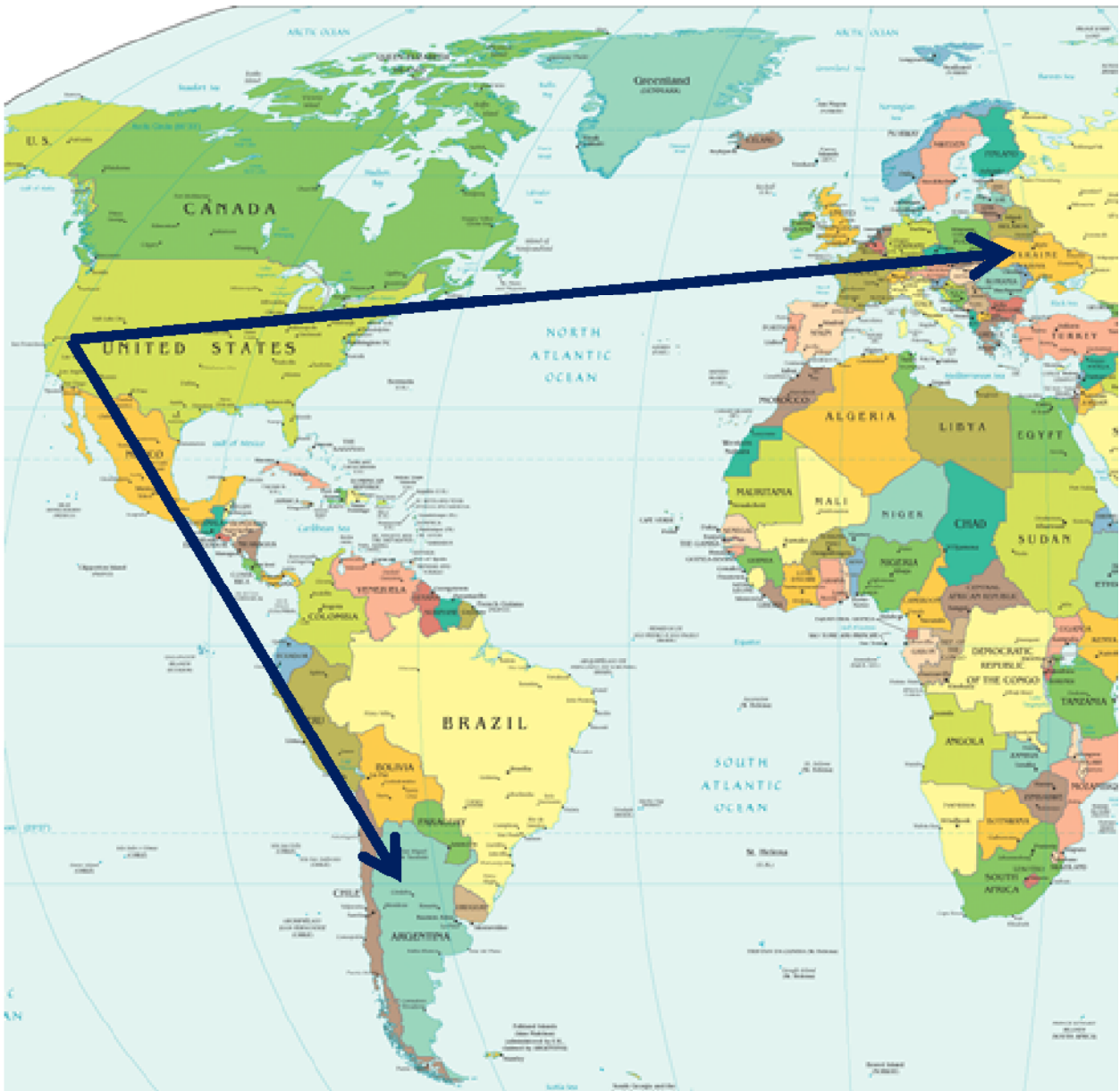
- **Takes too much time & technical skill**
- **Wireframes are simpler & easier to create**
- **Wireframes can be created by people who understand end user needs**

## **Selecting an outsourcing vendor**

- **Finding vendors – Google, personal referrals – time consuming & risky**
- **Use Accelerance as a shortcut !**
- **Use a pilot project – a small amount of functionality**

## **Pilot "Decision Factors"**

- **English fluency**
- **Software architecture**
- **Intelligent questions**
- **Communication skills**
- **Code validation**



**Pilot project was outsourced to vendor in Argentina & Svitla in Ukraine**

## Technology Choice – Ruby on Rails

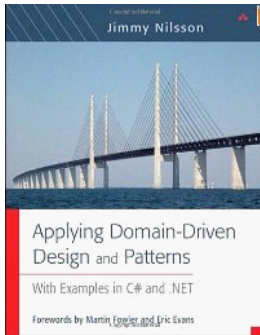
- **Architecture pre-defined, fewer choices required**
- **Supports Agile development**
- **Tools available for test-driven development & continuous integration (Hudson)**



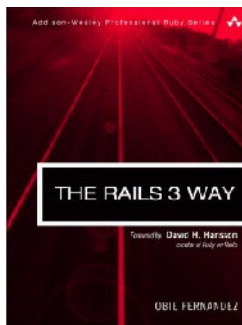
## Outsourcing to Ukraine

- **Highly trained software engineers as university graduates**
- **Good English skills**
- **Able to collaborate with clients**
- **A good value and reasonable rates**

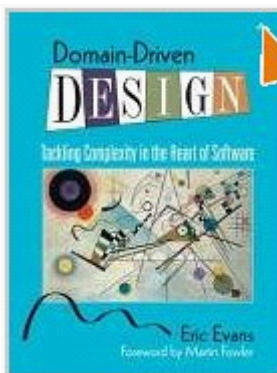
## Book Suggestions



*Applying Domain-Driven Design and Patterns with Examples in C# and .NET* By Jimmy Nilsson. He illustrates doing "mini domain modeling" and toggling between the Domain Model and the UI during design and development. Very good for Rails programmers because the C# is great psuedo code.



Ruby on Rails has a very strong online offering. Here is my suggestion. If you are managing an offshore team and you would like to understand more about a certain technology (say cucumber) - you should ask the team for online tutorials to take you through it. Programming languages cannot be learned solely from reading a book. You should follow these tutorials. Then you should download the project onto a spot Amazon EC2 instance (2 cents an hour) and see if you can play with it in the project itself a little or see examples of it. I find this is much more informative than reading books about Ruby on Rails. Still a little theory is sometimes good - I recommend *The Rails Way* by Obie Fernandez.



*Domain Driven Design* by Eric Evans offers readers a systematic approach to domain-driven design, presenting an extensive set of design best practices, experience-based techniques, and fundamental principles that facilitate the development of software projects facing complex domains. Intertwining design and development practice, this book incorporates numerous examples based on actual projects to illustrate the application of domain-driven design to real-world software development.

Wireframing is a very different animal. This skill set is something you are probably going to want fairly close to your marketing department at least for your customer facing screens. I recommend getting advice and help from a consulting firm that specializes in

wireframing (tooting my own horn I know). But I really don't think you can learn wireframing from a book. Wireframing is the output of UI design, and UI design has lots of facets. Usability, Intuitive interfaces, knowledge of other interfaces that are already out there.

## **Notes from Q&A**

## Free Consultation

Accelerance listens to your software development needs and preferences for location, methodology & time zone and then recommends the best Accelerance global partner for you. We make the introduction and help ensure there is a perfect fit. We've already done the heavy lifting so your software development gets started in days, not weeks or months of your own time of evaluating service providers around the world.

### **Contact us today and schedule your free consultation**

Remember, it's not a sales call (that's why we call it a free consultation\*). There's no hard-sell, no presentations and no long-winded pitch. It's a conversation where you describe what you want to accomplish with software outsourcing and we offer advice and guidance.

**Call 650 472-3785 x100 or email [Info@Accelerance.com](mailto:Info@Accelerance.com)**

## About Accelerance

Accelerance is a Silicon Valley-based global software development firm with over 20 global software development partners in a dozen countries. The Accelerance Global Partner Network is the only online directory of highly qualified, hand-selected and deeply assessed software development companies from around the world with successful track records in developing software for clients. Clients use Accelerance's expert guidance to quickly ramp-up and manage teams of offshore programmers.

Accelerance was founded in 2001 by Steve Mezak, a veteran of numerous software development companies and projects both onshore and offshore and is the author of the book: *Software Without Borders: A Step-By-Step Guide to Outsourcing Your Software Development* available on Amazon and the Accelerance website. For more information, visit: <http://www.accelerance.com>

*\* Our objective advice and consultations are free to clients. We earn a monthly fee and commissions from our global partners for helping them find qualified clients that are a perfect fit for their software development services.*