

Aton International, Inc.

Aton Software Consulting & Engineering Services Methodology



Aton Software Consulting & Engineering Service Packages

Aton International Delivers Results Faster

Aton's ability to deliver results is based on our unique methodology for software development. One of the great ongoing discussions in computer technology is how to best organize and manage software projects. The development of good software is a hugely creative endeavor, including the complex aspects of architecture as well as engineering.

Counterbalancing the creative is the need to minimize cost and time to successfully complete the project. There is a natural tension between the creative people with their need to express the artistry of software design, and the project managers with their need to get results on time and in budget. Many methodologies have been tested to better resolve these two conflicting needs of software development.

Waterfall Method Leaves Little Room For Effective Correction

The traditional technique for top down project management is now associated with the term 'waterfall project management'. It is a (mostly) time linear progression of events, which includes requirements definition, analysis and design, program design, coding and testing, system integration and finally release into production use.

The difficulties of using waterfall project management are well documented. They include the difficulty in accurately estimating the time necessary to complete a software component. Other shortcomings are the difficulty in creating complete requirements and design documents that will remain unchanged through the duration of the project, and that the testing and integration phase is at the end of the allotted project time with little room for effective correction.

More recently, project management techniques have evolved to address the limitations of the 'waterfall' method. These newer 'rapid process' techniques include agile software development, extreme programming, prototyping, etc. While each method has its unique features, all recognize the iterative nature of software development, including definition, design, and programming.

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Rapid Development Allows For An Iterative Process

The rapid software development process more effectively deals with the reality that software projects often cannot be fully specified in the beginning. Software development is often iterative, meaning that information discovered later in the project can impact work done previously. Change is accepted as a natural part of the process. However, change, especially in the later stages of a project, can be expensive both in time and money.

At Aton International, we apply rapid software development techniques to overall project management by:

- **breaking the project into manageable increments or modules, and**
- **the use of defined time and cost schedules for each project increment.**

Each package spans a small, one to four week increment of engineering time with a defined deliverable goal and a defined cost per week. At the completion of each increment, you have the option to continue the services of Aton International, Inc. for the next project module, or a utilize a different resource such as moving the project to your in-house engineers.

Knowledge gained from the completed work can be factored into the deliverable for the next module. By managing the project through service package increments, you have both visibility and control over the overall direction of the project, while, at the same time, the outsourced engineering resources are empowered to develop a specific, accountable near term result.

This method makes it easy to start work quickly, and add or change requirements as needed by adding or subtracting to the project modules. It offers you flexibility and control over your outsourced engineering efforts. You remain in control of the overall project.

Aton's Methodology Meets Many Development Needs

Our rapid development methodology can be used for Windows Mobile Pocket PC, XP Embedded, Windows CE, or Tablet PC development. We have delivered results for clients in a range of industries. Recent projects include medical devices, monitoring equipment for the electric power industry and position location devices.

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What Does It Cost Your Company In Revenue If You Are Late in Releasing Your New Product?

Aton International's experienced team of developers and engineers will "hit the ground running" to rapidly produce results. Our focus on Microsoft Windows embedded systems, peripheral devices, communication methods, and interface to enterprise business systems means that our team members are near the top of the learning curve, not the bottom.

You and your team can remain focused on the unique core value of your product. No need to worry about overseas travel or increased project management time. We provide a single point of responsibility for you in the USA, the project manager associated with the engagement. Weekly in-depth status reports keep you apprised of your project's progress, along with email and telephone consultation any time with your project manager.

Get To Your Goal In 3 Easy Steps

1. Tell us the end goal you want to accomplish and when.
2. Let's break it down to manageable modules.
3. Contract for the number of modules you need.

You can contract for a single module or as many as you need to meet your project requirements. We do all custom development on a "work for hire" basis so you own the end result.

By utilizing packaged services from Aton International, you can focus your management and engineering resources on the core value of your product. You need not be distracted from your project goals by the hiring process. And, you can rest easy knowing that your valuable intellectual property remains in the USA. All work is performed here by Aton International engineers and developers.

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Typical Short Engagement Projects We Handle

- Develop Windows CE or Windows XP drivers for custom I/O device in your dedicated instrument. Interface your product with multiple business systems including mainframes, mid-range servers, and desktop systems.
- Customize a Windows CE Board Support Package (BSP) for your custom hardware platform.
- Create a Windows XP Embedded target image customized with the feature set needed for your product.
- Create the initial port of a Windows XP or 98 application to the Windows XP Embedded platform.
- Develop the initial port of a desktop client business application to the Windows Mobile Pocket PC environment.
- Analyze peripheral devices for driver compatibility, suitability for your project
- Work with your hardware engineers to develop formal test regimen and supporting test software.
- Create integration strategy for connecting your dedicated device to legacy systems.

Get Tangible Business Benefits

- Get your product to market faster, gain revenue, reduce costs.
- Receive early alerts for problems and pitfalls associated with embedded platforms. Your management and staff can focus on the core value of your application.
- Because all of our technical and management resources are located in the USA, we're accessible on YOUR schedule.
- Your intellectual property remains in the USA protected by NDA.

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It's easy to get started with a phone call or e-mail.

Aton International is a Microsoft Certified Partner. We can offer you the experience we have developed in building applications and having them successfully certified by Microsoft. Let us help you achieve your product goals faster and more cost effectively.

Contact us today:

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