How SolDevelo improved design and increased efficiency of the DIAL Catalog of Digital Solutions

OBJECTIVES

DIAL is continuously working on the Catalog by adding new features and enhancements. In order to fulfill this year's roadmap on time, they requested additional help in software development, QA, maintenance and support services. We've decided to take part in the project and contribute to this valuable solution.

SOLUTION

We've created a highly self-organizing team composed of a Project Manager, four Developers (fullstack, frontend, backend), and additionally supported by the Head of Enabling Team. Each person in the team was actively engaged in the whole project, not only participating in the technical tasks, but also managing the contact with the client. Following the style guide, we've implemented many changes and enhancements to the DIAL Catalog design. The process required a lot of challenging, research-oriented tasks. Our team's skills and experience allowed us to successfully finish the project.

BENEFITS

Improved User Experience
Users can now easily access a built-in comment section to participate in discussions. There is also a new user-friendly product maturity score chart available. Consistent look of all inputs also improves the application's UX.

Increased Efficiency for Admin Users
Several admin editing features have been added, allowing them to manage and update pages in a more efficient way.

Decreased amount of invalid data saved
The newly implemented form validation feature ensures that all mandatory fields are filled correctly, saving time of both admin users and end-users.

AT A GLANCE

The Challenge
Our team was responsible for the following tasks:
- Development of the Catalog's features;
- Delivering a high-quality code and taking care of the application's stability;
- Best Practices implementation;
- SEO optimization and application performance improvement;
- Scrum processes improvement;
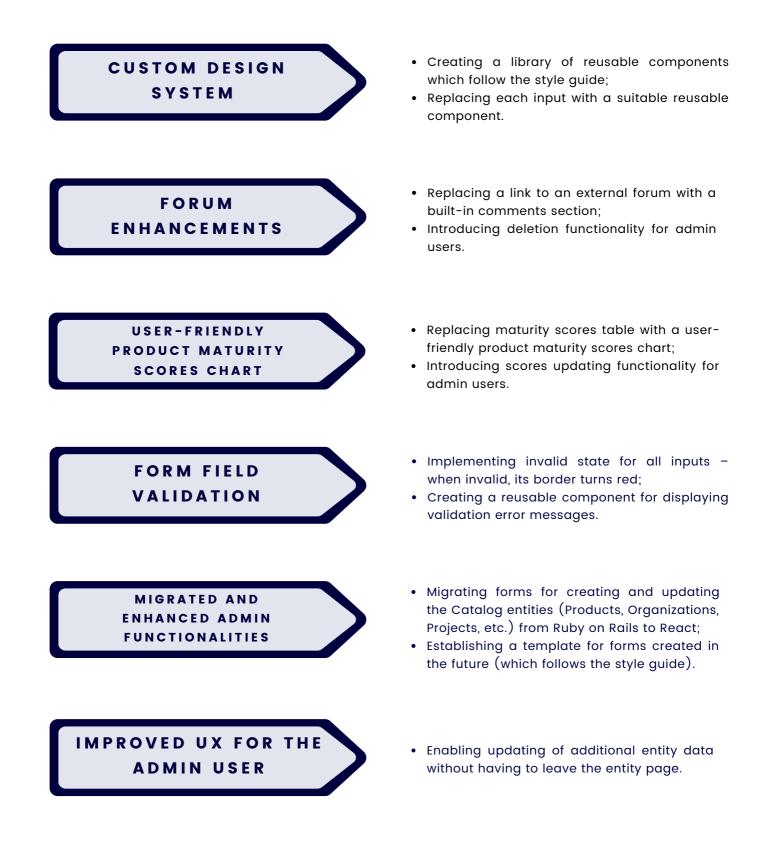- Improving UX of existing features and ensuring good UX of the new ones.

"Not only did SolDevelo provide great software developers who were able to quickly deliver quality code, but they also provide an enabling team which helped us establish excellent Agile processes. We are thankful that we chose SolDevelo to support our project."

Steve Conrad

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY, DIAL

DIAL CATALOG

NEW DESIGN

Our team has implemented a variety of UX enhancements dedicated to admin users as well as end-users. We have also improved some functionalities to increase the application's efficiency.

CUSTOM DESIGN SYSTEM

- Creating a library of reusable components which follow the style guide;
- Replacing each input with a suitable reusable component.

FORUM ENHANCEMENTS

- Replacing a link to an external forum with a built-in comments section;
- Introducing deletion functionality for admin users.

USER-FRIENDLY PRODUCT MATURITY SCORES CHART

- Replacing maturity scores table with a user-friendly product maturity scores chart;
- Introducing scores updating functionality for admin users.

FORM FIELD VALIDATION

- Implementing invalid state for all inputs – when invalid, its border turns red;
- Creating a reusable component for displaying validation error messages.

MIGRATED AND ENHANCED ADMIN FUNCTIONALITIES

- Migrating forms for creating and updating the Catalog entities (Products, Organizations, Projects, etc.) from Ruby on Rails to React;
- Establishing a template for forms created in the future (which follows the style guide).

IMPROVED UX FOR THE ADMIN USER

- Enabling updating of additional entity data without having to leave the entity page.

OUR COOPERATION

One of the more challenging aspects of this cooperation was the time difference between our team and the client. It resulted in limited opportunities to meet and discuss the progress of work. However, such a situation also had its upsides – since the time for consultations was short, we were highly focused, not to waste a single minute. It positively influenced our efficiency during the meetings.

We have developed effective methods of communication with the client that have significantly improved over the course of our cooperation. It included written stand-ups, where we shared links to comments that await being answered, blockers and merge requests. Another tool proved useful were flags in Jira – by flagging issues we could mark the ones that required the client's attention.

MORE ABOUT DIAL CATALOG

DIAL Catalog is an online database of digital solutions. It was created with the purpose of serving as a trusted and comprehensive source of information for implementers, policy makers, donors, technology and ICT ministers and Product Owners.

The Catalog is designed to provide a detailed overview of the landscape of digital solutions. It allows the user to first explore the existing tools, get to know who is using them and what they are helping with, grasp a deeper understanding on the possible solutions to their problems, and only then decide whether those problems can be addressed by some of the tools listed in the Catalog, or if they require a new product to be developed. This way users can save time, energy and resources, and utilize what is already available.

ABOUT US

SolDevelo is a dynamic software development and information technology outsourcing company focused on delivering high-quality software and innovative solutions.

ISO 9001 confirms our dedication to the highest quality and ISO 27001 shows that we treat security extremely seriously. Over 70% of our team members are certified Scrum Professionals, over 35% are Oracle Certified Professionals and 100% of our quality assurance team has ISTQB certificates.

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