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RENE SCHÖPS, HEAD OF SOFTWARE SYSTEMS, SCHILLER

As a market-leading provider of healthcare technology, Schiller has a commitment and a responsibility to ensuring their products have a wide range of functions whilst maintaining a high level of reliability. At the heart of making sure these requirements are balanced is Schiller’s 20-strong team of software developers, headed by Mr. Rene Schöps.

As head of software systems R&D, Mr. Schöps looks after software development at Schiller, which falls into two main categories: software for embedded devices, which is programmed using C; and Windows-based software, which is programmed primarily in C++ and Java. Schiller uses Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 for their Windows-based software, whilst their embedded software runs on Linux 4.3, using Eclipse.

Schiller first learned of how Klocwork could be leveraged by their business after reading a paper online. Having contacted Rogue Wave Software directly for further information, Schiller was directed to Emenda, a Klocwork distribution and integration partner in Europe. After an on-site demonstration of the product, Schiller undertook a month-long evaluation period. “We wanted to be sure that Klocwork was right for us, but we also wanted to compare it with other products on the market,” explains Mr. Schöps. “In the end, Klocwork edged out the competition with the quality of the support we received from them and Emenda during the evaluation period.”

Schiller made the decision to purchase Klocwork and have integrated the tool into their build environment, a process that went smoothly. “We were pleased with how easily Klocwork integrated into our build environment,” says Mr. Schöps. “Plus, with the training provided by Emenda and the quality of the documentation, we have learned how to use Klocwork very quickly.” Schiller currently has 10 developers utilizing the unique desktop function, which enables them to run static analysis checks on their code before checking it in.
Building each new piece of software from scratch, Schiller’s software development team has just entered the test phase of an embedded project containing over 600,000 lines of code. And Klocwork has already proved useful in detecting bugs. “We use the Qt library and GUI library and have had a few problems with memory leaks,” explains Mr. Schöps. “Klocwork has helped us identify these errors and fix them, which is essential for us to meet the MISRA standards to which we work. Overall, I’d say Klocwork has helped us bring stability to our system.”

As well as bringing a greater level of quality to their software, Schiller also recognizes the potential for Klocwork in speeding up the testing phase of the development cycle. “We see Klocwork as an integral part of our software development set-up at Schiller, a process we are working towards automating as far as possible,” explains Mr. Schöps. “We are currently doing regular walkthroughs and code reviews as we get used to working with Klocwork, and I can see that the product is going to help us reduce our development time in the future.”

Although Schiller doesn't currently use the powerful architecture tool provided by Klocwork, they may do so in the future. As Mr. Schöps explains: “Our immediate priority is to make sure that we have Klocwork integrated into our build environment and that the system is stable for our test phase. Once that is complete, then we will have more time to look at the additional features Klocwork has to offer.”

Schiller has been pleased by the role played by Emenda in the process of buying and then integrating Klocwork. “Emenda have supported us very well from the beginning,” says Mr. Schöps. “They have been very professional and their support was Rene Schöps, head of software systems, invaluable for getting us started with Klocwork.”

As Emenda’s Martin Halder explains, working with Schiller was also a positive experience. “Schiller is a company known for the quality of their products in the medical industry, and it was rewarding to be able to help them with a tool for driving standards up even further. Schiller’s commitment to software quality was refreshing to see, and we are confident Klocwork will help them achieve their software development aims.”

About Schiller

Founded in 1974, Schiller is a leading international manufacturer and supplier of electrocardiographs, long-term ECG and blood pressure recorders, spirometers, medical IT solutions, patient monitors and external defibrillators. Based in Baar, Switzerland, Schiller employs 700 people and has representatives in over 100 countries worldwide.

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Emenda is a UK, Germany and France based company providing software development and software testing consultancy and tools to customers worldwide. With a strong background in safety- and mission-critical software testing, Emenda has core competence and expertise in the verification and validation of software to external software standards.

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