



# CASE STUDY

## National banking group saves time and money with AppDev® learning

### Client Overview

Woodforest Financial Group Inc., consisting of Woodforest National Bank and Woodforest Bank, has over 600 branches serving customers throughout the United States. With 29 years of banking success, Woodforest continues to grow and serve new markets each year.

### Challenge

Woodforest needed a training solution for their entire IT team – including development, database and technical operations staff – that would get them up to speed on the newest technologies like Visual Studio 2010. The ideal solution would give their team the ability to learn new topics quickly, without the time and cost associated with off-site instructor-led training.

Woodforest Software Developer Burrell Walters notes that with classroom training “three or four 8-hour days of training is a lot to take in. You can only retain so much, and everything else you’ll have to try to piece together on your own after returning to work.” They were also looking for a reference solution to supplement their textbooks and online research.

### Solution

After spending two weeks using a trial of an AppDev ASP.NET course, Woodforest purchased the entire AppDev AppDev OnDemand Enterprise™ library for their IT team, including the newest content for Visual Studio®, SharePoint®, SQL Server® and more.

AppDev brings Microsoft experts and practical content directly to each user’s desktop, including step-by-step instructor-led presentations and demonstrations, online courseware, hands-on lab exercises, sample code and pre/post exams. All KSource users also have access to the AppDev Edge member site where they can attend live learning events, plus they have the unique ability to interact with instructors and other students similar to a traditional classroom experience.

### Results

Since implementing AppDev OnDemand Enterprise, the Woodforest team has noted increased efficiency as well as substantial cost savings over classroom training. By utilizing their AppDev learning in several different ways, they have tapped into the full potential of the tool and have seen the benefits.

The Woodforest team uses AppDev for just-in-time learning at each user’s desktop, allowing each team member to explore the latest technologies at their convenience without spending valuable time out of the office. Users are encouraged to go through complete courses on their own as needed to grow their skills or learn new concepts for specific projects. According to Walters, using KSource in this way gives you “all of the benefits of a Microsoft course, but you learn at your own pace, and don’t need to miss a week of work to do it.”

Recognizing that people often learn better as a group, Woodforest has also used AppDev OnDemand Enterprise for team training. Similar to a college course format, they have worked through a new technology or course together, complete with a hands-on team project.

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The Woodforest team also finds AppDev to be a powerful reference tool. Rather than spending valuable time searching through technical books or the vast array of technical Web sites, they instead can often find the answers they need quickly and easily right within KSource.

Because AppDev produces course content for new Microsoft software shortly after release, Woodforest is able to use AppDev to stay on the cutting edge of new technologies like Visual Studio 2010. They are able to get up to speed quickly on new features and functionality, allowing them to evaluate and/or take advantage of the new software faster than ever before.

Overall, the Woodforest team has found that AppDev offers them the very best benefits of traditional classroom learning – like expert instructors, cutting edge content, step-by-step demonstrations, courseware, hands-on lab exercises and interaction with instructors and students – but at their location, at their convenience, and at a much lower cost.

“With AppDev OnDemand Enterprise, we can give our team members access to a full library of courses for an entire year for much less than it would cost to send them to just one training class. AppDev is a much better value,” adds Walters. “With AppDev, each of us can take four or five courses a year as opposed to just one, and we spend no time out of the office. Plus, we’re able to keep the content and the instructors in front of us and reference them when we need to. We don’t get that with classroom training.”

Walters estimates that Woodforest has saved over \$40,000 on technical training for his team in the last year alone by using AppDev OnDemand Enterprise instead of traditional classroom learning.

## About AppDev

AppDev is an award-winning technical learning company providing in-depth, real-world content in multiple formats to developers, IT professionals and computer users worldwide. Learning formats include AppDev OnDemand™, DVD-ROM, AppDev OnDemand Enterprise™ and courseware licensing through AppDev Technical Publishing.

AppDev has been consistently recognized as the best in the industry (2003-2010 Visual Studio Magazine Readers Choice Award, 2009-2010 Code Project Members Choice Award, 2008 Visual Studio Magazine Editors Choice Award, 2008 Windows IT Pro Editors Choice Award, 2007-2009 asp.netPRO Readers Choice Award). AppDev training courses come complete with step-by-step presentations and code walkthroughs by Microsoft MVP and expert instructors, hands-on lab exercises, sample code, online courseware, pre/post exams, and a free membership to AppDev Edge.

AppDev offers training for the latest technologies including Microsoft® SharePoint®, Microsoft® SQL Server®, Business Intelligence, Microsoft® Visual Basic®, Microsoft® Visual C#®, Microsoft® ASP.NET and more. For more information about AppDev, call (800)578-2062 or visit [www.appdev.com](http://www.appdev.com).

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