

From the Ekobit "in a box" services series

## Visual Studio Team System "in a box"

### What is Visual Studio Team System?

Visual Studio Team System (VSTS) consists of a set of applications and tools that support the entire software development lifecycle. The integrated support for the team software development connects all roles involved in development (project managers, architects, developers engineers, testers), improving their communication and collaboration. The team's software development operations are automated using tools and processes integration; hence the information flow is friction free, eliminating all the additional administration work. VSTS is easy to use for the end users, because each team member uses VSTS services while working in his or her standard work environment (Visual Studio, MS Excel and MS Project, Internet Explorer).

From the architectural point of view, VSTS is based on several servers and services: Team Foundation Server (TFS), SQL Server 2005, Reporting Services and SharePoint Portal Services. The system is based on process guidelines available in the form of methodology templates, which constantly monitor team work and guide the team in the right direction. They are used to determine the work procedures, i.e. team functions and roles, their relationships and authorities, workflows, artifacts (assignments, documents, reports) which team members produce and interchange.

### How to install VSTS?

The VSTS installation must be planned carefully for two main reasons:

- because of the architectural complexity, server side solutions must be adjusted to the team's demands (necessities, needs) and to the existing network infrastructure (active directory, domain, remote internet access etc.)
- integrated methodology templates and workflows usually must be adjusted to the custom, internal rules and existing team work organization

In its standard form, the VSTS installation is fairly straightforward, therefore the main VSTS functionality is relatively easy to setup. But because of inevitable customization and system adjustments to the team's needs, with the goal to construct the most efficient work environment, the installation itself is basically just the first step. Afterwards, in an iterative procedure, further work recommendations and work processes are analyzed and compared, so the standard process could be adjusted to the team's needs in the most efficient way.



If you need more information, contact us at [info@ekobit.com](mailto:info@ekobit.com)

### Who is Ekobit?

Ekobit is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner specialized in consulting and software development on Microsoft technologies and platforms. Since 1992., when we were established as independent software and consulting company, Ekobit is growing constantly, employing now almost 40 professionals. Working for years on international markets, we have gained considerable experience in project management and application development in various vertical industries.

The key of Ekobit's success are our experts, always prepared for challenging new technologies and tools. One of those challenges arrived in summer 2004., along with the arrival of the VSTS. We were among the first to have "live" system which we used and tested systematically through all beta phases. Since the October 2005., we have been using VSTS successfully in production.

### Ekobit's VSTS „in a box“ pilot project

The goal of the VSTS "in a box" pilot project is to make the VSTS implementation, adjusted to your software development process and functioning in your network environment, much easier. For the installation, a joint project team is formed which includes yours and Ekobit's experts, chosen to cover all domains required to complete following assignments:

- analysis of the current software development process and consulting on how to adapt to the VSTS based development process
- consulting considering selection of the optimal configuration and planning VSTS solution on the infrastructural level
- consulting and assistance during the VSTS installation
- consulting and assistance during the VSTS adjustment and configuration

The offer includes 9 days of Ekobit's experts work, distributed in four phases. We will adjust those phases according to your needs, i.e. to the required operations depending on your work environment.

Here is a brief description of the pilot project phases:

- In phase 1, during two days, one VSTS expert and one system engineer together with your equivalent experts analyze your current development process, the infrastructure and your needs. After the evaluation, they define the architecture of the VSTS installation and required modifications.
- In phase 2, in one day period, your experts, together with Ekobit's, install required server and client components.
- In phase 3, which lasts for three days, the installed VSTS system is configured and adjusted to your development process.
- The last day of the project will be used to deploy new VSTS system and to train selected personnel in your organization.

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