

# EVERBANK FINANCIAL CORP.

Cuts Development Time with Groovy and Grails

## EVERBANK FINANCIAL CORP.



## SPRINGSOURCE RESULTS

Groovy and Grails deliver the following business results to Everbank:

- Accelerated Development Cycle – from 3 weeks down to 3 days
- More Innovative Features
- Greater Application Quality
- Focus on Business Objectives
- Easier Maintenance
- More Creative Development

## TESTIMONIAL

*“I estimated that the application would take me 3 weeks to develop in Struts. It took me about 3 days to get a working application up in Grails ... Grails is the most productive platform available.”*

*“Grails takes less development time, so we have more time to address new features that the users want.”*

*“Groovy makes programming more interesting and more enjoyable, as you learn more creative ways to accomplish familiar tasks in Groovy.”*

## EverBank Financial Corp.

EverBank Financial Corp, based in Jacksonville, Florida, is one of the nation’s largest privately-held financial services firms with approximately \$5.3 billion in assets. EverBank provides banking and lending products to more than 450,000 customers nationwide. The bank has received numerous industry awards including Money Magazine’s “Best of the Breed” and Forbes.com’s “Best of Web”.

### Challenge

As part of the Patriot Act, the United States requires banks to validate loan recipients, to make sure they are not on the government’s list of suspected terrorists or other watch lists. Everbank needed an application to automate this process, cross-checking all loan applicants with the lists provided by the government, and triggering further investigation, if necessary.

In the past, Everbank would have developed the application in Apache Struts, but they were looking for a new platform to accelerate the development process. “Struts is the company standard development platform, but we are trying to move to newer technologies,” says David Smith, Developer, Everbank. “Struts is dated, clumsy, and has no future.”

“Developing an application in Struts takes a lot longer than in other modern development platforms,” he continues. “Modern platforms operate on convention-over-configuration, meaning there is a convention for everything and configuration is the exception. Struts operates on the reverse – everything must be configured. You have to tell Struts what to do in every case. There are absolutely no conventions, so you can develop applications however you want.”

This freedom is not an advantage for Everbank. According to Smith, the lack of conventions means it is more labor-intensive to set up an application in Struts, and it is also difficult for other developers to understand, maintain or change the application.

In addition, application quality is another challenge Everbank faces when using Struts. “Struts is notoriously difficult to test,” Smith adds. “Developers generally don’t do automated tests on their Struts applications, because it is so difficult.”

Struts does not enable unit testing. Instead, developers are forced to perform manual user acceptance tests, after the application is developed. This process takes more time to test, more effort to fix bugs, and is not as thorough.

## Solution

In his search for new development platforms, Smith decided to write the application in Groovy and Grails. Groovy is a dynamic language for the Java Virtual Machine that offers a flexible Java-like syntax that developers can learn in a matter of hours. Grails is an advanced and innovative Web application framework based on Groovy and built on proven open source technologies such as Spring. The project was such a success that Smith now considers Groovy and Grails his primary application development platform. Both Groovy and Grails and backed by SpringSource, the leader in Java application infrastructure and management.

## Benefits

### GROOVY AND GRAILS DELIVER THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS RESULTS TO EVERBANK:

#### Accelerated Development Cycle

"I estimated that the application would take me 3 weeks to develop in Struts," says Smith. "It took me about 3 days to get a working application up in Grails. I don't think we could have done it in anywhere near the same amount of time using Struts. As of right now, Grails is the most productive platform available and that is why we are trying to use it more at the bank."

#### More Innovative Features

"Grails takes less development time, so we have more time to address new features that the users want," Smith confirms. "If we are struggling with Struts, then we don't have as much time to deal with the other aspects, such as functionality."

"We work in an IT shop and time is money," he adds. "Less development time, due to Grails, means we save more money."

#### Greater Application Quality

Grails provides testing support out of the box, and it is much easier to perform unit tests in Groovy and Grails than in Struts, says Smith. In addition, the infrastructure code and plug-ins provided by Grails are already tested and proven, eliminating the potential for bugs in these areas. Consequently, applications built in Groovy and Grails have much higher quality than applications built on other platforms such as Struts. "If we spend less time for development in Groovy and Grails, we have more time to address testing and quality," Smith adds.

#### Focus on Business Objectives

By providing a complete Web stack and eliminating the need to build the infrastructure, and all the decision making that entails, Groovy and Grails allow Smith to focus on the business objectives of Everbank, and align the application more closely to those goals.

## Easier Maintenance

Because Groovy and Grails provide conventions, it is much easier for one developer to understand another developer's code. In the long run, this makes maintenance easier for Everbank, because any developer can look at the Groovy code, understand how the application works, and make changes that do not result in negative impacts.

## More Creative Development

"The Groovy language gives us more freedom to develop applications, because we can accomplish so much more with less code," Smith says. "Groovy makes programming more interesting and more enjoyable as we explore more creative ways to accomplish familiar tasks in Groovy."

---

## About SpringSource

SpringSource, a division of VMware, Inc., (NYSE: VMW) and the leader in Java application infrastructure and management, provides a complete suite of software products that accelerate the entire build, run, manage enterprise Java application lifecycle.

SpringSource employs the open source leaders who created and drive innovation for Spring, the de facto standard programming model for enterprise Java applications. SpringSource also employs the Java and Web thought leaders within the Apache Tomcat, Apache HTTP Server, Hyperic, Groovy and Grails open source communities. Nearly half of the Global 2000, including many of the world's leading retail, financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, technology and public sector clients are SpringSource customers. For more information visit: [www.springsource.com](http://www.springsource.com).



North & South America  
+1 877-486-9273

Europe/Middle East/Africa  
+44 1276 414300

Asia Pacific  
+61 284040150