Evean Built a Sophisticated Web Tool for Personnel Scheduling and Planning without any Coding

The Challenge

[Evean](#) is a prominent Dutch healthcare company that provides specialty care and nursing help in the Northern Netherlands area. Their services include nursing and home care, geriatric rehabilitation care, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, remedial therapy, home counseling, and day care.

Kim Brand is a manager at Evean, who has been offering finance and consulting expertise to healthcare companies for years. Building the right team for every project is of utmost importance to Kim and his team, and they were looking for a solution to help them track their scheduling from a centralized location, and not worry about sending Excel workbooks to their clients, managers, or team members. He describes their business challenge as: *"Optimizing the costs and availability of the personnel in healthcare can be quite challenging. To help our team with handle planning and scheduling tasks better, we created a number of tools. We work a lot with Excel, but the problem with Excel is making a tool easy-to-use for team managers. For example, to get the costs on the personnel scheduling, the planners create the schedule for every employee. We were looking for a solution to manage scheduling better, and provide a more user-friendly interface for our team managers, that can be available on any device."* Says Kim. He then elaborates on their expectations from this project, "*The solution had to be scalable and easy-to-maintain. The data model had to be easy to adjust. This way, another team could use the same tool without making substantial changes in the logic. We also didn't want several workbook versions to keep track of. Excel isn't the best tool for our use case.*".

The Solution

The template for this scheduling tool was already created in Excel. Kim had a pretty good idea about what they wanted to put in the user interface, and the calculation logic for payments and validation had to be as defined in Excel. They started searching for alternatives to custom coding, as doing so would have been a costly endeavor. Furthermore, this tool still needed to be field-tested, and verify that it meets the business requirements.

Kim describes their search for a solution as: *"We considered hiring an expert, and creating a custom web application. This would have been a larger investment, in the thousands of Euros range. We already have experience with another custom project we did before, where we had to make changes to the tool every now and then. That project led us to believe that custom coding wasn't going to be the best solution. If we went the custom coding route, the initial investment would have been fairly high, and it would not be easy to make adjustments in the tool."*.

So, custom coding this tool as a web application was not going to cut it, but they also needed a more elaborate tool than a simple calculator or online forms. Kim continues, *"We searched for a cloud solution, and found a number of alternatives. We even came across one solution that used a downloadable-application-based solution that runs on a local machine. However, these were much simpler online calculators that weren't sophisticated enough to solve our challenge."*.

Going with a solution where the calculation logic comes from Excel meant that Evean could make any necessary changes to the UI or business logic on the fly, without relying on a team of developers. With these requirements, SpreadsheetWEB proved to be the best solution for this

project. Kim also adds, "*During our evaluation process, it was very helpful that the SpreadsheetWEB team offered to create a demo application for us. Thanks to this, we could easily see what SpreadsheetWEB could do.*".

The Results

The project could be completed in the matter of a few weeks, including building their web application and setting up hosting. The end result is a solution that costed them far less than a custom approach.

"We wanted to make some changes in the application after it was first created, and having the initial setup done by the SpreadsheetWEB team really helped. It was easy to see the relationship between the Excel model and the SpreadsheetWEB application. After diving into it, everything was pretty clear. We emailed the SpreadsheetWEB team when we had questions during the setup phase, and were able to get a response within the same day, usually in an hour. I really appreciated that I didn't have to wait two days to get an answer." Says Kim about their experience working with together with the SpreadsheetWEB team. He further elaborates on why they chose SpreadsheetWEB: *"We considered custom coding, but that would cost us several thousands of Euros. The initial model was going to be 6-7,000 Euros. We had to see whether the business model made sense. The custom code approach would have been too big of an investment for this. The license and fee structure of SpreadsheetWEB* made this transition much easier, and save us money. Using SpreadsheetWEB, we were able to try out the tool, and avoid the initial development costs. Furthermore, the SpreadsheetWEB platform is very flexible. If we need to make any changes to the tool, it's now in my hands to do just that. With custom coding, I would have to hire a web developer every time I needed to make an adjustment. In general, we are very happy with the solution and the service we have received."*

Evean needed a white-label solution, where their brand, logos, and color scheme could be integrated into the entire platform – from the web application, to the control panel and data access.

Since they purchased a Private Cloud license, they also were able to further configure their SpreadsheetWEB experience, and give their end users access to the features they need. They translated the entire control panel language into Dutch simply changing them in a text file, and streamlined user access in the system.

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