

Library Management for the Library Managers

VC/m at Geac Library Solutions

Geac is one of the world's largest suppliers of Library Information Systems with over 30 years' experience. Geac products such as Vubis Sm@rt are installed in some 2,000 libraries in 25 countries worldwide, including such prestigious institutions as Oxford University and the Vatican Library.

Prior to 2002, Geac's Library Management Software had a small development team based at a single location in the Netherlands. As the team started to expand across the

Geac's development and QA teams are spread around the world with team members using VC/m in the Netherlands, Canada, the UK, Spain, France and Australia.

globe, they looked for a configuration management product to meet their increasingly complex needs.

VC/m's flexible configuration options mean that Geac are able to use different set-ups to suit the different needs of their distributed teams. In the Netherlands, each developer has their own development location on their laptop. They connect to the server to check in and out (via Caché 5's ECP networking), and then they can

work on- or off-line. The team in Canada have their own development server from which they check in and out. Other more isolated developers can also connect up to check in and out and then get on with their development work off-line.

Because of a short release cycle, Geac actively maintain three versions of the software at any one time – NEXT is the future release, MAINT is the latest public release and PREV is the previous public release. VC/m is configured with a single library but with three separate work cycles so work on the three versions can take place concurrently.

Geac's configuration has both the QA team and the developers fully integrated into the work cycles. When a piece of work is ready, the developer checks it into a QA in-tray. The tester controls when it is moved into the test location. If the tester approves the work, it is added to the next version. If it is rejected, it goes into the developer's in-tray for further work. When work is approved, it is added into the refresh location for each developer. The developer has complete control over when to update their own sandbox with the changes which others have made.

Geac make good use of the facilities which VC/m offers for integration with other products. They use Beyond Compare, the visual differencing tool from Scooter Software, for comparing versions, for example to see the differences between MAINT and NEXT. They use the SQL mapping to query VC/m's database in the production of management reports. VC/m has also been integrated with their HEAT defect tracking system so that the VC/m change requests are linked to the HEAT change controls.

For further information on VC/m, please contact:

George James Software, 42-44 High Street, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 9AU, United Kingdom
www.georgejames.com info@georgejames.com +44-1932-252568