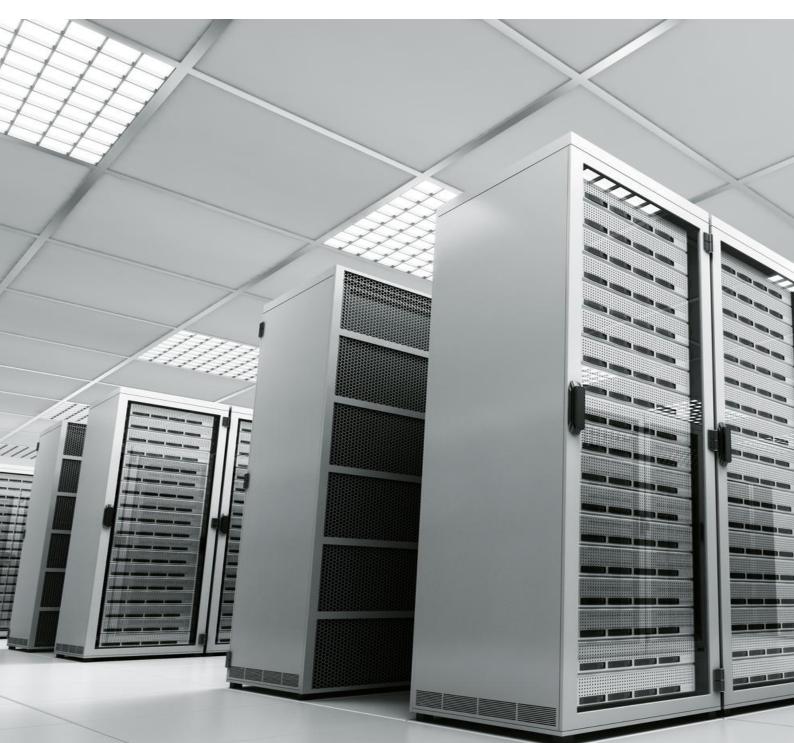**3Ds**

69 Esher Road, East Molesey,Surrey.KT8 0AQ
United Kingdom

W: http://www.3Ds.co.uk   E: Contact@3Ds.co.uk

T: (+44) (0) 208 144 4141
F: (+44) (0) 208 337 5332

Delivering software solutions since 1998

Introduction

3Ds (UK) Limited is a privately owned UK-based consultancy and software house, developing solutions and supporting our clients since 1998. Today we specialise in client & server, database, web and mobile solutions and provide consulting, development & training services to them.

Whether your systems utilise older architectures, the latest runtime environments or you wish to link the two worlds together, our consultants & development team maintain the highest standards to deliver the results you want, on time and to budget, however large or small the requirement may be.

As a company we also develop and support our own range of monitoring & notification software. The Sentry-go® monitoring solution for Windows provides our customers with affordable, automated monitoring systems that are quick & easy to use and provide support teams, IT & company management with the information they need access to. It is trusted by our customers worldwide including the United Kingdom, Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia and the Far East.

3Ds (UK) Limited is registered in Wales, United Kingdom, company reg. no. 03598401.

Our services

We offer a full range of technical & programming services to our clients and can offer the same to you, either locally remotely. These include …

- IT consulting services
- Software development & project management, including client, server, database, web & mobile-based solutions
- Technical support, assistance and troubleshooting
- Technical & software reviews & system investigations
- Technical & end-user training
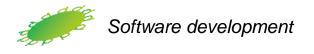- Utility & script maintenance & development

Each task can be tailored to meet your specific needs from the smallest Microsoft Office macro to complete IT systems.

IT consulting

IT is a fast moving area and one where technology plays a great part. Whether you require a single day to discuss or investigate a specific technical issue, on-going development or design work or longer term assistance with your broader company & IT strategy, our experience can help you through each stage of a system's development lifecycle.

From the solution's design and development through to ultimate delivery and deployment, we can provide either on-site or off-site consulting to suit your needs.

Software development

Our development team or highly skilled software engineers and have many years of experience in designing, developing and delivering solutions, from one-off utilities to full-scale multi-tier systems. They can, for example …

- Design, build or implement a new system to meet your user-requirements
- Integrate a new system into your existing infrastructure
- Recommend & implement improvements by upgrading your environment or systems
- Enhance an existing solution
- Port or upgrade an older system to take advantage of the latest technologies & advances

Whether you want a command-line tool, script, Windows-based GUI, web-based or mobile interface with database & external system integration, we can provide help & assistance either on or off-site.

Technical support

Support is an integral part of any IT system, be it a small single user solution to a complete system being accessed worldwide and running 24 x 7. Whatever your IT need our support team is there to help. For example if you …

- Have a software problem/bug you are trying to track down and resolve
- Have an environmental conflict
- Have a slow or poorly performing system or database
- Have a VBA macro/script you wish to troubleshoot, enhance or replace
- Want a second opinion on your existing solution prior to making changes
- Require automated software monitoring

This can be achieved a number of ways …

- One-off solutions

  If you have a specific problem that you or your helpdesk are trying to resolve, then we may be able to help. Our support team has many years of experience with the Windows environment as well as the underlying technologies and programming languages that run on it.

- On-going support

  If you don't have a dedicated support group but want the peace of mind if technical problems do arise with your desktop and/or server machines, then contact us today.

- Out-of-hours cover

  Computer systems don't just run between 9am and 5pm, they often need to operate 24 hours a day, maybe to provide batch "overnight" processing or to support a web site accessed world-wide and across different time-zones.

  3Ds provides cover to clients outside of the normal office hours in order to provide support to your end-users & customers even when most helpdesks are shut.

Code & quality reviews

Application reviews & audits give you an independent assessment of a system, both from a design and technical perspective.

This can be very effective during both development process when accepting software under a support agreement or whilst investigating recurring application or performance problems.

Education & training

Training is an essential part of the development process and our bespoke courses, tailored specifically for your company's environment will give developers the information they need to design, develop, deliver and support systems now and in the future.

Upon completion, the training can, if required be backed up by consultancy for on-going support in the first few months thus allowing teams or individuals build on the skills they've learnt.

Examples of our courses include ...

- Developing VBA macros with Microsoft Excel (training for in-house trainers)
- Technical Support for Windows Professionals
- Windows - Beyond Visual Basic
- Web Seminar for DBAs
- Understanding COM, MTS & COM+

Technologies

IT is a fast moving area and we're constantly reviewing the technologies we use to ensure we keep up to date with the latest ideas & versions. We also fully respect our client's existing investment in older environments.

Here are just some of the technologies we can use to provide & implement your systems.

Development environments & tools

Microsoft .NET Framework	ASP/ASPX
Visual Basic	ADO, ODBC & OLE/DB
C#, C, C++,	Microsoft Office technologies
Microsoft Foundation Classes (MFC)	Windows Sockets (WINSOCK)
SQL & Stored Procedures	TCP/IP
HTML, DHTML	The Windows API
XML, XSLT	
JSON	

The correct choice of development environment and the technologies that will be used are key to the successful design & implementation of any system. Going over the top makes the system hard to maintain and may be totally inappropriate & expensive for what's needed. In the same way however, writing something quick and simple may work for one user, but may not scale in the future.

There are a wide range of tools & environments, many of which overlap. It's easy to go straight for the newest but it's also worth considering the whole question in more detail, including...

- What will the solution have to do ?
- Which environments are best for what you are trying to achieve ?
- Who is your customer & what's the best solution for them ?
- What skills do you have available to develop and/or support the new system ?
- What systems already exist and will they need to interact with the new solution?
- What are the specific complexities the team will face ?
- What environments do you currently support and how will the new system fit in ?
- What additional costs will be incurred by the new environment ?

Likewise …

- Web developments are popular and can have huge advantages in both deployment and the overall user experience. But they are often slower to use especially for simple data entry type solutions.

  Even though the data may be the same, a seller doesn't always need, or want, the same interface as a buyer!

- Off the shelf packages are quick & may be a cheaper solution in the short term. However, they may not do exactly what you need and getting them to do it may actually make things more confusing and more expensive than a tailored solution.

Our consultants can discuss each of these options and help you determine the best approach to take. Our team can help either deliver, or assist your own developers in designing & building the new or updated solution.

Scripted technologies

JavaScript	Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)
VBScript	Microsoft Office integration
Perl & Php	Client-side or Server-side scripting

If written & designed properly, scripting can be quick & neat solution for a number of tasks – for example, the automating of what would otherwise be a manual process. It's also the method of choice for implementing client side – and sometimes server-side logic for the web. Adding small amounts of logic to documents can also help make the underlying data much more intelligent – e.g. to perform validation within a shared document or form.

However, take this too far and you soon have what ought to be a packaged system wrapped up in one or more Excel spread sheets! Before you know it, your business is reliant on macros, something you don't want now and on day one you may not have considered.

Our consultants can advise on the use of scripting technologies, the choices available and how to use them. We can also develop scripted solutions, re-model old ones, or review scripts as part of a larger design.

Database & access technologies

Microsoft SQL Server	SQL & stored procedures
Microsoft Access	Query Execution Plans
IBM DB2	ODBC, OLE/DB, ADO, .NET
AS/400	XML, JSON

A database is more than just somewhere to store data – it's often the heart of the system! If access to the data is slow, or the database itself isn't performing well, any system connecting to it, no matter what the environment you're using will perform badly.

An optimised, well designed and tuned database on the other hand, can make all the difference, as can well thought through SQL access strategies.

We have many years of experience in database systems and the technologies that access them, from design & stored procedures to ADO and front end access. We can help design, develop & optimise your SQL access solutions, methods and databases.

Server technologies & environments

Microsoft Windows Server family	Internet Information Services (IIS)
Microsoft SQL Server	Microsoft Exchange
MS-DTC, COM/COM+, .NET	Microsoft Office technologies & SharePoint

Making the use of the technology available can help you improve your return on investment (ROI) but at the same time, keeping things simple can also bring with it rewards.

For example, COM+/distributed transactions are great when you need them, but an added cost when you don't and so it's important to understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of the technologies you're using. In other words, you can "play to the strengths and avoid the weaknesses" as much in the design as in the code itself.

Sometimes off the shelf or built-in solutions work well and are a perfect fit; sometimes though the requirements are far more easily met by developing a bespoke solution, even if at first this seems a more daunting task.

Our consultants & development team can help leverage the best from the technologies you're using and recommend changes where appropriate. From single user applications to fully scalable systems with distributed transactions & multi-user access, they are here to help.

Application types & design

GUI-based systems .NET components
Web-based systems & applications COM/COM+ components
Mobile-based solutions Command-line utilities
DLLs Automated solutions
Background Windows Services

Although at first this may seem obvious, you might be surprised at how often this ought to be considered more fully. In order to get the best out of the environment, your logic needs to run in the right place and this often means breaking it down into smaller pieces in order to position it correctly.

Sometimes the answer is clear from the outset, but sometimes it isn't and sometimes a combination of architectures can in fact give you the benefit you're looking for.

Our consultants have a good understanding of the core IT technologies and principals. By initially taking a higher level view and stepping back from the problem, they can work with your own team & customers alike to design the solution that's right. Whether it's a simple script, single Windows GUI or a fully blown service-based solution with multi-layered web front ends, you'll reap the rewards by getting this step correct.

Contacting Us

If you would like further information on any of the services or solutions we offer, speak to a consultant or discuss your development, monitoring or support requirements, however large or small, we'd be happy to talk to you.

- E-mail   Contact@3Ds.co.uk

  We aim to respond to all e-mail enquiries within one working day

- Post   3Ds (UK) Limited,
  69, Esher Road,
  East Molesey,
  Surrey.
  KT8 0AQ
  United Kingdom.

- Telephone   (+44) (0) 208 144 4141

- Fax   (+44) (0) 208 337 5332

http://www.3Ds.co.uk
http://www.Sentry-go.com