Large Development Projects
NoExcuses™ delivery of new iSeries functionality

site navigation

The Unbeaten Path development process

We recommend that large functionality development projects employ this sequential process to increase quality, improve productivity, and reduce development risk:

Design steps

✧ **Conceptual design**

We interview prospective users of the proposed new functionality to develop a conceptual design. The interview process helps us to reconcile any distinctions between what the users want, what the client's corporate policy demands, and what world class business practice suggests.

Our design effort explores avenues to re-configure the existing (vanilla) system so as to deliver the desired functionality. The idea is to keep our programming work as modest as possible. Unbeaten Path also attempts, if at all possible, to invent a design architecture that will be portable to new versions of the underlying system, whether that be BPCS, ERP LX, or any other iSeries-based ERP system.

The deliverable is a written document which confirms that the requested functionality can be achieved and describes Unbeaten Path's proposed strategy to deliver it. We also provide time estimates for the next steps. The time estimate for the detailed design is firm. The time estimate for the programming/testing/delivery steps is an educated guess at this point.

✧ **Detailed design**

Unbeaten Path's work on the detailed design begins after the client approves the conceptual plan. We now get down to the field-by-field, screen-by-screen, report-by-report level to develop a comprehensive approach to deliver all of the promised functionality. Our work honors the standards of the underlying system.

The written deliverable has robust detail; with that document in hand, any reasonably competent iSeries programmer could complete the programming work. Unbeaten Path also provides a firm estimate to complete the execution process described below.

Execution steps

✧ **Programming**

After formal approval of the detailed design, we execute that design using RPG ILE or AS/SET as appropriate. Unbeaten Path's expert staff is very efficient. There are examples of third party programmers who have put in more than twice as many hours as Unbeaten Paths' firm estimate to complete the programming work.

✧ **Bench Testing**

Unbeaten Path developers compare the functionality of the finished code with the detailed design requirements. We try to break our work and fix anything that comes to our attention.

A challenging bug doesn't hold us up for long because we use **Stitch-in-Time** software. The product's robust database change observation functionality makes problems easy to trace; when we look at the data Stitch-in-Time collects, the bugs stand out like a smoking gun.

The Unbeaten Path development process, *continued ...*

Customer delivery steps

✧ **Composition of installation instructions and user run instructions**

✧ **Installation in the Client's test environment**

✧ **User acceptance testing.**

Unbeaten Path enables this with telephone support to address any question. Occasionally users find a bug that escaped bench testing attention and we immediately fix it at no charge (all of our work is subject to a money-back guarantee of quality).

Once and a while an exception not mentioned during the conceptual design phase interviews pops up as users test all the potential scenarios against a recently refreshed copy of their database. If it's an inconsequential adjustment, Unbeaten Path does that for no charge. If competent handling of the exception triggers more important programming changes, Unbeaten Path invoices for that effort.

✧ **Final delivery of the user-approved code**

✧ **Development and delivery of a user's manual** (optional)

Unbeaten Path's development team

The size and complexity of the project dictates staffing decisions. Frequently our technical experts and software application experts collaborate to develop bullet-proof conceptual and detailed designs. Click below to review the professional profiles of Unbeaten Path's "big development project" staff.

◈ **Conceptual design team**

◈ **Detailed design, execution, and customer delivery support team**

Software Change Management

For all projects that we manage on our in-house development iSeries, Unbeaten Path utilizes our high-quality software change management product, **Tight as a Drum**. We've had exceptionally strong results with this state-of-the-art product and would be pleased to discuss our experience with you.

Questions ?

It would be a privilege to answer any questions about **large development projects**. Here's Unbeaten Path International's contact information:

Toll free North America: (888) 874-8008
International: +(262) 681-3151
Send us an e-mail (click **here**)