Amulet Technologies
Empowering Flat Panel Displays

Home Comfort Zones Case Study

Company:
Home Comfort Zones

Web:
www.homecomfortzones.com

Market:
HVAC

Product:
Temperature Control and
Energy Management System

Solution:
Amulet OnBoard Module™

"The HTML programming capabilities allowed for the highest level of abstraction, which allowed us to design exactly what we wanted."

Company Overview

Established in 2002, Home Comfort Zones was founded with the goal of providing homeowners with a more energy efficient means to heat and cool their homes using a wireless climate control system designed to provide room-by-room temperature control. While other high-end products on the market have the ability to condition two or three zones in a house, Home Comfort Zones is the first product of its kind with the ability to condition each room in a house from a single control panel. They chose the Amulet OnBoard Module™ display solution to complement their cutting edge climate control system.

Development Challenges

Unsatisfied with the industry norm of using segmented LCDs and character displays, Home Comfort Zones began investigating more advanced Graphical User Interface (GUI) solutions. They first attempted to develop a GUI using a Palm, but experienced set backs because of the small screen size, and programming difficulties. There was also the risk of customers losing a portable device. They researched single board computers but opted against them due to size, cost and programming issues. They needed a simple solution with more advanced communication that was fast, efficient, and could be easily retrofitted with their technology.

Amulet's GUI Solution

After a period of trial and error, Home Comfort Zones discovered Amulet's solution and stopped looking further. There were several factors that lead to their decision, such as Amulet's ease-of-use and simple programming capabilities, its advanced serial interface and its ability to provide a high level communication. For the first time, they were able to add the entire help menu on the display. "Amulet's solution was really head and shoulders above everyone else, so we didn't spend a lot of time researching other options. Instead we spent most of our efforts verifying that Amulet's solution could do everything that they claimed," stated John Ott, VP Marketing and Sales. "Our product is revolutionary in the HVAC market and incorporating Amulet's technology was the icing on the cake," he added.

Benefits

By implementing Amulet's GUI solution, Home Comfort Zones was able to cut their development time in half, and they had working prototypes to test on diverse focus groups in time for their spring 2004 launch. Amulet also allowed for many different iterations of the GUI, which allowed them to create the most effective, visually appealing GUI in the final product; and they were able to provide the user with three different modes of the user interface: Simplistic, Basic and All. "The HTML programming capabilities allowed for the highest level of abstraction, which allowed us to design exactly what we wanted, unencumbered by the programming complexities of traditional methods," stated Ott.

Home Comfort Zones has experienced enormous success, and their customers have been impressed by the amount of information they have about their home at their fingertips.

Amulet Production Solutions

Amulet Graphical OS Chip™

Amulet 5.7" Modules

Amulet 3.8" Modules

Contact Amulet at:
www.AmuletTechnologies.com
or call (408) 244-0363