Delivering through distributed development

Our distributed development teams support each other and are designed to the specific client's project needs. Our "co-shoring" model means that the key accountability for the delivery sits with the client-facing teams comprising project, technical and analysis leads who will work closely with the client and are usually at the client site. The remote component of the team will usually have a team lead and development capacity and be located off-site at one of our international locations.

We make use of our “near-shoring” model when clients require a more Agile team to be situated in locations which are not only geographically close, but culturally and linguistically as well. This cost-effective model works well for clients who require more frequent face to face interaction with team members, but can’t co-locate them due to cost, capacity or skills constraints. We use the “off-shore” model where the project specifics don’t require as much client interaction and projects are either of a more technical nature, or in a maintenance phase.

These models have enabled BBD to deliver multiple timeous and cost-effective solutions.

Project successes using distributed development

Leveraging scarce skills
One of BBD’s largest telecommunications clients identified the need for responsive UI development. The client had a specific requirement for developers who were skilled in front-end HTML5 technologies which is a fairly difficult skill to come by. Already established in India, BBD identified candidates who were equally equipped for these roles. Our UI developers have continuously proved our efficiency when delivering on this project, facilitating the back-end development teams with prototype building.

Supporting local capability
A notable success using the distributed development model has been for a revenue management client. To ensure a seamless co-shoring transition, local BBD project executives travelled to India to conduct physical interviews and recruit a specialised team of engineers. BBD built a stable team in India, allowing the local team to support the client’s innovation strategies.

With a key focus on the importance of communication, the teams have now grown in such a way that the South Africa based team has become reliant on knowledge gained from India’s side. The stability of the team has allowed BBD to supply bug fixes and new changes to the client at a steady pace, with more than 50% of the changes currently handled in India.

How BBD implements the distributed development model

BBD has learnt that the Agile development methodology lends itself well to near- or co-shoring initiatives. The Agile ceremonies and practices encourage frequent interaction between team members to help ensure project delivery. Performing daily scrum ceremonies over video conferencing ensures team members, wherever they sit, have an opportunity to share their progression status. Short sprints allow for large business requirements to be broken down into smaller components which helps prevent requirement misunderstandings.

BBD widely uses cloud technology, including tools such as Skype for Business, Rocket.Chat, Git and Microsoft Teams, to ensure team members stay in daily contact and share screens when required. When deadlines are looming, VC rooms are leveraged locally and remotely, creating virtual offices that help drive delivery.

Our distributed development model emphasises the need to take the knowledge to the software engineer or to bring the engineer to the knowledge. At BBD, team leaders and some team members from local and remote sites visit each other to address the remote challenges faced, ultimately ensuring efficient delivery. Choosing the right toolsets are important to support global access and iterative development. BBD advocates the use of tools that support the continuous integration methodology. Continuous integration helps formalise how teams submit code for builds, how code reviews happen, and manages how code streams are integrated. This is preferably done on a nightly basis and ensures team members do not inadvertently impact each other and jeopardise releases.

Stakeholder buy-in at all levels within the organisation is paramount to making distributed development a success. While this can require extra effort at times, when done successfully, it opens up the world as a potential talent pool.

BBD at a glance

950+

IT professionals with deep expertise

An international software firm

37+

Years in business

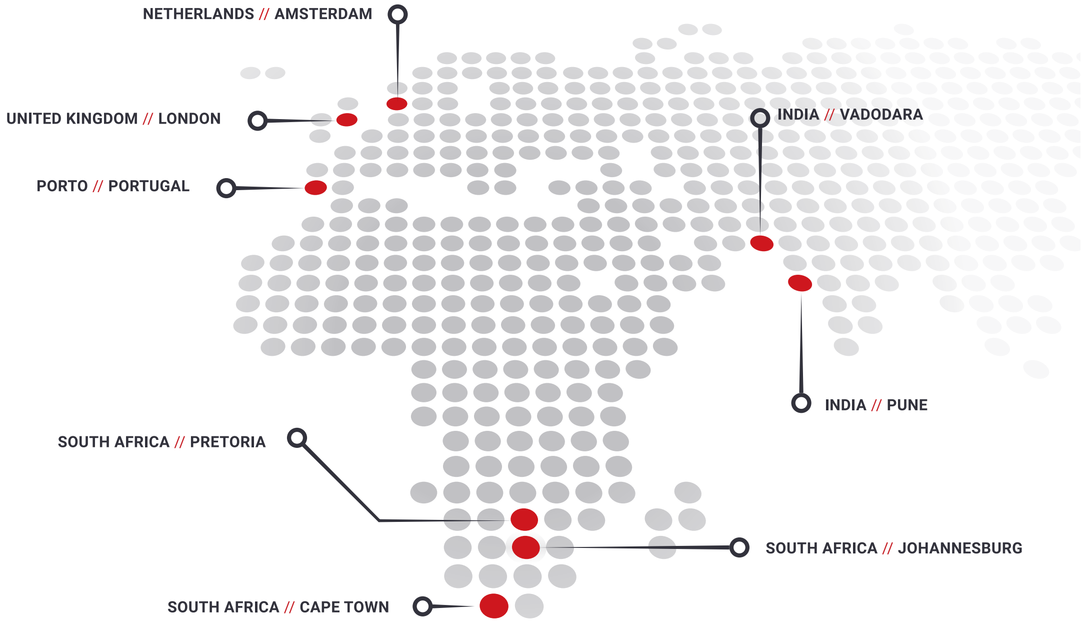
Diverse industry knowledge

Collaborative approach

About BBD

At BBD, we've cultivated a culture of accountability and delivery. Our teams are invested in the projects they work on, not dependant on the office they work in. We pride ourselves on employing and deploying knowledgeable and highly skilled developers, and will continue to do so on a international front.

Our international footprint



bbd software development

Get in touch

If you'd like to engage with us, we'd love to hear from you.

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