I love Uniface

(Original creator: lammersma)

If you think 'hey, this is a strange posting? Where is the technical stuff?', you are right. Most of you don't know who I am. My name is Peter Lammersma. I am an entrepreneur and work with Uniface since 1996. Uniface was my employer from 1997 to 2001. The reason I am starting to blog here, is because I am worried. In this first blog posting I will try to explain why. I asked Uniface BV (the company) to give me, although I am not employed by them, permission to write this blog on u.uniface.info. Because I believe that *we* are the solution.

As you might know, I love Uniface. If there were 'I love Uniface' coffee mugs, I would drink my coffee out of it. Every day, really. If there were T-shirts, I would take good care and give it a special place in the wardrobe. This feeling I have since 1996. Twenty year ago I swore that Uniface would be last software development tool I would ever use. As an entrepreneur for many years I am busy with several businesses, a few IT related, most of them not. And Uniface? I tried to escape, but she is always returning on my path. And believe me, I am more experienced with Uniface than I am with English :). Now I am 45 I dare to admit, I like building software. To be honest, I don't have a very objective point of view comparing Uniface with other tools. I am not interested in other tools, as long as Uniface serves my needs. And it certainly does. Don't you agree? Proven every day when we develop and maintain the software for our customers. With a minimum effort we produce highly effective applications. I believe this is called the return on investment. This is a very important business indicator. Every rational thinking decision maker can calculate and decide to use this wonderful tool forever! I certainly would. But, I have terrible news…. There is something wrong. I am worried and I want to share my worries with you.

Lack of Eagerness

I just realized that I am still using Uniface 9.6. While I should be interested in the new mobile features in 9.7. Wait, let's skip 9.7. I should have downloaded Uniface 10, from the first day it was available. But I did not. Somehow Uniface 9.6 has everything that I need and I am not eager enough anymore to learn new stuff. Have you already downloaded version 10? Or do you, like many, work in a version 9 in a way you used to in the previous versions? And you know what worries me most? We don't seem to care.

Where is that New Business

On the other hand, why should we use Uniface 10? Because it's highly productive? The redesigned GUI? It's not really important, is it. We all work like we did in Uniface 7. Sure, we use some of the new functions or statements, but in the end we try to hold on to what we once learned and used. And why should we. New business is rare. Building or buying, the oldest question in software. When an organisation decides to build software, they will choose a sexy software development tool. Rather than proven technology with a huge install base. A game changer is always nice to talk about in the businessclub. You never hear someone say: 'I choose this product because my dad used it in his business twenty years ago'. Despite all commercial activities, most of us are stuck with the maintenance of the current applications. No need for new stuff.

So what All above gives me a headache. You see, I want to use Uniface in future too. But I am doubting there is a long future. There is something that must be done. It's not enough for Uniface (who came up with the idea to give the company the same name as the product?) to release a brand new product and wait what will happen. Nothing will happen by itself. And we? Are we also just waiting for things to happen? We, the Uniface users, should find a way to regain our enthusiasm, our eagerness. I am thinking about this for a while now. But I wonder. Do you share my worries? I am very interested hearing from you all. So please respond to this blog. I am looking to forward to hearing from you (send me a message or comment below)!

In the meanwhile I'll need a coffee and wait for something to happen…. Or?