transform data

Simonsen Vogt Wigg's award winning applications in Neota's no-code platform

Simonsen Vogt Wiig (SVW) is one of the largest law firms in Norway. Innovation is of the upmost importance in the firm and this is clearly demonstrated by their recent award win for the 'Most Innovative Technology Initiative' award by leading publication The Lawyer, for an application built in Neota's no-code platform.

Simonsen's Chief Digital Officer, Peter van Dam, identified the value no-code development could bring to the wider community during the pandemic as well as building cutting edge solutions to ensure their clients receive the best possible service.

The Challenge

As the COVID-19 pandemic started rapidly affecting all businesses, big and small, business owners across the globe were struck with a tsunami of ever-changing information concerning what governmental financial support was available, and whether they'd be eligible. This was no lesser the case in Norway.

While the information available was comprehensive, the difficulty lay in how to find what was relevant to one's business, what requirements there were, amongst a plethora of other crucial information. Coupled with the anxieties lockdown and business interruption brought along, trawling through information spread across government websites was no simple task.

The Solution

This is where Thom Erik Borgen (partner) and Kasper Formo Asplin (senior lawyer) found that they could help. As a law firm, their workforce was packed full of expert legal analysts who could find and simplify this information into an intelligible form for those who needed it.

However, with so many businesses in desperate need of this knowledge, scaling SVW's expertise to the masses would have been very difficult in any classical manner. Beyond this, the forms of financial support available as well as their respective requirements were constantly and rapidly changing with new government announcements. Any static tool employed here would have become redundant in a matter of days. This is where Neota offered a solution. With the help of legal technology consultants Transform Data, SVW released a free user-friendly web tool built in under three weeks in the Neota Logic platform. With various different requirements for different industries and sizes of business, the tool presented only the relevant information to the user once they had answered simple questions about their business and circumstances. This greatly soothed the anxieties of many, as individuals without legal knowledge or knowhow about where to find all the relevant information could now easily access and digest what was relevant to them.

Why Neota?

A crucial point made by The Lawyer's award jury was that Simonsen's tool was marked with flexibility. This flexibility is something which makes the Neota platform so valuable, especially in these circumstances. While a law firm or other professional services body may have changing information to hand – or at least an ability to track these changes – relaying this on a wide scale without no-code often means relying on developers to change advice available online.

When dealing with a system where pathways have to be changed depending on new information, this becomes even more difficult and time-consuming. Neota eliminates this step, while capably maintaining the balance between scaling expertise and having a user-friendly experience. Having established and verified changes in requirements and regulation, SVW were able to rapidly change the web app to adhere to new guidance, ultimately providing the most up-to-date information. Neota provides customers with tools to easily and efficiently build and make changes to applications. The platform is simple enough for a lawyer without any knowledge of code to intuitively develop and redevelop.

The end result given to the user is more or less the same as they would have received had they consulted a legal advisor about the forms of financial support available. Instead of costing solicitor fees and taking up the time of both the client and the lawyer, SVW's app could be used at any time, for free, and provide a comprehensive answer to what support a particular business would be eligible for in just a matter of minutes. Further to this, SVW's lawyers were now able to spend their time dealing with less procedural matters where their legal expertise would have greater value.

The future

SVW has already built a multitude of applications in the Neota Logic platform with the help of Transform Data. The apps include a Dawn-Raid Guide, GDPR Compliance application, Merger Filing and a procurement application.

One of Simonsen's current innovation projects is developing a competition law compliance application for a major client. The app goes through conditional sections to be filled out by the company when engaging in business which could come under the remit of competition rules. With ease of use being of importance again, the system only shows questions which are relevant based on what has already been inputted, rather than needlessly asking the user irrelevant questions. Ultimately, SVW want to offer the app as a product to all its clients, as it is of great use to organisations dealing with EU regulatory rules. The flexibility of the Neota platform allows Simonsen to scale and add features with ease rather than having to build entirely new apps from scratch for each industry.

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