

CASE STUDY

Paylocity uses Telerik to develop cross-platform, self-service payroll app in under six months



Since 1997, Paylocity's mission has been to bring Payroll and Human resources out of the back office and into the boardroom. As technology and needs have advanced, Paylocity determined it was essential to create a mobile app for Employee Self-Service (ESS) to support the many employees that Paylocity helps manage for their clients. After comprehensive review of both traditional native coding or HTML5, the company settled on a combination of Telerik Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, a powerful duo which enabled Paylocity to deploy the ground-breaking app in less than six months.

OVERVIEW**COUNTRY**

United States

INDUSTRY

Finance/Accounting

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Paylocity brings Payroll and Human Resources out of the back office and into the boardroom. It goes beyond basic payroll and human resource management functionality by adding tools for critical business insight and intelligence that afford better organizational decision making.

BUSINESS SITUATION

With a focus on technology and service, Paylocity is constantly striving to offer the latest tools and solutions to make payroll and HR processes easier. With the shift to a mobile-focused world, the company recognized the need for a mobile app that would enable their ESS users to view and make changes to their accounts via any mobile device.

SOLUTION

With Telerik Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, Paylocity was able to create a cross-platform mobile app to serve its customer-base in less than six months. The app is HTML5-based, ensuring it will adapt to new and changing form factors well into the future.

BENEFITS

- New app developed in less than six months
- Cross-platform capabilities for iOS and Android devices
- Leveraged HTML5 for quick, clean and polished user interface

“Leveraging the HTML5 capabilities of Kendo UI enabled us to get our app up and running in no time, with a clean and polished look and feel. Telerik AppBuilder enabled us to deploy on multiple devices — something that would have taken more than a year to do with a native approach.”

Gordan Redzic
Director of Product Management, Paylocity



KENDO UI AND TELERIK APPBUILDER – TECHNOLOGIES THAT ALLOW YOU TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SKILLS

Analysts have noted that the fragmentation of the mobile marketplace will make it virtually impossible to standardize on any one platform – web, native or hybrid. Therefore, it is vitally important to evaluate development frameworks that offer the capability to develop on multiple platforms using the same code base.

Telerik Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, used separately or in conjunction, enable mobile app developers to work in a single coding environment for multiple devices, regardless of platform preference. Moreover, developers can leverage existing skills in HTML5, CSS and JavaScript and have industry-leading support to back them up during the development process.

BACKGROUND

With a keen focus on technology and service, Paylocity brings Payroll and HR departments to the forefront of the enterprise, enabling organizations to achieve higher levels of productivity, employee engagement, and socialization. Paylocity goes beyond basic payroll and human resource management functionality by adding unique tools to enable critical business insight and intelligence, allowing for better organizational decision making.

Paylocity services thousands of businesses nationwide and has been named to the Inc. 5000 List of America’s fastest growing privately held companies eight times. Paylocity provides a unique set of cloud-based payroll and human resource solutions, accompanied by world-class service and support. The company offers a feature in the mobile app to solicit ongoing feedback from customers to maintain its high standards for service and innovation.

THE CHALLENGE

By 2016, it is estimated that 80 percent of the US population will use smartphones, and 50 percent will leverage tablet devices such as iPads. With the mobile revolution clearly here to stay, Paylocity quickly identified the need for a mobile app to help its employee self-service users access their critical payroll and HR information easily and on-the-go, regardless of their preferred device.

Paylocity evaluated whether to develop a traditional native mobile application, or take advantage of HTML5. Both approaches have distinct, and in some cases, unique benefits. Several factors influenced Paylocity’s customer-focused decision to use HTML5. First, the app needed to be developed quickly and leverage the current skill

set of the Paylocity development team. Second, it needed to map to both existing and developing mobile application standards. This helped ensure the app would excel on the current generation of mobile devices, and also easily adapt to future form factors, accommodating the next generation technology stack. The Paylocity application needed to work across multiple platforms. Since a native approach requires development of three separate apps, HTML5, wrapped in a 'native' container and a single-code base seemed to be the obvious choice. "We take great pride in our customer retention rates - the best in the industry. With more than 7,000 clients in our Payroll and HR application, we needed the mobile app to work perfectly out of the gate. If not, the ramifications would be palpable, to say the least. With very specific requirements outlined at the outset, we knew what needed to be done and it was imperative that we find a platform that could address all of our current and future needs," says Chuck Cooper, Sr. VP of Enterprise Architecture and CISO, Paylocity.

THE SOLUTION

The Paylocity development team decided to leverage the capabilities of two complementary Telerik tools for its project: (1) Kendo UI and its combined JavaScript/HTML5 platform, and (2) Telerik AppBuilder, the Telerik cloud-based solution for hybrid mobile app development.



"We've used Telerik UI for ASP.NET and ASP.NET MVC in the past, to great success. While the company has historically been known for .NET development tools, when we heard about Telerik HTML5 and cross-platform capabilities available in Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, it was an easy choice to make. In fact, I thought it was a pretty gutsy move on the part of Telerik to focus on cross-platform mobile development and applauded them for taking the risk," says Chuck Cooper, Sr. VP of Enterprise Architecture and CISO, Paylocity.

Paylocity developers have a high level of comfort and experience with Telerik tools and confidence in its support team. They are also impressed with its power and short learning curve. The combination of the Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder enabled the developer team to leverage their existing HTML5, CSS and JavaScript skills and experience, and allowed for

a true multi-platform development environment. For example, many of the developers had not previously programmed on a Mac, which in most development environments would make the creation of an iOS app difficult, if not impossible. Telerik AppBuilder does not require use of specific hardware to create an application for any specific device or OS, enabling developers to develop for iOS on the platform of their choice.

THE BENEFITS

Through the use of Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, Paylocity launched a mobile app for both Android AND iOS, that had the native look and feel they were hoping for, in less than six months. The company plans to expand to both larger-format tablets and Windows Phone devices in the coming

year. Paylocity believes that because of the minimal learning curve, future versions will be available to clients even faster than the first generation of its mobile solution.

“Leveraging the HTML5 capabilities of Kendo UI enabled us to get our app up and running in no time, with a clean, polished native look and feel. And while there’s debate as to whether we could have completed a native app in the same time period, Telerik AppBuilder enabled us to deploy on multiple devices—something that would have taken more than a year to do with a native approach,” says Gordan Redzic, Director of Product Management, Paylocity.

With the new app, Paylocity customers can view their pay checks and request time off from a smart phone, freeing them from the desktop and office. It is a fully-operational extension designed for the end user to augment and expand the benefits of its already successful online self-service solution.

THE VERDICT

From Paylocity’s Sr. VP of Enterprise Architecture and CISO, Chuck Cooper:

“At the outset, we were big on leveraging HTML5 in order to insulate ourselves a bit as technology advances

and shifts over time. With Kendo UI and Telerik AppBuilder, we were able to leverage this technology and minimize time and resources to get our app up and running with ease. The feedback thus far has been positive and we are very pleased with the outcome. Because of our ongoing success with Telerik – whether leveraging its UI or cross-platform capabilities – we’re going to continue to expand that relationship whenever possible. In fact, we’re now considering other technologies within the Telerik portfolio for a social collaboration project. Yes, I’d say Telerik has been a strong partner for us. One that we’ll leverage well into the future.”

ABOUT PAYLOCITY

Paylocity elevates the profession of Payroll and Human Resources out of the back office and into the boardroom where it belongs. The company achieves this by providing clients with the same caliber Cloud software solutions, found in other critical areas such as Sales, Finance and Operations. Paylocity services thousands of businesses nationwide in need of payroll and HR services. The company specializes in providing the best engineered, cloud-based payroll and human resource solutions, accompanied by world-class service and support.

ABOUT KENDO UI AND APPBUILDER

Kendo UI is everything developers need to build HTML5 and JavaScript mobile apps and sites. Based on jQuery, Kendo UI delivers a feature rich UI for the web, HTML5-powered data visualizations, and tools for building native-like mobile apps with HTML5. This leading edge framework delivers everything in a unified, compact package, backed by industry-leading professional support. AppBuilder enables using HTML5, CSS and JavaScript to develop, test and publish

applications that run natively on the Apple iOS and Google Android mobile platforms. It combines the convenience of a local coding environment with cloud-based services powered by the Apache Cordova framework. AppBuilder also provides the seamless creation of a backend for apps with data storage, user management, email and push notifications.

ABOUT TELERIK

Telerik empowers over 1,000,000 developers to create compelling app experiences across any screen. Our end-to-end platform uniquely combines industry-leading UI tools with cloud services to simplify the entire app development lifecycle. Telerik tools and services can be adopted individually or as a platform and seamlessly integrated with other popular developer solutions. More than 130,000 customers from 40,000 organizations in 94 countries depend on Telerik products, including more than 450 of the Fortune 500, academic institutions, governments, and non-profits. For additional information about Telerik, please visit telerik.com or follow [@telerik](https://twitter.com/telerik) on Twitter.

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