

Why Social Point hit the jackpot when choosing their spreadsheet

The game changer

Introduction

Social Point is a world reference in the mobile gaming industry, with mega-hits like Dragon City, Monster Legends, the new World Chef and Dragon Land, 2 of them in the US top 100 grossing apps, and an active fan base of more than 50 million players. We know that the brilliant minds and the talent of our team players are key to our success. Our international team is formed by awesome people who are passionate about social games, creativity and raising the bar. We offer a fun, lively and dynamic workplace, headquartered in beautiful Barcelona, where creativity, agility and innovation are encouraged, prized and rewarded. Working with us will help you develop your skills, drive your career and delight millions of people around the world.



The Challenge

As Julio de la Calle from Social Point says, games require much configuration to work. This configuration allows the team to adjust each parameter of the game. With these values it is possible to optimize the user experience and maximize engagement. To manage all this information, they needed a quick and flexible tool, something they had found in Google Sheets, as it enabled them to manage large amounts of data in a simple and very visual way. Unfortunately, they began to suffer from certain limitations that prevented the implementation of more complex workflows to the tool. At this point the team decided to develop its own tool, based on spreadsheets, in order to add features they needed.



The Solution

One of the big problems they had was the synchronization of data in the cloud with the the local data they had. It generated errors, latency and insecurity when synchronized. Therefore they had to integrate other services which were not allowed in the component they used at the time. The Social Point team found a solution, but still had latency issues and its development was quite cumbersome, so it had to be dismissed quickly. Luckily, they came across Handsontable, which was a perfect fit for their tool, as it allowed them to have a very similar interface to Google Sheets with relatively little effort, so they could focus on all the features that bring value to their team and ignore those that were superfluous. Since then, Handsontable has been a key element of their project

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	state	path	when	template	controller	games	active	roles
2	wc_socialmarket	app/worldchef/socialmarket	/wc/socialmarket/user_id	socialmarket.html	SocialMarketController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
3	wc_socialassist	app/worldchef/socialassist	/wc/socialassist/user_id	socialassist.html	SocialAssistController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
4	wc_followers	app/followers	/wc/followers/user_id	followers.html	FollowersController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
5	wc_smart_offers	app/worldchef/smart_offers	/wc/smart_offers/user_id	smart_offers.html	SmartOffersController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
6	wc_player_level	app/worldchef/player_level	/wc/player_level/user_id	player_level.html	PlayerLevelController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
7	wc_leaderboard	app/worldchef/leaderboard	/wc/leaderboard/user_id	leaderboard.html	LeaderboardController	[wc]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[mobile,"backend",customer_support]
8							<input type="checkbox"/>	

Results and Plans for Future

Social Point stayed with a similar interface from the outset and this helped users to feel comfortable at any time, reducing the initial friction when implementing a new tool. From that moment, they kept adding new features such as: versioning of data, data validations, different types of formats. The adoption cycles were small because the base was always something similar to what they already knew. For Social Point, the "conditional formatting" has been one of the features that has made a difference. It has helped to specify the data types for columns and add automatic validations. The support of AngularJS has been another important feature. Since it became the framework that they use in their stack, they have saved many hours of our work on integration. Finally, another feature that seems very attractive to them and which they intend to adopt soon is support for formulas to perform complex calculations in some of their configurations. As Julio admits, the Social Point team wants to develop further and improve their application in order to satisfy the requests from their users, thus improving the productivity of their games.

"We recommend Handsontable without question and even more, if the project requires handling large amounts of data, in addition to having a great team of developers creating new features and solving errors for the community."



Julio de la Calle

JavaScript Architect at Social Point

Social Point

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300+ employees

socialpoint.es