

DELIVERING THROUGH

The demand for revolutionary software development has never been greater due to the advent of digital transformation, Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0. The problem with this increased requirement is the general lack of ICT skills in the industry, which makes it difficult to solely rely on centrally-housed development teams.

BBD has leveraged our global footprint across Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Bourgas, London, Vadodara and Pune by implementing a distributed development model that addresses the scale limitations within local talent pools, with our continuously growing team in India now having 60+ members.

DISTRIBUTED DEVELOPMENT

The distributed teams support the local teams, and depending on the size of the remote component of the team, there might also be a technical team lead assigned to the offshore team responsible for troubleshooting, code review and mentorship. This “co-shoring” model means that the key accountability for the delivery sits with the client-facing teams comprising project and technical team leads.

This model has enabled BBD to deliver multiple timeous and cost-effective solutions.



Project successes using distributed development

Leveraging scarce skills

One of BBD's largest South African 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 Pune, BBD identified candidates in India 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 developments

A notable success using the distributed development model has been for a South African 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 developers. BBD built a stable team in Pune, 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 Pretoria team has become reliant on knowledge gained from India's side. The stability of the team in Pune 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 Pune.



How BBD implements the distributed development model

BBD has learnt that the agile development methodology lends itself well to 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 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 instant messaging tools such as Skype for Business, Rocket.Chat and Appear.In 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.

The distributed development model emphasises the need to take the knowledge to the developer or to bring the developer to the knowledge. At BBD, team leaders and some

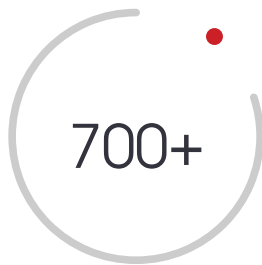
team members from local and remote sites visit each other to address the remote challenges faced, ultimately ensuring efficient delivery.

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.



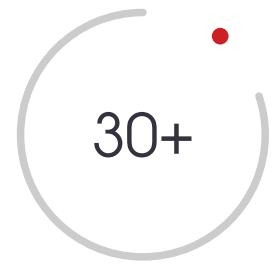
BBD at a glance



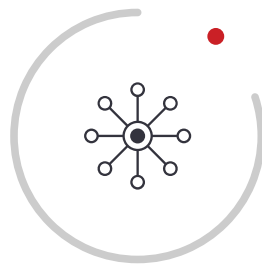
700+ **IT professionals**



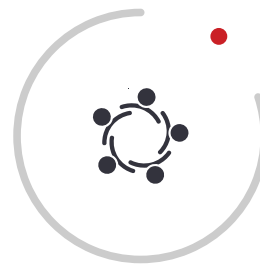
Africa's **leading software development** company



30+ years of **experience**



Diverse **industry knowledge**



Collaborative approach



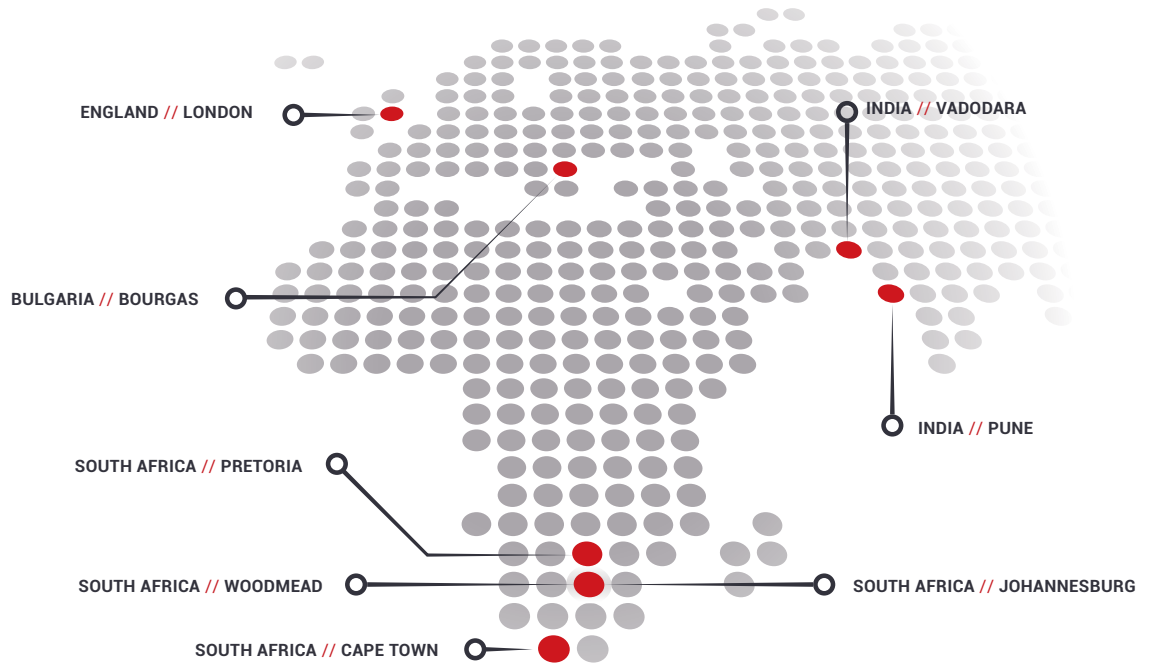


About BBD

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 global front.



Our global footprint



Contact us

If you want to stay ahead of the intense pace of technology and reach a global talent pool of unique development skills, contact Russell Davidson.

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