## CASE STUDY

# UK Parliament gets instant access to national data with mobile app built by Judge Group using Telerik



Tasked with the creation of an information portal for UK Members of Parliament, The Judge Group chose a hybrid mobile application development strategy. Leveraging Telerik's Kendo UI to provide rich data visualization, the app has successfully launched in the iTunes store and is in use by MPs, their staff members and the UK public.

## Overview

**Country**
UK

**Sector**
Government

**Customer profile**
The Judge Group is a professional services firm offering technology consulting, enterprise-wide staffing and corporate training to customers around the world.

**Challenge**
The House of Commons Library, responsible for information services to the UK Parliament, required a mobile application to bring key national data to Members of Parliament and the UK public.

**Solution**
The Judge Group proposed a hybrid mobile application architecture leveraging Telerik's Kendo UI and Kendo UI DataViz

**Benefits**
• Rapid application development
• Code reuse available for roll-out to multiple mobile platforms



My Constituency on iTunes

## Background

In a democracy, knowledge is power – and this has never been more true than in today's multi-connected world. Access to up-to-date data is essential to the democratic process and plays a vital role in ensuring informed decision-making, especially at the level of national government.

## The challenge

The 650 Members of Parliament (MPs) who represent the UK electorate in the House of Commons rely on the House of Commons Library to provide impartial research, analysis and information services.

One of the Library's challenges is supplying statistical data about each Member's constituency, such as unemployment rates, population figures and election results. This information is publicly available – from the Office of National Statistics and the Department for Work and Pensions – but may not be in an easily accessible form.

"The information was only on the Parliamentary access," says Catriona Marchant, Digital Project Manager, House of Commons. "The data was only seen by those with the Parliamentary Intranet or by ringing or emailing a research specialist. Users could not compare datasets and some information was only available via downloadable Excel spreadsheets."

MPs needed an easy-to-access, easy-to-use information portal. Mobile was clearly the natural platform for this task. The challenge was to identify the right blend of technologies to deliver it.

## The solution

The Judge Group, a global technology consultancy, won the tender to build the first version of the My Constituency app, targeting the iPad.

"We faced strong competition," says Dan Lewis, Principal Consultant – Mobility at the Judge Group. "We pitched a hybrid cross-platform architecture and

this was the key factor for us being appointed."

For the Judge Group, hybrid is the strategic choice for mobile projects.

"We showed that with pure HTML5 development and a standards-based code base, you get a robust app. For us, a hybrid strategy produces sustainable, adaptable, reusable mobile apps which maximize flexibility. In fact, we no longer pitch native apps in the mobile space – we have moved to a 100% hybrid policy."

Working with the Parliament Internet Team, The Judge Group built My Constituency as a pure HTML5/JavaScript app, using jQuery for navigation and Leaflet for mapping and geolocation.

## Kendo UI

Rich data visualization was always going to be the key to a successful My Constituency app. The Judge Group chose Telerik's Kendo UI for its rich HTML5 powered data visualization components.

"We chose Kendo UI for the most critical function of the app," says Dan. "It was vital for us to use a product that is owned by a company and has paid development around it. Strategically, we did not want to go open source on this – we needed a commercial product with professional support and a solid roadmap. In the context of an app which will have a product lifecycle, Kendo UI made total sense."

The Judge Group used Kendo UI's grid and graphing controls to create the data presentation. "The Kendo UI graphing is not modified and worked great out of the box."

Kendo UI also came with more built-in functionality than The Judge Group team had expected. "Touch sensitivity on the graphs was a huge surprise to us. We were able to pull up column charts and create touch responsive graphs without having to do anything to them."

Kendo UI also helped with data handling. "Wifi is spotty in Parliament so offline is an important capability. We built in caching so the app is able to pre-fetch data and store it using SQLite before passing it along to the Kendo UI DataSource."

## The result

The My Constituency app was approved by Apple for the iTunes Store in less than five hours. It is in use by MPs, House of Commons staff and the UK public.

Currently available for iPad, work is already underway to create an Android version. "The hybrid approach using Kendo UI means we can pivot to other platforms without starting over," says Dan. "Kendo UI supports multiple mobile platforms so we are able to create an Android version without having to take apart the code. This is great from an architectural point of view."

## The verdict

"Kendo UI was critical to the success of this project," says Dan. "Kendo UI DataViz provided rich data visualization out of the box without the need for extensive customization."

Since the successful launch of the iPhone version of the UK Parliament app, the Judge Group has been signed on to create an Android version – again using Kendo UI – which will be released early 2014.

"Kendo UI should be an essential part of the toolkit of any team setting out to develop a HTML5 and Javascript hybrid app."

### FIND OUT MORE

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**ABOUT THE JUDGE GROUP**

Founded in 1970 by Martin E. Judge Jr., The Judge Group is a professional services firm offering technology consulting, enterprise-wide staffing and corporate training. Headquartered in Pennsylvania and with practice offices throughout the US and in China, The Judge Group services clients around the world.

**ABOUT KENDO UI**

Kendo UI is a complete solution for JavaScript and HTML5 developers that provides web and mobile developers with all the necessary components for building HTML5 and JavaScript mobile apps and sites. Based on jQuery, Kendo UI delivers a rich UI for the web, HTML5-powered data visualizations, and tools for building native mobile apps with HTML5. This leading edge framework delivers everything in a unified, compact package, backed by industry-leading professional support.

**ABOUT TELERIK**

Telerik is the market-leading provider of end-to-end solutions for application development, automated software testing, agile project management, reporting, and content management across all major Microsoft development platforms. Telerik is trusted by more than 130,000 customers worldwide for its innovation and industry-best technical support.

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