Capgemini

Smartly guides Norway towards the future of electric cars

With a cloud-native app created on Microsoft platforms, Smartly will help Norway encourage the use of community chargers and move towards universal electric car usage by 2025

"Capgemini made it easy to transfer complex technology into a user friendly app."

Ketil Annar Granbakken

Director of Sales and Marketing, Smartly AS

Overview

Client: Smartly

Industry: Hi Tech

Location: Norway

Client Challenge/ Business Need:
Smartly wanted to create an app to help Norway co-ops bill customers correctly for charging their electric cars

Solution-at-a-glance: Capgemini helped Smartly create a cloud-native app that enabled customers to keep track of their electricity consumption and pay per their usage

Results:
- An organized way to measure the consumption of energy
- Hassle-free charging and billing for customers
- Smooth billing functions for the co-ops
- A benchmark solution for future green initiatives

Growing demand for charging stations

As a global leader in renewable energy, Norway launched an initiative in 2016 to power all cars with renewable energy by 2025. As part of this process, the country now wants to provide car owners with easy access to charging stations through housing co-ops.

However, the reality of high energy costs remains a key factor for the co-ops that now provide electric car drivers with a charging service. In order to keep energy costs reasonable while continuing to support the financial needs of the co-ops and maintaining customer confidence in the system, it was necessary to find a way to accurately bill drivers for individual usage of charging stations. This would prevent accidental over- or under-billing when multiple cars were charged at the same time while also giving the co-op the ability to distribute power evenly across the grid.

Ultimately, finding a solution that improved the accuracy and visibility of billing would improve the quality of life for drivers and the co-ops, both of whom play a significant role in supporting Norway's renewable energy goals.

Billing with the power of cloud

The co-ops needed a quick solution that would enable them to bill their customers correctly and encourage the use of community chargers. To achieve this, they decided to work with Capgemini and Smartly, a Norway-based company that specializes in digital home solutions.

To solve the billing challenge, Smartly and Capgemini developed a mobile app to help customers take control of their energy usage and spending. The app also provides visibility into the distribution of energy across the grid during periods when a large number of people are charging at the same time.

The Microsoft Cloud platform provides the foundation for the app as the unique challenge and complexity of the solution demanded a robust solution. With the Microsoft Visual Tools for Xamarin platform, creating the app was easy for developers as they could quickly deploy the app across Android and iOS devices by simply making minor adjustments.

Automated testing on Xamarin also reduced rework and ensured shorter time-to-market. Given the tight schedule—six weeks for roll out—it enabled Smartly to ensure quality.

All charged up

The app has empowered the co-ops to clarify and improve their service. With the Smartly app, customers now have direct control over their energy spending and can feel confident knowing that they are paying exactly as much as they should. This will help them to drive future renewable energy projects and encourage more co-ops to set-up charging stations across the country.

In creating this app, Smartly harnessed Cloud technology to support Norway's commitment to electric cars and renewable energy. Smartly's leadership and innovation will help the country to develop a clear roadmap for driving the use of renewable energy.

Results Count:

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Collaborative Approach

Capgemini and Smartly worked together to:

- Apply technology to create a simple app for customers
- Harness Microsoft Cloud technologies to meet customer demands
- Roll-out of the app in a short period of time

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