

Maintaining Analytics Apps for 15 Auto Insurers and 20 Million Drivers

A global provider of telematics and analytics services turned to Altoras to maintain and customize its flagship apps to the needs of 15 end-user enterprises.

5M
app downloads

50+
enterprise customers



20M
drivers use the apps

The Customer

The company is a leading provider of telematics / analytics solutions to insurers, ridesharing businesses, and rental fleets. The organization advocates safety on the roads by improving driving behavior. The customer has a suite of apps driven by IoT and artificial intelligence, as well as holds numerous industry awards.

The Need

The provider's flagship offerings include apps that assess/improve driver behavior, detect car crashes and automate claims, as well as help brands to build a loyal fleet. These products are customized and upgraded to the clientele needs (50+ global enterprises employing 20+ million drivers). The company also continuously evolves its software development kit (SDK) underlying the apps.

To dedicate more effort to innovation around core products, the organization relied on the [mobile development](#) expertise at Altoras to provide long-term maintenance and ongoing support for 15 businesses using the services.

The Challenges

Under the project, the team at Altoras had to address the following issues:

- As each business had its unique workflows, companies often asked for a specific set of features in a customized app. However, the apps were built as systems with tightly coupled components. So, it was crucial to ensure proper operation and zero downtime when removing/modifying core functionality;
- It was important to develop new features with configurability and interoperability in mind, as they might be implemented for multiple businesses from different industries;
- To deliver efficient maintenance and support of the customized apps, it was vital to wisely choose development approaches/practices.

The Solution

Stage 1. Mobile developers at Altoras always thoroughly analyzed the requirements of each business. In most cases, the team opted for reverse engineering techniques to preserve crucial app dependencies and avoid instability when delivering necessary customizations. Our engineers also abided by such best practices as inheritance principles, as well as code review and linting throughout the development cycle.

Stage 2. For the sake of maximum configurability, developers at Altoras tried out various architectural approaches, e.g., the MVVM pattern.

Stage 3. Our team helped several companies to migrate iOS-based apps from older versions of Objective-C to a lightweight Swift. As soon as new releases of Android and iOS or proprietary SDK were available, engineers at Altoras upgraded end-user apps accordingly. These measures followed suit of the modernization initiated by the customer across the technology stack and helped to prevent technical debt.

Stage 4. In terms of building new components, our developers implemented a scoring system that evaluated a driving style based on telematics data. Then, the team at Altoras created a framework that visualized the data in multilayered, yet explicit, charts.

Stage 5. Finally, our QA experts performed user-interface, cross-platform, smoke, and acceptance testing at each stage of the development cycle.

The Outcome

Partnering with Altoras, the provider was able to focus on evolving core products/SDK without interruption to maintenance and support of its apps for 15 enterprises. With the efforts dedicated to customization, one of the 23 tailored apps amounted to 5,000,000 installations on Google Play, while the rest have around 10,000 each. Thanks to the chosen architectural and development approaches, the customer released features that are easily integrated into existing workflows of 50+ organizations.

Brief results of the collaboration

- The provider was able to continue investing in the innovation of core products and a proprietary SDK without interruption to maintenance and support of apps tailored to the specific needs of 15 global enterprises.
- One of the 23 customized apps crossed the threshold of 5,000,000 installations on Google Play, while the others averaged around 10,000 each.
- The architectural and development approaches, as well as the best practices, in place enabled the customer to build features that are easily integrated into the existing processes of 50+ client organizations.
- Migration to a more lightweight programming languages and timely upgrades contributed to the overall modernization of the technology stack and prevention of technical debt.

Technology stack

Platform	Android, iOS
Programming languages	Java, Kotlin, Swift, Objective-C
Frameworks and tools	Android SDK, MPAndroidChart, Facebook SDK, RxJava2, Xcode, Bitrise, OkHttp, Retrofit, Mockito, Firebase/Crashlytics, BonMot, SwiftLint, Google Maps, PhoneNumberKit, SDWebImage
Databases	Room, SharedPreferences

