6. RECOMMENDATION

This is sixth chapter of the thesis. This chapter contains recommendations and technical information about operation, deployment and development of open source products and services based on the Eclipse Platform for the management application based on the Rich Client Platform.
Eclipse is not only an open source project and community but world-class java integrated development environment also. Many people who have use the Eclipse as their framework for building, RCP applications give the reasons that why they have used this technology. They describe about the main features they get from using RCP is that it is the best way to develop the quick build of a professional-looking application. Beside this, it provides the framework so that they can focus on their value-add with native look-and-feel which can work with multiple platforms. The main features which are appreciated are about the components of RCP are its open source, actively maintained and its high quality. It is also mentioned that inherent extensibility of Eclipse is an open-ended platform with the feature of allowing them to build a closed-form product. Help user interface, Cheat Sheets, Update Manager, and Intro are some components of Eclipse which can be reused which can be seen as initial adoption of RCP. However, if we want to build, run and deploy and configure the IDE to a different version of eclipse base, it is possible via Target Platform preference page which can be found in the Plug-in Development menu. It is highly recommended to configure the target platform into your RCP application so that unwanted dependencies can be avoided.

We can define Rich Client Platform as the minimal set of plug-ins which is compulsorily needed for building an application enriched with the features of rich client application. In order to maximize integration and interoperability of the open tools, the Eclipse framework provides the harmonized guidelines so that it can adopt the common technologies for implementers. Eclipse platform is architected in the way so its components could be used to build any client application. That is why it is designed to serve all the features of an open tool platform. This thesis contains recommendations and technical information about operation, deployment and development of open source products and services based on the Eclipse Platform for the management application based on the Rich Client Platform.

A dynamic plug-in model is one of very important plug in model as rich applications are based on it. As we know that complete User Interface is build using some extension points and same
toolkits, applications other than IDEs can be developed by using a subset of the platform. In this case, the function and layout of the workbench should be under control of the plug-in developer. When we say that Rich Client Platform as the minimal set of plug-ins which is compulsorily needed for building an application, we mean that there are two plugins required, org.eclipse.ui and org.eclipse.core.runtime. With this plug-ins their prerequisites are also required. Although, rich client applications need both of these two plug-ins to fulfill the work, they are free to use any Application Programming Interface which is necessarily required for accomplishing their feature set.

All in all, Eclipse Rich client platform is known for developing and deploying great rich client applications. It has all the features of Equinox which is a component framework. Equinox is again based on the OSGi standard, to provide the ability so that native Graphical user interface applications can be deployed easily. Beside this, this Eclipse RCP framework can support variety of desktop operating systems, like Windows, Mac OS, and Linux. The list of features in not yet ends here as it provides an integrated update mechanism which helps in deploying these desktop applications by using a central server.