

Visio Integration with MOSS 2007

Need: Integration of Visio with MOSS to develop an Enterprise Modeling Product
Location: US

Client Description

The Client provides products and services to help enterprises leverage technology for better management of businesses. Their products focus on providing a strategic view of businesses operating at distributed locations to enable better decision making for key executives.

Business Need

The Client wanted to build an Enterprise Modeling portal product with knowledge collaboration features. It would help enterprises create models about the enterprise and assign asset related attribute values to the model entities. This would help a knowledge architect to depict a real time view of the entire enterprise model while simultaneously viewing the asset attributes like cost, location, status and other details. The client also planned to expand the scope of the portal-based product beyond Enterprise Modeling at a later stage and thus wanted a flexible platform for the portal.

Solution Offered

In order to facilitate enterprise modeling, Blue Star Infotech used MS Visio 2007 and integrated it with applications such as MS Office 2007 and MOSS 2007 to ensure future expansion of the portal product. Models created using Visio 2007 had to be stored and linked to data sources available on the MOSS portal. The data sources would store asset information such as cost, location and status.

As Visio 2007 was required to be used for Enterprise Modeling and Asset Management, Blue Star Infotech developed a Visio add-in component for MOSS. This component would interface with the external data sources which were InfoPath Lists created on the MOSS portal. The Visio add-in enabled the user to update data and generate reports based on the external data sources linked to the given Visio model. Asset attributes could be assigned to the shapes in the given model.

The attribute values were stored as InfoPath Lists on the MOSS portal. To enable (read-only) users to view this data, Blue Star Infotech developed a custom Visio Viewer and a custom List Viewer (AJAX-enabled web part) thereby eliminating the need for Visio to be installed on each desktop.

Benefits to Client

- By choosing MOSS as the development platform, the client could later on extend the functionality of his product to incorporate more enterprise collaboration features.
- As the product's end users were already acquainted with Visio, the usability of the product was dramatically increased
- A number of technical challenges emerged during the course of the project. Blue Star Infotech's Technology Cell was able to provide innovative solutions to each of these thereby ensuring that the features were not compromised in functionality and the project schedule was adhered to.

TECHNOLOGY

- Windows 2003 Server
- MOSS 2007, MS SQL Server 2005
- MS Visio 2007, MS InfoPath 2007
- MS Word 2007, MS Excel 2007
- .NET 3.0, C#.NET

For more information about Blue Star Infotech:

USA	+1-(408) 235-1640	bsia_ca@bsil.com
UK	+44-020-8538 2710	bsil_uk@bsil.com
India	+91-22-2490 1870	globalhq@bsil.com

www.bsil.com