

Enterprise Collaboration Product using SharePoint 2007

Need: Enterprise Collaboration Portal Product on SharePoint
Location: US

Client Description

The client is one of the fastest growing technology companies in the US and provides solutions to leading global corporations, governments, and not-for-profit organizations. It combines its business research activities with solutions and products to help businesses use technology strategically and derive its benefits to the fullest.

Business Need

The client wanted to develop a portal product that would improve the efficiency in corporate operations by effective knowledge management and improved enterprise processes. The portal would:

- Help users to collaborate effectively and act as a knowledge repository
- Provide aggregated view of various projects and portfolios for improved decision making.
- Help knowledge architects build a visual enterprise model capturing attributes of various entities.

Solution Offered

Blue Star Infotech architected the solution using out-of-box collaboration features provided by SharePoint that helped in reducing the time-to-market of the portal product and also in reducing integration complexity.

The collaboration features included discussion forums, instant messaging, online meetings and a calendar specific to the portal. Portal users were provided facilities to maintain their user profile data using 'My Site' and 'My Blog' features available in MOSS 2007. An Instant Messaging framework was developed such that the portal users could use MS Office Communicator to send and receive instant messages. The Instant Messaging web part required integration with Live Communication Server 2005.

To facilitate Enterprise Modeling, Visio 2007 was integrated with SharePoint 2007. A Visio add-in was developed to allow modeler to connect model elements within Visio to external data sources (like InfoPath form lists in SharePoint). To enable (read-only) users to view this data, custom Visio Viewer and custom List Viewer web parts were developed that were AJAX-enabled and interconnected; thereby eliminating the need to install Visio on each desktop.

Some of the features built into the reporting component of the product included:

- Integration with Live Meeting as well as a web part to display the meeting schedule for the day for the given portal user
- Portal Calendar synchronization with MS Outlook
- Integration with Live Communication Server 2005 and an Instant Messaging Framework
- Integration with Project Portfolio Server
- Integration with Visio 2007
- 'My Site' and 'My Blog' features for every portal user

Benefits to Client

- BSI's strong expertise and knowledge of SharePoint helped the client in conceiving the entire product and ensured that the MOSS framework was appropriately leveraged – this also resulted in reducing the time to develop and costs
- BSI was able to reduce the time-to-market by leveraging its mature relationship with Microsoft to resolve various issues that cropped up due to MOSS 2007 still being in an early stage of release.
- The high level of Office 2007 integration and automation improved the usability of the product and helped the client attract potential customers to their new product.

TECHNOLOGY

- Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007
- SQL Server 2005
- Live Communication Server 2005, Live Meeting
- Visio 2007, InfoPath 2007
- Outlook 2007, Office Communicator 2005
- .NET 3.0, C#.NET

For more information about Blue Star Infotech:

USA +1-(408) 235-1640
 UK +44-020-8538 2710
 India +91-22-2490 1870

Email: alobalha@bsil.com

www.bsil.com