

Arctern Success Story



Web Site Migration

A global technology company needed help with migrating contents of a hightraffic Web site from a soon-to-be-retired platform to a new, more sophisticated platform. The project was outsourced to us with great results.

Challenge

A global technology leader needed technical help to migrate the contents of a website from an existing platform to a new platform. The new platform featured a content management system that used component-based (XML, XSLT) architecture to build web pages offering greater freedom to choose and design new web templates. The new platform also offered authoring and rendering frameworks to site content owners.

While the authoring framework employed SharePoint technologies, the rendering framework used ASP.NET technologies. Instant Preview service and Publishing were an added service available on the new platform enabling site content managers to publish critical and high-priority updates to live servers without any dependency.

A key challenge site content managers and developers faced with the new platform was difficulty in customizing existing templates which were available only on the old platform. Other challenges included the fact that the new platform was still evolving and thus susceptible to breakdowns with release of new updates. Site Content Managers were unfamiliar with the new content management system. In addition, there was very limited supporting documentation, exacerbating the challenge.

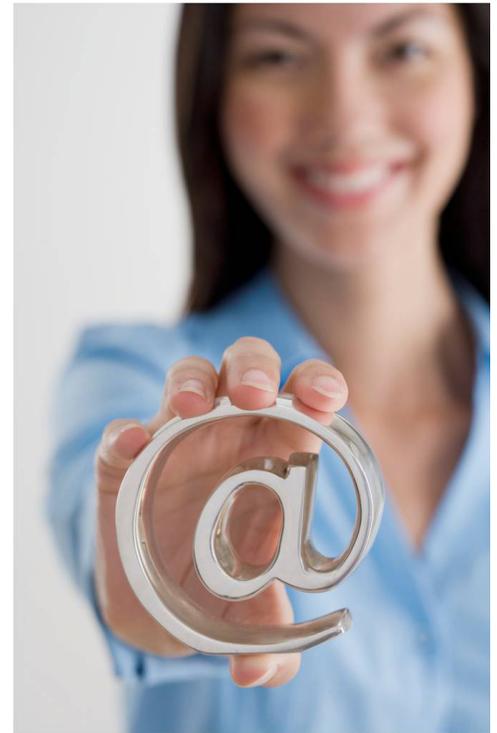
Arctern Solution

A small, joint development team with members from Arctern's Hyderabad, India and Redmond, US facilities worked on the project. The team first made a detailed study of both the old and new platforms to understand the site architecture, site components, page layout designs and content. The publishing and deployment process of the site in the new platform was also studied in depth. A library of re-usable site components - built using .Net technologies such as C#, XML, XSLT, CSS and JavaScript - was created. The India-based team researched three components to verify whether these could be integrated with the new platform. Providing a floating navigation menu - for the first time on the new platform - was initially considered but found unfeasible given the project timeframe and constantly changing client requirements. Instead, an alternative approach that met most of the requirements was offered and accepted by the client. It was decided the floating menu option would be provided to the client at a later date, possibly as an enhancement.

The team re-engineered two components to make them compatible with the new environment. One was a Search component built using Asp.NET technologies with C#, allowing users to search for license information. The main challenge here was to remove DLL (Dynamic Link Library) dependency without compromising on the component's performance and deliver the component to a web farm scenario.

The code was reworked and user control created using Asp.NET technology with C# to mimic the existing functionality without DLL dependency. InfoPath forms, component XML and XSLT files were created to render control in the new platform.

The second component to be re-engineered was a language drop-down control to render the European Union directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment in the available choice of languages. The solution here involved the integration of the component with the new platform while avoiding changes to the existing functionality. The code was tested in staging servers and adjusted to suit the new technology requirement by creating InfoPath forms, component XML files, XSLT and external CSS. Site components were built using InfoPath forms. Site pages were built using component XML files. CSS and XSLT were used to create site design requirements.



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How the Remote Hire Contributed

The client was delivered a robust, scalable and high performance website using Microsoft's latest web technologies such as Asp.Net and SharePoint.

- A simple, step by step component usage guide was developed to help the vendor maintain the site components in the new environment
- As a value add, the customer was provided an improved solution to automatically render localized content to the user based on customer language preference set in the browser.
- The relationship is ongoing with this client.

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