

SharePoint Migration



Migration to SharePoint Server 2007 Offers Short and Long-Term Benefits and Improvements

The Problem – Customized to off-the-shelf

The Client, a major provider of procurement and other services to children's hospitals throughout the United States, needed to improve their business processes and reduce operating costs. Their current use of SharePoint 2003 to access information with customized search features, provided by a third party add-on, was under performing and expensive (third party software). The result was a custom installation with low user utilization that did not support enterprise architecture strategy. Was it time to upgrade to SharePoint 2007 and what would be the impact on the third party software?

The Analysis – Look before you leap

While it was determined that SharePoint 2007 could provide all the features of the current customized solution and a better user experience, there were many unanswered questions. The Client, knowing that SharePoint 2007 was a much improved product, sensed the potential of making a significant improvement in their overall business operation. They decided to take a "look-before-you-leap" approach to examine downside risk while setting the stage for the future. They wanted to make sure that any action taken would be in-line with their for long-term enterprise strategies including extranet, project management and WEB 2.0 socialization.

The Solution – Manage the migration, manage the future

Working with the Client, PSC was engaged to manage the overall complexities of migrating from the current customization while at the same time safeguarding the long-term plan for a more sophisticated and unified architectural strategy.

This project began with a GAP analysis between the current customized solution and SharePoint 2007. The results confirmed that out-of-the-box, SharePoint 2007 exceeded the capabilities of the customized solution.

Passing this important milestone, the next step was to implement highly detailed project management to insure that the result was on time migration and under budget. Migration tools available from Microsoft performed well, but because of the prior customization, created some unexpected issues requiring special skills. Only 20% of the 15GB database (30,000 files at 120 locations) required manual conversion.

A quantum leap over its predecessor, Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 offered search, document versioning, audit trail, expiration policy, and check-in/check-out services to directly address other pressing document management issues. It was also used to create portals for each of the departments to author and access standard operating procedures, documents, spreadsheets, diagrams and other files that were vital to the departments and daily enterprise wide business functions.

The client is now positioned to deploy new and additional features not available with the older system. Planning has already begun on creating extranet applications and making major improvements to their web facing applications. The lesson learned is that today's portal technology is more of an architectural foundation than a stand-alone product, and as such Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 becomes the perfect place to start preparing your business for the future.

The Technology

- Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007

The Benefits

- Improved search relevance
- Reduction in information search and retrieval time
- Reduced out of packet software costs
- Alignment with Enterprise Architecture Strategy



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PSC Group, LLC is an information-technology and professional services consulting firm that specializes in business process architecture and back-end integration. We have extensive experience in the integration of Microsoft products with a variety of applications, processes and systems including ERP, CRM, Portal, and Workflow.

When it comes to information management and control of business processes, PSC can provide you with a competitive advantage through the smart application of technology.

CONTACT

Jeff Ney
Office: 800.592.8003
Direct: 913.234.8170
jney@psclisten.com

PSC Group, LLC
Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis
www.psclisten.com

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