

ITN Case Study

Brief Introduction

The Innovative Teachers Network is a secure, online portal where educators can come together to share classroom success based on high-quality professional learning resources and teacher-driven content. It is a place to share ideas, passion and enthusiasm. This offers educators the opportunity to engage in a network which allows collaboration not only with other educators in their country but innovators from a global community. Within the community, teachers will have access to a library of resources including articles, tutorials, learning materials and samples of content made available free. Members can use collaboration tools to engage in communities of practice and will be able to access a personal thinking and working space within the network, built easily with 'MySite' tools.



Business Situation

Teachers know the best what other teachers need. There is no global public platform available for teachers around the world to share ideas, resources, best practices and enthusiasm. A global platform and Public-private partnerships are required to address educational barriers currently inhibiting the development of a digitally "literate" society.

Solution

The ITN (Innovative Teachers Network) is the online component of Microsoft's new initiative, Partners In Learning. The core objective of ITN is to enable and help teachers efficiently perform their daily classroom tasks, collaborate and communicate with peers, students and parents in a community environment, and enhance their professional skills by learning and sharing best practices along with technology application to education. Microsoft has worked together with Salzer Technologies to develop Sharepoint Portal based Innovative Teachers Network Portal.

Benefits

- Provides a interacting platform for teachers, located internationally, to connect.
- Facilitates the creation of collective knowledge.
- Provides training and access to technology resources.
- Delivers integration confidence to teachers using technology in the learning process.
- Intellectually engages teachers by offering opportunities for and to be active stakeholders in their profession.

Customer Profile

Educational institutions

Business Situation - Detail

Despite real improvements in access to, and use of, information and communication technology (ICT) around the world, there is a wealth of evidence to suggest that the digital divide between and within countries is growing. Indeed, the digital divide is increasingly "a complicated patchwork of varying levels of ICT access, basic ICT usage, and ICT applications among countries and peoples."

Public-private partnerships are required to address financial and educational barriers currently inhibiting the development of a digitally "literate" society.

Education industry is one of the main industries which requires attention in this type of situation.

Teachers know the best what other teachers need. Teacher leaders should be able to share their expertise with other teachers around the world. Teachers should have fast access to experts and peers who can offer tremendous value to the learning enterprise. And teachers should have anytime, anywhere, affordable access to vast stores of information. A global public platform is required to share ideas, resources, best practices and enthusiasm.

Solution Description - Detail

The Innovative Teachers Network is a secure, online portal where educators can come together to share classroom success based on high-quality professional learning resources and teacher-driven content. The

core objective of ITN is to enable and help teachers efficiently perform their daily classroom tasks, collaborate and communicate with peers, students and parents in a community environment, and enhance their professional skills by learning and sharing best practices along with technology application to education. Since ITN is targeted as an Internet based platform, it allows teachers to access these features literally from anywhere in the world, thereby providing them the flexibility and convenience to plan their time and schedules, and learn and teach more and more efficiently.

The ultimate goal of ITN is to allow Teachers, within countries and across the globe, to:

- initiate, monitor, join and participate in communities or networks of teachers sharing the same concerns and the same interests
- continuously share information, education materials, techniques, ideas, knowledge and best practices and to communicate with each other
- locate education and professional materials to use in the classroom and to collaborate on the improvement and development of additional materials for the classroom
- increase their knowledge and skills by identify personal and professional development needs, defining development plans, localizing and consuming professional development materials adapted to their needs

The Innovative Teachers Network Portal was developed by Microsoft in partnership with Salzer Technologies and works on top of Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003 and Microsoft Office SharePoint® Portal Server 2003.

Software and Services

- Microsoft Office Sharepoint Portal Server 2003
- Microsoft SQL Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- .Net 1.1

Benefits - Detail

Globalization

Information is no longer confined to a book or a building. Teachers will have fast access to experts and peers who can offer tremendous value to the learning enterprise. Learning becomes a social activity. Interacting with others is a powerful way to build knowledge.

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Effective Collaboration

Innovative Teachers network portal provides online, community based capability to promote enhanced collaboration between teachers. The community template has been designed with the key collaborative components like Document library, Discussion board etc.,

Flexible Content Management

Libraries are logical storage areas where documentation and educational content will be stored. Documents will be catalogued using properties and retrieved through browse and search. Users and teachers will be able to retrieve the content easily by browsing the knowledge base or by retrieving content dynamically using search capabilities.

About Salzer Technologies

Salzer Technologies is a global offshore outsourcing firm with offices in Chennai, India and in Northern Virginia in the U.S. The firm is a pioneer in providing knowledge management and business intelligence solutions to leading organizations. The Salzer methodology is driven by a Transparent Offshore Model™ (TOM) that is based on collaboration, communication and currency. Salzer Technologies approaches projects from the point of view of Information Worker Integration™ (IWI). They focus on developing solutions from the user's perspective, delivering information in the context of what information workers need to know—now. Salzer developers use a proprietary assembly-unit platform, called Solution Development Fabric™ (SDF), to create tailor-made business applications in a faster and less expensive way to meet business objectives. The Adaptive Product Development Lifecycle™ brings products to market in a personalized manner, helping companies offer services designed to meet individual needs. That's the Salzer way. Connecting resources through an optimal combination of people, tools, technology, methodology and process expertise - with the goal of satisfying client needs.

To learn more, please visit www.salzertechnologies.com.