

# NSDC Portal Case Study

## Brief Introduction

The National Staff Development Council (NSDC) is the largest non-profit professional association committed to ensuring success for all students through staff development and school improvement.. NSDC has deployed a Knowledge Sharing portal required to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among registered educators with the NSDC. The system is based on Microsoft® Office SharePoint® Portal Server 2003 and taps into the Microsoft Solutions Sharing Network (SSN) initiative to enable public sector organizations and educational organizations to share their IT solutions, best practices, and research with other governments. Developed in partnership with Microsoft and Salzer Technologies, the KM Portal includes template based article publishing using Microsoft FrontPage and Sharepoint Portal Server



## Business Situation

Ability to share information and best practices will enable the educators registered with NSDC to excel in their career and thus benefit the student community. A Collaboration portal is required to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among registered educators with the NSDC. Also NSDC wanted to migrate their Cold Fusion technology based implementation of article publishing to .Net technology based environment which will be easier and efficient. The new implementation should be synchronized to the Collaborative portal.

## Solution

A Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing Portal based on Sharepoint Portal Server 2003 was designed to suit the needs of NSDC. As part of this portal deployment, a tool was developed to migrate existing Cold fusion articles or files into .net aspx files. The portal includes template based article publishing using Microsoft FrontPage and Sharepoint Portal Server.

## Benefits

- Provides a platform for registered educators with the NSDC to connect.
- Facilitates the creation of collective knowledge and knowledge sharing.
- Easy and efficient mechanism of securely publishing articles.
- Integrated and advanced Search capabilities to search for people, communities and resources.

## Customer Profile

NSDC is the National Staff Development Council. It is a national non-profit association of about 10,000 educators. NSDC is deeply committed to ensuring success for all students by applying high standards for professional development for everyone who affects student learning. The Council views high-quality staff development programs as essential to creating schools in which all students and staff members are learners who continually improve their performance.

## Business Situation - Detail

National Staff Development Council is a national non-profit association of about 10,000 educators in USA. Educators should be able to share their expertise with other educator of NSDC. Educators should have fast access to experts and resources. A Collaboration Portal will enable NSDC to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among registered educators with the NSDC.

NSDC publications provide the bridge between what's known about high quality staff development and how teachers can put those ideas into practice. NSDC was using the Cold fusion technology to create and publish new articles. NSDC has asked Salzer Technologies to implement an easy and efficient template based solution using Microsoft technologies to publish the articles in the portal for easy access by the registered teachers

## Solution Description - Detail

The KM Portal is a secure, online portal where educators registered with NSDC can come together to share classroom success based on high-quality professional learning resources and teacher-driven content.

This KM Portal allows the educators 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

NSDC publications provide the bridge between what's known about high quality staff development and how teachers can put those ideas into practice. As part of this portal deployment, a tool was developed to migrate existing Cold fusion articles or files into .net aspx files. The portal included template based article publishing using Microsoft FrontPage and Sharepoint Portal Server. This new implementation of article publishing has made life easier for the administrator and article authors of NSDC.

The KM system was developed in partnership with Microsoft and Salzer Technologies. Through the project, NSDC implemented and joined the Microsoft-based Solutions Sharing Network (SSN) program, a global initiative to provide an online, community-based capability to promote increased communication, deeper information exchange, and collaboration between educational and public sector organizations. The SSN program was developed jointly by Microsoft and 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

### Easy and Efficient Article Publishing

Template based article publishing implemented along with the KM Portal has made life easier for the administrator and article authors of NSDC. Microsoft Frontpage which is used to create articles using given templates synchronizes well with the sharepoint based KM portal and has made the implementation efficient.

### Effective Collaboration

This Collaborative 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.

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