



CASE STUDY

Building a Collaboration Portal with KnowledgeBase for a Consulting Company

Background

Meridian Compensation Partners is one of the largest, independent executive compensation consulting firms in North America. With nine offices in the U.S. and Canada, Meridian's experienced consultants serve over 300 clients, primarily at the Board level.

The company wanted to be able to generate and organize information and ideas in a collaborative system which will allow the consultants to share knowledge and create discussions in a seamless and effective manner. The consultants needed to access all client and company files in one central, secure place, with the ability to create and organize knowledge, link topics together, view history and search content using various criteria.

The system had to be user-friendly and be the user's intuitive first choice to look for information.

Generating and organizing information, ideas, and knowledge in a collaborative system.

The Approach

MXOtech reviewed a number of options including leading industry vendors, open source solutions and MS SharePoint Server 2010.

To address all the client needs, MXOtech utilized the latest version of MS SharePoint 2010 for the front-end environment and SQL server 2008 R2 for the backend.

MXOtech's development team used MS Visual Studio 2010 development system to build the custom KnowledgeBase piece, which was then integrated into the SharePoint portal. SharePoint Designer 2010 was used to make the site look and feel user-friendly.

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Results

Easy to maintain and utilize document management portal organized by clients and departments. Guaranteed client confidentiality was ensured using custom permissions.

Improved Collaboration
Guaranteed Confidentiality
Instant Posting Alerts
Custom KnowledgeBase

Improved collaboration among the consultants, who now have a discussion board allowing them to quickly communicate and find answers to their queries. Alerts were set up to instantly notify the user when updates are posted to the discussions. The user can also share discussion topics by emailing a link to a team member and move discussion topics to the KnowledgeBase, and also find useful information like company announcements, directory, commonly used sites, etc.

Custom KnowledgeBase – An information database was created which allows the client users to add, edit and quickly search for key information related to the industry. The data is organized in logical tree-based categories and subcategories. The user can switch and view the information by author or date created, or use the free search to find information. Information can be downloaded or printed for later viewing.

Technology

- **Platform:** Built on Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010
- **Database:** SQL server 2008 R2
- **Development Tools:** MS Visual Studio 2010 and MS SharePoint Designer

