



Organization Profile

The City of Poway, located in the heart of San Diego County with over 50,000 residents. It was incorporated in 1980 as a full-service, general law City and operates under the Council/Manager form of government. The City has approximately 250 permanent employees.

Situation

The City was in need of an Intranet site that could be maintained by staff within the organization and that would replace their current legacy intranet, InfoSource.

Solution

After selecting SharePoint to be their portal platform, the City chose to work with 6th Street Consulting to complete this project. Together, they went through a selection process to determine whether MOSS 2007 or SharePoint 2010 would best fit their needs. They chose SharePoint 2010, and the project has provided framework for future growth.

Benefits

- Simple, Flexible branding, set-up and maintenance
- Information consistency
- Established framework for future growth
- Availability of training videos to keep staff up to date

Technologies Used

- SharePoint 2010
- SharePoint Deployment Planning Services (SDPS)

City Intranet Built on SharePoint 2010

An upper-middle class city located in Southern California was in need of an updated intranet site that would replace their current legacy intranet, InfoSource. The City of Poway needed this new intranet site to be maintained by staff within the organization. As one of San Diego's larger suburbs, the City employs 250 people on a permanent basis. After selecting SharePoint as their portal platform, the City searched for a vendor that would review their current system and environment, and define any additional hardware and software to be acquired. The vendor would also work with the City to plan site architecture and design, My Site functionality, security, backups, workflow, search, document management, master pages, templates, support, and migration process.

After a competitive bid process, the City selected 6th Street Consulting as their vendor for the project. 6th Street Consulting is a recognized Microsoft Partner for their Portal Competency. Working closely with the City's internal team, 6th Street Consulting helped to determine whether MOSS 2007 or SharePoint 2010 would best suit the City's requirements and goals. Together, they decided to deploy SharePoint 2010 and the project resulted in a success for the City. Their requirements and goals were met, and the new intranet system provided a framework for future growth and development.

Situation

The City's current intranet system was not up to speed with the current technology trends, so in order to maximize efficiency and maintain consistency they felt that an upgrade to SharePoint would be highly beneficial. The main objectives for the project were to allow City staff users to manage data that they were responsible for, and for staff members to be able to update the Intranet internally. By upgrading, the City would also be able to save time and cut costs in the future.

Before proceeding with the project, the City had already decided that they would use SharePoint as the framework for their new intranet site. With this already decided, they then had to choose if they wanted to run with MOSS 2007 or the new version SharePoint 2010 which was scheduled to be officially released the following month. To determine the which would best fit their needs, the City went through a selection process with their chosen vendor, 6th Street Consulting. They ultimately decided to run SharePoint 2010.

The City chose SharePoint 2010 for four key reasons: rich theming, rich media support, SharePoint workspace and overall ease of usage. For rich theming, SharePoint 2010 provides the ability to control and tailor themes which was very important to the City because they felt that their staff would be more inclined to use new services that were well presented. Using rich media support, SharePoint 2010 provides the ability to host numerous training clips and access picture and logo libraries. The SharePoint workspace feature will be very important to the City when building future project sites. Lastly, the overall ease of usage was a benefit for the City because they would be able to roll out the product slowly to employees so that they would not be overwhelmed by an abundance of new software features.

Solution

6th Street Consulting approached the project by developing a proof of concept (POC), designing and developing themes, and then testing these themes to ensure functionality. This process was funded through Microsoft as part of the SharePoint Deployment Planning Services (SDPS) program. Next, they trained the City on using the software and themes before turning the final results over to the Poway team upon completion of the project. The 6th Street Consulting team worked closely with the City's IT members throughout the project to ensure that all of their questions were answered. Since SharePoint 2010 has so many features and different tools, the City did not want their staff to be overwhelmed by or unwilling to use the new site. They are able to effectively roll out specific parts of the software at different time intervals so that employees are able to effectively learn at an appropriate pace. Overall, the social/collaboration tools from SharePoint 2010 are working toward the City's benefit, and they were able to effectively meet their project goals.

Benefits

Simple, Flexible Branding, Set-up and Maintenance

By branding the themes, the City is able to promote internal programs. Each page throughout the City of Poway website has a specific color palette and theme applied to it. This makes it easy for users to navigate through the site and also for to distinguish the difference between topics. It is also very easy for the City to internally go into the site and update or make changes to the colors and themes. SharePoint 2010 makes it very easy for anyone within the company to be able to update the website with very little training. Also, when setting up SharePoint 2010, no custom codes are required and the software can be used out of the box.

Information Consistency

By upgrading to SharePoint 2010, the Poway employees can now upload all of their files directly to the Intranet site. This helps to maintain consistency of information and saves employees from having to locate files when they are needed. This also makes the same information available to be delivered city-wide. Since the staff is saving time by collaborating files, this also saves the City time and money in the long run.

Established Framework for Future Growth

SharePoint 2010 has also provided a platform for the City to build upon. The first stage of the new deployment was to primarily to establish a Content Management System (CMS). The City's IT department can also set in a path that will allow staff to acclimate to the SharePoint environment and open more collaboration possibilities in the future.

Availability of Training Videos to Keep Staff up-to-date

Since SharePoint 2010 is built for collaboration, staff members are able to produce training videos and then upload them to the Intranet site to be viewed by other staff members. This allows for training to be more organized and consistent for the City. It also ensures that staff members are kept up-to-date with the latest technology that the City is using.

Conclusion

With the help of 6th Street Consulting, the City of Poway was able to meet their project goals, resulting in a successful SharePoint 2010 deployment. By working closely with the knowledgeable 6th Street Consulting team, the City was able to choose the correct Intranet system, SharePoint 2010, that would work best for their needs. Because of this, internal staff members of the City can now maintain and update the site, and a framework for future growth has been established. Overall, the City now enjoys the convenience of simple branding, information consistency, framework for future growth, and the availability of training videos for staff members.

About 6th Street Consulting

6th Street Consulting is a leading strategy and technology consulting company providing expert SharePoint solutions. Our expertise ranges from the setup of the most basic SharePoint sites to custom sites that match the brand of your business. We also provide strategic assessments/planning, proof of concepts and implementation of value-added portals (Intranets, Extranets and Corporate). With our SharePoint Deployment Planning Services (SDPS), we can work with you to assess your business goals, identify and mitigate project risk, and develop an effective roadmap for implementing a SharePoint solution that meets the needs of your end users. More than 50,000 users have effectively adopted SharePoint solutions that we have deployed.

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