



Online Document Editor

A SharePoint Case Study

Executive Summary

Our clients, a New York based provider of film & television production software, wanted a better way to manage their Microsoft Office document repository online. This case study illustrates how we created an easy-to-use and secure online document editing system using SharePoint 2010 and Office Web Apps to help our clients empower their users to manage documents better.

About Our Client

Client: Software Provider for Film & Television Production | *Location:* New York City, USA | *Industry:* IT

Business Situation

Our clients had a Microsoft Office document repository in place. Users accessed these documents from their systems to view or edit. They relied on online document editing features instead of having Microsoft Office installed on their individual machines. For this purpose, they were earlier using a third-party application (Zoho) to help them edit the documents online. However, due to shortcomings inherent in the third-party software, our clients were looking for an alternative which would allow their users to edit these documents online with ease.

Solution Overview

Our proposal for the above requirement was to use SharePoint 2010 with Office Web Apps – a web-based version of Microsoft Office productivity suite. It allows users to access their documents directly from anywhere within a web browser as well as share files and collaborate with other users online. When a user tries to edit a file from their legacy system, it would make use of our solution to upload a copy of it onto a SharePoint site and then use Office Web Apps features to edit the same.

We created a SharePoint 2010 site on Amazon EC2 server based on our client's requirements with Claim Based Authentication configured on it. A user interface for uploading the file on to the SharePoint site from client-end and some metadata inputs were collected using it. A custom SharePoint web service was developed which receives the file, encrypts the file name, uploads it to a document library within the

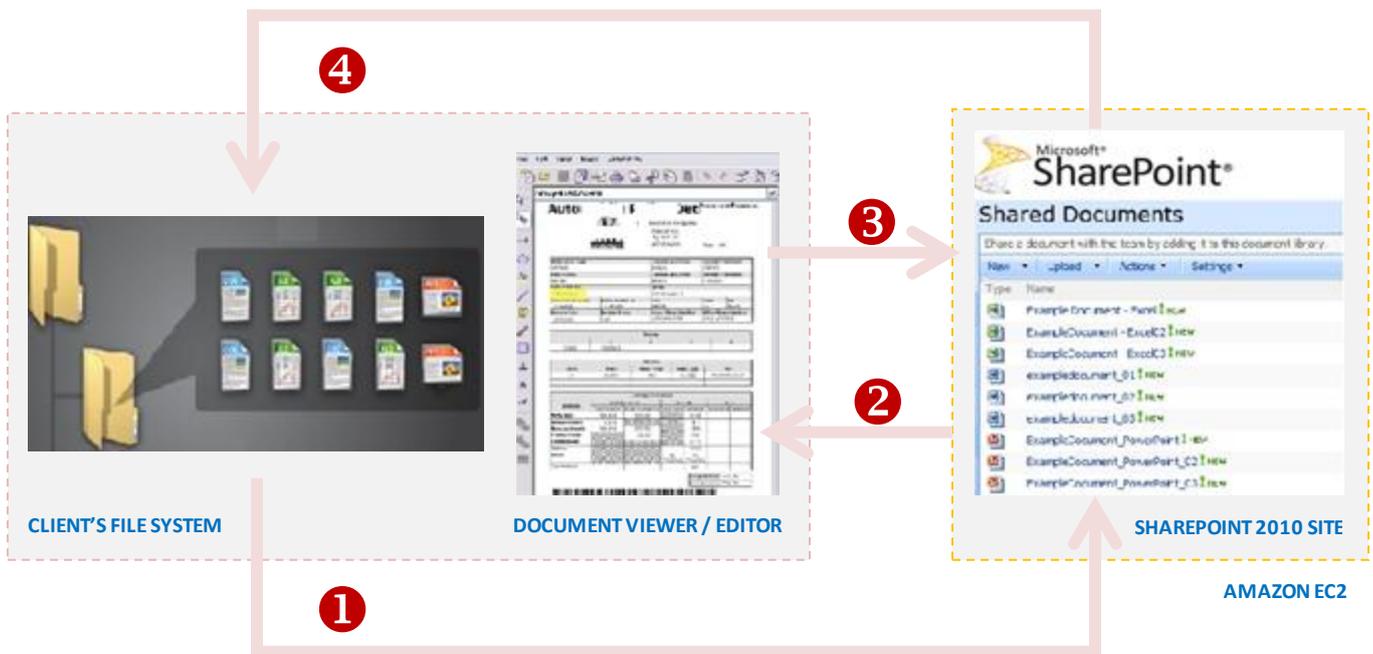


SharePoint site, and returns the corresponding Office Web Apps URL – which then can be used within their legacy software.

Auto log-in for users was done programmatically which prevents users from being prompted for credentials while accessing the files from the SharePoint document library. When a request from an iframe from the client's portal tries to access a document from the site, our custom code on the login page programmatically authenticates the user and opens the document for editing. Customization was done to the look and feel of the Office Web Apps page which opened the document for editing.

Once a user completes editing the file using the Office Web Apps URL returned earlier, we trigger an event from within the SharePoint document library which then helps push the modified file back to their system using Restful API.

Architecture Diagram



Technologies

SharePoint 2010, Office Web Apps, Amazon EC2, Web Services

Customer Benefits

The robust and easy-to-use online document management system thus created empowered end-users to manage repository documents without having to install Microsoft Office on their individual machines – thereby resulting in substantial licensing cost savings. The system also enabled users to overcome earlier issues faced by them while using the Zoho-based implementation.



Future Relationship

Our clients were delighted with the manner in which the new system resulted in significant cost and time savings and how well it was received by their users. This led to the beginning of a strong business relationship spanning future development and maintenance work.



→ Learn more about our SharePoint Development Services at <http://www.mindfiresolutions.com/sharepoint-development.htm>



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Phone: 1-248-686-1424

Web: www.mindfiresolutions.com

Email: sales@mindfiresolutions.com