

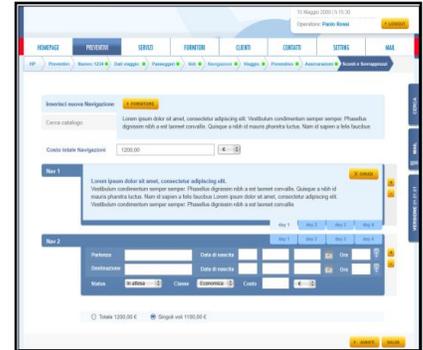


Travel Management Portal

A SharePoint Solution.

Executive Summary

The client, a major global IT Service provider was looking to sub-contract its work to develop a Travel Management portal in the hands of an efficient and reliable partner. Their intent was to develop a portal which would be helpful in designing packages meant for their usage and not for the end-users. Mindfire's team was approached for this, as the client did not have the expertise in SharePoint which was needed for this particular project. The client had a clear picture of their requirements. They wanted to implement number of service components in the application. SharePoint site branding, creating a dynamic calendar and linq queries to fetch data from SharePoint list were some of the major concerns of the client. Mindfire Solutions took up the challenge to create such a portal and stood up to the expectations of the client, nurturing future relationship with them.



About our Client

Client Travel Management | **Location** Italy | **Industry** Travel Domain

Business Situation

The client was aiming at using the portal to design packages for the end users. Hence, it involved creation of an estimate with its corresponding services and the associated traveler and service component details. The service component had to be of different types like Flight, Navigation, Hotel, Meals, Tour Guide, Transfer, Trip, etc. They were also curious about some of the primary work of SharePoint site branding, linq queries to fetch data from the list and integration of a dynamic travel calendar which gets populated with all the service details corresponding to the displayed days / dates.

With all these requirements in store the client approached Mindfire Solutions for a robust, efficient, and attractive portal. Knowing their incapability in SharePoint development and the potentiality of Mindfire's SharePoint team to develop the portal, the customer offered the project. Keeping these features to develop in mind, Mindfire's SharePoint team started analysis of the project details and delivered a travel portal that met the objective of the client.



Solution Details

The Mindfire Solution

Looking at the objective of the client and the complexities of the project, Mindfire's team started analyzing the details to come up with solution.

Firstly, Mindfire's SharePoint team proposed to create the travel portal as an Intranet / Extranet portal in MOSS 2007 which will be used by people within the organization to create travel packages and estimate details.

Secondly, AJAX framework was integrated along with AjaxControlToolkit to provide end users with rich web interface. All the custom functionalities like managing estimates, traveller details, flight details, navigation details, hotel details etc were implemented using custom webpart solutions.

Thirdly, the absence of OOTB option was a major concern for us to create the dynamic calendar as per the customer's requirement. So, we went on to create a custom dynamic calendar which gets populated with the travel details based on the dates selected. This calendar also provides an hourly break up for the entire day along with the option to navigate back and forth.

Apart from these functionalities, we also helped the client in site branding. Their existing site did not have the look and feel of a normal SharePoint site. We provided complete custom branding to the client by developing a clean, better looking and robust site.

Achievements

As this was for the first time we were working on the travel management domain, the expertise needed was less. But, the developers brainstormed to understand the necessities and provided the client with a solution which was far above what the client had expected. Extensive usage of linq queries which was new to .NET 3.5 was an added advantage for our team as they had the opportunity to grow their knowledge base by understanding the concept and functionalities of it.

Technologies

SharePoint 2007 (WSS 3.0), ASP.Net 3.5, C#.NET (VS 2008), ASP AJAX



Final Results Software System

SERVIZI	SERVIZI - Time limit 24 h	PREVENTIVI
Time limit 5 giorni 2	Pratica Servizio Cliente	Totali 3
Voli 1	1234 FIGHT: ROME-BERLIN 0-99 VIAGGI E VACANZE 099 cod. 099MAG	In elaborazione 1
Navigazioni 1	5676 NAVIGATION: - SICILY 0-99 VIAGGI E VACANZE 099 cod. 099MAG	In attesa di risposta 0
Time limit 24 h 7	8917 HOTEL: COSTA BRAVA 1000 MONDI cod. 1000PV	accettati 0
	8917 MEAL: ITALIAN RESTAURANT DA LUIGI 1000 MONDI cod. 1000PV	In attesa di partire 2
	8917 GUIDE: RED ROCK 1000 MONDI cod. 1000PV	In viaggio 0
	7467 GUIDE: LONDON MUSEUM 0-99 VIAGGI E VACANZE 099 cod. 099MAG	
	5009 GUIDE: PARIS MUSEUM 0-99 VIAGGI E VACANZE 099 cod. 099MAG	
		<input type="button" value="NUOVO PREVENTIVO"/>
		PASSEGGERI
		In attesa di partire 2
		In viaggio 0

HP	PREVENTIVI	SERVIZI	FORNITORI	CLIENTI	CONTATTI	SETTING	MAIL
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Codice Pratica	<input type="text" value="1234"/>						
Data	<input type="text"/>						
Tipo cliente	Agenzia						
Tipo contratto	Prezzo Netto						
Commissione	<input type="text"/> %						
Cliente	Nome <input type="text"/>						
Responsabilità Pratica	Nome <input type="text"/>		Cognome <input type="text"/>		Email <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="RINNOVA"/>
	Nome <input type="text"/>		Cognome <input type="text"/>		Email <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="RINNOVA"/>
<input type="button" value="AVANTI"/> <input type="button" value="INDIETRO"/>							

Customer Benefits

The impact on the client was huge as they could efficiently manage information by collaborating data in one place through SharePoint and thus benefited as usage became easier. The hurdles of creating travel plans were defeated through an easy flow process reducing time of planning and updating of travel data. As the site was Ajaxified, the need for refreshing a page in order to modify a particular section was eliminated. In addition to these the client also had very sophisticated levels of customization with balanced performance and attraction.

Future relationship

The client has handed over a new project to the same SharePoint team requesting to increase the team size this time for their work.

