Online Search Module Component

Business Situation

Client wanted to develop a search module using Joomla communicating to MSSQL database. In addition the client also needed an interface for setting up this search module with specific criteria.

Application features implemented by Mindfire

Mindfire Solutions with its years of experience picked up this challenge. We approached the client with a complete solution catering to his requirements. Client was very much impressed with our thorough grasp on technology and the holistic solution that we offered.

This project was little bit different. Although it was to be developed in Joomla, it had to communicate with MSSQL database for the search module. Since Joomla by-default uses MySQL, we had to create **one driver class** to communicate with MSSQL database.

All the functionalities were structured around this search module. To implement this search module, one component had to be created which internally uses the credentials to communicate with other databases. This component was based on MVC architecture following Joomla standard for providing better performance. On admin end of this component we had to implement a feature which should allow the Admin to add the settings like which database he needs to communicate with, what fields he need to show, what table headers to use, what table width to have, what template to use for this module, what query to be used etc. So all these custom settings made this extension a really flexible one. On the frontend, using the module the user can set his/her search criteria and go for the search result.

There was additional option as well, to choose templates for the search results. Using the admin configuration settings, admin can set any template from a set of templates.

JoomFish was also integrated keeping in view the functionality of adding different languages to the site as per requirements. So when the admin will add more languages to the site, this component will still be compatible with the new languages.

About our Client

Client Web Designing and Multimedia company │ **Location** Canada   │ **Industry** Software Development

Technologies

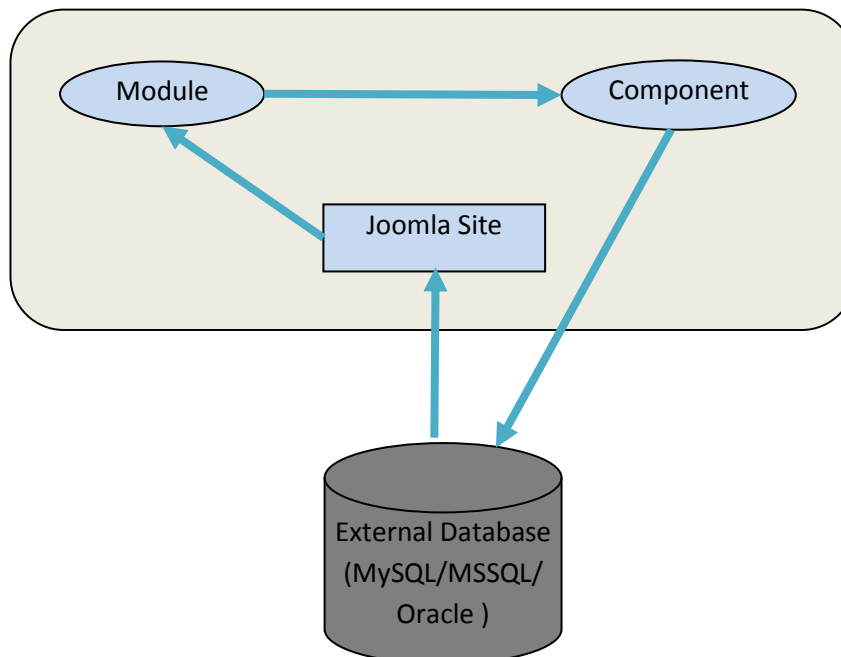**LAMP, Joomla 1.5, JoomFish, MySQL, MSSQL 2008**

Achievements

- ✓ Configurable search module which can be integrated to any Joomla site and can connect to any database in different db server.
- ✓ MVC architecture based extension development.
- ✓ Component result page can be customized/managed from Admin section.
- ✓ MSSQL database driver class development.
- ✓ Integration of **JoomFish** for multilingual feature.

Customer Benefits

Using the MSSQL database driver class, the Joomla site was able to communicate with database other than MySQL. Our solution to his requirement multiplied client's revenue and he was very much impressed with our timely project delivery.

Architecture Diagram

Given below the architecture diagram of the EXM Search application

Future relationship

The client was pleased with Mindfire's effort and reckoned that they were happy to have discovered a professional offshore IT unit. We shall continue to be the service provider for the next versions of the client's product. They have not only allocated the support and maintenance work of the current system to Mindfire but have also chosen us for future customization work.