Microsoft SharePoint Branding & Customization

Colombo .NET User Group (CDNUG)

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~ Agenda ~

- List of upcoming Sessions
- What is SharePoint Branding?
- Why Brand?
- Real world examples
- Architecture of SharePoint Branding
- Tools for Branding
- SharePoint Branding Options
- OOB Customization
- Developer Focused Customization
- Resources / Links

~ Upcoming Sessions ~

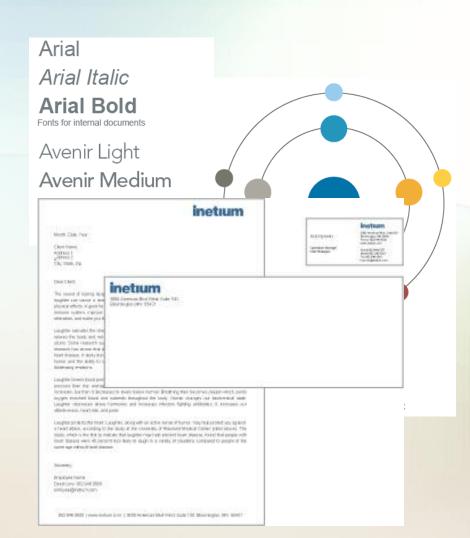
There will be 5 Sessions with following topics.

- SharePoint Concepts: Web Content Management
- Before You Start Requirements Gathering
- Getting to Know SharePoint Designer
- SharePoint Master Pages
- SharePoint CSS
- SharePoint Page Layouts
- SharePoint Role-based site Templates
- SharePoint Site Definitions
- Applying What You Have Learned

~ What is SharePoint Branding? ~

Branding is how you apply an Organization's identity to an existing software application through customization of a (SharePoint) portal site.

- Logos
- Fonts
- Color Schemes
- Graphical Treatment
- Traits or Characteristics
- SharePoint provides a Web 2.0, multidimensional, dynamic brand experience



~ Why Brand? ~

- To establish corporate identity and ownership.
- To reinforce enterprise standards.
- For ease of use.
- To create a sense of place.

^{*} Any customization that goes beyond modifying the look and feel of the portal site is not considered branding.

~ Typical Roles and Responsibilities in a SP project ~

Marketing

- Ideas
- Branding guidelines

Designer

- Design Concepts
- Implementation of HTML, Graphics and CSS

Developer

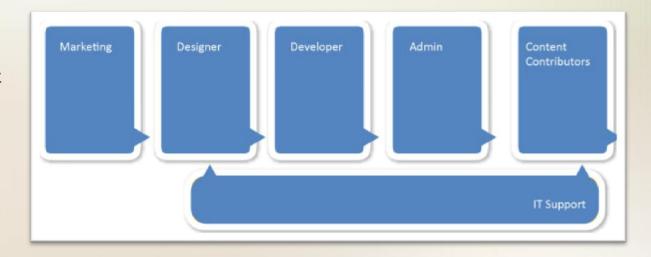
Custom web part development

Admin

- Content approver
- Set up for roles

Content Contributor

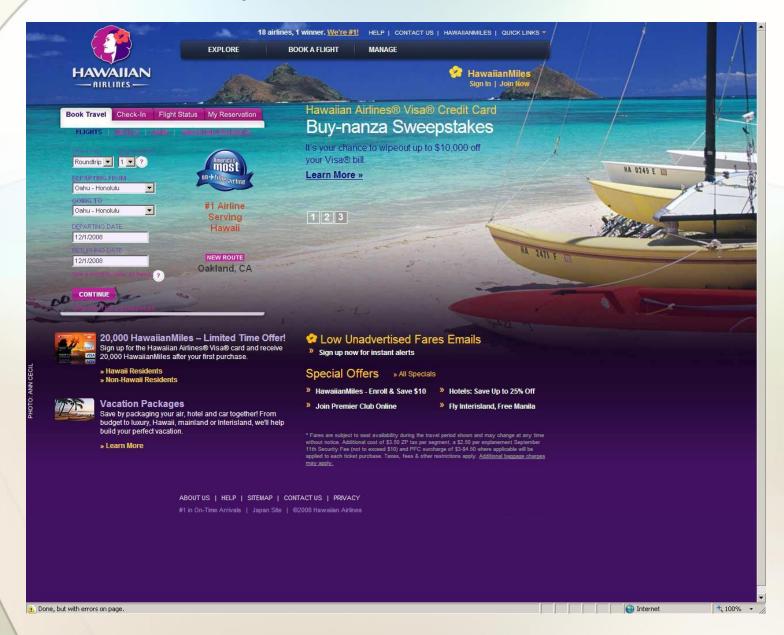
- Updates to content
- IT
 - Environment setup
 - Security



~ Real World Examples ~

SharePoint is a Microsoft Product. So, How far can we reach with SharePoint Customizations?

Hawaiian Airlines - http://www.hawaiianair.com/



MIGROS - http://www.migros.ch

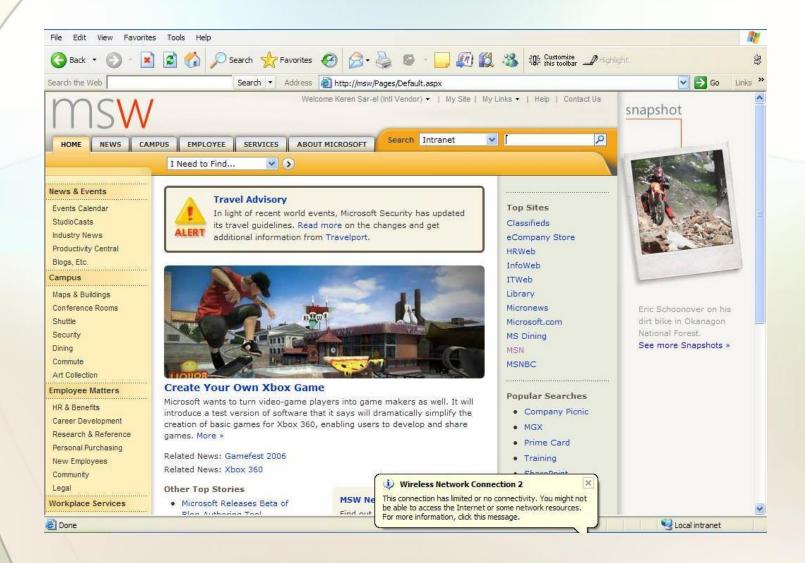


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Hed Kandi - http://beta.hedkandi.com



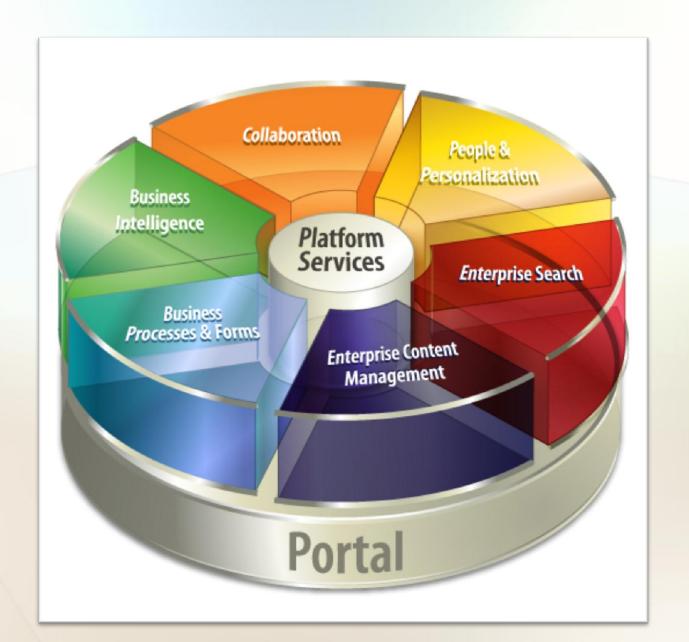
MSW - Microsoft for Web



Glu Mobile - http://www.glu.com



~ Microsoft SharePoint Platform ~

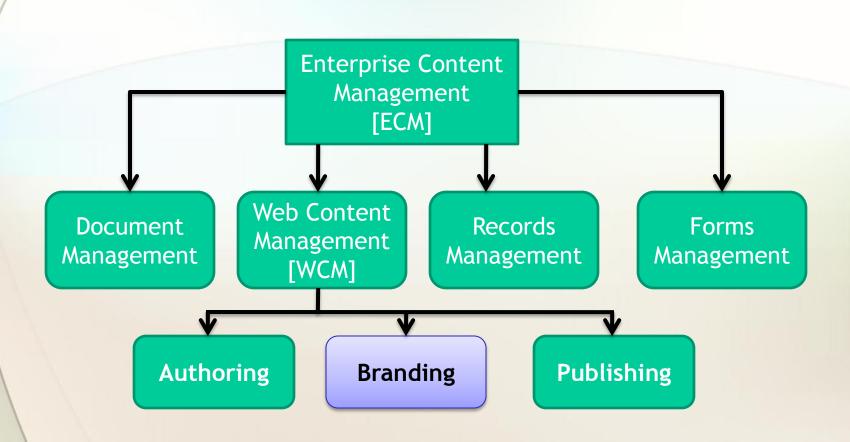


~ Microsoft SharePoint Platform ~

- Intranets and Extranets focus on content and functionality and might have different branding requirements
- Websites have a much larger focus on user experience



- How Branding plug in to the SharePoint Platform -



~ Web Content Management ~

- Author and publish content quickly and easily. Business groups can author
 and publish Web content in a timely manner with easy-to-use authoring tools
 and integrated workflows with minimal IT involvement.
- Maintain a consistent look and feel throughout your Web sites. Maintain
 consistency by providing approved master pages and page layouts that
 enable branding and navigation of the site to be specified once and reused
 by content authors.
- Lower deployment and management costs your Web sites. Implement a single multi-tier infrastructure for publishing content to intranet, extranet, and Internet sites.

~ Tools for Branding ~

SharePoint Designer 2007

- Create/customize master pages, page templates, CSS
- Create new / modify existing sites
- Create SharePoint lists and libraries
- Build workflows
- No code solutions
- More

Visual Studio 2005 / 2008

- Build server controls, custom controls, web parts
- Develop pages with code behind
- Complicated workflows
- Custom providers
- More

^{*} Visual Studio 2010 will replace the much-derided SharePoint Designer, a descendant of MS FrontPage

~ SharePoint Branding Options ~

- Out Of the Box Customization (OOB)
- Developer Focused Customization

~ Out Of the Box Customization ~

~Out Of the Box customization means "No Code Required" ~

- Adding Web Parts and moving them from Zone to Zone
- Update Logo, Title, etc...
- Changing properties of Web Parts
- Adding Meta Data Columns to list or site
- Creating filtered Views
- Applying site Themes
- Creating Sites, Web Part Pages
- Creating list or site templates
- Etc...

~ Out Of the Box Customization ~

Advantages:

- Faster time to market
- Lower development and maintenance costs
- High quality, tested code
- Persistent user interface

~ Developer focused Customization ~

Developer focused customization are the more advanced customization that require the user of code and tools, such as Microsoft Office SharePoint Designer (SPD 2007) and Microsoft Visual Studio 2005/2008.

- Master Pages
- Page Layouts
- Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
- Role based site Templates
- Site Definitions
- Navigation

~ Useful Links ~

- http://www.heathersolomon.com
- http://www.cleverworkarounds.com/
- http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-gb/library/aa830818.aspx
- http://www.brandingsharepoint.com/
- http://designshare.wordpress.com/
- http://www.sharepointdesignerstepbystep.com/
- http://blogs.msdn.com/sharepointdesigner/
- http://office.microsoft.com/enus/sharepointdesigner/FX100487631033.aspx

Q&A

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