blaxxun interactive

Team Workspace

White Paper

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1 Challenge: Enterprise-wide Communication

The worth of a company is no longer based on physical and financial assets alone, but also on the company's competence and knowledge of technologies, products, services, processes, customers and the competition.

These intangible assets form the foundation for innovation and the value-added chain within a company. Knowledge and current information must be made available to all employees all the time. The generation of this know-how will continue to be an important factor in business processes. Explicit knowledge found in articles, books, or databases must also be available and distributable like the implicit know-how of the company's employees.

This implicit reservoir of knowledge defines a company's market strength and competence while representing an important source of information in everyday business culture. This knowledge must be transparent to facilitate efficient theory-to-practice transfer.

2 Application: Team Workspace

Companies and project teams, especially those spread over numerous locations, face the challenge of distributing highly specialized information on short notice. There is, however, no common knowledge base; team members work in isolation and store their documents on separate servers. The resulting communication barriers lead to project delays, poor quality and decreased employee motivation. E-mail traffic increases drastically as efficient communication becomes rarer and rarer. On-site meetings, however, are needed more and more. Costs go through the roof.

2.1   The Problem

● Distance teamwork is inefficient.

● The team's collective knowledge is not readily available to each team member. A common base of knowledge cannot be reached.

● There are language barriers between international partners.

● Tasks and responsibilities of individual team members are not clear.

● Expertise is difficult or impossible to exploit.

● Meetings must be planned well in advance.

2.2   The Effects

- High travel costs due to on-site meetings

- Inconsistent information status within the team

- Due to the lack of meaningful exchange and consultation, decisions are postponed as the project runs behind schedule

- Existing knowledge remains unused with no synergy effect.

3 Implementation with blaxxun Platform

blaxxun Platform offers comprehensive functionality for implementing a collaborative application, which assists in conveying information. Uncomplicated. Fast. Efficient. Sustained.

- Uncomplicated because each team member needs only an internet browser.

- Fast because the presenter can provide, with just a few clicks, existing content (e.g. PowerPoint slides) to any size group over the Internet.

- Efficient because real-time communication (chat), discussion forums, feedback and tools for online brainstorming can be made available to accompany the presentation.

- Sustained because a permanent knowledge base is created around the presentation.

blaxxun Platform enables synchronized presentations for any number of participants. In this common workspace, business partners and project team members can give and receive the most current information efficiently.

On the one hand, employees can take part in interactive presentations online; on the other hand, they can also create their own presentations to present to the group. Presentations and discussions are managed with minimum administrative outlay over the Internet.

3.1   The Benefits

- Internet-based communications platform for distance teamwork

- Synchronized presentations for any number of participants

- Place-independent information storage

- Reduced travel costs

- Experts identified in their profile

- Improvement of team communication

- Targeted, up-to-date information distribution

- Increased productivity of distance teamwork

4 Features

4.1 General Features

Registration
Each participant must register with name and self-chosen password. In this way no unauthorized user gains access to the communications platform or to the information exchanged there.

Presentation Directory
In the Presentation Directory, the user has access to a list of existing presentations sorted by date. Each presentation in the list comes with a short description, date, time, and type (public, private, or protected). In addition, an icon shows how many participants have taken part, or will take part, in the presentation.

Create Presentation
Existing presentations (e.g. those generated in MS PowerPoint) can be imported and executed online. More slides with other formats like HTML, GIF, or JPG can be added to the presentation. The presentation is given a name and a description. The author of the presentation has the exclusive right to execute or change the presentation. The author may, however, name an assistant, who is also given the right to execute the presentation. To use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) during the presentation, the web address of the streaming server can be entered.

4.2 Presenter Features

Pointer
A virtual pointer located on the currently used slide is used by the presenter to indicate important visual elements of the presentation. The pointer is visible to ALL participants. The presenter can even hand over the pointer to one of the participants.

Online Discussions via Chat
The presenter can communicate with the other participants via chat. The chat features whisper and private chat allow separate chat conversations between individual participants.

Remarks
For each slide, the presenter can add remarks before, during and after the presentation by simply sticking a virtual note directly on the presentation slide in the desired position. The participants may also comment on the presentation; these comments are displayed in a tree structure.

Questions

The presenter can draft questions and attach them to the corresponding slide so that the participants can see and answer the questions. These questions can even serve as a means of surveying or testing the participants.

Control Panel

The Control Panel allows the presenter a slide overview of the corresponding presentation. She or he may then leaf forward or backward through the presentation sequence or even edit the presentation again.

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

VoIP is only available to the presenter, who can read questions from the chat dialogue and answer them directly via VoIP. All participants can hear the presenter. To use this feature, the presenter must install an additional software component; the participants need not install additional software because VoIP on the client side is carried out via a Java Applet.

4.3   Participant Features

Online Discussions via Chat

Participants can communicate with the presenter and all other participants via chat. They may also use the whisper and private chat features to more privately communicate with the presenter or one another.

Pointer

The virtual pointer, found on the currently used slide, can be given to a participant by the presenter so that the participant may take a more interactive role in the presentation. The pointer is visible to all participants.

Remarks

Each participants may at any time view the presentations in the Presentation Directory. She or he may even enter remarks before, during and after the presentation. Once entered, the participant simply positions the remark directly on the presentation slide in the desired spot.

Questions

Questions from the presenter can be attached to each slide and, if necessary, be answered by the participants. Questions serve as a means of surveying or monitoring previously presented content.

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