

CASE STUDY

edCount

Collaborating for Education with SharePoint from Apptix

Overview

Industry:

Education

Apptix Services Used:

Hosted SharePoint

The Challenge

edCount was tasked with coordinating the communications and collaboration for over 100 members of a team spanning 19 states and territories.

The Solution

Apptix and partner, i3solutions provided a customized SharePoint implementation that allows all of the participants to work together effectively.

Results

- ✓ Seamless migration of communications data
- ✓ Single on-line tool to access all work products and document
- ✓ 100% up-time guarantee for email availability
- ✓ Simplified management

edCount is dedicated to working with states, school districts, and other agencies to develop high quality standards, assessments, and accountability systems to better serve all students. It is one of the contributors to the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) project, along with 19 states and four other partner organizations. This four-year project is federally-funded to develop an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards for students with cognitive disabilities.

The Challenge

The NCSC project is impressive in scope: the tools they develop will help educators plan and provide curriculum, instruction, and assessments based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in order to prepare all students for college and careers. The size of the project team is also impressive – with over 100 individual contributors from different states, US territories, and other organizations working together.

In order to accomplish their task, the project members required a way to work together efficiently despite their dispersed geographical locations. They needed to share reports, meeting minutes, and other documents, while maintaining the capability to control editing rights. Coordinating schedules and keeping everyone informed of upcoming events was also imperative across such a large, distributed group.

The Solution

edCount staff was familiar with Microsoft® SharePoint, recognizing that this powerful collaboration platform could solve the NCSC project's most pressing communication and cooperation issues. They turned to Apptix to host their SharePoint implementation based on Apptix's reputation as a well-known, respected and cost-effective provider of hosted solutions. In addition, they were impressed to learn about Apptix's Professional Services offering powered by i3solutions, recognized as one of the top Microsoft SharePoint consulting firms.

Together, Apptix and i3solutions developed a SharePoint site for the NCSC project. The solution includes dedicated workspaces for the four individual workgroups within the overall project, complete with permissions-based file editing and group-specific calendars. The solution utilizes a project-wide calendar to keep all team members informed of upcoming milestones, and discussion areas to make project decisions.

The Result

With this SharePoint solution, Aptix provided edCount and the other members of the NCSC project team with a single collaboration platform to manage and access information. The 100+ users are excited to be using the new solution to streamline and enable their work. SharePoint has opened up communication, helped coordinate the schedule of events, and made it easy to find necessary documents and meeting notes for all members. Members are able to post and edit documents within their own workgroups, and view and comment on documents from across the project.

With reliable SharePoint hosting from Aptix and design services from i3solutions, the contributors to the NCSC project have a powerful, cost effective and time saving solution that enables them to more effectively support the needs of educators and students.

About Aptix

Aptix is the premier provider of hosted business communication, collaboration, and IT solutions to business of all sizes – from SOHO to Fortune 500 – with particular expertise supporting legal, financial, healthcare, and telecom firms. A pioneer in the hosted services space, Aptix has been in operation for over a decade and currently serves over 350,000 users around the world. Aptix is a profitable, publicly traded (NYSE: APP) business headquartered in Herndon, Virginia.

About i3solutions

i3solutions Inc. is an IT consulting firm specializing in Intranets, Extranet, and Internet solutions; Business Intelligence and Online Reporting solutions; Systems Integration; and Proposal Management solutions. Founded in 1997, i3solutions is recognized as one of the top Microsoft SharePoint consulting firms in the Washington, DC Metro area as a result of our relentless pursuit of technical excellence, our hands-on experience gained from working with SharePoint since the very first product, and our awarding winning SharePoint implementation methodology. i3solutions provides SharePoint Information Architecture services, SharePoint Training Classes, Strategic Consulting and Planning services, SharePoint Custom UI Design services, and On-going Maintenance and Support services. i3solutions has leveraged this unmatched set of skills and focus to successfully implement over 500 SharePoint Portal, Workflow, and Database solutions for our customers. For more information, please visit www.i3solutions.com.

Aptix and Professional Services partner, i3solutions developed a hosted SharePoint solution to support edCount. The organization is providing management tools for use by a partnership developing an alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.