

Irwin Mitchell

New company intranet using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007



Client

Irwin Mitchell

Website

www.irwinmitchell.com

Location

UK-wide

Industry

Legal

Customer profile

Established in 1912 by Walter Irwin Mitchell, the company initially focused on criminal law, but over the years has grown to become one of the top 10 UK legal firms. Irwin Mitchell now provides a full range of legal services to private individuals, businesses and other institutions.

Solution and technology

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007

“When we decided to implement MOSS to host our intranet the platform was still in Beta2 release. Although we have been using Microsoft SharePoint 2003 for a number of years, implementing MOSS came with some uncertainties. Working closely with Trinity throughout the project ensured that all risks associated with implementing relatively new technology were kept to a minimum, allowing the team to focus on implementing a solution to meet our requirements. Throughout the project Trinity ensured that the required resource expertise was made available in a timely manner to ensure that the project was delivered to its tight deadlines.”

James Simpson, IT Project Manager

Challenge

As part of its internal communication strategy, Irwin Mitchell (IM) was looking at delivering a new intranet that would meet requirements of the growing business.

IM's current system was reaching end-of-life and with recent advances in information and communications technologies it recognised the need for a refresh. Updating the intranet would provide an opportunity to improve the management, communication and access to information across the business. This would ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness of business processes whilst lowering the operating costs to maintain the platform.

The new intranet had to provide no reduction of service to the previous intranet but to be a scalable platform for future intranet developments.

Solution

IM chose to implement a new intranet using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS). The MOSS platform offers no less user functionality than the existing intranet whilst providing the foundations to meet future business requirements. The platform has capabilities to manage content and business processes,

simplifying access to information, and enabling better informed decisions. MOSS also supports all intranets, extranets, and web applications across an enterprise within one integrated platform.

As an existing service provider to IM and with a strong reputation implementing SharePoint projects we were chosen to assist in the delivery of IM's new intranet.

The first phase of the project was to deliver the MOSS platform on which the intranet would be developed. The second phase focused on improving navigation and the look and feel of the new site.

Benefits

- The new intranet offers a consistent platform to be used for future IT developments
- New site navigation makes content more accessible
- MOSS training to internal IT team to ensure possible future development on the intranet
- Brighter more vibrant intranet using IM design guidelines
- Improved employee directory ensures the information returned to the user is both relevant and accurate.

"Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 (MOSS) has provided Irwin Mitchell with an excellent platform to expand all our web strategies. The decision to develop and implement on a relatively new product came with some degree of risk, but with the support of Microsoft and Trinity Expert Systems, including our internal project management and development expertise, we have ensured our web potential can be realised. This implementation is the catalyst for future developments within the SharePoint arena and has provided the springboard for our web presence internally and externally. The new intranet is now not only a great means of internal communications, but has become an environment where internal and external knowledge, applications, platforms and expertise can be shared to provide many efficiencies and opportunities to the firm."

Ian Fowles, Head of IT Business Systems

About Trinity Expert Systems

Trinity Expert Systems is a leading provider of IT-led business solutions, dedicated to serving the local and central government, legal, utilities, financial services, and media sectors. Our services address every stage of the IT life cycle, from consultancy through system design and development, deployment and integration to application support. Our core services are underpinned by analysis, design, support, user training and project management. For more information, visit www.tesl.com.

Our experience in legal

We have provided a wide range of IT services to a large number of the top law firms in the UK. We have assisted in development and consultancy in areas such as intranets, extranets, internets, know-how, conflict checking, document management, content management and case management.

Through our experience and investment in this sector we understand that gaining a competitive advantage is more essential than ever for law firms.