



The Business Value of XtraShare 2007

The Business Challenge

Since the advent of the Internet, the world has dramatically changed. For both individuals and companies, the Internet has opened up new horizons and torn apart old frontiers.

For individuals, the Internet now means new choices, the ability to connect to almost anybody around the world, and the actual liberty to buy virtually from any point on the planet.

For businesses, the Internet means more business opportunities, the ability to tackle new markets at a much lower cost, and the capacity to reach out to new customers in the global village.

Despite all of the great things that the Internet has achieved, many challenges have also emerged.

As e-mail is increasingly used for both private and business communications and information flows at the speed of light and individuals are now submerged with an amount of news they can only grasp with great effort and patience.

For businesses, the challenge is even greater: the competitor is now only a click away from their website and customer disloyalty is growing as fast as the available offer.

To overcome this challenge, building trust and fidelity is vital to a company's success. But nowadays, confidence and commitment do not only apply to customers: the corporate world has now entered the "extended company" era, where it must not only nurture its own employees, but also foster its network of suppliers and partners. Corporate public relations no longer solely aim at customers, but must encompass the entire ecosystem of a company (partners, suppliers, key customer accounts...)

As most businesses are aware of these issues, a vast majority of them have however begun to focus their resources on improving their internal systems by providing their employees with widespread knowledge-sharing and collaboration tools such as SharePoint Technologies. Customer and partner extranets, as well as internet websites which require authentication do obviously exist, but require either extensive human and financial resources, or deep technical expertise to set up. However, most small-sized and mid-sized businesses cannot afford such resources. As a result, extranet websites are currently exclusive by large companies, whereas the need is becoming more and more stringent for small-sized and mid-sized businesses alike.

The Solution: XtraShare for SharePoint

Thanks to its simplicity in installation and configuration, the SharePoint platform is now widely used at organizations of all sizes, mainly for intranet portals and internal team sites. SharePoint usage has kept growing over the years, but despite its increasing popularity, it still lacks simplicity when it



comes to opening up information systems to the "extended company" (partners, suppliers, key accounts...). More specifically, the native dependency of SharePoint with Microsoft's directory (Active Directory) makes it difficult to set up an easy-to-use, manageable and user-friendly authentication store.

In its latest version of the SharePoint platform, Microsoft has acknowledged the need for an alternative user management and authentication scheme (commonly known as "forms-based authentication"). However, that need was fulfilled at the development level and much programming and configuration effort is still required to actually set up a proper extranet environment.

In order to fill this gap, RL Soft has released XtraShare 2007 for SharePoint Technologies, the best-of-breed solution for any organization that wants a fully-integrated, reliable and easy-to-manage extranet solution based on SharePoint.

At the core of XtraShare 2007, there is one single concept: simplicity. Much too often, SharePoint solutions available on the market are difficult to install and require the assistance of a consultant. This contrasts hugely with the care that Microsoft puts into its product to make the installation and first use as smooth as possible, while still providing a powerful and feature-rich solution. As a matter of fact, the success of SharePoint is partly due to the ease perceived both by administrators and users.

Founded by a former Microsoft consultant and pre-sales engineer, RL Soft has had the same philosophy in mind when it started to design XtraShare 2007. As a result, XtraShare may be installed and configured in only a few clicks, without any requirement on command-line tools or technical operations. On a daily basis, XtraShare is also very easy and smooth to manage: its 100% AJAX-based user interface ensures that all tasks are performed in a snap, and the slick UI was even thought to please the eyes, a feature that administrators are commonly deprived of.

Features and Benefits

But simplicity does not mean scarcity. In fact, XtraShare comes with scores of features your organization will benefit from:

Centralized Administration

A specific website created in the SharePoint 3.0 Central Administration provides all the necessary functions to manage users, user groups and the activation of Forms-based authentication on SharePoint web applications. No scripting engine is required; every action is performed easily from the web user interface.





Forms authentication

Automatically added to your portal home page, a specific webpart allows your remote users to nicely log on to your portal in much the same way they do on popular websites, in lieu of the standard pop up window.



Self-registration



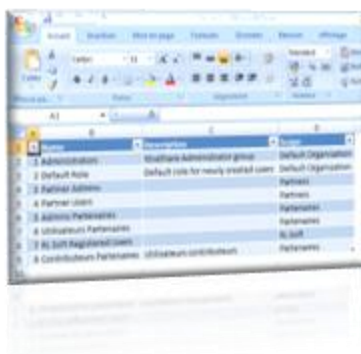
Businesses often want to attract potential customers on their site and give them the ability to register. With the standard installation of SharePoint, this is virtually impossible. But with XtraShare, anonymous users can very easily register on the site through a custom Captcha-protected webpart.

Custom user properties

You may want to know more about your users than just their first name, last name and email address. With XtraShare, you can create as many custom properties as you want and let users fill out these properties when they register or when they want to update their information. For more flexibility, properties can be of the following type: integer, boolean, text, mono-valued or multi-valued list, document or photo.



Excel integration



Mass-creation and mass-update of users is always an issue in user management applications. With XtraShare, you can now edit the entire list of users in Excel 2003 or 2007 and update them in a single click. You can also assign them to their default user group and create new users with their passwords.

Excel integration is also available for groups



Mail templates

Creating users is not all: they also have to be notified of their login and password at least once. With XtraShare, a custom menu allows an administrator to send the user credentials in a snap. A user who registers on your site will also automatically receive its credentials to the email address he entered. Mail templates can be customized by administrators to suit your needs and are sent in the same language as your website's language.

```
code_emailpassword_template1033Mod - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
[<? namespace name="CodeFluent.Model" %>
<html>
<body>
Dear [!user.Firstname! "user.Lastname!],
<?>
You have been granted access to the following site:
<?>
your login is: <? [!user.Login! </?>
</?>
your password is: <? [!user.NonencryptedPassword! </?>
</?>
</?>
Regards,
<?>
The site administration team.
</?>
</body>
</html>
```

Tree view of SharePoint sites



With the standard SharePoint installation, managing users and sites is a hassle. Users must be created in Active Directory, and then an administrator must log to a SharePoint site and assign the user to a specific SharePoint group. With XtraShare, it's all done in one single place! Thanks to a powerful Ajax-based tree view, you can unfold the hierarchy of all your SharePoint sites and assign your users and groups to any SharePoint site with a simple drag and drop operation.

Delegated Administration

Companies often want to delegate the administration of a subset of their users to delegated administrators. This is all the more necessary since extranets are often built around communities of diverse nature: partners, customers, contractors, etc... XtraShare provides a very easy-to-use delegation model, as well a SharePoint specific site template that can be deployed on your extranet and accessed only by delegated administrators (users marked with the Delegated Admin checkbox)

Anti-hackers lockout

Hackers who try to crack your website, does that ring a bell? With XtraShare, after 3 unsuccessful login attempts, users are locked out and administrators are notified by email. Only they can unlock users and allow them to connect once again to your site.

Conclusion

With XtraShare for SharePoint, it's a whole world of possibilities that open up for your organization.

Whether you want to create a collaboration platform for your customers or partners, deploy an Internet website with user registration capabilities or manage community sites with delegated administrators, XtraShare 2007 is definitely the answer to all the questions you ask yourself.

For more information, please visit our website on <http://www.rl-soft.com/en> or send us an email to info@rl-soft.com.