

Virtualized environment reduces infrastructure cost.

Luck Stone Corporation is one of the largest, family-owned and operated aggregates companies in the U.S. and is one of the largest producers of crushed stone in the nation. Luck Stone is also a leading architectural stone and tennis court supplier with operations in Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland.

Services

- Portal & ECM

Industry

- MRD

Technology

- SharePoint 2010
Enterprise Edition
- Windows Server 2008
R2
- Exchange Server 2007
- Office
Communications
Server 2007
- SQL Server 2008
- Office 2007
- Office SharePoint
Designer 2010
- Visual Studio 2010
- Forefront Identity
Manager

Challenge

Luck Stone envisioned a “one-stop-shop” where users could access business reporting tools and other back-end systems. With a business model spanning 4 distinct brands, more than 30 geographically dispersed offices and an enterprise content management strategy that was entirely dependent upon file shares, public folders, and email, Luck Stone required a platform for both content management and collaboration that could help the organization better leverage its existing data and expertise. Luck Stone was also in need of a platform for disseminating corporate news and announcements that could drive the organization’s values-based culture. Finally, Luck Stone identified a need for implementing a consolidated platform for hosting line of business systems.

Solution

Leveraging SharePoint 2010, Ironworks delivered a custom intranet that will serve as a unified platform for content management and collaboration while also paving the way for significant business process improvements.

In the area of content management, the solution leverages the new managed metadata service, document sets, and content type publication to apply a custom taxonomy developed by Ironworks. Ironworks used SharePoint Search to build a comprehensive information access solution to reduce the time to find information and increase productivity and end user adoption. Luck Stone’s goal of developing greater interaction and discussion among employees was enabled by developing a cohesive use of blogs, discussion boards, wikis, and team sites, all branded with a unified look and feel. The solution also features a number of custom components, all of which deploy using the WSP standard, including:

- Audience-targeted look and feel that renders a different page design based on the current user’s profile
- An Inbox Link control that ties into Luck Stone’s OWA server to surface a link to the logged on user’s mailbox and a count of unread emails
- A suite of connected web parts that deliver weather, traffic, safety incident data, and driving directions specific to each of Luck Stone’s office locations
- A custom interface for managing Google Analytics integration through the intranet’s site settings page
- A newsletter utility that stores all newsletter content, including attachments, in SharePoint lists and comes complete with an easy to use administrative interface that supports different levels of access for authors and editors. The utility scales to support multiple newsletters and includes the ability to send out newsletters as HTML-formatted emails

Results

A return on investment was achieved in the following areas:

- Infrastructure cost savings based upon the transition away from shared drives and public folders built on top of fixed infrastructure to a virtualized environment that leverages SAN storage
- IT resource productivity gains through the introduction of self-service site creation and a role-based security model that frees up IT resources
- Process automation by moving dissemination of key data out of manually distributed reports and into Excel Services
- “Findability” improvements driven by the implementation of a comprehensive enterprise search solution
- Cross-business collaboration with new ability to discover resources and expertise across the organization
- Cultural cohesion now that the business can better coordinate companywide communications, foster brand identity and build corporate loyalty