

Taylor Vinters Case Study

Taylor Vinters Solicitors Selects bluesource to Implement SharePoint for Client Extranet

Cambridge-based Taylor Vinters' specialist lawyers and teams deliver innovative legal solutions, ideas and insights which create value for their business, not-for-profit and personal clients. The firm's areas of expertise range from Commercial Property and Corporate Finance to Charities and Education. The firm has a long list of both industry recognition and national awards, and is widely acknowledged for its focused and entrepreneurial approach to information systems, which is reflected in its ongoing improvements to client service.

Challenges

The firm wanted to provide clients with remote access to documents by implementing a new extranet facility using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007. Although Taylor Vinters have an in house team, they felt they needed additional expertise to implement the security model of the client extranet.

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We wanted to enhance our client offering by providing secure, remote access to important and relevant documents on an as-needed basis.

The business requirement was initially driven by our property clients, but has since been embraced by many of our corporate and commercial clients. We were already looking at SharePoint and had created an internal intranet. For our extranet, we wanted to work with a specialist consultancy that had SharePoint technical expertise and could ensure the appropriate secure access policies were put in place. bluesource came highly recommended. They understand the SharePoint environment and they also took the time to properly understand our specific client requirements.

Steve Sumner,
Director of IT for Taylor Vinters Solicitors.

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Solution

Jenny Clayton, SharePoint Solutions Architect for bluesource commented, "By implementing Microsoft Office SharePoint Server we were able to deliver a user friendly system that improves efficiency and client service, whilst maintaining confidentiality and security for Taylor Vinters' clients. We worked closely with both the IT and business teams to understand the technical and commercial needs, deliver a user friendly extranet facility, and create templates for wider use of the system moving forward."

The successful implementation went live in August 2008 following two months of planning, scoping and testing. The extranet is now accessed on a daily basis by Taylor Vinters' clients. In addition to creating the extranet for property clients, bluesource also developed a basic template on behalf of the firm so that similar services could be extended to multiple clients. This template in conjunction with a knowledge transfer session has since enabled the in house team to offer their clients extended functionality. Clients are now able to log on to the system securely and remotely, and access relevant documentation, which is dated and indexed with relevant contact points. The extranet is also fully customised to reflect Taylor Vinters' corporate branding.

Results

The new extranet brings about huge cost savings and increased efficiencies. Enabling Taylor Vinters to upload documents to a central secure document site clients can then securely access and download these documents using SharePoint's comprehensive search, content management and permission-based features. This brings about huge savings in Taylor Vinters' time and costs by making the documents readily available without distracting fee-earners from paid work. It allows the clients to quickly and easily access their documents from a central secure site so affording access to up-to-date, timely and accurate information exactly when they need it.

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