

One of the most important challenges in modern organizations is to share among its personnel the business knowledge accumulated over time in different forms (such as reports, policies or market studies) and turn them into a competitive advantage by having fast and easy access to this information while keeping it secure and current. Most Intranets do not fulfill these requirements because, in order to publish information, users have to learn complex technologies and the control over access permissions to sensible or restricted information is usually intricate or nonexistent. To solve these problems, Informix Software has developed Instant Intranet, a powerful Internet standards based application designed to make knowledge management easy.



Instant Intranet is a tool that drastically simplifies the way in which users share and publish information inside your organization, allowing authorized end-users to publish and update information directly from their browsers, without help from the IT department, using the most popular document formats:

- PDF
- MS Word
- MS Excel
- MS PowerPoint
- HTML
- etc.

Knowledge Management

Nowadays, most companies have some sort of Intranet that contains relevant information for employees (everything from policies and procedures to competitive information for the sales force). However, the effectiveness of this kind of systems is usually limited because the published information is often obsolete as it is managed by the IT department instead of the persons that actually produce the documents. This makes the publishing process unnecessarily complex and slow. Another problem is that available content is usually limited to public documents, since the security of restricted information can't be guaranteed by most systems.

Instant Intranet is a knowledge management application that solves these problems in an elegant way by storing all the documents in a virtual file system (VFS) inside a database. Authorized users can assign permissions to each directory of this VFS, using a familiar graphical interface. Permissions are set for each user

group as in a traditional file system. It is possible to control which users can create new subdirectories or who is allowed to view documents stored in specific directories. Since each user can belong to one or several groups, it is very easy to control the access to information.

The Technical Problem

Recent versions of most Web Servers enable systems engineers to publish documents over an Intranet. However, it is difficult to delegate this responsibility to end-users because they usually lack the necessary knowledge of HTML as well as other technologies such as FTP, Telnet and JavaScript, to cite just a few. Even though training these persons seems feasible, it is impractical and expensive at least. Security is also an important issue that can't be solved easily with the sole web server. In order to achieve an efficient solution to this problem, a powerful application like Instant Intranet using an industrial strength data repository is required.

Technology Matters

Instant Intranet would not have been possible without Foundation 2000. The Web Datablade 4.1 allows achieving great scalability as well as enhanced security and simple administration by storing applications, data, and documents inside the database.

Complex text searches are provided by the Verity Text Search Datablade. This database “plug-in” searches the content of documents stored in the most popular file formats (such as HTML, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe PDF, among others) restricting the results to those documents that a user is allowed to view.

By using Foundation 2000 as the underlying database for Instant Intranet, Informix Software has created an application that is secure, easy to use (since users must only know how to use a browser) and offers a simple yet powerful administration. Since all the information is stored inside the database, the operation cost is reduced considerably when compared to other technologies that use less advanced technology.

Messaging System

Along with the document distribution system, Instant Intranet includes a powerful and practical messaging system which makes group work and collaboration easier. Administrators can create forums where authorized users can exchange messages privately.

System Administration

One of the most important features of this application is that every user access is logged, allowing administrators to monitor user activity. It is possible to know which documents have been accessed by each user and create detailed reports about frequently visited documents, using an intuitive graphical interface.

About Informix Software

Informix Software, an independent operating business of Informix Corporation, develops and markets database management systems optimized for data warehousing, transaction processing, and e-Business environments. Informix Software is developing a broad network of partner and ISV relationships to expand the portfolio of applications available on its database product line for a range of markets including wireless, e-commerce, and CRM.

<http://www.informix.com/latin>.

About Informix Business Solutions

Informix Business Solutions, an independent operating business of Informix Corporation (NASDAQ: IFMX), develops and markets a suite of next generation software solutions and infrastructure for e-Business that integrate content, e-Commerce, and business intelligence. Informix Corporation intends to rename Informix Business Solutions by year-end.

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