

Oxfam choose a Plone CMS solution

Oxfam International is an international confederation of non-governmental organisations that are working to find lasting solutions to poverty, suffering and injustice.

Its public website, www.oxfam.org, built on the Plone content management system (www.plone.org), helps build public understanding of poverty and its causes. By using Plone, people across Oxfam can collaborate and create engaging content without getting caught up in technical details.

Being open source, Plone was particularly relevant to Oxfam. Hugh Wallace, Head of Interactive Media for Oxfam GB, notes: "As Oxfam works in over 70 countries around the world, we were looking for a system that would enable us to share information across the organisation and beyond. Plone was the right choice and we're very pleased to have the opportunity to work with the open source community."



Joel Bassuk, Website Manager for Oxfam International, who led on the project implementation for OI said "We undertook detailed research on a variety of CMS packages currently available and from this found that the open source application Plone best met our requirements."

Hugh Wallace, Head of Interactive Media for Oxfam GB, whose team helped with the technical roll-out of the project, added, "It was also important that we work with a company which has extensive knowledge and experience of Plone implementation. By working with Blue Fountain we were able to draw on their knowledge in site development and migration to Plone."

BFS deliver 1st Ruby on Rails application



Blue Fountain Systems have developed their first application built using Ruby on Rails. The system is a shipment management application for a leading car parts supplier based in Northern France.

Technically the product, code named "Lilac", is a PostgreSQL backed application with a Ruby on Rail front end which uses AJAX technology to give a quick, user friendly interface.

Ruby on Rails, often called RoR or just Rails, strives for simplicity, allowing real-world applications to be developed in less code than other frameworks and with a minimum of configuration.

"We are always seeking to integrate new technologies into our working habits where beneficial. Ruby on Rails has certainly helped us to produce better interfaces with more resilient code and we'll be looking to utilise it more and more for future projects." said Ian Cottey, BFS Technical Director

Ruby on Rails was extracted from Basecamp, a project-management tool, by David Heinemeier Hansson. It was first released to the public in July 2004. Version 1.0 was released December 13, 2005.

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RESEARCH

Blue Fountain are part of a successful consortium to win an FP6 research and development project. The project "Nanospad" brings together a range of universities, research institutes and private companies from across Europe to research and develop a miniaturized diagnostic tool for use in the identification and treatment of allergies. BFS have the key responsibility for developing the software interface for the system together with the management and dissemination of all data produced.

Becoming part of a European research and technology development project was a strategic goal for the company with FP6 viewed as an opportunity to broaden the profile of Blue Fountain in Europe and to improve the technical expertise within the company.

BFS secures place on FP6 R&D Project Team

Blue Fountain worked with FrameworksNW to secure the project. Set up in 2003, FrameworksNW is establishing itself as an important gateway for accessing funds under the European Union's Euro 19bn funding pot for collaborative R&D. Aidan McGuire, Sales Director explained "Not only did FrameworksNW find us a suitable project, but one in health care, a market we specialise in. They have helped every step of the way.

BFS are already involved in a second proposal.

John Breckon, Operations Director said "People understand that FP6 is highly competitive, to be successful is a good reflection of our capabilities."

Sale of Blue Boxes hits record levels

Since their launch in 2001, the Blue Box range has grown in popularity as a low cost solution for companies who require a robust, efficient server platform to manage all of the daily IT operations of an organisation including a VPN and/or mail system.

Supplied as a range or pre-installed servers running Linux, the boxes are tailored to meet the customers exact requirements for a low cost monthly fee.

There are a number of Blue Box options available which can be tailored to meet the requirements of most organisations.

Blue Box EX series provides for fully maintained web and mail servers.

Blue Box IX series is intended as a 'perimeter' server providing a Gateway between the Internet and a Local Area Network.

Blue Box FX series is primarily an internal file and print server

In addition to daily backups, the BlueBox server is monitored and maintained remotely by experienced Blue Fountain Systems staff.

BFS design web based enquiry system



BFS have developed a state of the art web based enquiry support system for leading Japanese glass manufacturer - Asahi Glass Europe.

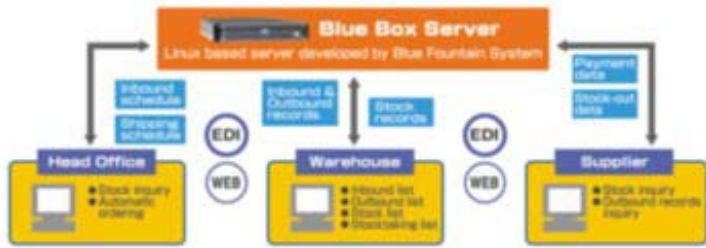
The system, which has been developed using open source technologies, handles on-line enquires received from researchers and customers for the company's latest product CYTOP providing product information, dispatching technical brochures and creating quotations.

The web based application operates at two levels – with no authentication for customers and with authentication to access the management section for members of staff.

An update of the system is already planned for 2006 which will allow the system to generate purchase orders and invoices.

The application has been developed using open source technologies ; - Python, Zope, Plone, PostgreSQL, and SQL Object

BlueStock installations on the increase !!



October 2005 saw BFS undertake a Blue Stock system development for a major industrial plastics manufacturer based in Germany. The company already use a SAP system for stock management however they have opted for BFS's Blue Stock system to handle both the consignment and shipment of stock. The Blue Stock system will cover operations in 10 warehouses including dealing with bonded stock.

BFS consultants will spend time with the customers' staff in an envisioning and scoping workshop to determine the key goals and criteria for the Blue Stock system.

From this BFS will tailor the Blue Stock application to meet the exact requirements of the customers specification.

The contract also signals success for the recently opened BFS office in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Open Source Update



The Zope UK association met recently in Central London. The group, which was first set up in 2004, provides a central representative body for companies promoting open source technologies to present their views to the Government and other key decision making bodies."

Zope UK fulfilled this role recently when they petitioned MEP's from across Europe urging them not to support the introduction of EU Software Patents legislation. The directive, which was defeated by a narrow majority, could have had significant impact on freelance developers and on any independent software developers or SME organizations.

As Ian Cottee explained "Software development, like music and books, is already protected by copyright. If software patents had become the reality in Europe, then European software SME's could well have been excluded from their home market by legal threats from larger foreign competitors"

More information on ZopeUK can be found at www.zopeuk.org

Surrey HIS launch new Plone based web site



Surrey NHS Health Informatics Service (HIS) have launched their latest Plone web site for the recently formed Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust. The development follows the decision in 2005 to use the Plone Open Source Content Management System as the basis of all Internet and Intranet requirements across the NHS in Surrey. Dietmar Zilz, Surrey HIS Web Development Manager commented "We are really pleased with our decision to move to Plone. Both this site and the internal Intranet site have proved very successful with users at all levels".

Aidan McGuire said "This decision by Surrey HIS sends a clear message that open source systems are viable as business solutions and are well able to compete with propriety software applications."

Blue Fountain Systems have also implemented open source content management systems for the Council for Healthcare Excellence (CHRE) and the Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board (PMETB).

BFS made Merry at The Monro

The 2005 Christmas bash was held at The Monro gastro-pub in central Liverpool where good food, good wine and good company marked the end of what had been a very successful year for Blue Fountain.

Hiro Iwasaki BFS Managing Director said "It was a great night and gave everyone who had been working so hard in 2005 the chance to let their hair down".



Some of the BFS staff pictured. More pictures can be seen in the News Section of the BFS web page at www.bluefountain.com

Running for home



Congratulations go to Ian Cottee, BFS Technical Director (aka Zobbo) who completed a 10K run in one hour three minutes. He raced on behalf of Cancer Research raising over £200 from sponsorship by colleagues, friends and family.

Although Ian jogs regularly this was his first "big race" and he was very pleased with the time saying that although it wasn't the fastest it was better than expected.

Ian gasped "The first 5k was uphill so I was very happy to reach the top alive all I then had to do was roll down the other side".

Danny makes the papers !!

Danny Opperman, Office Manager of BFS Brussels office was recently included in the Belgium magazine Libelle.

The idea behind the article was to feature the life and personal history of an interesting 60 year old lady in publications 60th anniversary edition.

And boy does Danny lead an interesting life - in 2004 she went travelling in Japan, in 2005 she completed a 350Km trek in the Himalaya's including a visit the base camp at Annapurna, rafting and going on an elephant walk.

For 2006 Danny has a trip organised to Yemen and in 2007 she is planning a visit to the North Pole.



BFS support Derian House Children's Hospice again

Blue Fountain Systems have continued a tradition started in 2004 and did not send a traditional corporate Christmas card. Instead BFS sent an e-card to clients and friends.



The £400 saved has been donated to Derian House Children's Hospice.

Susie Poppitt, Fund-raising Manager at Derian House said "I would like to thank everyone at Blue Fountain, their clients and friends for their continued support of Derian House through their e-card initiative. We are delighted by the amount raised so far".

Derian House Children's Hospice www.derianhouse.co.uk is a registered charity which provides terminally ill children and their families with the optimum care, support and means to lead as full and normal a life as possible.

If you have any comments on this newsletter or if you would like further information on any of the stories, please:
 e-mail: info@bluefountain.com
 or call: 0870 0202 111