

“ Our partnership with Emtec to update and enhance our corporate Intranet proved to be enormously successful. The Emtec SharePoint practice brought a deep expertise that allowed us to be innovative in the solutions we provided to our employees in a cost-effective manner. Emtec was a true partner who worked side-by-side with our team to meet not only our timeframe and budget, but also to deliver a collaborative solution with real benefits to our employees.”

Linda O'Boyle
VP - Information Technology
Mesirow Financial

CLIENT SNAPSHOT

Mesirow Financial is an independent diversified financial services firm that prides itself on understanding, anticipating and meeting their clients' financial needs with a multitude of high quality products and services. Mesirow is headquartered in Chicago with 19 locations across the globe, and is made up of approximately 1,200 employees, of which 30% have ownership in the firm.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Mesirow Financial's legacy employee portal did not fully support their employees' collaboration needs, and lacked the necessary process automation and notification of new corporate portal content availability. The corporate portal did not provide employees with a solid user experience or enough engaging functionality. Employees were unable to:

- Easily navigate the portal
- Effectively use the portal search capabilities
- View the types of content that was important to them
- Receive alerts and notifications of new important relevant content

THE SOLUTION

To improve the sense of community at Mesirow, they sought an improved platform for their corporate portal to improve the user experience, collaboration and social interaction.

Mesirow chose to work with Emtec based on our diverse portfolio of application services and the experience of our SharePoint team.

Emtec's project team collaborated with Mesirow Marketing and IT to formulate a strategy to update Mesirow's corporate portal. The strategy included the following key elements to achieve the desired corporate portal that would drive employees to better collaborate and deliver content to one another:

- Branding redesign
- Improved search
- Increased (and easier) ways for employees to share content with one another, discuss topics, and socialize
- Alerts and notifications of published content
- Streamlined presentation of news, articles, events, and other important corporate content
- Current technology platform (SharePoint 2013)
- Easier Navigation

ABOUT EMTEC®

Emtec is the right-sized provider of technology-empowered business solutions for world-class organizations. Our local offices, highly-skilled associates, and global delivery capabilities ensure the accessibility and scale to align your technology solutions with your business needs. Our collective focus is to continue to build *clients for life*: long-term enterprise relationships that deliver rapid, meaningful, and lasting business value.

PACKAGED APPLICATION SERVICES

Emtec is a leading implementer of Packaged Applications. We help reduce costs by streamlining processes and providing application package expertise. We partner with our clients to provide subject matter expertise around the entire lifecycle of your application. Our specialty practices include, Microsoft Dynamics, Oracle Fusion, PeopleSoft, eBusiness Suite, Hyperion and OBIEE.

- ERP
- HCM
- CRM
- BI
- Planning
- Financial Management

Emtec employed SharePoint best practices from an information architecture design, user interface design, and user experience design. Emtec also leveraged Microsoft's recommended approach for upgrading SharePoint 2010 to SharePoint 2013

FUTURE PLANS

After completing the successful corporate Intranet launch, all remaining Mesirow departmental Intranet sites are now on a roadmap to migrate to SharePoint 2013. Mesirow will rely on Emtec's expertise to plan and architect the migrations, while also counting on Emtec to provide SharePoint custom development to provide a line of business applications for certain departmental needs.

TECHNOLOGY

- SharePoint 2013 SP1 Professional
- Visual Studio 2012 Professional
- SQL 2008 R2 Standard
- Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard
- Windows Workflow Foundation
- .NET Framework 4.5
- C#, JQuery, ASP .NET MVC4 with Web API for retrieving data that the SharePoint webparts can call

RESULTS

Mesirow now enjoys the following benefits:

- New portal incorporates color palettes and branding schemes as designed by Mesirow marketing.
- Leveraging the improved SharePoint 2013 search capabilities, corporate users are now able to query more content and review results in a more efficient manner.
- New user features introduced include photo sharing, ability to publish articles and announcements, create discussions, and enter information about themselves.
- As users publish and subscribe to certain content, the Notification Center will display relevant notifications to users.
- New corporate content features include Popular Articles, Pic of Today, highlighted Feature Articles and Hot Topics, better organization of News and Announcements, improved visibility into Corporate Events, Today's Block showing employee milestones, cafeteria menu choices, and local weather.

Employees now have an improved user interface, experience, and navigation throughout their corporate portal. Emtec and Mesirow were also able to successfully complete the project on time and within budget.