

Case Study

Search Engine Development and Integration

Project

Industry: Government Services, Education

Solution: Search Engine, Website Integration

Resources: 1 Project Manager, 1 Developer

ITECH Conseil Canada's Responsibilities: Technology Architecture

Development, Quality Assurance, Integration,

End-User Documentation

ITECH Conseil Canada listened attentively to our specific needs for a search application. Based on the scope of our project and its time constraints, the team at ITECH Conseil Canada identified a robust open source solution which was subsequently customized for deployment on our servers. ITECH Conseil Canada's ability to understand the client, combined with its efficient research and development cycles ensured that they delivered the product we needed within the timeframe we specified.

Ryan W. Moon, PMP

Program Manager - English Language Services

Responsable des services à la clientèle anglophone

Client

Cégep@Distance, Quebec's provincially-mandated college-level distance education provider.

Client Requirements

Cégep@Distance required a fully functional search engine to index its English content, which consisted of documents in PDF, DOC, XLS, HTML and TEXT format. The site also contained dynamic pages that were pulled directly from database.

Technology Used

Operating System: Windows Server 2003

Interfaces: Web Application, Web Services

Programming Language: VB.NET, C#,

Tools: Lucene.NET, CVS

Business Challenge

Cégep@Distance required a team that could understand its website structure and design a solution accordingly. Since Cégep@Distance offers both French and English content, it was imperative that system could differentiate between subdirectories and only index eligible files.

Solution

The project was divided into three phases; Research & Prototyping, Customization and Integration.

In first phase, ITECH Conseil Canada looked into many available technologies both proprietary and open-source, narrowing down to Lucene.NET, an open-source full-featured text search engine library. A prototype was created and tested with all different document formats. In second phase, the solution was customized according the directory structure of the website, which was fully configurable and driven through configuration files. In final stage, the solution was integrated into the current site, giving same look and feel for seamless user experience.

The solution has been implemented for the English Sector of Cégep@Distance and is currently being evaluated by the French sector for possible integration in the future.

Live Site URL: <http://www.cegepadistance.ca/en>

Benefits

- Access to highly skilled and experienced project managers and software developers
- Access to multiple technologies and research data related to those technologies
- Low development and maintenance cost due to use of open-source technology
- Fully customizable solution that can be integrated into customer's other websites
- On-time and within budget delivery