

Case Study

Edinburgh Business School Partner Network

network.ebsglobal.net



Industry

Education & Extranet

Partner

MMT Digital
www.mmtdigital.co.uk

Alix Robertson
Senior New Business Consultant
alix.r@mmtdigital.co.uk

Suite 54/55,
88/90 Hatton Garden,
London EC1 8PN
0207 2425698

1A Uppingham Gate,
Ayston Road, Uppingham,
Rutland LE15 9BZ
01572 822278

Goals

Edinburgh Business School students study on campus in Edinburgh, online through distance learning or at one of Edinburgh Business School's partner centres across the globe. With such a vast geographical reach comprising over 25 partners and 300 approved tutors, easy effective communication and information exchange is absolutely vital.

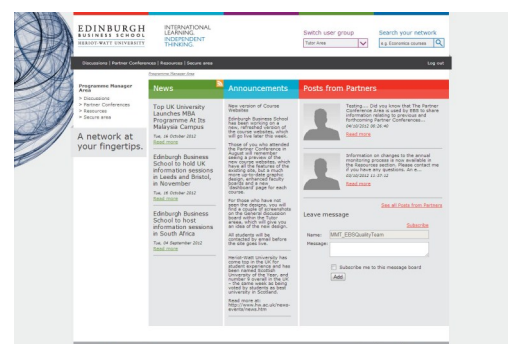
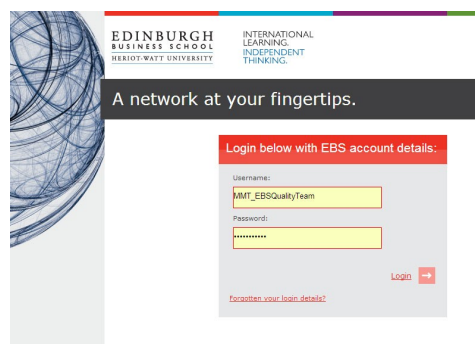
The number of partners that Edinburgh Business School has continues to increase steadily. Against this backdrop the university saw an opportunity to enhance mechanisms for tutors and programme managers to communicate with Edinburgh Business School as well as a facility which enabled communication between the university and its partners. Furthermore, a single location to host partner information, resources and documentation was required, with a view to ensuring all such documentation and information is maintained, up to date and easily accessible to both the school and the partner.

Edinburgh Business School required a password protected online portal that would allow its tutors and partners to access and share documentation and to enable communication to pass between individuals all in one place.

Solution

MMT Digital and Edinburgh Business School began by investigating the existing requirements and gathering additional information needed to fully architect the solution prior to the build phase. This consultancy exercise highlighted the need for the new portal to be integrated with their existing web enabled database, EBS Global, Edinburgh Business School's central repository for information.

EBS Global needed to remain the central repository and Edinburgh Business School wanted to ensure that content was not duplicated by publishing it on multiple systems; this would take additional unnecessary time and information would be fragmented across different solutions. By integrating the portal with EBS Global, content and data is synchronised between the portal and EBS Global.



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The communication portal itself needed to be built in a way that would allow each of the seven user types different access levels to the content and only give them permission to edit documents that are allocated to their roles. By using the permissions functionality already available within the CMS, Edinburgh Business School is now able to deliver different content to the different user types.

One of the primary features available to partners within the portal is the tutor approval section. Edinburgh Business School needed functionality that would allow partners to monitor each of their tutors' approval statuses. All tutors need approval to teach and this approval process is reviewed periodically.

The functionality built allows partners to not only see the approval statuses but also add new tutors, upload important documentation and for Edinburgh Business School to approve tutors once a review has been completed. Furthermore, all this information is passed back to EBS Global for data management and archiving.

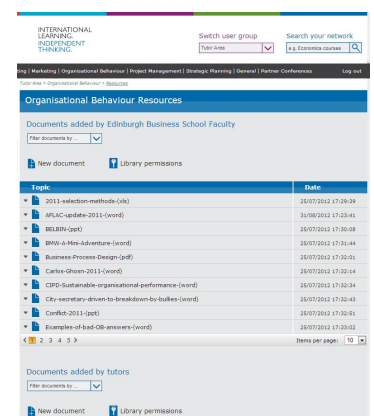
Result

The original requirements have been achieved through detailed consultation, an experienced development team and the use of Kentico's web CMS. With such a powerful and feature rich CMS, MMT Digital has been able to build Edinburgh Business School's new portal using out of the box functionality. With such a small amount of bespoke functionality built to fulfil the new portal's requirements MMT Digital was able to speed up the development process and ensure future upgrades of the portal's CMS are completed efficiently and effectively.

Functionality to enable Edinburgh Business School's users to communicate in one central location has been achieved with Kentico's out of the box forum and news functionality, which have been further enhanced with the permissions. This has enabled the school to allocate specific user types access to predefined forums suitable to their role.

Due to its integration with EBS Global the new portal is incredibly self-sufficient and requires very little administration whilst still providing new and up to date information to partner and tutors.

The final solution encompasses all of Edinburgh Business School's requirements; their partners, managers and tutors are able to access and pass information between themselves in a much more structured central location which is easy to use and quick to access. The solution was launched in September 2012 and has received positive feedback from users, which gives credit to the project team from Edinburgh Business School and MMT Digital and the solution as a whole.



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'INTERNATIONAL LEARNING INDEPENDENT TRAINING'. It features a navigation menu with items like 'Marketing', 'Organisational Behaviour', 'Project Management', 'Strategic Planning', 'General', and 'Partner Conferences'. The main content area is titled 'Organisational Behaviour Resources' and displays a list of documents added by the Edinburgh Business School Faculty. The list includes columns for 'Topic' and 'Date'. Below the list, there are options to 'New document' and 'Library permissions'.

Topic	Date
2011-election-methods-046	18/07/2012 17:26:39
MLAC-update-2011-0960f	16/08/2012 17:29:41
MLC101-096f	18/07/2012 17:30:08
2011-10-10-Adventure-096d	18/07/2012 17:31:44
Business-Process-Design-096d	18/07/2012 17:32:01
Caritas-096m-2011-096d	18/07/2012 17:32:14
CPD-Sustainable-organisational-performance-096d	18/07/2012 17:32:34
City-secretary-driven-to-breakdown-by-bulles-096d	18/07/2012 17:32:43
Conflict-2011-096f	18/07/2012 17:32:51
Examples-of-bad-OB-answers-096d	18/07/2012 17:33:02