

A B2G Site

(ODC /Technology)

Case Study

A B2G Site

America's Leading B2G - Business to Government Site

This Case study illustrates our effectiveness as an offshore development Centre. The fact that they made Direction their E-Commerce partner within three months illustrates the client's confidence in our capabilities.

This is a one-stop place for municipalities to buy and sell goods and services, exchange information, manage careers, keep informed of pertinent news, research product and service sources, and continue their education.

For businesses, it's the place for reviewing RFPs (Requests for Prices) and RFQs (Requests for Quotations), quoting on purchase requests, bidding on contracts, marketing to local governments, and developing new leads.

This also contains a product and services directory for municipalities, listing vendors and suppliers of various goods and services, by category and location, throughout the world. In addition to names of suppliers and links to them, this directory contains detailed specifications on all listed products.

They were looking at improving the functionality of their B2G site, which had been built on the e-maze software.

Direction was approached after studying Lenadena.com - an Indian Auction site, which had been created by us using the same e-maze software.

The Problem:

Direction was required to make comprehensive changes in the code that they had with them. These changes finally turned out to be major enhancements of many sections of the site.

Some of the key areas that needed attention were:

- Town Market - Homepage for Government Users.
- Vendor Exchange - Homepage for Vendors.
- Scorecard feature for Government Users & Vendors.
- Send emails to vendors when an RFQ is created.
- Choose the winning bidder for TownMarket & VendorExchange.
- SSL for all the files containing important data like credit card number & expiry date.

- Admin section for changing the text for invalid credit cards, RFQ Email Alerts, Commission Track, etc.
- Some of the main problems were those of logistics & management of the project:
- Where to do the changes (in the main site/ alternate site)?
- How would the client approve of the changes?
- How to integrate changes in the main site without causing outages to the site?

The Solution:

Then they initially gave Direction a pilot project.

To solve this situation we asked for the complete site to be downloaded to us along with the code and the database. We then set up a working copy of their site to do the code changes.

After Direction successfully delivered the pilot project, they requested numerous other modifications to their existing site & in due course of time, we changed the complete flow of the site as per their requirements - right from Registration to sending emails after winning the bid.

D2D (Developer to Developer) System

We faced a particularly vexing problem to implement the SSL & On-line credit card transaction as they could only be tested online on the net and the site was already 'live'.

So we creation a D2D system, which would consist of the following:

- A test site on their existing web server.
- An Internet enabled Interaction module containing.
 - Request for Change Management.
 - Defect Tracking.
 - Threaded Conversations consoles.

This helped us to manage the project more efficiently.

This D2D system enabled us to test all pieces of software on the web server environment & at the same time allowing them to directly test the software on the web.

They would then put in "change in request", their comments/feedback directly in the interaction module.

This D2D solution has proved so effective that the clients' chief programmer now verifies his code in the test site before updating it on the live site.

The Technology:

Environment: 80 x 86-based system, Java Script

OS: Win NT

Programming Languages: ASP, Cold-Fusion 4.5

RDBMS: SQL Server 7.0



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