

Intranet 2.0 for the
HB Reavis Group

How we helped the HB Reavis Group
to streamline their work.



We have tried the method of agile development with Millennium for the first time, because we wanted to get to the final product fast and effectively. We already saw the first results of development after two weeks and we reached the final product prepared for launch after two months of intensive work. Naturally with such speed the assignment needed operational changes. However, I evaluate the final product, which we created in close cooperation with the company Millennium, very positively.

Viliam Kyselovič

IT Project Manager
HB Reavis Group



End User

HB Reavis Group

Solution

We built the solution on the Microsoft SharePoint 2010 platform, currently used by the customer. This is the web application available through the internal HB Reavis Group network.

Client Profile

OraThe HB Reavis belongs to the successful development companies in the Central and Eastern Europe. It is a leader of the Slovak market, since 1993. Currently, it provides its services on the markets of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary and expanding to the UK and Turkey. It covers the whole range of activities from identifying investment opportunities through site selection, architectural design to actual implementation and subsequent management of the property.

The company implemented, for example, a very successful project of one of the first shopping centres in Bratislava – Aupark, or Apollo Business Center Office Space I and II.

Initial Situation

The HB Reavis Group has approximately 400 employees and it is necessary that each of them has an access to all relevant information. One of the possibilities how to ensure that is the existence of a corporate Intranet.

The original corporate Intranet was based on simple CMS solutions, but lacked a link to other internal systems. Thus the effectiveness of the system was lost. If an employee needed certain information they had to know which department was responsible for the area. Then, they could find the information on a website, resp. repository within the department. Or if a new employee joined the company, they needed to get the basic information about the company, about their superior, who was responsible for what within the company, how to request holiday, etc. However, the information was spread across several sites and it was assumed that the employee knew what responsibilities were assigned to each department. However, this meant that a new employee got easily lost in the system; they were unable to find their way.

The HB Reavis Group was therefore looking for a solution to unify all the information on one platform. It was also extremely desirable not to provide great interventions in the established system user practices.



Project Objectives

- Creating a platform joining together the relevant information in one place
- Establishing a single information source for new employees
- User and graphically appealing platform interface
- Developing, implementing and launching solutions within two weeks
- Maintaining previously used systems, applications and user procedures



Description of the Solution

We built the solution on the Microsoft SharePoint 2010 platform, currently used by the customer. This is the web application available through the internal HB Reavis Group network. We adjusted the customary approach in which the information was divided by department and we offered a solution based on user scenarios. All information, the user can potentially look for, were aggregated on one platform – the corporate Intranet. The actual corporate operating systems and applications operating on SharePoint (including the HR systems, invoices and other documents) were made available through one of the reflecting point. The aggregated data are sourced both from external sources (such as media monitoring), as well as the company's internal systems.

Due to client requirements for graphic solution, further development of graphic elements and UI elements were needed, since the basic SharePoint 2010 design elements were not sufficient. Our Intranet solution provided an opportunity to work intuitively and without classic navigation bars.

It is also a solution implementation and use did not require changes in working practices of the users.

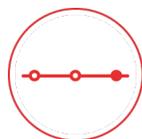


About the Portal

The four information panels form the base of the portal - Home (functioning as the home page), For an employee, About the company and Projects. The home page displays the latest news presenting the summary information and documents from all departments. In addition to these functionalities, the homepage also provides a Tasks file, i.e. the tasks the user has to fulfil, and the Requests - for example, to request the holiday.

We also added the ability to bookmark favourite pages using the Favourites feature. This means the user is always able to add that site to their favourites using a simple button anywhere on the Intranet. Thus, the home page becomes a user-adapted access to the Intranet.

Our solution uses the HB Reavis in other countries of its operation. Therefore, the communication language is English. Language versions exist only at the level of field descriptions.



Progress of the Project

Implementation of the project was conducted in an agile development manner, meaning was intense with a direct involvement of the client throughout the process. It was therefore very important the client understood and identified with the approach in details. Thanks to the agile development, it was possible to reduce partially the total cost of the project and to meet the required dates of the client.

Also due to the agile development, it is not possible to define clearly the various project phases. So, the analysis and the development and acceptance took place in parallel and throughout the project. The project lasted for three months totally, from February to April 2014.



Benefits

1. The client obtained a single access platform where the employees can find all current and relevant information. This will make their work more efficient and easier, as they do not have to waste time searching.
2. We achieved the increased efficiency both on the side of the Intranet end users as well as on the part of the departments. The employees have the opportunity to effectively obtain information about projects, staff contacts and internal documents.
3. New employees will not feel lost in the new environment anymore. All guidelines and information regarding their beginnings within the company can be found directly on the Intranet. They will know how to ask for holidays, what the individual managers are responsible for in the company, where they can find the HR department, what projects are in progress, etc.
4. Due to further development, we achieved a user-friendly, attractive, intuitive and simple Intranet interface.
5. The client obtained an Intranet solution in a short time, although it seemed to be unrealistic at the beginning. Thanks to our agile approach, we reached the specified framework of the project within the time, budget and quality give.

Our Awards

12x

Microsoft
Industry Awards

→ Winner

 Slovak Republic

3x

Microsoft
Industry Awards

→ Finalist

 Slovak Republic

4x

Deloitte.
Technology Fast 500™

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2014 Partner of the Year **Winner**
Slovakia

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Gold Application Development
Silver Mobility
Silver Customer Relationship Management
Silver Application Integration

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