

CASE STUDY SUMMARY

Upgrade of technology systems behind a CMS



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Overview

The client is a company that offers expertise and consultancy to multiple industries. In order to do this, their website is hosting articles and a database of experts in a CMS. Their internal website must deliver a custom way of searching, with insights showing up first, followed by experts.

Challenge

The system behind the CMS had to be kept up to date with the latest version, to avoid security and speed issues.

Solution

After assessing the project, the estimates said it will take around 12 months, instead of 2 as estimated by the previous company. One of the first challenges was to communicate the new estimates to the client and keep them in the loop.

We configured multiple servers for people who worked on the project, so that several people could work at the same time.

This was done in 3 stages:

1. **Dev** (internal to Tara) - where we tested the solution to be functional,
2. **Stage** (accessible to the user and internal) - where the client could view and test the solution),
3. **Production** (accessible to the large public) - once the changes were agreed, the project will be live on the website

Technologies

The old system was functioning on Drupal 7 and had to be upgraded to 8.9. Drupal 8.9 has a different core technology (Symfony and Twig) compared to Drupal 7 (PHP), which meant that the process was more complex than a simple upgrade.

This meant that the programming syntax had to be rewritten, due to existing conflicts between the 2 core technologies. Every widget, plug in and page template (some of which had multiple conditions in it) had to be replanned.

Process

In order to ensure that the client received frequent communication, we reported bi-monthly, mixing agile and waterfall to ensure that the client is kept up to speed. We then worked in sprints of 2 weeks, after which we had meetings with the client in which we communicated status and gained information or access that we were lacking.

Results

The final duration of the project was 1 year, including the analysis part. We had several people working in parallel to ensure progress was done in the 2 weeks sprint we work in.

The client was happy and remained working with the integrator.

Contact

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