

MAKING SHAREPOINT USABLE & USEFUL

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MAKING SHAREPOINT USABLE & USEFUL

> **Challenges** – is SharePoint usable?

- “Out of the box” SharePoint
- User adoption
- Interface & design

> **Solutions** – how can we help?

- Getting “buy-in”
- Simple “out of the box” solutions
- Improving the interface & design
- SharePoint as a platform

the **BIG** question:

IS SHAREPOINT USABLE?

NOT REALLY.

WHAT SHAREPOINT DOES

> **Accessibility**

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG)
- Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA)

> **Collaboration**

- Popular intranet & extranet platform
- File sharing, team sites, calendars, task lists, etc.

> **Publishing**

- Powerful publishing platform
- Search & faceted search

WHAT SHAREPOINT **DOESN'T**

> **Accessibility**

- Section 508 Compliance

> **Interface & Design**

- Challenges of creating simple and compelling interfaces
- Mobile & responsive design
- Frustrating HTML markup (<tables> galore)
- Inconsistent use of interface throughout the platform

CHALLENGES.

CHALLENGE #1: USER ADOPTION



CHALLENGE #2: INTERFACE & DESIGN

> SharePoint does “too much”

- Sites, pages, lists, libraries, wikis, and blogs (oh my)

Create □ ×

Browse From:

- Installed Items** >
- Office.com









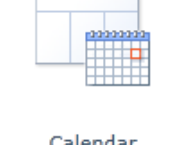
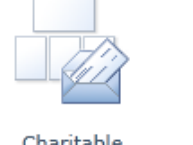
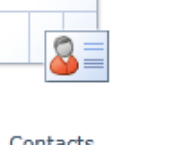
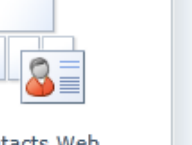
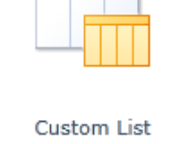
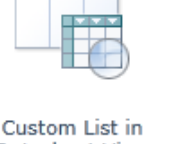

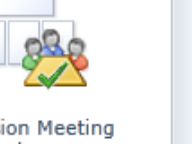
Filter By:


- All Types** >
- Library
- List
- Page
- Site

All Categories >

- Blank & Custom
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Content
- Data
- Meetings
- Search
- Tracking
- Web Databases

Title ▲ Type

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  Announcements |  Asset Library |  Assets Web Database |  Basic Meeting Workspace |
|  Basic Search Center |  Blank Meeting Workspace |  Blank Site |  Blog |
|  Calendar |  Charitable Contributions Web |  Contacts |  Contacts Web Database |
|  Custom List |  Custom List in Datasheet View |  Data Connection Library |  Decision Meeting Workspace |

Search Installed Items 

Announcements

Type: List
Categories: Communication

A list of news items, statuses and other short bits of information.

Name

CHALLENGE #2: INTERFACE & DESIGN

> User-centric design

- Interface plays a large role in usability

> Too “SharePoint-y”

- Shedding that default look-and-feel can be challenging

> Going mobile

- OOTB mobile is lackluster
- Lack of flexibility for responsive designs

SOLUTIONS.

susQtech

SOLUTION #1: GETTING “BUY-IN”

> Challenge:

- “Tools” need no design
- Resistance is futile

> Teach:

- Adoption = Adaptation
- Oceans won't boil; Habits require baby steps.
- Hold on loosely, but don't let go.



SOLUTION #2: SIMPLE INTERFACE IMPROVEMENTS

> Put on the brakes

- Limit the capabilities of SharePoint to only what you need

Subsite Templates

Specify the preferred templates for the subsite.

Create an assets database to keep track of assets, including asset details and owners.

Subsites inherit site templates from parent site

Subsites can use any site template

Subsites can only use the following site templates:

(All)

- Assets Web Database (All)
- Basic Meeting Workspace (All)
- Basic Search Center (All)
- Blank Meeting Workspace (All)
- Blank Site (All)
- Blog (All)
- Business Intelligence Center (All)
- Charitable Contributions Web Database (All)
- Contacts Web Database (All)
- Decision Meeting Workspace (All)
- Document Center (All)
- Document Workspace (All)
- Enterprise Search Center (All)

Publishing Site (All)


Add >

< Remove

Reset all subsites to inherit these preferred subsite template settings

Page Layouts

Specify the page layouts preferred for new pages in this site.



The article page with body only

Pages inherit preferred layouts from parent site

Pages in this site can use any layout

Pages in this site can only use the following layouts:

- (Article Page) Body only
- (Article Page) CVCC Article Page (Sidebar)
- (Article Page) CVCC Article Page (Wide)
- (Article Page) Image on left
- (Article Page) Image on right

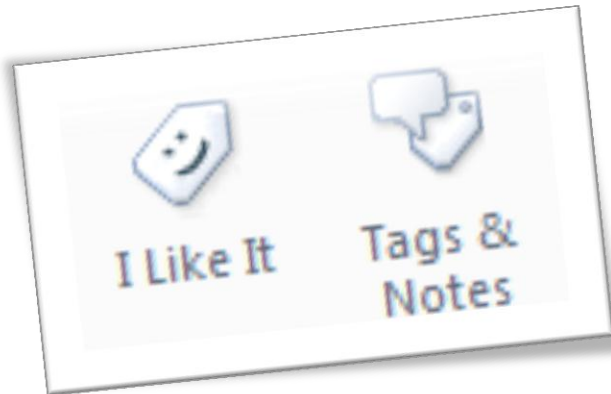
(Article Page) Medazio Article Page

Add >

SOLUTION #2: SIMPLE INTERFACE IMPROVEMENTS

> A practice in simplicity

- If you don't need it, remove it



SOLUTION #3: SHAREPOINT AS A PLATFORM

- > **Extend the power of SharePoint**
 - It SharePoint can't, you can
- > **Vastly improved with some minor customizations:**
 - MySite
 - Forms & data visualization
 - Navigation & structure

A CASE STUDY.



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