



Topshare International BV supports the NuGO network on the subjects of knowledge exchange and dissemination with the ultimate target of storing all knowledge in a central web-based application, whether this knowledge is secure (authorized) or public as well as to stimulate real collaboration among the members. Topshare provides the necessary software and consultancy services to carry this project out

The Client

The objective of NuGO is to develop a progressive and durable integration of the complementary research capacities, between Europe's leading universities, research centers and industries in nutrigenomics. This provides the critical mass necessary to strengthen scientific and technological excellence in nutrigenomics and to structure and shape European research in this field.

The Nutrigenomics network is developing a resource of information on nutrigenomics field, from scientific research to applications in medicine and society. Sharing this knowledge is crucial.

The Challenge

NuGO required an intranet and extranet solution as well as public websites for different target audiences. All this, to develop a network of researchers where they can collaborate and disseminate knowledge. The information on these pages is contributed by interested experts from around the world and would need to be updated regularly. All are encouraged to contribute to these areas or to suggest other topics or contributors. To reach a real collaboration between the members without the annoying e-mail exchange.

Also different websites were required for the different Stakeholders. All websites would need to be built up dynamically from the 'Extranet'. It also meant that the different organizations are responsible for the content on the websites and they should be able to keep it up to date in an easy and transparent way.

The basis of collaboration is to know each other: The Yellow Pages; who is who. Therefore the emphasis was also on the address book where persons, teams and organizations should make themselves known

The Solution

Throughout the network we connected different persons who are experts on a certain field. The software supports these experts by means of automatically updating the extranet and publishing their experiences to a wider audience on the network. People can choose to receive email notifications on items newly added or changed items. As the extranet will grow quickly the people have the possibility to receive only notifications on Subprojects via RSS feeds.

The extranet is build to publish and structure 'un-structured' knowledge. Structured knowledge is uploaded in forms and stored in the integrated databases. Data can be exported in different formats; such excel sheets for further use.

The Topshare software was developed to the needs of the international network. During the project on-going Topshare received feedback from the Network to optimize the Knowledge Exchange and Communication. Topshare was in close cooperation with the NuGO board and partners like the Institute of Food Research (IFR), Norwich, UK who is responsible for Marketing & Communication within the European Nutrigenomics Organization.

Client's comments

"Topshare is a flexible tool following the changing needs of our organization"

"We send 80% less emails than we did before using Topshare"

"Publishing is now as easy as a few clicks"

"Amazing; one web-based application to facilitate our public websites, extranet and intranet, easy to update in a consistent transparent intuitive way"

Topshare Background

Topshare is an innovative company focused on Knowledge Sharing solutions. The people behind Topshare have been involved in collaboration via the Web since they were employed by AltaVista in the mid-90s. The concept of a web based Knowledge Sharing tool was the answer to the necessity of keeping people working in different locations and/ or organizations up-to-date.

Topshare was built and tested from 2000 onwards providing at the beginning intranet and extranet solution to research projects funded by the European Union, being "Biohydrogen" the first one. Since then new versions have been released to enhance Topshare with new features using "state-of-the-art" web based technologies to fulfil its customer's requirements.

Topshare's challenge is to enable Knowledge Sharing within large networks understanding the particular needs from its customers.

Topshare is located in Wageningen, The Netherlands; and its intranet/extranet solutions are currently used by more than 50 organizations in 20 countries.

