

Getting off the Islands of Information: Xylos uses XPlica and Migrates to Productivity

Customer:

Xylos
Headquarters: Belgium.



<http://www.xylos.com>

Client Industry: Professional
Technology Consulting Services

Products Used:

Vyapin's XPlica for SharePoint
www.vyapin.com



Microsoft SharePoint:
<http://office.microsoft.com/sharepoint>



What do you get when you take a company of talented, technically adept consultants, who thrive on solving problems, and combine them with an information system that does not meet their needs? A set of disparate islands of information that, over time, erode employee efficiency and productivity.

Fortunately, the technology consulting professionals at Xylos suffered no such fate. They used Vyapin's Xplica software to bring together separate repositories of information, improve performance, and get their jobs done more efficiently.

About the Client

Offering a wide range of services that includes e-learning, mobile, and Cloud, [Xylos](#) is a 180-person professional technology consulting company serving clients in Belgium. The firm has one of the largest SharePoint teams in the country. The organization prides itself on the experts they hire and their passion for innovation, trends, and technology.

Like most technology firms, Xylos is constantly monitoring the progress of cloud solutions and how best to leverage the capabilities they offer to serve clients and support employees in delivering top quality solutions to the market.

The Business Challenge

Xylos had been using Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007 for its intranet. After a few years, the solution was not meeting the needs anymore. In particular, Xylos was experiencing challenges in finding and leveraging existing information, and preventing the proliferation of data islands. Not surprising for a company that has a lot of consultants who work most of their time at customer's premises.

Challenge: To migrate unstructured data and poorly designed lists from MOSS 2007 to a new information architecture and intranet based on SharePoint 2013.

Benefits of Using XPlica:

- Quicker time to realizing productivity savings
- Improved Performance by 50%
- Increase Employee Satisfaction
- No more islands of information.

Reinventing the Wheel

The architecture of the existing intranet made it difficult for consultants to find the company's intellectual property and reuse knowledge gained from past projects.

Valuable customer information was buried in tonnes of unstructured data. When consultants could not find what they needed, they spent time recreating documents and information, missing the opportunity to redeploy lessons learned from previous projects. This was draining consultants' precious time and in a company where billable hours are key, this also put a squeeze on bottom line profits.

Reducing productivity

The performance of the existing intranet was slow and the user interface was difficult to use, reducing employee productivity. Also, it was time to replace some of the existing workflows. Xylos cited timeouts occurring in its expense application as just one example of an outdated workflow.

Islands of Information

Some Xylos employees began to use their tech-savvy skills to take matters into their own hands. Solutions like Dropbox were employed for sharing and collaboration and separate intranets were set up. Information was leaking outside of the company's IT control boundary, increasing the risk associated with managing corporate information.

Solution: Vyapin's XPlica

Technology consulting firms are most successful when they have the right talent and can give them the right tools. Xylos had the right team, now it was time to do something about the technology.

"Our main focus is to give our colleagues the best possible tools to get their jobs done and that was top of mind in redesigning the new architecture and solution", said Victor Martin, Internal ICT Manager for Xylos.

The company decided that to save employees valuable time while providing the best service possible to clients, it was time to migrate the intranet to Microsoft SharePoint 2013. In concert with this effort, the decision was made to move existing My Sites to One Drive for Business on Office 365.

Solution:

Vyapin's Xplica for SharePoint

www.vyapin.com

Xplica supports migration of site collections, webs, libraries, lists, documents, document properties, list items (including file attachments) and associated metadata, while retaining folder hierarchy, version history and user permissions to the desired target SharePoint server

Given the challenges that Xylos faced, Mr. Martin and the three person ICT team engaged some of the company's SharePoint experts to come up with a plan.

"First of all, some members of our SharePoint team designed an information architecture and then based on that, redesigned the intranet. In the new solution, we needed to transform a reasonable amount of data from inconsistent intranet locations to a structured one, in a simple and straightforward way", described Mr. Martin.

The Approach

Since Xylos has some of the best SharePoint experts in the country, as well as developers, functional analysts, and infrastructure specialists, they first considered writing their own migration tool. Mr. Martin, however, explains that a decision was made to look externally at what the market had to offer, "Sure one of our developers could have done it, but it would have taken about a week of time and then we would have had to support it internally. It just didn't make financial sense to do it ourselves".

A Xylos senior SharePoint consultant was familiar with Independent Software Vendor (ISV) tools for SharePoint migrations. The consultant made a recommendation for a powerful content migration solution from Vyapin called Xplica. That recommendation was enough for Mr. Martin and team to start looking at the capabilities of the tool, "My lead consultant knows the market, SharePoint, and our goals for the project better than anyone".

It did not take long to confirm that Mr. Martin was right to trust his consultant's recommendation, as he explains, "Xplica's ability to migrate lists and documents while retaining version history and user permission was the right fit for the job. It was stable and had the features we needed, not overloaded with functionality we didn't need or want. The price was right too."

From Trial to Successful Finish

Xylos started with the Vyapin's free 30-day trial. Upon confirming that the tool performed well with a library of 20,000 documents, large amounts of unstructured data, and poorly designed lists, they did not look back.

"Xplica helped us migrate lots of data, keeping all versioning history and, on-the-fly, transforming metadata to the newly designed information architecture. We migrated several thousands of documents and a lot of lists. This one site had around 8000 list-items and 20,000 versions. This

“I trust my lead consultant implicitly – when he said Xplica was the best tool for our migration, I moved ahead with it. Xplica performed well, was priced competitively and enabled us to complete our migration successfully.”

-Victor Martin, ICT
Manager, Xylos

one took a whole weekend to migrate but Xplica performed the whole time”, said Martin about the migration experience.

Benefits

Vyapin helped Xylos move to the new SharePoint 2013 solution allowing them to realize the following benefits:

- Using the Xplica tool, data was adapted to the new information architecture resulting in more people being able to find the right data quickly. This has saved countless hours that might have otherwise been spent recreating documents and information, allowing Xylos to be more efficient in delivering solutions to its clients.
- The new architecture, consisting of several servers in the farm, is designed with the needs of employees in mind. It is approximately 50% faster and no longer needs to be rebooted. Using Xplica to make a faster move to this new solution meant that productivity savings were realized sooner.
- Employee satisfaction has increased with the new system. Mr. Martin enjoys that he now receives many positive comments about the system.

Conclusion

The strongest indicator of success in this migration is that employees no longer have to set up separate islands of information to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. They have experienced the productivity and collaborative benefits of joining everyone on the information “mainland”.