



Case Study: Selector Module

“After a long and exhaustive search to find a company which can work as an extended development team, We zeroed in on SolveIT InfoTech. SolveIT exceeded our expectations and has always delivered quality code on time every time.”

Leo Christiansen
CEO, VisioSign

Summary: The client had previously deployed a content management system in which the selection of particular frames was done solely on manual basis, however the company sought an efficient solution to capture frames through selector module with pre-defined parameters, whose values could be captured automatically through the selector module. .

Solution: A new User Interface was generated that provided features that facilitated the InfoBoard Administration System to grab data frames from different URLs and present it on InfoBoard screens.

Version : A1

Date : 28/05/2010

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1 Introduction

1.1 Client Introduction

The Client is the leader in the content presentation system. They are one of the largest providers of centrally managed and web based software which incorporates key constructs of internal information, campaigns, information, schedules and collaboration to enable the efficient distribution of content across network of screens down to individual screens. This flexibility creates the optimal environment for any communication department or marketing professional to communicate targeted messages that reach employees at the right place, at the right time.

1.2 Project Introduction

The project aims to provide a software solution that controls the elements used in visual communication, generates and schedules playlists, and delivers targeted messaging to the screens. The Players are using standard Internet protocols. Both media and players can be grouped to take advantage of user defined market and network characteristics, enabling the precise and efficient delivery of communication and campaigns. The software solution provides users the option to define and position designated areas of a display screen to showcase additional communicational messages along with the latest news, sports, business and entertainment headlines.

The deliverable is a web-based software with main focus on integration with Microsoft SQL Server 2005 and a customized web solution to present content in different forms.

2 Requirement

As a rapidly growing Content presentation company, the client needed enhanced features to be added to its base product for managing content more efficiently and presenting it in myriad forms. The client had previously deployed a content management system in which the selection of particular frames was done solely on manual bases, however it was hampered by shoddy guess work, time delay by trial and error method and inaccurate content generation. Therefore the company sought an efficient solution to capture frames through selector module with pre-defined parameters, whose values could be captured automatically through the selector module and hence the client's requirement of capturing and presenting precise and accurate content was fulfilled.

3 Features & Benefits

The selector module would be built over the features and functionality provided by InfoBoard to make it easy for users to draw or drag & drop an area.

The new Selector module includes a completely new user interface which will provide features that will facilitate the InfoBoard Administration System to grab data frames from different URLs and present it on InfoBoard screens.

3.1 System Features

Functionalities:

Design page is divided majorly into two parts – Area 1(Input Boxes) and Area 2(IFrame). Area 1(Input Boxes) has five parameters – URL, height (pixel), width (pixel), x-coordinate from left and y-coordinate from top. Area 1 also contains “Save” button through which values of parameters of selected area is sent to InfoBoard Administration System. User will enter the URL and the URL page will open in Area 2(IFrame) section.

After opening the URL in Area 2(IFrame), user will enter the height, width, x-coordinate from left and y-coordinate from top values in Area 1(Input Boxes). Accordingly the translucent Area 3(Selector) will appear on top of Area 2(IFrame) as per the specified parameter values in Area 1(Input Boxes).

User can also select any part of Area 2 (IFrame) and drag and drop the selected area i.e. Area 3(Selector). When the user drags and drops Area 3(Selector), the values of parameters of Area 1(Input Boxes) changes accordingly.

Drag and drop includes mainly three activities, selection of an area by clicking it, dragging it around Area 2(IFrame), and resizing the selection by dragging via the bottom right vertex.

The module also facilitates manual input of values in the five text fields of Area 1(Input Boxes) as. Every URL will have an object reference to particular object which would point to pre-defined parameter values.

4 Challenges

- Deep level of client side scripting is used to design modules for drag and drop feature.
- Complex logic to obtain relative position and size of selection area.
- Manage selection from dynamic URLs and grabbing the frames without storing in database.

5 Technology Statistics

Application Server	Windows 2003 Server Advanced Server and above.
Web Server	IIS 6.0 or higher
Application Scripting	JavaScript , AJAX
Web Languages	ASP.NET with (VB.NET)
Development IDE	MS Visual Studio.Net 2008
Browser	Internet Explorer 6.0 and above and Firefox 2.0 and above
Third Party Controls	Telerik