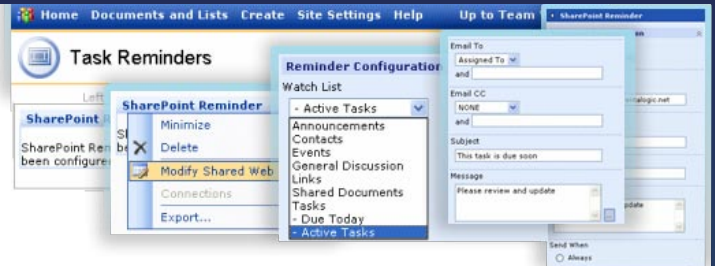


Bowman and Brooke selects PentaLogic's SharePoint Reminder Web part to enhance Practice Support Job Tracking System



Attempting to start a new business within a business is a daunting task. Attempting to automate the management and operation of that business can be even more daunting. Attempting to do it in a short period of time, in a comprehensive manner, and building in sophisticated, automatic management notification and reminder features can be impossible. Impossible, that is, without the use of advanced software plug-ins such as Pentalogic's SharePoint Reminder Web part.

“We needed features similar to Microsoft's Outlook Reminders.”

In June of 2009, Bowman and Brooke decided to develop a full-scale in-house litigation support department. Wade Peterson, the new director of Practice Support was recruited to begin building the standards, processes, procedures, staff, and services to offer a variety of litigation support services to Bowman's attorneys. As one of the country's leading product liability firms, Bowman quickly saw the potential of reducing costs to its clients by making these services available in-house.

“The flexibility is really remarkable. I've worked with a lot of third-party SharePoint Web parts and I have to say Pentalogic's Reminder is one of the best I've seen.”

What started as a staff of two, quickly developed into a staff of seven experienced litigation support professionals. Wade knew that keeping track of incoming requests and ensuring that critical deadlines are met was key to the success of the new Practice Support Department. He needed a system to track jobs, productions, specifications, knowledge gathered, share

common documents, and keep up with the pulse of a fast moving target. Anyone who knows litigation support will attest to the need to stay on top of fast-moving deadlines and tracking detailed information about each request coming into the department.

Having previously developed an ITIL Change Management system with SharePoint, Wade felt confident SharePoint was the right platform to build the information management system needed. A basic system was up and running in less than a week and over the next six months it was refined with additional enhancements to make the department operate efficiently.

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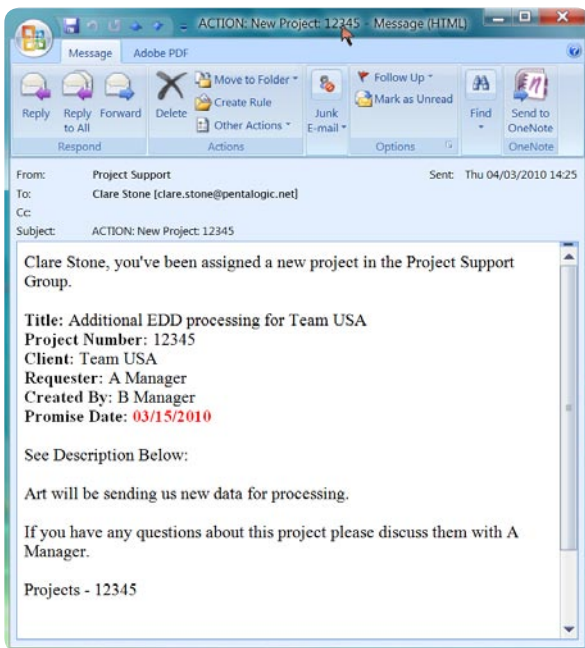
The one key feature Wade needed was automatic notification to the staff of new projects, projects which had passed a promised date, and feedback to project managers about jobs completed. As the staff grew in size and additional business came in the door, managing this information via e-mail or to-do lists was going to be impossible.

SharePoint is a great tool for setting up and running systems for information management and collaboration without the need for programming involvement. But it has very limited built-in alert abilities. “We needed features similar to Microsoft's Outlook reminders” says Peterson. Therefore, the hunt was on to find a solution. Luckily, Wade happened upon Pentalogic's web site (www.pentalogic.net) and read about their SharePoint Reminder Web part. It was a perfect fit! The demo was downloaded and quickly installed with a bit of help from the firm's IT staff.



Since the Practice Support SharePoint site already contained a list of projects, with fields for project lead, promise date, and completed date; it was a simple matter to add three Reminder web parts to the home page. Each web part controls the alerting feature of – New projects; Projects past their promise date; and Completed projects. The web parts are hidden from view of the user, but operate in the background monitoring information fed into the system.

For example, when a new job is created, the Reminder web part automatically detects this (once an hour) and sends an email notification to the person assigned to the project. Pentalogic’s web part even has the ability to customize the reminder email message with fields from the SharePoint list, so a new project email might read like this:



The logic capability in Pentalogic’s Reminder web part is extensive and can check dates, check creation of an item, monitor other fields, and even re-set the reminder if a change occurs (for instance, if a project is re-assigned to a new staff person, another email notification is sent, even though that project was already created).

Notifications for projects past their promise date and completed projects operate in the same manner. In addition, a cc: email can be sent to another user (i.e., in our case, for all new projects [no matter who creates

them] a cc: of the notification email is sent to the Director). “The flexibility is really remarkable. I’ve worked with a lot of third-party SharePoint Web parts and I have to say PentaLogic’s Reminder is one of the best I’ve seen.” states Peterson.

Of course, all this logic is easily changed using the standard SharePoint Web part editing interface. Nothing new to learn, you just use what you know. A new release of the Reminder web part now includes a rich text editor for modifying the email message. So you can enhance the custom emails even more than previous.

“This was a feature critical to a successful system. Because of PentaLogic’s Reminder web part, we’re able to keep the entire team informed of new changes and requirements. Staff are sent alerts on critical deadlines and follow-up on completed projects can easily be done. In fact, if we wanted to, we could even send a note back to the original requestor telling them when a project has been completed.” Currently we’re managing hundreds of projects with the SharePoint site.

A complete knowledge base (wiki) is included, along with all documentation for the department. The business is starting to grow; and knowing we have a tool to stay on top of our clients work is one less headache to worry about.

Wade Peterson

Director of Practice Support at Bowman and Brooke

About Bowman and Brooke:

Beginning as a leading defense firm for automotive product liability cases, Bowman and Brooke has become a nationally recognized trial firm that defends household name clients in widely publicized catastrophic injury and wrongful death verdicts, and other complex litigation. Today, Bowman and Brooke provides a well established array of complementary core practice groups to its national product liability defense practice, including intellectual property litigation, construction litigation, consumer warranty litigation, as well as business and commercial litigation. The firm has offices in Minneapolis, Phoenix, Detroit, San Jose, Los Angeles, Richmond and Columbia.

For more information, please visit www.bowmanandbrooke.com