

# GOT SHAREPOINT?

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John Fontana, writing for NetWork World described Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007 in March as a “billion dollar Juggernaut”, destined to become the next “must-have technology”. (John Fontana, “Microsoft SharePoint Taking Business World by Storm”, Network World, 03/26/2008)

Microsoft thinks it’s quite possible that sales of the product could exceed \$1.6 billion this year. SharePoint is the fastest growing product in Microsoft history focusing on enterprise collaboration with such tools as: out-of-the-box portal creation, search, enterprise content management (ECM), business forms, business process management, and business intelligence.

In its early launch of SharePoint Microsoft sold 75 million licenses from 2001 through 2005, with 25 million more through 2007, an incredible growth rate. Bill Gates in commenting on SharePoint’s success during the 2008 SharePoint Conference in Seattle stated that the reason why MOSS 2007 is taking the business world by storm is because it is “based on a vision of letting workers share information in a better way.” (Paul McDougall, Information Week, March 3, 2008)

Essentially SharePoint allows organizations to better pursue “Knowledge Management”, the ability of an organization to identify, gather, and synthesize in real time all

relevant knowledge contained both within and without the organization in order to maximize adaptation, survival, and competitive advantage in an environment of constant and rapid change. It requires a disciplined process that seeks to synergize IT data and processing capabilities, turning data into information leading to knowledge that maximizes creativity and innovation across the enterprise.

Interestingly, many companies are aggressively pursuing SharePoint deployment blindly seemingly in an attempt to rapidly get on the bandwagon and reap the promised benefits. One survey conducted with 1400 large companies in Europe and North America found that 63% have plans to use MOSS for document management and 41% for records management. The problem is only 34% have an actual implementation plan, and 29% have already deployed and implemented some functionality of the platform. (Barb Mosher, “MOSS Adoption Exploding in Europe”, CMS Wire, Apr 3, 2008)

John Soat in the article “The CIO and SharePoint” (Information Week, Mar28, 2008) states that CIOs need to pay attention to the use of SharePoint within the organization due to its “viral” nature, i.e. the ease with which business managers can deploy solutions and spread them within the organization without regard to governance.

This had led to Microsoft’s creation of a Planning Services program for SharePoint deployment. Tom Rizzo, director of SharePoint at Microsoft says that: ““Customers told us they got the most out of SharePoint when they brought in a SharePoint Certified Consultant in the early stages to help with deployment planning.”

(David Nagel, “Microsoft Launches SharePoint Deployment Planning Services”, Redmond Channel Partner Online, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008)

The key to any successful software deployment is up front planning. Don't be fooled by the promised ease of SharePoint's out-of-the-box capabilities. In my own experience with deploying SharePoint with a Navy client, the sheer breadth of capability and functionality requires a wise topology plan, strong configuration control, and a solid plan for service accounts management, to name just some top considerations.

Got SharePoint? If you do, H2PC hopes you are reaping the significant benefits of this amazing application. If not and you are thinking about it, we recommend you take Microsoft's advice and seek the assistance of an experienced and certified SharePoint Technology Specialist (MCTS) to help you plan your way to a successful and productive deployment.

**Chris McGrath, M.S., MCP, MCTS**  
**Manager, H2 Performance Consulting**  
<http://SharePointPrime.com>