Case Study

e-mentor

Client Profile:

e-Mentor, is an Australian company which builds e-learning model out of good practices from industry experts for students or adults entering the labor market. It is a unique project where mentors from various businesses train individuals in niche services. Thus, it ensures that target groups skilled enough to be readily employable.

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Tecnology Used:

Zend Framework & PHP

Business Situation:

e-Mentor was built on Chamilo Learning Management System (LMS). e-Mentor could not provide a unified learning experience as Chamilo did not fully support hosting of interactive learning content in form of audios and videos. To address a mixed set of databases a customized group involving mentors had to be created on the LMS. Personalization of each user experience demanded home page customization. For building an effective and collaborative learning platform E-Mentor approached Compassites to customize their LMS.

Solution Approach:

Compassites team worked on customization of Chamilo platform to suit the learning management needs of e-mentor. e-Mentor's LMS model built on Chamilo had three role profiles:

¤   Mentor-the teacher,

¤   Mentee-the student, and

¤   Advisor- mentor or mentee of some other course but may have expertise in the particular course.

A LMS plugin was created for role profile Mentor where more than one mentor could be mapped to number of mentees. The plugin allowed a Mentor of a group to be Mentee or Advisor in some other course. The newly built plugin had a functionality that allowed Mentor group to manage classroom and event. For personalization of user interface, interactions table was customized for each role profile. Interactions table contained assigned tasks, learning material in form of video, audio, or PDF. With this it was possible to customize the training workflow and also rate the learning material.

A specialized template for custom requirements for every user page was built. User page had provision to set status. Each user could see his association with other type of role users on the dashboard. For instance a mentor could see his association with a group of mentees and advisors. Alerts were set on dashboard for any new comments or messages. Each

mentor was able to set goals within the course for mentees to achieve from his dashboard. This enabled mentors to direct courses, manage teams and add learners. Reporting capabilities were also added to the dashboard.

A comprehensive directory including all mentors, mentees, advisors and courses was built. Drill down search for the specified keyword was setup. Issue object list module was fixed to host the courses on the LMS. Major code fixes to the Chamilo LMS enabled easy audio and video rendering. All these customizations allowed e-Mentor to add new courses and increase the number of participants and participant engagement for the course.

Benefits & Results:

¤ Short time-to-market with rapid application development

¤ The LMS was all screen and all browser compatible

¤ Customization to the LMS to suit client requirements.

¤ New accounts could be easily added and managed by the client