Getting started with SharePoint

Ronnie Holm

Overview

- A brief history of SharePoint
- ASP.NET vs. SharePoint
- Basic SharePoint developer concepts
- SharePoint developer and learning experiences
- Why develop with SharePoint

History of SharePoint (1)

- 2001
  - SharePoint Portal Server 2001 releases
  - Contains Digital Dashboard
    - MS' first portal framework
    - UI contained "nuggets"
  - Uses Exchange Web Store
- 2003
  - SharePoint 2003 releases
  - Web store replaced by SQL Server
  - Digital Dashboard replaced by ASP.NET
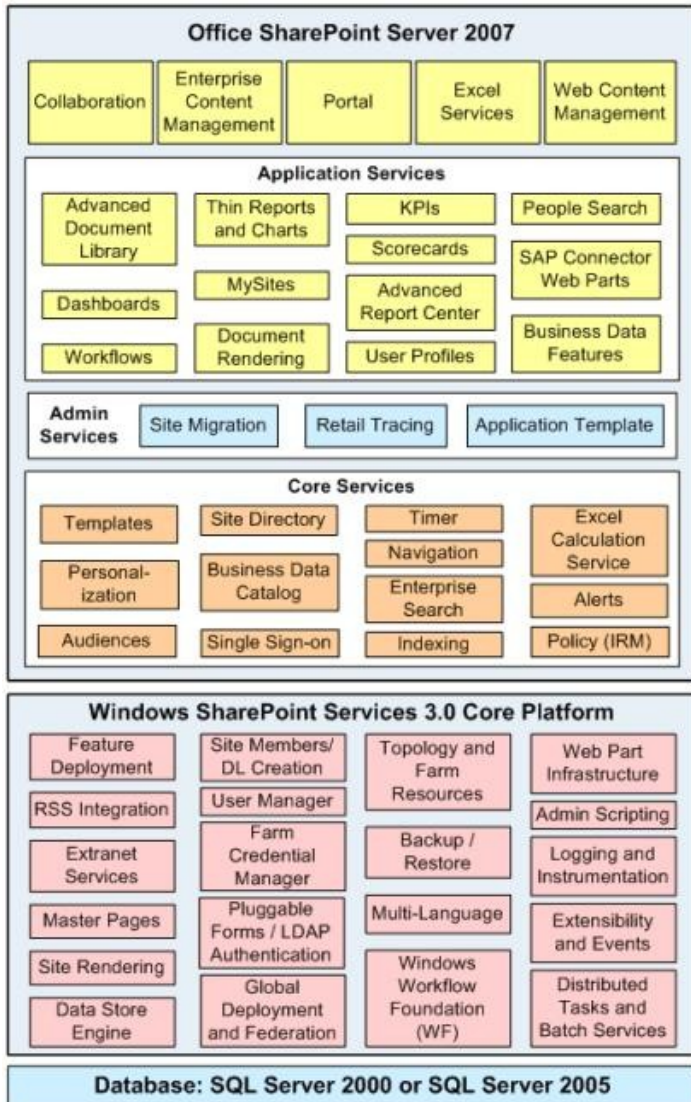
History of SharePoint (2)

- 2007
  - SharePoint 2007 releases
  - 2003 core functionality, but with a better deployment story
  - CMS server merged with SharePoint server
  - Shift from ASP.NET 1.1 to 2.0
- SharePoint carries a lot of baggage -- and it shows

History of SharePoint (3)
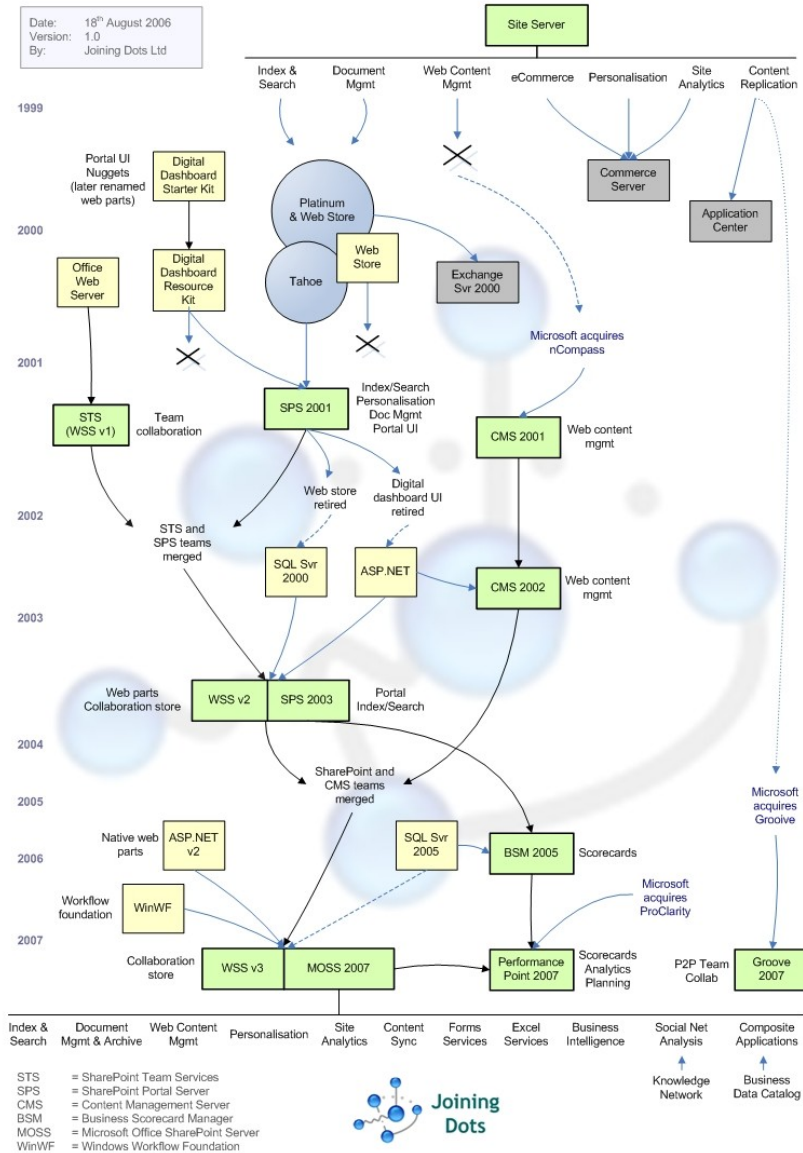
- Backward compatibility is important to MS
- Comes at the price of inconsistencies in the APIs
- Modern SharePoint is partly a .NET wrapper around COM/C++ code

ASP.NET vs. SharePoint

Office SharePoint Server 2007

| Collaboration | Enterprise Content Management | Portal | Excel Services | Web Content Management |

Application Services

Advanced Document Library	Thin Reports and Charts	KPIs	People Search
Dashboards	MySites	Scorecards	SAP Connector Web Parts
Workflows	Document Rendering	Advanced Report Center	Business Data Features
		User Profiles	

Admin Services: Site Migration | Retail Tracing | Application Template

Core Services

Templates	Site Directory	Timer	Excel Calculation Service
Personal-ization	Business Data Catalog	Navigation	Alerts
Audiences	Single Sign-on	Enterprise Search	Policy (IRM)
		Indexing	

Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 Core Platform

Feature Deployment	Site Members/ DL Creation	Topology and Farm Resources	Web Part Infrastructure
RSS Integration	User Manager	Backup / Restore	Admin Scripting
Extranet Services	Farm Credential Manager	Multi-Language	Logging and Instrumentation
Master Pages	Pluggable Forms / LDAP Authentication	Windows Workflow Foundation (WF)	Extensibility and Events
Site Rendering	Global Deployment and Federation		Distributed Tasks and Batch Services
Data Store Engine			

Database: SQL Server 2000 or SQL Server 2005

- WSS builds on .NET
- MOSS builds on WSS
- ASP.NET and SharePoint are platforms, not applications

Concepts: Provisioning (1)

- ASP.NET instance builds on .NET framework
- SharePoint instance consists of
  - Multiple MS SQL Server databases with a large number of tables, views, and stored procedures
  - ASPX files and XML configuration files in 12 hive shared by all instances
  - Internet Information Servicer web applications managed by SharePoint

Concepts: Provisioning (2)

- Creating instances of various templates

page template.aspx
- http://siteA/page1.aspx
- http://siteA/page2.aspx
- http://siteA/pageN.aspx

site template.xml
- http://siteA/siteA1
- http://siteA/siteA2
- http://siteA/siteN

list definition.xml
- http://siteA/siteA1/list1
- http://siteA/list2
- http://siteA/listN

- Hard part is evolving instances over time

Concepts: Provisioning (3)

- SharePoint reads templates from file system
- When an instance is modified, SharePoint marks it as such and reads it from its content database
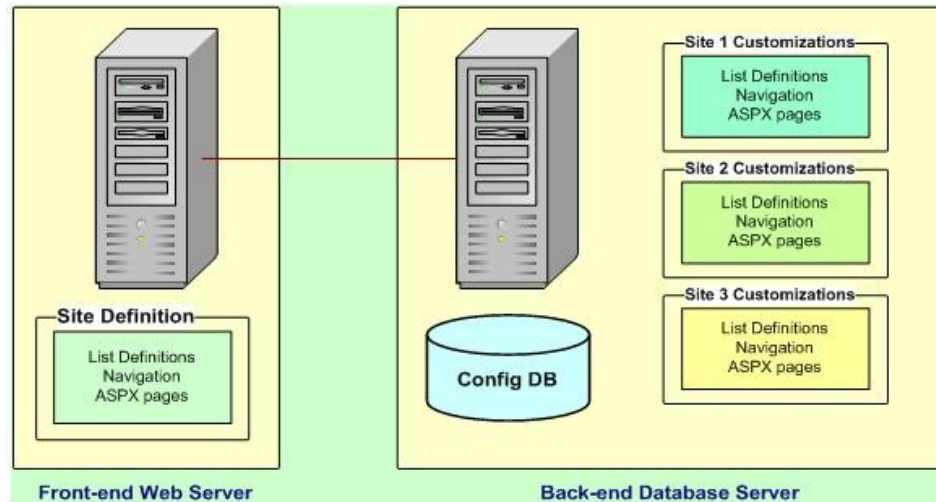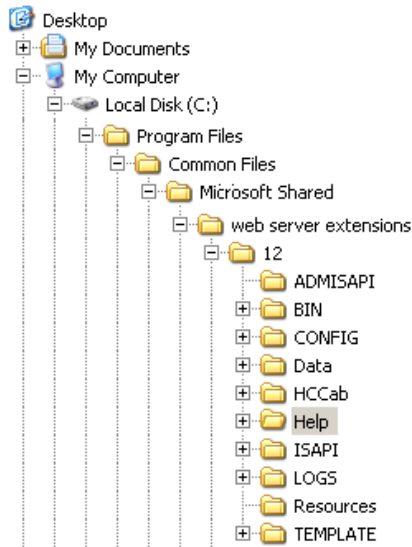
Concepts: Features

- Logical grouping of functionality
    - Page, web parts, DLLs of custom code, etc.
- When a feature gets activated on a site its "contents" becomes available to the site
- Upon feature activation and deactivation, C# code may execute
- Features promotes modularity and reusability across SharePoint applications

Concepts: Deployment

- Files added to 12 hive are deployed through WSP packages

- A WSP package is a Zip file with an manifest that enables SharePoint to track its contents

- A WSP package provides for modularity and reusability of features across applications
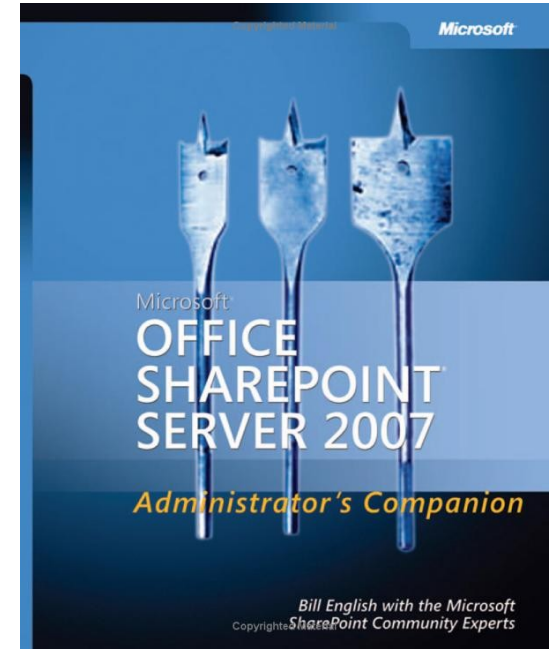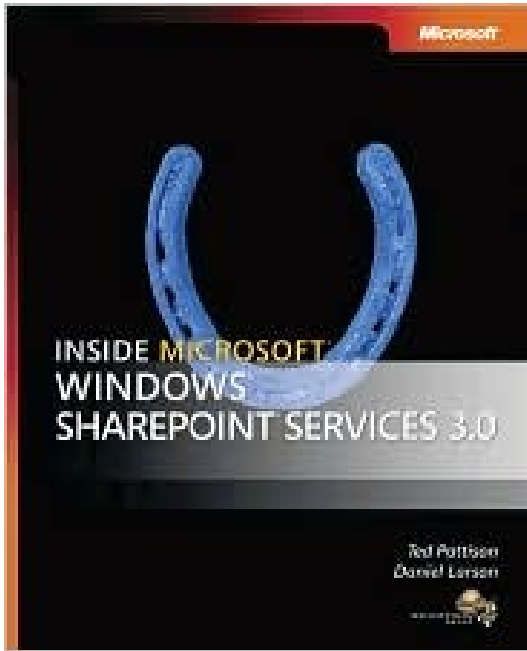
SharePoint developer experience

- Compared to ASP.NET, SharePoint development may appear primitive
- No F5 debugging experience
- GAC over bin for ease of deployment
- XML tweaking is often required
- No direct access to MS SQL server database
- Error messages/documentation often cryptic
- Leverages knowledge of ASP.NET
- Leverages SharePoint framework and services

The SharePoint learning experience
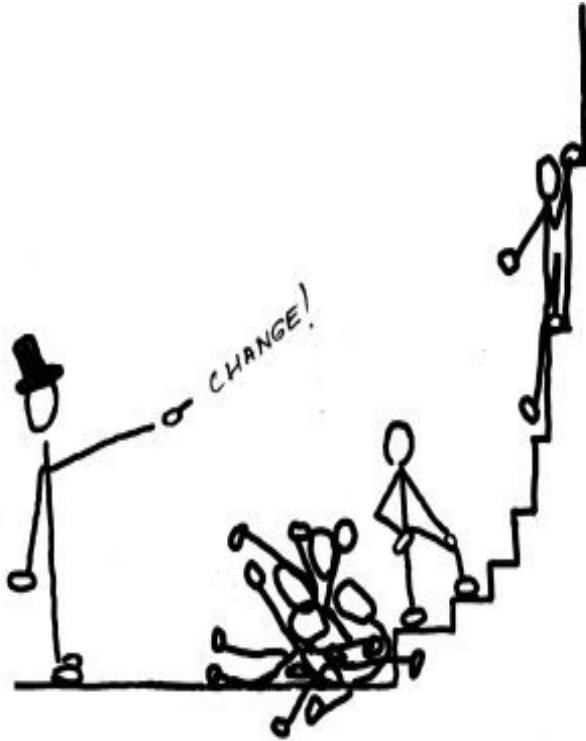
- Learning stages
  - Deniel
  - Anger
  - Depression
  - Acceptance
- Becoming proficient with SharePoint takes 1-2 years

The SharePoint Bibles

Questions?