

# CKS NEWS



*A periodic update on the progress and happenings of the CKS project*

## Welcome!

By David Mann

Welcome to the first issue of the **CKS News**. The goal of this newsletter is really three-fold:

- to publish news about CKS and its various projects
- to help foster communication and a sense of community amongst all CKS team members
- to recognize the work put into the project by project teams and individuals

Why a newsletter, you ask? Good question. *Newsletters are so old-school...*but it is precisely this formal nature that helps to meet our needs. A newsletter is more "official" than a series of emails or blog postings. It carries more weight and attracts much more attention, and that is part of the reason we're using the format. Newsletters also have a publication date and an Issue Number that can be referenced and used to maintain a history of the project.

## Project Spotlight: Workbook

By Eric Charran and Brendon Schwartz  
Project Manager: Brendon Schwartz

Tech Lead: Bryan Phillips

Team Members:

Edin Kapic  
Eric Charran  
Gary Bushey  
David Mann

Details:

"Workbook" is a social networking community concept built on the properties of recreational social networking. In this model, the self-sustaining community aspects of popular social networking sites are engineered into a enterprise-ready community eco-system. This

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In this inaugural issue, we will introduce some of the work that has been going on behind the scenes to reinvigorate the CKS project and introduce our first **new** project. We'll kick off a feature to introduce a CKS team member and also provide some updates on CKS usage and other information. Thanks for your commitment to the project. If there is any information you would like to see in future issues, please feel free to ping us at [steering@communitykitforsharepoint.org](mailto:steering@communitykitforsharepoint.org).



community software, built on Office SharePoint Server 2007 is designed to involve community members in a knowledge sharing and update-driven, notification environment where users create and extend relationships mined from existing Office SharePoint Server 2007 user profiles. The extension of elements like site membership, colleagues and event/activity-based feeds and notifications represent an immediate ability for teams and organizations to create an instance-based community. Within these communities, relationships can give rise to social discovery and synergy in the workplace. The following sections contain information regarding the features that the "Workbook" concept will address through various phases of its implementation.

Please see *Project Spotlight* on page 3

## Team Member Spotlight: Brendon Schwartz

**Name:** Brendon Schwartz

**Current CKS Role:** Project Manager - Workbook

**Joined CKS:** 2007

**Bio:** Brendon Schwartz is a Collaboration Architect in Atlanta specializing in SharePoint, Collaboration and Social Computing applications. Brendon is a Microsoft Office SharePoint Server MVP, author of multiple SharePoint books, and cofounder of the Atlanta .NET Regular Guys hosted at DevCow ([www.devcow.com](http://www.devcow.com)). Brendon has worked in the Atlanta area User Group scene and has been a regular presenter at user groups and conferences. He has helped companies such as the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Manheim, AutoTrader.com, and Coca-Cola Enterprise build successful applications. Currently a Microsoft MVP for SharePoint, he has also been a Microsoft MVP for ASP.NET and past Vice President of Technology for INETA.



Working for Telligent, Brendon spends time on collaborative applications and social computing with Microsoft technologies.



## CKS News

By David Mann

The Community Kit for SharePoint is growing. What started as an administrative template built largely by one person and guided by one other person quickly grew into a worldwide effort encompassing multiple projects, multiple languages and many SharePoint enthusiasts.

2009 brings another significant change to the CKS project - we're branching out yet again and taking on a larger role in the SharePoint community. To support this effort we've introduced our own website outside of Codeplex ([www.communitykitforsharepoint.org](http://www.communitykitforsharepoint.org)). This website will help us realize our goal of being a

prime driver of standards and best practices throughout the SharePoint community. In addition, the site will fill multiple roles:

- Server as the overall *home* for CKS
- Provide a location for each project to store documentation, provide collateral, and host a demo site
- Provide marketing and technical documentation and collateral for CKS as a whole

Stay tuned for a lot more, or just visit our new site to get an idea of what we have planned. If you want to get more involved, please contact us:

[steering@communitykitforsharepoint.org](mailto:steering@communitykitforsharepoint.org)

*The Enhanced Blog Edition has been downloaded over 65,000 times.*



*Project Spotlight* from page 1

## Features and Scope

The following are core features or pillars of the community platform. These features provide the ability for the system to function as an enterprise social networking platform and ensures that the system remains consistent with the vision of bringing existing social networking capabilities to the enterprise for shared benefit.

### Activity Log/Feed

The platform will be able to track and list security trimmed views of activities that users engage in. This activity feed will be displayed in a prominent place and serve to pull readers in to the activities of their associates in the community. The activity feed will catalog and log site-wide activities by all users and trim the display to each individual user by their listed associates, groups, communities, and memberships.

### Associates

Platform community members will be able to formally "associate" themselves together with each other through a formal request and acceptance procedure facilitated by the platform.

Once accepted, related users will be able to see the association and it will be visible in the community's activity log.

### Communities

Community members will be able to create, join and be invited to participate in communities. These communities are equivalent to groups that have members with specific roles, skills and capabilities. The community can be tied to current and historical activities and work efforts that existed within the organization.

Communities will enable users to investigate the background and track record of their associates in terms of experiences, roles and skills that were used as part of a community. The community in and of itself will have key metadata that describes the work effort, date and scope of the effort and the participants.

Users will be able to easily browse an associates community history and get an understanding of the types of work they have been doing, apply to join the same community and managers and team building groups can get a history and understanding of an associates capabilities and track record as part of a community.

Communities can have events, discussion threads/forums, photos and other interaction-based features that exist outside of the community execution.

### Skills and Roles

As part of establishing a profile in the system, users are encouraged and prompted by the system to fill out and maintain a list of skills, roles and capabilities. Associates and community members can see these components of the user's profile on the platform. This will allow associates and potential team members or work parties to identify candidates for work efforts or future communities, solicit involvement from desired community members, and establish a community.

### Comment System

The platform will allow users to be able to comment on most interactions and activities and have those comments entered and displayed on the appropriate topic of conversation.

The comment system will increase the visibility and level of social interaction. In addition, users will be able to see comments on their activities in a consolidated view and be able to receive notifications outside the system when comments are posted.

## Notifications

The platform will support user-configurable notifications that allow for users to be notified when any event happens within the community. This will lend itself to the community's self-sustaining model as it pulls users back into the community to see changes or updates that they were recently notified of or subscribe to.

## Office SharePoint Server Integration

The platform will be based on Microsoft Office SharePoint Server and leverage existing SharePoint social networking features, but do not require them. This includes the ability to build on the user's existing user profile data as well as colleagues that can be imported or synchronized between the platform's list of associates.