

CLIENT

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)

OVERVIEW

NINDS required a comprehensive solution for secure collaboration with teams both inside and outside of the organization. The existing method for collaboration- email chains, static web pages, and sporadic meetings - was not meeting the complex requirements of the Institute. LCG Systems was engaged to identify and implement an infrastructure to fill NINDS's tactical collaboration and strategic application development goals.

To complete the project, a cross-functional team was assembled with expertise in business analysis, website design, SharePoint engineering, and SharePoint software development.

CHALLENGE

LCG needed to provide best-in-class functionality while integrating closely with NINDS' existing Microsoft systems infrastructure to:

- Collaborate efficiently and securely with internal National Institutes of Health (NIH) teams
- Collaborate with scientists from external academic and governmental research organizations
- Build a standardize application development platform

SOLUTION

After a thorough R&D effort, LCG identified the need to upgrade the existing SharePoint Portal Server 2003 to Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007. Utilizing these new capabilities, an Institute-wide site hierarchy and security structure was designed. This was supported by a high-availability system architecture that complied with the NINDS's 99.5% uptime Service Level Agreement. External collaboration sites were created independently, providing a secure collaboration environment for each team to create, discuss, and publish research papers. An integrated user adoption and training plan increased acceptance of the system by the scientists and staff while decreasing the standard learning curve.

RESULT

- A secure SharePoint infrastructure for effective collaboration at the NIH and with external organizations around the world
- Custom SharePoint design resulting in enhanced internal site navigation and improved ease of use
- Large time savings across NINDS teams
- Standardized application development infrastructure to increase productivity of new development

BUSINESS VALUE

LCG implemented a secure infrastructure that enabled efficient internal and external collaboration.



■ NINDS MOSS Interface Design

"One of our toughest issues has been adapting new technologies to existing business processes. By using SharePoint's document management and workflow features instead of email, staff now have a collaboration environment that adapts to diverse needs. SharePoint allows NINDS to share knowledge and work efficiently with other organizations. LCG Systems has been a key partner in developing a SharePoint environment that meets all of NINDS's collaboration needs."

Sue Titman
Network Management Section Chief,
NINDS