PROPOSAL FOR N2 CMS WEBSITE

Benjamin Herila
Elix Technologies

1.   Introduction

N2 CMS has gathered a small but vibrant community around its Open Source CMS offering. Elix would like to give back to this community by:

- designing, building, and hosting the N2 CMS website, and
- assisting with creating user-friendly documentation

2.   Approach

Instead of the top-down approach we take on with most of our projects, we believe an **open, community-driven model** will drive the site forward. We are agile and receptive to feedback from the community forums, and we will take feedback under consideration (at Cristian's approval) every step of the way.

At the same time, we understand the need to take N2 to the next level. With that in mind, we will build in a few **commercialization options** available that will benefit N2's investors, including the dedicated N2 community that makes N2 what it is today. Don't worry: N2 will still be open source. Our plan for monetization involves mostly extended services, such as premium support, consulting, and hosting services.

We believe that a strong **attention to design** will both attract new users and make existing users feel at home.

3.   Site Tree

The site will be built using N2 CMS directly using the content models included in the WebForms or Dinamico frameworks (we'll let the community decide which one we use).

- Home
- Get N2
    - [root]
    - Quick Start Guide
    - Downloads
    - Hosting Options [with link to enterprise hosting options]
- Help Center
    - [root]
    - [link to premium support]

- - o [link to community forums]
    - o N2 Documentation root
- N2 Enterprise
    - o [root]
    - o Premium Support
    - o Hosting Options
    - o Enterprise Modules
- Community
    - o [root]
    - o Community Forums
    - o N2 Module Gallery
    - o [additional content to be determined]
- About N2
    - o [root]
    - o What is N2?
    - o Meet the Team

4.   Documentation Effort

We will assist with providing documentation in English for the basics of the N2 WebForms and Mvc frameworks. Our documentation push includes the creation of expressive and easy to read diagrams and tables to make it as easy as possible for newcomers to learn the ropes. We will also attempt to discover "jewels" that will be valuable to seasoned developers as well.

The documentation push will use a Git-centric approach. We can write a custom importer to convert the files in Git to N2 content items. Or, Cristian has volunteered offline to write a filesystem provider to expose the files in Git to N2 directly, without the need to import.

5.   Commercial Hosting

We run a premier hosting platform used by medium and large businesses, as well as a few personal websites. Our super-fast platform is particularly conducive to working with N2 in the browser, and is highly resilient to attacks. Clients won't need to worry about running into app pool limits, trust, or compatibility issues, and a large portion of all hosting revenue (open to discussions about this) will be given back to N2 to promote future development on the project.

6.   Commercial Modules

A collection of commercial modules will enhance the functionality of N2. Currently we have two commercial modules planned:

- **N2 Cloud Backup**, which provides real-time backup of content items and assets
- **N2 Replication**, which replicates content items and assets across multiple N2 deployments

We currently have versions of these modules in use in our existing, proprietary CMS, *Elix CMS*, which we are looking to replace with N2. Therefore, the architecture design has already been completed and we merely need to complete a port. We'll be doing this eventually anyway; this opportunity offers the N2 community a revenue share similar to the hosting offers.

7.   Commercial Support

We use a ticket-based support software that we can easily offer for N2's use. It supports ticket creation and management both through a web interface and via e-mail. By using our existing solution, we eliminate the need to build or license something else.

8.   Time to Market

We have the ability to turn around content very quickly while still maintaining the highest quality of design and software engineering standards. This competitive trait should stand out because time to market is one of the biggest challenges that new ventures such as N2 face today.

9.   Conclusion

We believe that N2 CMS has a bright future. With our help and the community's support, we can make it clear that professionals back the product, and take N2 to the next level. Thank you all for your consideration and time in advance. I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully working with you.

Ben Herila
Elix Technologies
http://www.elixtech.com