

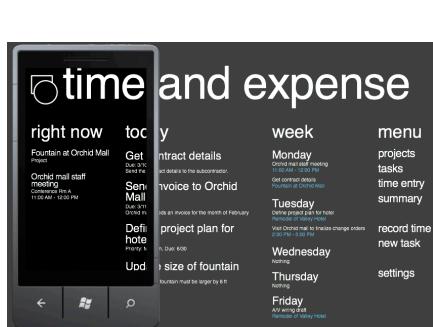
Project Time and Expense

Project

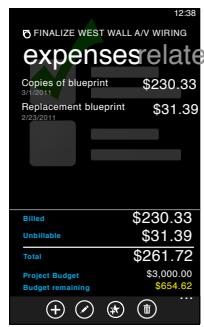
Design challenge to design an application for the Windows Phone 7 platform to allow people to log project time and expenses.

Detailed Description

As an exploration into designing for the Windows Phone 7 platform, I challenged myself to design a phone application with the project team member in mind. The core scenarios that I examined were around staying on top of deliverables, convenient time and expense entry, and utilization metrics.



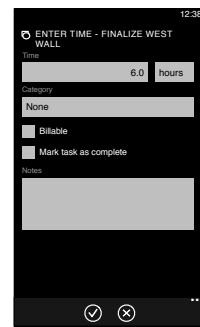
Start page



Expense summary



Utilization summary



Time entry

Oasis Plantscapes Web Site

Project

Design a site for a small business specializing in landscape design and construction. The site is available at <http://oasisplantscapes.com>.

Detailed Description

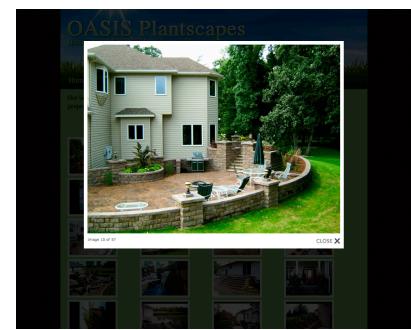
The owner of Oasis Plantscapes wanted a nicer presence on the web than he was able to do on his own. After a discussion with him, I created several options as composites for the owner to review. The composites used Oasis Plantscapes original color schemes. The basic information to organize was information about the work that Oasis performs, information the company, and a portfolio of their work.



Home page



Services



Portfolio lightbox

MINI Car Club Site

Project

Design and create a site to inform and disseminate information to members of a car club in Fargo devoted to MINI Coopers. The site is now defunct.

Detailed Description

As part of my involvement in creating a local car club for enthusiasts of MINI Coopers, I create a site for the club. The first action was to create a logo. The logo was based on the MINI logo with a custom interior. Many different alternatives were created and the one chosen reflects the name of the club, MINI (both the car and the state of Minnesota) and kota (from Dakota). The center of the logo is representative of the Red River, which is the border between the two states.

The design of the site included uses design elements of MINI Cooper and the site's colors are inspired by the palette of colors available for MINI Cooper automobiles and a dark industrial theme.

The goals of the design:

- Create a community oriented site with member contributed content
- Create an visual identity for the club to be used on a web site and on business cards
- Easy to maintain site with simple scripting and simple database constructs.
- Standards based site that renders in any browser



Home Page



Drives



Business Card

Web Based HRM Module

Project

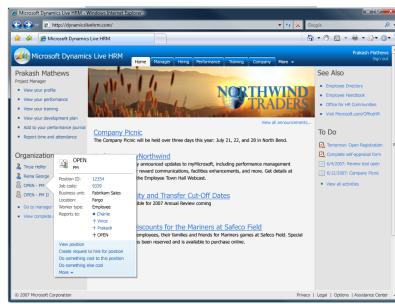
Design a next generation portal for employees, managers and HR professionals to manage human resource data in a company.

Detailed Description

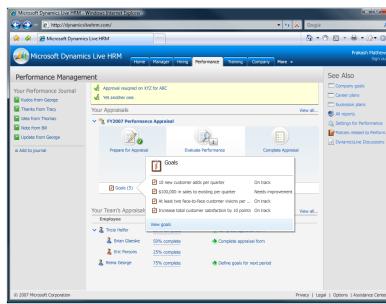
This product was going to be a brand new HRM module that integrated into the Microsoft Dynamics ERP application to provide web based HRM data to employees of a company. The design project was set to deliver designs, guidelines and research. As a result of this project an interaction pattern library and library was created and advocated, research and learning on user behaviors was developed and many new innovations were created.

The goals for the project included:

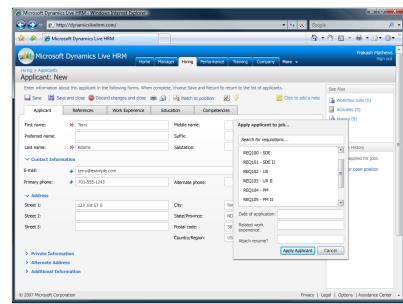
- Develop guidelines for use in web based applications
- Deliver a compelling design for an HRM application
- Create a best of breed experience for users of the application



Home Page



Activity Center



Applicant Form

Challenges

This project was a challenge due to the fact that we were developing on a platform that did not provide the user experience that we wanted nor was the default experience of this platform usable. In due time, not only was the platform a challenge from a user experience perspective, but also proved to be too challenging to develop the business logic of an HRM application, and thus the project was cancelled.

Microsoft Dynamics Shell

Project

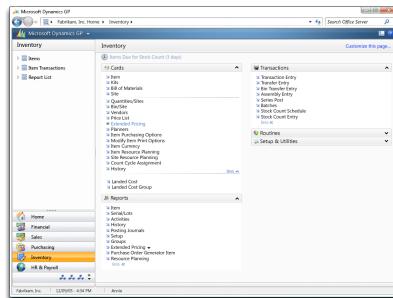
Update the primary user interface shell of Microsoft Dynamics GP (formerly Microsoft Great Plains) to incorporate new design concepts, and updated aesthetics.

Detailed Description

Dynamics GP was well served by a traditional MDI (multiple document interface) shell for many years. In the recent years, this paradigm had trouble scaling to new design concepts such as integrated home pages, command lists and a notification system.

The goals for the project included:

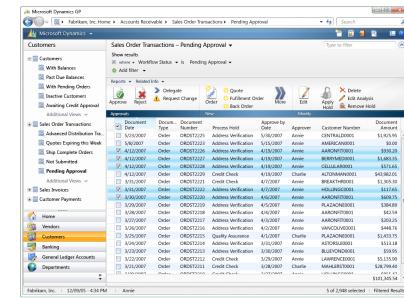
- improving the aesthetics of the shell, cleaning up the clutter of 10 years of haphazard interface additions
- improving navigational efficiency by introducing specialized navigation pages
- incorporating home pages and navigation data lists into the shell



Navigation Page



Home Page



Navigation Lists

Challenges

The design was very challenging due to a variety of constraints: the navigation had to allow the documentation team to search and replace new navigation paths for old, the existing user base had to be comfortable with the changes, and much of the existing technology had to remain the same.

After usability testing with the existing user base proved that these changes would be welcome, we proceeded with the implementation of the majority of the design, accommodating additional implementation constraints as development advanced. Microsoft Dynamics GP 10 and Microsoft Dynamics NAV 4.1 will ship with this design in 2007-08.

Microsoft Dynamics Lists

Project

Create new discoverable methods of working with the ERP data through incorporation of an exposed command structure and an advanced query builder.

Detailed Description

This design project, executed in parallel with the Microsoft Dynamics Shell project, aimed to combine the functionality of previous navigation lists, with much of the functionality of the Dynamics “SmartList” feature. The design incorporated lists and saved views of lists into the navigation shell and navigation pane. For each list, a data specific action pane was designed. Finally, an advanced filter control was designed, specified and implemented as a shared control.

The filter control was specified as a control that can be shared across multiple product lines and used in additional scenarios such as a general purpose expression builder.

The figure consists of three side-by-side screenshots of the Microsoft Dynamics Lists interface:

- List:** Shows a list of "Sales Order Transactions - Pending Approval" with columns for Document Date, Document Type, Document Number, and Price. A toolbar at the top includes "Approve", "Reject", "Request Change", and "Order".
- Commands:** Shows a toolbar with icons for Approve (green checkmark), Reject (red X), Request Change (yellow exclamation), and Order (blue star).
- Filter:** Shows a "Sales Order Transactions – Pending Approval" screen with a "Show results" section and a "Where" clause. It also displays a "Reports" and "Related Info" toolbar.

List

Commands

Filter

Challenges

The primary challenge in this project was reaching consensus on the specifics of the features and of the design during the process of creating detailed specifications for the navigations lists and the controls featured on the lists.

Dynamics GP 10 and Dynamics NAV 4.1 shipped with this design in 2008.

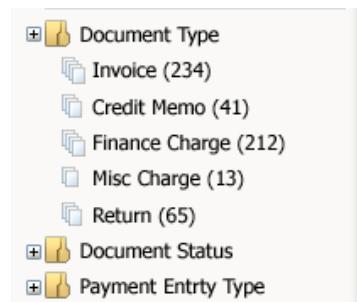
Facet Based Filtering

Project

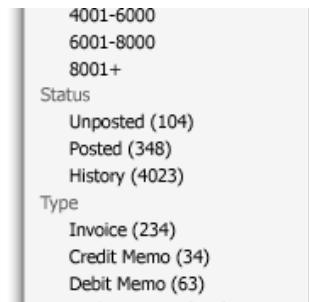
Gain insight about filtering mechanisms that are more approachable to users than typical expression oriented interfaces.

Detailed Description

This was a small project wherein software from www.facetmap.com was modified to implement a faceted data filtering mechanism for a supplier database. The facets were constructed by hand to support various filtering scenarios. The prototype was tested with several people who perform the job duties of a purchasing manager.



Exploration #1



Exploration #2

Key Learning

The results of the research indicated that users of business applications indeed can make use of faceted filtering for narrowing data into manageable chunks. In fact, the participants of the usability study indicated a very strong attachment to the ease of use presented in the prototype.

Activity Center

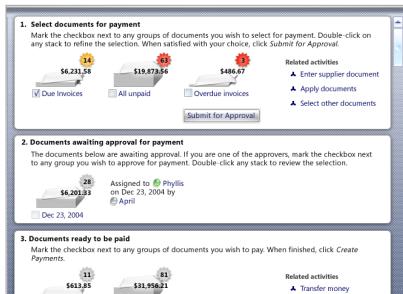
Project

Conceptualize and outline the vision for an adaptable user interface that assists users in completing orchestrated processes by exposing parts of the process as steps in an activity.

Detailed Description

As part of a project to realize role based user experiences for an accounts payable clerk, a user interface paradigm was invented called an *activity center*. Activity centers are the key user interface element of an adaptive process based system where the activity center is the representation of a process. The original activity center design was oriented towards processing stacks of documents or transactions. Other activity centers envisioned have more targeted design, such as checklists for tracking the completion of tasks in a performance review, or paying vendors.

This user interface element is being patented by Microsoft as USPO#20060200767.



Overview



Stacks

Key Learning

This design is continuing to evolve as we learn more about the pattern and peoples usage of the pattern. This pattern is also being adapted to work within web applications.

Advanced Security

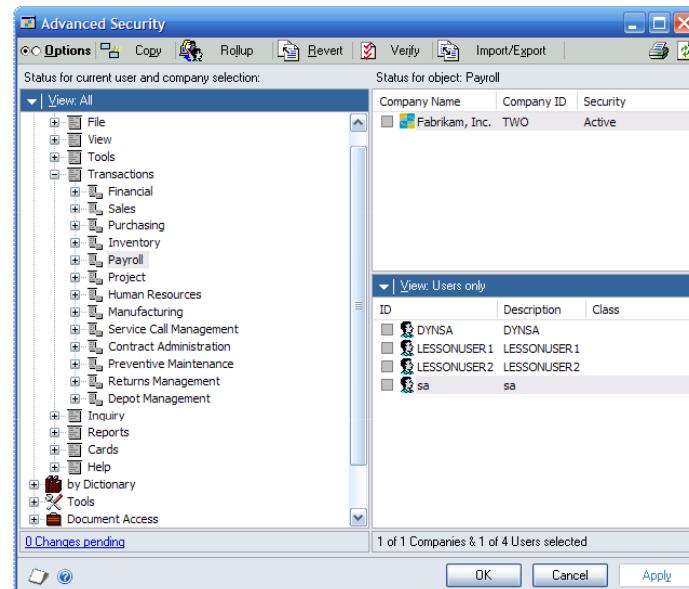
Project

Improve the ability for users of Dynamics to set up security within the system using the same information architecture as that used within the product.

Detailed Description

In the years of working with Dynamics, I had first hand knowledge of the problems with the usability of the security windows. The net result of these usability problems, meant that customers implemented a less secure ERP system. While not a formal project, I spent time with an ISV developer designing this interface and brainstorming the concepts.

This product was shipped around 2000 as an ISV product for Dynamics and later shipped as part of the Dynamics core product.



Dynamics Explorer

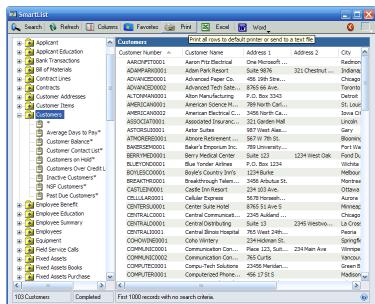
Project

Getting data out of Great Plains Dynamics was a key problem for users, Dynamics Explorer was the solution. Using concepts from filesystem explorers, a user centric data explorer for Great Plains Dynamics (now Microsoft Dynamics GP) was designed.

Detailed Description

Up until this product, people were forced to either use the built-in report writer or SQL tools to retrieve data from Dynamics. The goals for the project included:

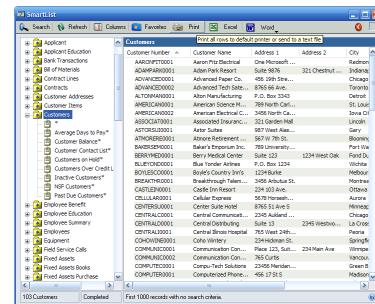
- Create an easy to use data explorer
- An easy to understand data model that was appropriately de-normalized to match the user's mental model
- Enable users to query and filter their data in ways that they never knew possible
- Bring easy to use query functionality to users less skilled in formal query tools and report writers



Data



Query Builder



Navigation and Commands

Challenges

The primary challenge of this project was simply getting the technology of 1996 to perform well against embedded database technologies¹. This was also one of the first project in which we worked with a remote development staff.

This product was shipped in Dynamics in 1998.

¹ Dynamics made use of C-tree and Btree database technologies until about 1998 when Microsoft SQL server became the primary storage of Dynamics data.
Brian Glaeske

Dynamics Utilities

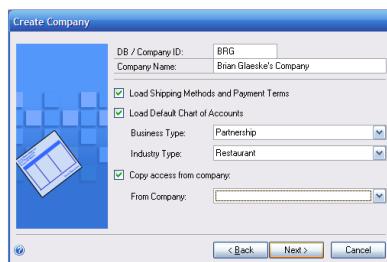
Project

Update Dynamics Utilities to a wizard oriented application that made the process of completing the installation and deployment of updates to Dynamics more streamlined and efficient.

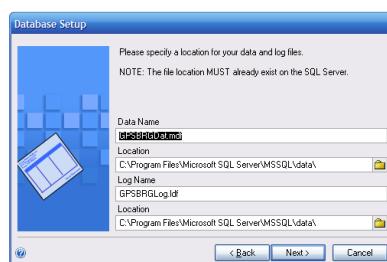
Detailed Description

In the first versions of Great Plains Dynamics, functionality that could not be performed within the application was relegated to a utility application called Dynamics Utilities, with functionality organized into 5 menus.

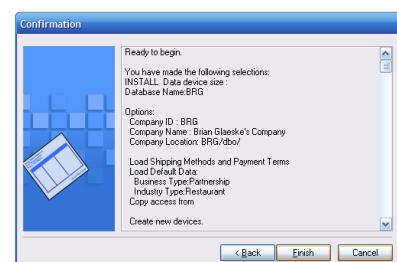
The new design featured use of a wizard that only presented functionality when it needed to be performed.



Company Creation



Database Creation



Confirmation Page

Challenges

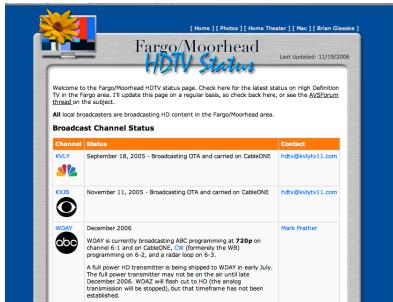
Many of the project leaders did not believe in the need for this re-worked “utility” that people only used to set up the initial configuration of Dynamics. During the project, and especially when the schedule slipped, it became increasingly difficult to keep the focus of management on the customer and user benefit.

This re-designed utility shipped with Dynamics in 1996.

Miscellaneous Designs

Personal and Family Web Site

Using a combination of hand coded XHTML/CSS and Apple iWeb templates, I have crafted a family web site containing photos, blogs and favorite links. I have taken pride to insure that my hand coded XHTML/CSS is compliant with the XHTML/CSS standards. The site is at <http://brian.glaeske.name/>



FM HDTV Status



Home Theater Links



Mac Links

Logos

A fun side project for the family web site was the creation of some family logos. In the process of creating these logos, I learned more about Adobe Illustrator. My logo for myself, was an attempt to create a graphical signature for use on the site that both conveyed my name and provides a spam-proof e-mail address.

brian
@glaeske.name

brian janice annastasia
glaeske

iTunes Album Visualization

I designed an alternative to the iTunes music list. This visualization emphasizes the album art rather than a list of songs. One unique aspect of this design provides the songs of each album when the user flips the virtual jewel case, just like you would in real life.

