

1.2 Development options with IBM Content Navigator

IBM Content Navigator provides several options to customize or develop the user experience for your application. Each option requires a different development skill set, amount of effort, and time to achieve the goal. Therefore, it is important to understand what each option was designed for and how each option might best fit within your project and application requirements.

The options are as follows:

- ▶ Configuring IBM Content Navigator
- ▶ Implementing the EDS interface
- ▶ Implementing a plug-in
- ▶ Developing or integrating a custom application
- ▶ Delivering mobile access

The following sections describe each option, the skills required to develop or implement these options, and the links that can help you learn more about these topics. In 1.2.6, “Common use cases and their development options summary” on page 14, we provide a list of common use cases and summarize where you want to look for customization and extension.

1.2.1 Configuring IBM Content Navigator

The easiest way to change the appearance of the IBM Content Navigator desktop is through configuration. In most cases, this is often the most common option used to comply with corporate naming and visual standards of an organization. IBM Content Navigator contains an Administration Desktop that you can use to configure several visual aspects of the desktop:

- ▶ Specify the name of the desktop.
- ▶ Add a company logo to both the login page and the banner of the desktop.
- ▶ Alter the colors used in the desktop banner.

In addition, on the global level (for all desktops) you can configure the following visual aspects:

- ▶ Change icons for specific MIME types.
- ▶ Alter the labels used in the desktop.

Configuration options in IBM Content Navigator can also cover some security and business requirements of the overall solution. Desktop configuration can cover the following requirements:

- ▶ Add useful notes to the login page such as “forgot password” information.
- ▶ Add or remove features from the desktop.
- ▶ Alter the menu items on both toolbar and context menus.
- ▶ Specify the displayed properties for which you can configure:
 - System properties that will be displayed to the user.
 - Properties that will be displayed for documents and folders in the content list when users are browsing.
 - Properties available in search operations, together with available operators for specific data type.

Required skills

The configuration tasks within IBM Content Navigator can all be performed as administrative tasks through the Administration Desktop and do not require development or coding to complete. For more information about configuring IBM Content Navigator desktop, see Chapter 2, “Customizing desktop appearance” on page 61.

Helpful links

See information about defining desktops in the IBM Knowledge Center to learn more about configuring Content Navigator:

<http://pic.dhe.ibm.com/infocenter/cmgt/v8r4m0/index.jsp?topic=%2Fcom.ibm.installingeuc.doc%2Fcucco023.htm>

1.2.2 Implementing the EDS interface

The underlying repository of your solution has specific options for how properties are defined in your document model and system taxonomy. At a minimum, it allows you to specify the data type. The system may also allow you to specify data validations such as required status or read-only status. However, you cannot change them during run time, which is a common requirement in complex solutions including workflows and various document and folder states. Another common requirement is the ability to predefine values that a property can hold. As is, you may only be able to define a static choice list within the repository without any relation or connection to an external system. EDS interface was introduced to address these issues in a light-weight manner, without the need for you to understand Java or implement an IBM Content Navigator plug-in.