

SharePoint 2010 Is Poised for Broader Enterprise Adoption

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Microsoft has released details on SharePoint 2010. As an evolution built on the foundation of the first three versions, Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010 will likely see greater use in broad enterprise deployments.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Event

On 19 October 2009, at the Microsoft SharePoint Conference 2009 in Las Vegas, Microsoft released details on the next iteration of the SharePoint platform, which it expects to be available during 2Q10.

Analysis

Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010 (MSS 2010) is likely to continue SharePoint's growth as a workplace environment. While some SharePoint customers are very large enterprises, user feedback to Gartner indicates that many of the deployments occur within midsize enterprises and large departments. Gartner believes the new version of MSS 2010 will succeed in addressing more large-enterprise use cases, as Microsoft has enhanced areas that are critical to enterprise scale and support for robust Web application efforts. Adoption may be hindered somewhat by current economic conditions, in which many CIOs are watching their budgets carefully. Also, MSS 2010 requires 64 bit versions of SQL and Windows Server. Some high-end needs still remain unmet by MSS 2010, but major enhancements include:

- More client capabilities: Choices now include Office, cross-browser, mobile and offline modes using the Groove technology (now called "SharePoint Workspace").
- Better reporting: Microsoft has strengthened its monitoring of the SharePoint Farm to more rapidly identify potential issues.
- Enhanced workflow: Integration with Visio and SharePoint Designer is in place.
- Stronger developer tools: These include Visual Studio 2010 integration and templates for SharePoint, Silverlight integration, a developer dashboard and debugging tools.
- Richer data connectivity: The Business Data Catalog is now called "Business Connectivity Services" and offers read/write capabilities.
- Social software improvements: These include tags, social bookmarks, ratings, rich profiles, and new social feedback mechanisms for navigation, discovery and filtering, as well as new Web-based collaborative authoring tools. Nevertheless, Gartner believes some users will still look to best-of-breed tools for extended social software needs.
- Taxonomy and metadata: Enhancements here include added flexibility for content types and the ability to define taxonomies at the enterprise level.
- Document library size: The limits have been increased to handle millions of objects in a library.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enterprises with specific immediate requirements aligned to these enhancements:

- Plan to deploy MSS 2010 during 2H10.

Mainstream enterprises:

- Stay on Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 through mid-2011, when the first service pack should be available for MSS 2010.
- If you are seeking synchronization between server farms, integration with other leading content management systems, and flexible storage options other than SQL, evaluate third-party tools as supplements.

RECOMMENDED READING

- "Eight Things Microsoft Should Improve in the Next Release of SharePoint"— In February 2009, Gartner made recommendations for improving the next release of SharePoint based on data captured from thousands of Gartner client inquiries. **By Mark Gilbert**
- "Five Best Practices for Deploying SharePoint Alongside ECM Suites"— Planners and architects should take a proactive stance regarding the growing demand for SharePoint by developing a strategy and planning regimen for deployment that maps the business requirements to technologies and platform capabilities. **By Karen Shegda and Mark Gilbert**

(You may need to sign in or be a Gartner client to access the documents referenced in this First Take.)

This research is part of a set of related research pieces. See "Roundup of Business Intelligence and Information Management Research, 4Q09" for an overview.

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