

Image web repository

The Client

Customer is a world leader in high technology, is a diversified manufacturer and marketer of advanced electronic and electrical products, spanning information & communications equipment and systems, Internet-based solutions and services, electronic components and materials, power systems, industrial and social infrastructure systems, and household appliances.

The Challenge

The project was to develop a web-based image archival and retrieval system. In this organization, engineers dealt with a large number of images, which they typically stored in their own desktop PC. These image files had to be shared with other teams, often located in different geographical locations, through e-mails. The requirement was to provide a central repository for these images, which will be used by all engineers. Furthermore, each image had multiple keywords tagged with them, and it was necessary to provide a robust retrieval mechanism by which images can be searched and accessed by specifying one or more keywords.

The Solution

The solution proposed by our team involved developing an Internet compliant client-server based system, for storage and retrieval of images. The application allows the users to upload image files with associated keywords from their own PC to a central web server. The user could also retrieve images from the server through sophisticated search criteria by matching one or more keywords with or without wildcard character or upload date. The image files were stored in a file server whereas the keywords and path information of the uploaded images were stored in an ODBC compliant database. The keyword types as well as allowed values for each keyword were completely customizable by the administrator. While viewing a retrieved image, the user also had the provision of zoom in / out. The system was completely internationalized and the entire user interface was in Japanese. Being an Internet based application, the front-end was naturally browser based. The customer stored over 50,000 images using the application, which was regularly searched and retrieved by around 300 registered users.

The Benefits

- Enhanced business process
- Central storage for images accessible to all registered users. No need to exchange images over e-mail.
- Retrieving appropriate image by specifying keywords saved the users time and effort

The Technology