

AuCMS Developer Support & Customisation Options

Customisation Options

AuCMS may be extensively customised to comply with internal and external organisation policies (such as published content approval processes). The functionality of the CMS can also be extended to incorporate non-standard features and to enable integration with external systems.

CMS System Branding

The CMS user interface may be customised with corporate branding and colour schemes to conform to internal application look and feel policies.

Custom Content Types

AuCMS manages units of content, known as content items. An item of content may be a web page, an image, a flash movie or a custom content type. Content types may be defined to provide support for types of content that require specialised editing interfaces and data.

Custom content types may also be used to encapsulate sets of information that are used as part of an intranet or web site application. E.g. a “book” content type may contain information about the subject, author and a picture of the cover.

Workflow

AuCMS ships with a simple workflow implementation to manage the process of authoring, approving and publishing content amongst other things. AuCMS’ workflow may be extended or reimplemented to facilitate multiple levels of editing, approval or sign off within an organisation.

For example, many organisations require legal approval for publication of information externally. The AuCMS workflow model may be customised to require an additional level of approval that is restricted to users who are in the legal department.

Wizards

Custom wizards may be integrated into AuCMS and offered to users on a role by role basis to provide guided access to commonly performed tasks within the CMS.

For example, a custom wizard could be used to author a news item for publication on the web site. The wizard would take the author through the step by step process of creating the story (adding the title, image, publication date, removal date etc.) without having to use any other part of the CMS.

Live Site Reporting

The CMS application framework may be customised to provide access to information gathered through the published intranet or web site environment.

E.g. the web site requires users to sign up before gaining access to certain areas of the site. AuCMS may be customised to allow the user's details to be viewed and customised. Another example would be to present a custom view of entries to an interactive item of content (such as a vote).

3rd Party System Integration

AuCMS may be extended to integrate with 3rd party systems. These integrations may be performed on both the CMS and the published web site, as required.

E.g. web site user information needs to be synchronised with an external system for cross-media marketing purposes. The web site may be extended to exchange this information on a regular basis and AuCMS may be extended to report any exceptions during this process.

Applications

The AuCMS application framework may be used as a platform to deploy entire sub-applications.

E.g. an application could be built and deployed within AuCMS to manage web site enquiry tracking and intranet or web site document submission tracking and review for publishing.

Developer Support

The AuCMS framework enables organisations (or their outsourced partners) to manage the development and support of dynamic site functionality as well as managing the content. This enables complete management of a web or intranet site including roll out and maintenance of dynamic site components.

Template development API

Templates are used to layout and display items of content – they are effectively the presentation element of the site published from AuCMS. Templates are typically developed by web site developers and designers whereas content may be created and modified by anyone.

Template development API documentation is included with AuCMS. This documentation is provided to enable developers familiar with ASP.NET development to build templates for intranet and web sites managed within the CMS. The API provided allows web developers and designers to create visually rich and engaging sites to deliver the content entered through the CMS.

Preview environment

AuCMS allows users to preview the site for testing new content and functionality prior to approval for publishing to the UAT environment. This process helps make sure that new content or functionality sits well within the overall scope of the site before submitting their updates for approval.

UAT environment

The UAT environment provides a final preview of web site content and functionality changes that have been approved prior to deployment in the live environment.

This allows the user to see a copy of the site which will be published, regardless of other updates happening within the CMS at that point. Once reviewed the approved copy of the site can then be published to the live environment.

Infrastructure Support

AuCMS incorporates a comprehensive deployment system for deploying the published site from the CMS to the web server environment.

The AuCMS deployment service is installed on each web server. The CMS uses the AuCMS publishing engine to manage the delivery of content to each web server. Once a new version of the site is deployed the web servers are switched over to the new version of the site simultaneously ensuring a consistent update to the web site.

If for any reason the website must be rolled back to a previous version (for example if content was incorrectly approved and had to be withdrawn) AuCMS offers the facility to instantly switch the web servers back to a previous version.