



Case Study

Core Compass

A Joomla! and vBulletin Customization

Core Agenda wanted a solution that would allow them to offer a private online environment exclusively for business executives and professionals. As members, business users could use this as a platform to discuss with one another on business issues, solve problems and pursue new business opportunities. Based on these requirements Icreon designed and developed the solution by customizing the Joomla! and vBulletin open source packages.

Customer Profile

Core Agenda is a business consulting firm based in USA.

Business Requirements

Core Agenda Inc was looking to create an online platform wherein members could meet, communicate and collaborate with their peers. Access to the network was to be restricted, with the administrator having the authority to grant membership privileges to users. Once registered, members were to be provided with means to post articles pertaining to available categories. The ability for members to carry-out discussions on posted articles was required. A strong administration system was required allowing website administrators to review and moderate all content on the website.

A private web collaboration environment for business users

We have developed the solution using open source packages – Joomla CMS and vBulletin discussion forum.

The website contains articles and resources posted by members as well as the Core Compass team. Access to this information is available to members only. A stringent registration process has been implemented, allowing users to become members only after being whetted by administrators. Access to the website is subscription based; members can opt for a subscription package upon approval.

As members users have access to a library of articles categorized according to subjects and areas of interest. Members can also publish articles on the website. Each published article has a corresponding forum allowing members to discuss the article.

Each member is provided with access to individual personal areas wherein they can create and manage their profiles- both public as well as private. They are also provided with the means to view and track subscriptions, update contact information etc. Members are also provided with an internal messaging system that allows them to carry out private communication with other members.

The website comes equipped with a web based administration module that provides the Core Compass team with the ability to actively moderate and focus content and discussions so that its members enjoy the same kind of professional and high impact experience that they would find at a well run conference or executive program. Additionally, the administration module can be used to perform a variety of website management and maintenance activities. Administrators can view and process all membership requests, track revenue earned from subscriptions, create and manage content categories, generate website performance reports etc.

vBulletin has been closely integrated with Joomla allowing forums to be created for each article on the website. In addition to customizing the UI of both Joomla and vBulletin, we have built and integrated several components in order to extend the basic Joomla functionality. One of the major components that we have developed allows for the mapping of every article in Joomla to a forum in vBulletin. Some of the Joomla components that have used include Community Builder, Joomla Tags, Web Adverts and various others.

The challenge for us was to customize the solution without tweaking the base setup which we achieved by creating an intermediate layer that includes all the customizations. The solution is also fully upgradable – individual components can be upgraded without requiring the re-code.

With the successful delivery of the website Icreon has successfully met the objectives of Core Compass.

Technologies used in developing this application are:

