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SHAREPOINT SPECIAL

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20 Most Promising SharePoint Solution Providers 2015

Increasing competition in today's marketplace is tantalizing organizations to improve their business processes through better team collaboration. This is demanding an enhanced focus on transforming data into knowledge, and aligning the operational and tactical responsibilities with strategic plan for faster decision making. At the centre of this sphere is SharePoint, Microsoft's collaboration platform that supports workers globally with a central, easily accessible data repository. Myriad of enterprises are using it as a secure place to store, organize, share, and access information from any device across the organizational boundary.

There are various ways through which SharePoint enables businesses to maintain agility and coordination—whether it's for a company's intranet to create employee social networking

platform or for extranet to set up sites that can be shared with partners outside the business. Apart from these existing capabilities, continuous innovation from Microsoft is adding new functionalities to the platform.

The major strength of SharePoint is its flexibility. However, this can sometimes cause several issues. As SharePoint is just a collection of tools that help businesses execute a plan, it needs to be shaped according to enterprises' needs. There are scores of vendors in the marketplace that assist businesses deploy SharePoint according to their outlined plan.

In the last few months, we have looked at hundreds of SharePoint solution providers and shortlisted the ones that are at the forefront of tackling challenges while managing SharePoint deployments. We present you CIOReview's 20 Most Promising SharePoint Solution Providers 2015.

Gateway Group

Leveraging SharePoint for Facility Compliance

Companies are consistently in pursuit of excellence to better their products, but bottlenecks like ineffective storage of documents and interruptions in seamless information flow are rampant. To overcome these hurdles, companies are working tirelessly and implementing SharePoint solutions. In this scenario, as an established provider of SharePoint solutions, Gateway Consulting Group—headquartered in East Amherst, NY—is investing resources in providing Electronic Document Management (EDM) expertise to the chemical process, energy, power and related industries. Dr. Rainer Hoff, President of Gateway, outlines the obstacles of his customers when he says, “The time taken for in-house development of complex SharePoint applications is excessive and unpredictable.” Hoff leads Gateway in creating packaged solutions to combat the need for in-house development.

The firms are quite determined about reducing their technology footprints, thereby reducing both licensing, support, and integration costs, while improving reliability.

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We focus on new innovation to be in sync with the market expectations for ensuring regulatory compliance and audit readiness

Gateway comes into the picture with its idea of layering facility applications on the top of the SharePoint infrastructure—proving to be a key asset for companies that are keen to

eliminate the need for, and costs associated with, multiple point solutions. FACILEX™, one of the advanced SharePoint solutions, has been earmarked to automate process safety compliance business processes. FACILEX assists companies deal with the management of change, capital project management, incident investigation, corrective and preventive actions, as well as auditing on a regular basis.

Hoff is spearheading Gateway to automate the complete lifecycle of critical business processes and tailor the business processes in a manner similar to editing a spreadsheet. The company is focusing on new innovation to be in sync with the market expectations for ensuring regulatory compliance and audit readiness. Gateway's Process Safety Information Vaulting Solution provides a repository for all facility documentation, along with the proper management of attributes, revisions and versions, redlines and markups—all with access to SharePoint search, reports, records management, and security. Hoff expresses, “however, the real challenge lies in knowing the full scope of the requirements and dedicating the resources on an ongoing basis; we have overcome this challenge!”

Since its inception, 25 years ago, Gateway has been providing its expertise to help customers develop information management strategies, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of business processes. Of the numerous success stories that the Gateway has experienced, there is one that stands out. A refinery in Texas was facing a crisis where a \$3 billion project was in its final stage and the prime contractor was delivering the final documentation, ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 pages per day. In stepped Gateway with its high performance data capture and indexing mechanism and vaulted all the information in SharePoint.



Dr. Rainer Hoff

“We effectively managed the changes to the documentation as the capital project went through commissioning to full operations,” elaborates Hoff about the high point of Gateway.

Acknowledging that innovation is the torchbearer of a company's success, Gateway fosters innovation by giving any team member, with a good idea, the time and resources to develop it. FACILEX was one such beneficiary when it was commercialized seven years ago. Gateway's roadmap takes into account the customers' requirement for reducing the technology footprint and adhering to regulation frameworks such as the API 754 and API 1173 (American Petroleum Institute), and Risk-Based Process Safety and Vision 20/20 (Center for Chemical Process Safety). Gateway provides the means to create, manage, aggregate and display data relevant to these process safety initiatives, in a complete end-to-end solution, hosted on SharePoint. “Over the next few years, we will continue to mature these comprehensive solutions,” signs off Hoff. [CR](#)



Company:
Gateway Consulting Group, Inc

Description:
Gateway designs and deploys electronic document management solutions built on leading information technology platforms.

Key Person:
Dr. Rainer Hoff,
President

Website:
gatewaygroup.com