

What's new in Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007

In this presentation, we will look at the new features in MOSS 2007 that were not available in the previous version of SharePoint called SharePoint portal server 2003. We will explore the new Central Administration pages as well as briefly locate some of the new functionalities that are in MOSS 2007. This video does not go into detail on configuring or using any of the new features. There are several videos on the SharePoint-Screencasts.com web site that will take you into each functionality.

To begin, let us first take a look at Central Administration pages. They can be found in the Start menu of your Microsoft Office Server Program Group, the Program Group created when you install MOSS. It is called SharePoint 3.0 Central Administration and it is going to launch Internet Explorer. Now one of the first things you will notice about the new Central Administration is that it is no longer split into Windows SharePoint Services versus MOSS. In the previous version, you had a couple of links on the left and you had to flip the Central Administration utility's focus from one product to the other. That is no longer necessary, both Windows SharePoint services and MOSS 2007 are both represented here in a single site. The other thing you are going to notice is that the layout is more MOSS or WSS version 3 than it is previous version - You have your Global Navigation tabs at the top, you have your Current Navigation or Quick Launch Bar along the left, you can see Site Actions over in the right corner and on the home page of Central Administration you have three web parts - Administrator Tasks, Farm Topology, and Resources. These three web parts are designed to give you a quick access to those parts of the administration pages that most frequently get utilized by administrators.

Here on the Shared Services Administration page, you can see how to configure the Shared Service level settings that will affect all of the MOSS servers throughout your entire MOSS server farm. Now let us take a look at the navigational differences in the new MOSS 2007 product. You can see on this Collaboration Portal home page that the product is laid out very differently from its previous version. Navigation tools have been improved to include global tabs across the top, Quick Launch along the left, as well as any additional hyperlinks you might add to actual body of the

web page. Also up at the top, there is a new Security Center that allows you to sign off as the current user or sign in as someone other than the current user without actually leaving the page. My Site link is here as well as a drop down list of all your personal links that you have ever added to your My Site.

Now the template that was used to build this site was the Collaboration Portal Template. When you are first creating your Portal over in Central Admin, you have two portal templates to choose from - choosing a Publishing Portal template during creation of your initial Portal website while creating a new Site Collection and ending up with a Publishing Portal website that looks very different indeed from the collaboration. Now here at the Collaboration Portal, if I were to decide to create a new website underneath the Portal Home, in other words a new tab here at the global level, I can go into Site Actions and Create a site. New to MOSS 2007, we have an Enterprise tab worth of templates to choose from. On the Publishing tab, you also have the opportunity to create Sub-publishing Sites and you can choose to create them with or without workflow.

Another new product in MOSS 2007 is the completely overhauled Search engine. Search now has its own sub website underneath the Portal home and it is laid out very differently. It used to just be a text field up in the upper right. Now you can subdivide your Search Center into tabs and create additional tabs that focus the search on a particular site or site collection. The Advanced Search is still available. Right now, I am about to search through all sites, but new to MOSS 2007 is social navigation and you can search for people by their profile property values, you can look for folks by their name, phone number, who their manager is, their title, just about any piece of information about the person, and it will call back profile information and link to their My Site. For more information on customizing the Search Center, please return to SharePoint-Screencasts.com and take a look at the videos on modifying search.

Back at the Portal home, MOSS 2007 now comes with predefined feature sets called, wait for it, Features. To enable Features on your site, head in to Site Actions → Site Settings → Modify the Site Collection Administration, and there is a link to Site Collection Features. Now, these are precanned sets of code that 'Turn on' or 'Turn off' certain functionality within a MOSS 2007 structure. In order to make use of, for example, Collect

Signatures Workflows, that particular feature spelled with a capital F has to be made active. For more information about Features, please return to SharePoint-Screencasts.com.

Some new vocabulary in MOSS 2007 includes the Security Structure. I am going to head into Sites Settings → People and Groups, and here you will see a list of the folks who can get to the site. Some new vocabulary - Users into your site are referred as Users or Principles, and you grant them permission, and the easiest way to administrate this is to put them in SharePoint group objects. You can see that several Group objects get created for you by default when you create the site. You can always add more, Create a New Group and then put some of the SharePoint users into that group. And once you do so, you are more than welcome to grant that User or the Group they are a member of certain levels of authority into the SharePoint content. Now, there are already preexisting permission levels and they are pretty self explanatory by name. For more information about security and setting it up, please take a look at some of the security videos on SharePoint-Screencasts.com.

Now in order to populate profile properties about a User, you have to manage a profile database. Now, new to MOSS 2007, you can now import profile properties from any LDAP Complaint Directory, not just Active Directory. In fact, now you can ask MOSS 2007 to use a completely alternative authentication structure and point to LDAP complaint directory. To manage the profile database, we head into Central Administration, visit Shared Services Administration and start specifying User Profiles and Properties. For more information on Profile Importing, please return to SharePoint-Screencasts.com for more videos on importing profiles from Active Directory into SharePoint.

Now with MOSS 2007, it comes in two flavors - Standard and Enterprise. If you purchase the Enterprise edition of MOSS, you get an additional service called Excel Services, kind of takes the place of Office web part from the previous version, allowing your users to post .xlsx, Excel 2007 format files up to SharePoint and keep an umbilical relationship between the spreadsheet and excel, and the spreadsheet as it is represented in SharePoint. For more information about Excel Services, please take a look at our videos on SharePoint-Screencasts.com.

And speaking of additional services that ship with MOSS 2007 Enterprise, here I am back at Central Administration's

Application Management tab and you can see configuration parameters for the Infopath Forms Services server. Now, while Form Server ships with MOSS enterprise additional licensing, it can also be purchased as a separate SKU in case you need to place a separate Form Server in your Form. What is it for? Well, you can kind of tell by the name the Form Server is designed to publish Infopath Forms in such a way that the client no longer requires Infopath to be installed in order to edit the Form. If a client connects to your Form on the Form Server and they do have Infopath installed on their local desktop, Infopath will be used to edit the Form and submit it, but if a client connects to your Form Server who does not have Infopath installed on their local machine, then the Form Server will render the Infopath E-form as a website page and allow them to fill it in from there. For more information on Form Server, please check our SharePoint-Screencasts.com for more videos.

And last but not least, if you purchase MOSS 2007 Enterprise edition, you will also have access to the Business Data Catalog. Now, the Business Data Catalog will be used to implement a connection between SharePoint and your non-Microsoft third party backend servers such as SAP or Peoplesoft, you can bring these platforms into SharePoint and allow your Users to interact with those backend servers using SharePoint as their front end. They will be sitting in Internet Explorer, sitting on a website URL that they are comfortable with and interacting with the business data behind the SharePoint server. You define your Business Data Catalog here on the properties of the Shared Service, kind of where you were setting up Excel services and setting up your Customs Search. For more information on the Business Data Catalog and using it to design custom dashboards with key performance indicators for your executives, please check out SharePoint-Screencasts.com.

In this video we outlined some, but not all of the great new functionalities in MOSS 2007. For more information on each part of this amazing new server product from Microsoft, please return to SharePoint-Screencasts.com to view more in depth free 10-minute screencast tutorials about each functionality you have seen in this video.