

University of Paderborn integrates RealObjects edit-on® Pro 4 into Open Source CMS Typo3



Members of Paderborn University were quick to recognize the potential of the Typo3 Open Source Content Management System. Easy to learn and use, no license costs and diverse expansion possibilities make Typo3 the ideal CMS for managing the extensive Internet and Intranet content of the university. However the creation of text content using the standard Rich Text Editor (RTE) is less than optimal, in many cases even user-unfriendly. This has now changed. The integration of the RealObjects editor edit-on® Pro 4 into Typo3 has provided the university's web authors with a lasting improvement in efficiency.

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About Paderborn University

With around 14.000 students in the 2003/04 winter semester and 1.764 employees, the university is an important educational institution in Germany. Five faculties with 195 professorships, 105 courses of studies and a multitude of innovative research facilities offer optimal study conditions. Over 100 partner colleges worldwide as well as approximately 1.400 foreign students speak for the international nature of the education.



In 2003 the Content Management System Typo3 was evaluated for maintaining the extensive Internet and Intranet content. The Open-Source-System is modern, fast and free, since no license is required. In addition, Typo3 is easy to learn and relatively simple to use. Major advantages are the large number of free extension modules, so-called Typo3 "Extensions", and the user "Access Rights" and "Roles" concepts.

Within Typo3, the actual creation of text normally occurs using a TEXTAREA or Rich Text Editor (RTE) Extension, which is provided with the Typo3 installation package and activated using the "Extension Manager". Using the RTE, web authors at Paderborn University can create web content without HTML knowledge.

The problem

The standard RTE provided in Typo3 offers only limited editing functions. This means that certain web content can only be created or modified using the source-code view or TEXTAREA. This leads to acceptance problems with HTML laymen and degrades the user-friendliness.

Another weak point of the RTE is the limited functionality when editing tables. For instance, the expansion, deletion or formatting of rows and columns is very user-unfriendly. The RTE also offers no real-time spell checking, no search functionality and no undo/redo functionality; it can only be minimally extended and does not run platform-independently on different operating systems.

The acceptance problem with the RTE presents a major obstacle to achieving consolidation of the existing web servers and modernization of the web presence.

The situation

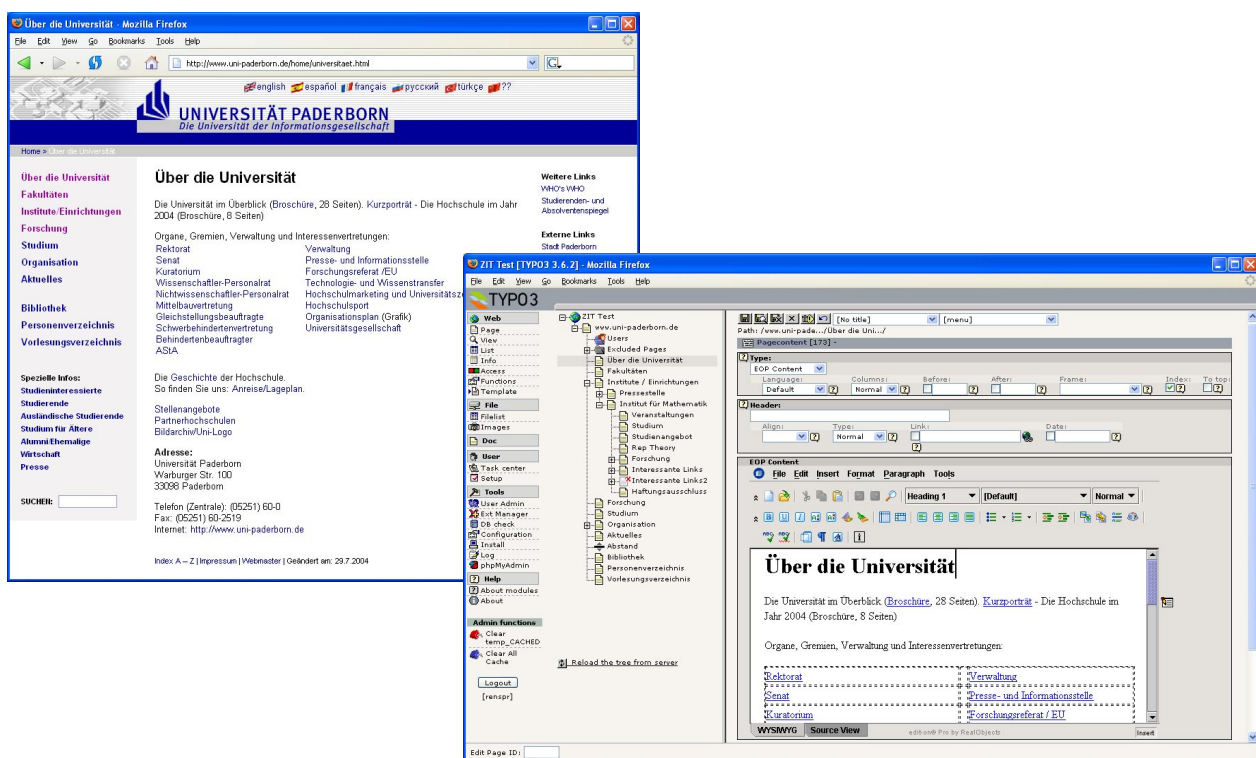
More than 25 different web servers externally represent Paderborn University. These servers are maintained by different co-workers, have differently represented information available and are oriented according to the recently decided official University design guidelines.

The solution

With RealObjects edit-on® Pro 4, Paderborn University has now optimally complemented their Typo3 installation. edit-on® Pro 4 offers significantly higher productivity in comparison to the standard Typo3 RTE. The extended editing functions, especially in dealing with tables, the real-time spell checking in multiple languages as well as the multi-level undo/redo functions offer web authors an optimal working environment. These convenient functions and the ability to copy and paste content from Microsoft Word have decisively increased the acceptance of Typo3 web authoring.

The platform independence of edit-on® Pro 4 is particularly suited to the heterogeneous IT landscape of Paderborn University. Support and education of the web authors are tailored to edit-on® Pro 4 and are independent of the platform used. This provides lasting reductions in the support and training costs.

The edit-on® Pro 4 API offers multiple possibilities for customization according to special requirements. Particular page areas of the Paderborn University were customized on the basis of these possibilities and the web authors were provided with a perfectly tuned data entry system.



The advantages are obvious

On the basis of edit-on® Pro 4, Paderborn University is now able to make lasting optimizations in the creation of Internet- und Intranet content. The extensive API allows the editor to be ideally adapted to the specific requirements of Paderborn University and opens countless possibilities for further extension of Typo3.

Customer statements

Dr. Gudrun Oevel, Director of the Center for IT Services

'The decision to use an open source solution for administration of web content at Paderborn university is useful only when it provides a comfortable platform-independent editing capability. edit-on® Pro 4 offers the required functionality and avoids the "license trap" of commercial CMS's "

Alexander Schubert, Computer operations for the Institute of Mathematics

„We in the Institute for Mathematics have also decided to redesign our web presence based on Typo3. The use of the convenient edit-on® Pro 4 editor allows us administrators the possibility of allocating the responsibility of content to individual workgroups, allowing us to fully concentrate on the technical administration of the CMS. The platform independence of the editor is also a major relief because only one solution must be implemented in our heterogeneous network. This greatly simplifies the effort required in training the authors “

Simple Integration

According to the "Extension-Philosophy" of Typo3, the free of charge edit-on® Pro 4 "Extension" is very easy to install using the "Extension-Manager". After successful evaluation, the edit-on® Pro 4 full license must be purchased and the license key copied into the appropriate Typo3 directory. This is a generally successful process that should present no problems to the Typo3 beginner. The basic configuration of edit-on® Pro 4 can be performed using "TypoScript". Further configuration and customization (if required) is performed using the provided edit-on® Pro 4 integration handbook.

Conclusion

With the Open Source Content Management System Typo3 and the comfortable platform-independent editor edit-on® Pro 4, Paderborn University has found an efficient and economical combination that fulfils the requirements of topicality and comfort for administration of websites in a heterogeneous environment.

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