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De Voil Consulting Launches Ecstra Business Palette

***** New features transform Ecstra CMS into a powerful environment for designing and sharing concepts, developing business applications and managing enterprise workflow *****

London, 2 June 2005 - De Voil Consulting Ltd announced the upcoming launch of Ecstra Business Palette, a major suite of enhancements to their content management system (CMS), Ecstra, at Internet World 2005 between 14th-16th June at stand A82.

Ecstra Business Palette adds a wide range of collaborative web-based visual tools for modelling corporate data, website structure, organisational structure, workflow and project dependencies. The product's XML-based architecture makes it remarkably easy to introduce new diagram types. Each type of diagram can be associated with CMS repository objects so that participants can see a visual representation of existing repository objects and create new ones.

Systems architects at De Voil Consulting are already using the tools to design and build applications for customers, but the potential applications of the technology go beyond technical tasks. For example, Ecstra Business Palette can be used as a corporate mind mapping tool. Participants in a meeting - who do not have to be physically located together thanks to Ecstra's collaboration features such as messaging and whiteboard - can record and structure concepts in a form that is instantly accessible over the web.

The new workflow features are perhaps the most significant innovation, says Nick De Voil, director of De Voil Consulting. "Ecstra's workflow system has always been a powerful one - workflow in many CMS is based on a fixed set of steps with a linear sequence. Ecstra allows you to create your workflows with any number of stages, decision points and loops. But now workflows can be designed visually using a subset of BPML, the emerging standard for documenting business process models. Perhaps the most exciting thing is that a workflow can also be automated rather than manual. This means Ecstra now functions as a service orchestration engine, whereby you can either include automated tasks in a mainly human workflow, or you can build totally automated workflows, using Ecstra as the controlling database".

These capabilities make Ecstra even more attractive as a framework for implementing database-driven web applications without the need for any programming or web page design. De Voil Consulting run their customer project quality management system on Ecstra. "It's an ideal tool for implementing any kind of process-oriented system" said De Voil. "Everything is clear and self-documenting, which is what our customers want and helps us follow quality standards."

The new web-based visual project management tool introduced with Ecstra Business Palette is another unique feature. This allows organisations to create, visualise and monitor project plans which are completely integrated with the workflow and access control systems. "We think it's the best way of running projects," said De Voil. "Why use a desktop tool when you can have a web-based one? Also, the project management system understands the workflow system and can create and monitor a plan based on standard workflows. It means you can define and enforce best practice in everything you do".

Nick De Voil is speaking at a Internet World seminar on "Managing quality and compliance with workflow": www.internetworld.co.uk/Common/Seminars.aspx?intSeminarType=1.

Join the De Voil team at their stand (A82) on Thursday from 2.30 pm for a chat about Ecstra and a glass of wine.

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About Ecstra

Ecstra is a J2EE-based application for managing content, data and processes, providing a host of features such as:

- Web browser interface
- Intuitive, productive user interface similar to desktop applications
- Content separated from presentation
- Multi-lingual content
- Extensible user-defined metadata
- XML Schema compliant data structuring and inheritance
- Multiple content taxonomies
- Personalisation
- Online image manipulation and text editing
- Visual template editor
- Visual style editor
- Document management
- Search, find and replace
- Multiple integration possibilities for WYSIWYG editor, translator & spell checker.
- Optional validation of HTML created by users
- Version management and archiving, both of individual objects and entire "releases"
- Multiple content delivery mechanisms to suit diverse applications
- Can generate HTML pages, PDF documents, spreadsheets, XML files from the same content
- Powerful access control
- Workflow management
- Page visit tracking
- Site map builder, navigation builder, glossary builder, index builder

About De Voil Consulting

De Voil Consulting is a UK-based e-business management consultancy founded in 1990. De Voil Consulting solve business process modelling, systems development and integration problems for customers in government, finance and commerce.

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