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Duquesne Light Company Grassroots Outreach Extranet

As part of a \$500 million infrastructure investment program, Duquesne Light is scheduling over 150 outreach meetings with community groups to present their plans and garner feedback. To facilitate seamless communication between project managers and a presentation team of over fifty other Duquesne Light representatives, Olszak designed an extranet web application by which project managers and other speakers could log on and manage the meeting process.

Project managers can enter and track comprehensive meeting information from start to completion -- including all staffing, needed materials, and contacts with the meeting group. The presentation team of more than fifty individuals can each logon and schedule themselves for available meetings and then be reminded via a custom email system of their upcoming obligations.

The primary function of the application is quality assurance/quality control. Both Olszak and Duquesne Light project staff are guided through a 13-step process that ensures all needed resources are deployed outreach meetings -- each of which vary in presentation topics, venue, and audience. This business logic is enforced through various prompts, alerts, and restrictions within the user interface. Duquesne Light project managers can also fully manage extranet access and their presenter roster.

The application is supported by a relational database designed to grow with the project over its lifetime. The application contains no hard-coded lists or collections, but rather draws all project information directly from database tables.

The application has a Microsoft SQL Server 2005 back-end database and is built on the ASP.NET 2.0 Framework.

client/owner:

Duquesne Light Company

project location:

Southwestern Pennsylvania

services:

- .NET web development
- SQL Server database design

highlights:

This web application serves as a quality assurance/quality control and communication tool:

- Multi-tiered authorization
- Mass email functions
- User-friendly wizard controls
- User management GUIs
- ASP.NET 2.0 and MSSQL 2005

The screenshots illustrate the application's interface. The 'Meeting Status and Prompts' page shows a calendar view for May 2006, listing meetings such as 'Community Builders, Inc.' and 'Fair Housing Partnership'. The 'Status overviews' page provides a detailed list of meetings, including 'Neighborhood Housing Services', 'Steel Valley Council of Governments', and 'Lynn Williams Apartments', each with a 'Next step' instruction. The 'Send Email Message' page shows a three-step process for sending messages to various groups, with checkboxes for selecting recipients from different address books.