



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCE RESEARCH, IDEAS AND INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY

ISSN: 2454-132X

Impact factor: 4.295

(Volume 5, Issue 1)

Available online at: www.ijariit.com

Zoho projects- Online project management using web 2.0

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ABSTRACT

Managing a project, which is a challenging task, the World Wide Web has provided a medium to ease this search to some extent. Most of the available commercial project management products are expensive and can work only on the desktop. This project covers the design and development by leveraging Web 2.0 features of an online project management application. Users can on-line manage the complete life cycle of any project. It offers collaboration feature. Dashboards and reports are provided. Users can on-line manage the complete life cycle of any project. Projects can be easily divided into various milestones and tasks. The primary objective of this application is to exploit Web 2.0 technologies to provide a rich experience to the users.

Keywords— Collaboration, Dashboard, Project, Web 2.0, tasks

1. INTRODUCTION

Managing projects includes developers, managers and clients. Most of the development teams are scattered across the globe at a various location rather than the traditional setup of a single office. With such a diverse community, managing project with online applications makes more sense than using a desktop based expensive commercial product.

As opposed to traditional desktop products, there are many inherent advantages of an online tool. They are packed with Web 2.0 technologies such as AJAX, tagging and RSS feed that provides a rich user interface. Teams can collaborate with each other using discussion forums with various project activities. Teams can organize their work and track progress by splitting up of a project into tasks and milestones. Dashboards are offered to display all the recent project activities. Users can upload and store files at a centralized location. Today's sites with Web 2.0 features are dynamic and encourages user collaboration to the fullest extent.

2. PROJECT ARCHITECTURE

This architecture is based on Web 2.0 features using three-tier architecture. The distinct tiers are Data Access, Business Logic and Use Interface (client) tier.

The Data Access Layer handles all the Database connection and operation Logic. The Business Logic Tier handles all the logic in various modules that provide functionality. Major functionalities included are Task management for Project, Collaboration features for group activity and Dashboard to monitor project status. The Use Interface provides screens that the client will use for accessing the application over the web. The following diagram demonstrates the high-level architecture of the application.

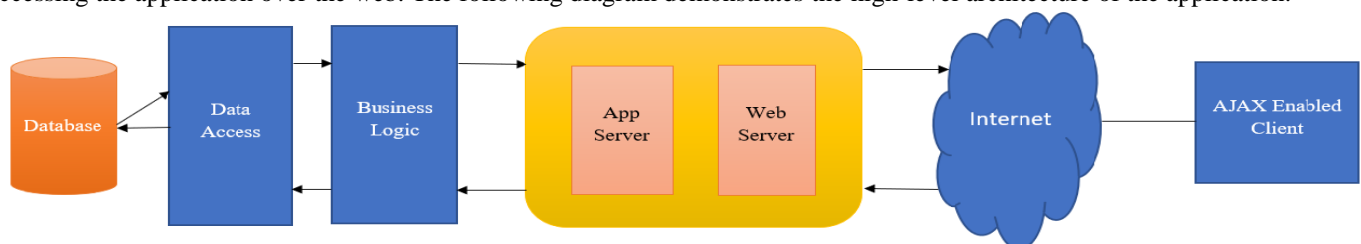


Fig. 1: Architecture Diagram

3. ARCHITECTURE SUBSYSTEM

This application uses three-tier client/server architecture. The 3 tiers are Data Access Tier, Business Logic Tier and the Client Tier.

Tier 1: Data Access Tier

This tier handles all the database related operations such as creating, saving and deleting data required for this application. It will also provide search interface using Lucent framework to have full text-based search for the data.

Tier 2: Business Logic Tier

This tier handles all the business logic of the tool. It will include user account management, projects, tasks, milestones, documents, forum and search. It will also have a controller module that will receive the requests and forward it to the appropriate module.

Tier 3: Client Tier

This tier will provide a graphical user interface that the client will use for accessing the tool online. The client tier will handle user interaction and navigation.

4. RESULTS

This application provides basic project management functionality using new and exciting Web 2.0 features. There are many activities that are regularly performed in the old style of proprietary products are available using this application. The UI is a sophisticated and rich user interface that is easy to use using powerful technologies such as AJAX, Lucence, client-side JavaScript controls and EJB 3.0.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This application leverages the Web 2.0 technologies such as RSS feed, AJAX, Lucence and EJB 3.0 to provide a rich and interactive user interface to the potential home buyers. Using AJAX to get the data from the server asynchronously improves the interaction with the user. EJB 3.0 persistence API not only provides good performance but the new annotations based programming greatly reduces the development time.

To conclude, the combination of Lucence, AJAX and EJB 3.0 can create an easy-to-use, scalable and rich application that greatly improve the user experience.

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