

CASE STUDY

HOW MIGRATING FROM LEGACY ECM TO MICROSOFT 365 SUPPORTS MOTT MACDONALD'S CONTENT COLLABORATION



Challenge

To fully leverage Microsoft Viva, Mott MacDonald needed a solution to meet their immediate need to migrate existing content from legacy ECM and other content systems and as well as supporting continuous content migrations.

Solution

Xillio delivered software and services to automate the process of migrating inactive content to an Azure Cloud archive and moving active content to Microsoft 365.

Result

Successfully moved 240 TB of legacy content to Microsoft 365 and Azure, provided a solution for future content migrations.

With 180 principal offices in 50 countries and 16,000 employees, global engineering, management and development consulting firm Mott MacDonald helps solve some of the world's most urgent social, environmental and economic challenges. Mott MacDonald is one of the earliest adopters of Microsoft Viva: an employee experience platform that brings together communications, knowledge, learning, resources, and insights and is at the center of Microsoft's vision to transform knowledge and help people learn and grow their skills and expertise. Microsoft Viva uses artificial intelligence to create a knowledge network that automatically connects and organizes organizations' content into topics and generates topic cards, wiki-like "topic pages" and other new experiences in Microsoft 365.

● Planning a Future-Ready Content Strategy

To fully leverage the knowledge and expertise built in Microsoft, the relevant content must be accessible in the new environment. Therefore, an important step for Mott MacDonald was to re-platform and move content to Microsoft 365. This included exporting content from their legacy on-premise content management platforms and then importing it into SharePoint Online. Considering the project complexity as well as the amount of data and users – ~10,500 users and approx. 240TB of content – Mott MacDonald contacted Xillio to support the migration.

“Although the project is huge and complex, Xillio simplifies critical content migration steps, making it just a matter of picking up the content and moving it across to our Microsoft 365 environment.”

Simon Denton has been working for the organization for seventeen years and was appointed to lead this large-scale project: “We were looking for a provider that could help us with this complex migration. Our information was managed in four different legacy systems and consisted of a mixture of project and non-project related material including emails, documents and metadata. We wanted this content exported and transferred to Microsoft 365. In addition, we wanted inactive content migrated into our newly developed archiving solution in Microsoft Azure to meet governance and compliance needs for long-term retention. Xillio turned out to be the best content migration provider for us, mainly because they understand the complexity of our ECM infrastructure and have industry-proven technology to support the migration. With their flexible migration solution, we have the possibility to migrate active content to Microsoft 365 and inactive content to our archiving solution in Azure. We can also use Xillio in the near future to migrate content from other source systems, like file shares.”

● Export from Legacy ECM System

Before Mott MacDonald’s started the migration, Xillio trained the project team to work with the Xillio migration software. With the Xill export connector, they were able to extract all of their data from their legacy ECM instances. The legacy ECM content mostly contained project data. Mott MacDonald decided to migrate content from all closed projects to Azure and its metadata to a MySQL database so it can be used to feed the search application of the archive. Content from all open projects was then migrated to SharePoint Online. During the migration, all data was scanned by a custom malware application developed by Mott MacDonald.

● Migration Street

For this project, the Xillio Tool Set was configured as a collection of 10 to 20 interdependent steps that, in orchestration with client-provided

components, were able to execute a complete and automated migration from the legacy ECM system to Azure and/or SharePoint Online. The components provided by Xillio performed tasks starting at extraction, analysis, and transformation of the content in the legacy ECM system, through import of metadata in SQL Server and copying of the binaries from the system’s DocStore to an Azure staging area, all the way to uploading to Azure blob storage and import into SharePoint Online document libraries. Client-provided components handled malware detection and the creation of site collections and document libraries for content to be stored post-migration. Migrations could be scheduled via a browser-based UI by the business.

● Independent components

Evan Goris, data migration engineer at Xillio, about the project: “Xillio often manages end-to-end migration projects for our customers, but Xillio’s solution can also be used by the customer themselves. In this project, the migration consisted of many different components, some built by us, some built by Mott MacDonald’s developers. The flexibility of our migration solution and our knowledge of extraction were key points that really made this project a success.”

“Although the project is huge and complex, Xillio simplifies critical content migration steps, making it just a matter of picking up the content and moving it across to our Microsoft 365 environment”, says Simon Denton. “The tools and the services provided by Xillio were instrumental in making sure we met our immediate project requirements and also can plan for our future information infrastructure needs. In the next phase, we want to retire all legacy ECM systems and sunset the licenses. For a later stage, we are considering using Xillio to set up a continued archiving process to automatically archive data from SharePoint Online to Azure. All in all, we were impressed by the flexibility of Xillio’s solution and the support of the Xillio team throughout the migration”



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About Xillio

With over 20 years of experience, Xillio is your go-to partner for managing complex, high-volume content migrations and integrations within the Microsoft ecosystem. The Xillio Platform empowers organizations worldwide to unlock the full potential of their Microsoft 365 applications and Copilots, for a hassle-free transition to the cloud.