

CASE STUDY

University of Amsterdam Chooses Xillio for the Migration of Legacy CMS to Hippo for Online Platform



Problem

The renewal of UvaWeb included a restructuring of the website and migrating the content from Coldfusion to a new Hippo CMS

Solution

Xillio took care of the automatic migration from Coldfusion to Hippo and enriched documents with accurate metadata during the migration

Result

A successful implementation of the new online platform, with which UvA can inform and involve their students and teachers better

The University of Amsterdam (UvA) is the largest university of the Netherlands with over 30,000 students divided over seven faculties. To communicate online with her students and teachers the university uses the UvaWeb, consisting of several websites. In 2012 the university launched a new version of this external, online platform, which at that time ran on its own in-house developed CMS based on Coldfusion. Coldfusion is a web-scripting technology that was popular in the 1990s, but around 2012 its performance, scalability and reliability were overtaken by other Java-based technologies.

The UvA decided to switch to a new web content management system (Hippo CMS) and at the same time to restructure the site with the aim to give the site a more uniform design and improve the user experience. At the time the collection consisted of about 200,000 documents of which 40,000 were unique items.

● Site audit

Xillio was initially hired to carry out an audit on all content in the current CMS. This audit gave the university an understanding of the current structure of the sites, the number of documents per information type per site and the number of documents per site before and after applying the migration rules drawn up by the UvA. The audit was based on information available on the front-end of

‘For the import of all cleaned up and enriched content in Hippo CMS the Hippo connector, developed by Xillio, was deployed.’

the website. After the audit, Xillio was asked to take care of the entire automated web migration.

● Export of data from source system

The first step of the migration process was the extraction of the content from the source system. This took place by crawling the front-end of the websites and then request additional metadata from the back-end. Subsequently, the editors of UvAWeb were asked to place the existing pages in the new sitemap conform the guidelines of the new site. Simultaneously with this process, the content types from the old CMS were also mapped to the content types in Hippo. In this process 1-on-1 connections were applied, as well as preparing complex business rules to handle fields that no longer existed in the new situation or fields that didn't exist yet in the old situation. Through this process, the discrepancies between the old and the new system got solved.

● Metadata enrichment

Because the old website of the UvA had been further developed over the years, the quality of the metadata on the pages varied greatly. During the migration, Xillio enriched the existing metadata. To make this happen, the university made a set of

business rules to define what requirements every metadata field had to comply with, and what had to be done with missing metadata. Another problem with the old CMS was that through creative use of the functionality of different content types, editors could create page layouts that did not conform to the established structures. To recognize these pages there were also business rules set up. Afterward, they were converted to the correct content type in the new situation, while maintaining the layout.

● Import in Hippo

For the import of all cleaned and enriched content in Hippo CMS Xillio's Hippo connector was used. All content from the old CMS was imported in a uniform XML format, which reflected the new content types and structure within the Hippo CMS. Thanks to Xillio's help the implementation of the new website from the University of Amsterdam both technically and based on content presentation, went very well. With the new CMS they have the right tools to inform and engage students and teachers online for the upcoming years.

About Xillio

These days, your organization needs to be agile to stay relevant. The same goes for your enterprise content. But where to start? The more complex your enterprise content, the more daunting it seems to take the leap.

That's where we come in. With over 20 years of experience, Xillio is your trusted partner for managing complex, high-volume content migrations within the Microsoft ecosystem. From metadata transformation to link redirection, our experts ensure your move to Microsoft 365 is smooth, compliant, and future-proof.