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Creation of SharePoint 2010 PowerShell scripts to deploy Search Service Application

The University of Southampton is one of the top 15 research universities in the UK, with an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to research, teaching and learning excellence.

To provide intranet and collaboration facilities to its users, Southampton has a large scale multi farm SharePoint 2010 environment with a dedicated services farm. This large scale deployment created the need to configure service applications in a central place in order to help minimise management overhead.

Configurable scripts to save time

PointBeyond were challenged to develop a script that would save the IT staff at the University from spending time repeating a manual setup of Search services, click by click, each time it was required. PowerShell was the chosen technology to create configurable scripts that would achieve an easily repeated, automated and consistent process for setting up search in SharePoint.

PowerShell is Microsoft's scripting language for Windows and PointBeyond's considerable experience of using this technology to carry out best practice installations and configuration of SharePoint enabled them to produce a script that was soon working smoothly in the university's environments.

Knowledge transfer

PointBeyond worked closely with the IT Department to allow for knowledge transfer and produced comprehensive build documentation. PointBeyond believes in implementing solutions that a client can then confidently own and use without the need for complex support.

“We were really pleased we made such rapid progress in such a short space of time. These guys brought some valuable knowledge to the table!” said Timothy Metcalf, Applications Project Manager. “I was particularly impressed with the willingness to share your experience with my team and the quality of the documentation we received at the end of the engagement. This surpassed our expectations”

Customer:

University of Southampton

Location:

Southampton

Industry:

Education

Solution Summary:

- Develop a set of PowerShell scripts to create, configure, publish, and consume the Search Service Application

Company Challenge:

- Setting up a large portal and collaboration SharePoint 2010 infrastructure.
- Ensuring a common search solution is available across all areas of the SharePoint environment.

Key Technology:

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2010, PowerShell

Benefits:

- Consistent and repeatable
- Automated process saves time
- Reduced risk of errors
- Best practise configuration of environments



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The benefits of the new PowerShell solution were not just that it would save time but also that the process would now be repeatable, automated, and configurable. The solution can be used across multiple environments to consistently set up Search Services, whilst minimising the risk of introducing errors.

For more information

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