

Why should this case win?

Better, cheaper and faster summary support for Erasmus University students thanks to online study platform based on Drupal platform.



What was the problem of the client? Why did they hire you? What made this case super awesome to work on?

Since 1984, the Stichting Intermediair Rotterdam (SIR) is a reliable source of lecture summaries for Erasmus University students. It is an organisation run by volunteers and because of its non-profit character it tries to keep the prices as low as possible in order to support as many students as possible. Traditionally the summaries were printed and sent via regular mail. This process is costly, time consuming and not flexible. Also: lots of printed paper and transportation, which is bad for the environment. The SIR wanted to offer students the lecture summaries in a safe online environment with flexible subscription options.

Because of our vast experience with complex Drupal projects, our data modelling qualities and our commitment to deliver the portal within 2 months, the SIR chose to work with Cipix. As for Cipix, we love any project that challenges us to optimize the use of the Drupal platform. On a more personal level we liked working for the SIR because some of our team members used to be loyal SIR customers back in the day.

What did your goals originally set out to be?

The goals:

- Create a powerful online platform that helps the SIR to achieve its main goal: support students in their studies by providing online lecture summaries which can be personalized by adding notes.
- The platform has to be safe, reliable and user friendly.
- Develop the platform within two months, it had to be up and running at the beginning of the academic year.

Can you give us any cool results?

1. Price per college summary dropped by 67%

The traditional printing and distribution process is superfluous now that the summaries are digitalized and made available in an online environment. This results in significant lower production costs per summary.

2. Production and distribution time is reduced by more than 70%

The summary is available within 7 days after the lecture date. This is significantly faster than the traditional distribution process, which took more than three weeks.

With new SIR online study platform, student can start preparing for their exams much earlier.

3. Accurate and personalized summaries across devices

The college reports are presented in PDF format and subscribers are able to personalize the documents by marking the text and adding personal notes to the document. The reports including these notes can be accessed throughout the duration of the subscription. Students can read the reports on their computers as well as their tablets.

Corrections or additions to published summaries are added with a mouse click. The students can rely on the published summaries, knowing they contain the latest information. In the old days, this used to take up to three weeks so this is a major improvement to the accuracy of the information.

4. Extra support via personalized calendar

Extra support for students is added via a calendar functionality. This alerts them on important exam dates and allows them to add personal items.

5. Flexible subscription options: there's something for everyone

Students are flexible in the way that they can subscribe to reports of a specific timeframe or a specific curriculum.

The platform also provides the SIR with powerful tools to optimize their offers and stimulate the use of the platform. It is provided with a flexible discount system. The SIR can promote their services by handing out discounts for:

- Products
- Timeframes
- User groups
- And any combination of the above

6. Managing users, content and finances

We took into account that the volunteers that manage the platform are no IT or communication experts. The managing of users, products and payments is easy and intuitive. Handling of the payments is more efficient because the Drupal Commerce module is taking care of a huge part of administrative tasks. For the payment we integrated the Buckaroo payment solution.

Thanks to the added views export Drupal module the SIR is able to export any view to an Excel file, which is of great use for administrative reasons.

7. Planning & deadline were met. The online study platform was developed and launched within the planned 2 month period.

8. The client rated our services and the end result (online study platform) with a grade '9' (on a scale from 1 to10, 10 being the highest)

We like to ask our clients about our services after the launch of the project. The SIR really appreciated the cooperation and is very satisfied with the online platform.

Top Drupal modules used

- Drupal Commerce and sub modules
- Manual Crop
- Inline Conditions
- Views data export

Technical challenges solved

- Implementation of FlexPaper. A third party PDF viewer and annotation tool. Authorized students are able to view college reports online and create their own annotations;
- Security issues. The college reports should not be accessible for unauthorized students. That authorisation works on two levels: portal access and the viewing and annotation rights for a specific subscription;
- Implementation of a complex subscription model. The SIR have come up with a rather complex structure of study years, study blocks and courses. Students can purchase subscriptions on all different levels, including trial subscriptions.

What did you give back to the Drupal community?

Just redirect module

Thanks to this module the visitor never lands on error page on this website. This is possible because the link to the indexed but removed page is redirected to a selected active page in the website.

This module ensures that the search engine indexations of pages with an altered URL automatically redirect the visitor to the new -and correct- URL.

Quote from client?

‘We are very satisfied with the end result. The site turned out like we had in mind and we are very happy that Cipix was able to transform our idea into reality’.

Mick Mackaay, Chairman Board Stichting Intermediair Rotterdam

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