

Maxus Australia: Consulting Services

Whether you are new to the Inmagic software suite or a longstanding enthusiast, it is vital that your database content is delivered to your users in an attractive and meaningful format. The Inmagic software is easy to use and implement – but if you don't have the time or resources to maximise the design of your databases, or if you have particular requirements, it makes sense to leave it to the experts.

The technical team at Maxus have a long history of applying their skills to the delivery of database customisation and design. Take advantage of our expertise and our acknowledged ability to listen and communicate before delivering a solution for you: engage us to implement a cost-effective design that will allow you to get the right content to your users using screens that look professional.

Maxus can design and set up a new application customised to your specifications. We can also provide assistance with modifications to an existing installation – for example, changes to an existing textbase structure or additional report forms. Here are some examples of customisations that we have provided.

High security printing via *WebPublisher PRO*

A major Maxus client uses *CS/WebPublisher PRO* to manage an electronic document repository in a secured environment. Authorised users may search the textbase and view the linked documents – usually in PDF format. But if a user requires a printed copy of any document, this must be registered in the system, and at a later stage the printed version must be returned and destroyed.

A PDF utility has been supplied and integrated into the *CS/WebPublisher PRO* system together with some ASP programming. This combination ensures that any PDF file that is viewed from the *CS/WebPublisher PRO* results screen is converted into an unprintable format. If a user decides to print the document, they must first enter their user ID, which is captured by the system and a "loan" record is created, ensuring that all printing activity is recorded.

Web-based federated searching

One of our clients is a large educational research organisation that publishes a number of *WebPublisher PRO* textbases to the web. They asked us to enable them to contribute to an Australia-wide gateway to resources on training and education. The portal includes a "federated search engine", which lets users perform keyword searches across a wide variety of educational content. By harnessing the powerful XML capabilities of *WebPublisher PRO*, Maxus was able to write an application programming interface ("API") that takes a user's search criteria – as submitted via the portal – sends those criteria to our client's *WebPublisher PRO* textbases, runs a search, and returns the search results to the gateway. In short, a powerful, seamless solution that enables end users across Australia to include our client's *WebPublisher PRO* content in their search results!

A linked textbase of staff details

A legal firm with offices in most Australian state capital cities has a series of textbases, one of which contains contact details for all staff members. This textbase is connected to other corporate textbases using Inmagic's textbase linking feature. To enable users to register reference and other queries, we have designed some scripting that invites staff members to type their ID number or a part of their name. A popup window then opens, enabling them to view and verify their personal details. This solution, which works in both Windows (TextWorks) and the Web (*WebPublisher PRO*), can be readily applied to any linked textbases and will make your workflows much more simple and efficient.

Library overdue notices

We designed a library system that sends different overdue notices depending on whether the loan in question is a "standard" loan or an "extended" one. This tailored solution was developed for a corporate technical library in which some items are expected to be returned promptly and others are provided under more lenient conditions.

Interactive Web-based item selection

A radio station's Resource Centre uses linked textbases to record details of each track of each album held in its extensive collection. Maxus has devised an interactive web system that allows users to search and select items to be played in their broadcasts, saving these to a separate textbase. This textbase can provide a number of reports: when and how many times the item has been used; a "pick list" for finding all the albums required for any programme; an electronic report saved to Excel showing all items played; and more. Cookies are used to save users' details and minimise data entry.

Rapid imports of media clippings

A large government library in South Australia regularly downloads media clippings in an HTML format. To streamline loading these records (which include full text of the articles) into an Inmagic clippings textbase, Maxus has written a program to convert the files from HTML to an Inmagic Tagged format, ready to be imported directly into the textbase. This new process saves the library's staff a significant amount of time, previously spent in hours of tedious cutting and pasting.

Easy editing screens for a complex situation

A major legal firm developed a complex data structure with large numbers of fields and several linked textbases. This structure manages the firm's substantial portfolio of client records. Maxus designed a number of TextWorks edit forms to suit the client's different data entry needs. We used scripting to simplify data entry via these screens and to enable easy navigation between the screens. Data entry is performed by a number of para-legal staff members, so the screens were designed for both ease of use and data quality control.

Image management for a local council

One of our local councils uses TextWorks and *WebPublisher PRO* for a number of databases that are published on the Internet. They asked for help from Maxus for a new project: Cataloguing images acquired by their Communications department, and making this textbase accessible to users throughout the council. A requirement for this application was the automated capture of image metadata directly from the image files themselves into specific fields in the textbase. Maxus designed the textbase, incorporating data entry screens with scripting to activate an external program that automatically extracts metadata including image type, file size, resolution, colour and dimensions. Maxus has also set up search and report forms for use with *WebPublisher PRO*, incorporating the Council's web style sheets for compliance with the corporate "look and feel". The result is an attractive, easy-to-use resource that makes it possible for Council staff to find relevant images rapidly from among the thousands of photographic resources in their collections. Previously this task relied on staff members' memories and a lot of manual browsing through photographs!

Let us customise a solution for you

The capabilities of the Inmagic software suite are endless: from small-scale features (script buttons that automate your most commonly used functions) right through to the complete design of database applications (for example, organisation-wide knowledge management, or logging and administration of library enquiries). Maxus has the skills and experience to assist you with your needs.

Please contact Maxus or your local representative for more information about our Consulting services:

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