
Phenix

Dixite Website Makeover

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Latest Version: <http://www.dixite.com/docs/phenix/>



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Preface

Background Information

This section provides some background information about Dixite and its website.

Dixite

[Dixite](#) was founded in 1999 by three seasoned IT consultants: Rudy Demo, Arnauld Van Muysewinkel and Javad Heshmati. Dixite provides a rich set of *services* and innovative *open source solutions*.

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Dixite Website

Throughout Dixite existence, Dixite website has seen many makeovers. This section provides a short summary of these makeovers.

Table 1: Dixite Website History

Released	Realization
1999	The first version of the website is crafted
2001	New content, navigation, design and graphics are added
2003	Website content is made conformant with W3C standards and recommendations
2005	Makeover to achieve the new Design Goals (§1)

Document Scope and Structure

The scope of this document is to provide a case-study that covers the [Dixite](#) website makeover codenamed Phenix .

Chapter [Design Goals](#) (§1) lists the main design goals of the makeover.

Chapter [Tools and Methodology Used](#) (§2) names the tools and the methodology that have been used to achieve this makeover.

Chapter [Timeline](#) (§3) provides a timeline to achieve the makeover.

Document Conventions

When you read this document, certain words are represented in different fonts, typefaces, sizes, and weights. This highlighting is systematic; different words are represented in the same style to indicate their inclusion in a specific category. The types of words that are represented this way include the following:

<u>Element</u>	<u>Style</u>
External link	<i>Dixite Website</i> ↔ www.dixite.com Or Dixite Website
Reference	the canonical name (§section number) is used to refer to sections.
Important	<i>emphasized</i>
path and filenames	<code>filename.xml</code>

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Chapter 1

Design Goals

Listed below are top goals for this re-design:

1. Markup must comply with The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standards and recommendations.
2. Structure must be well separated from the presentation.
3. Text must be easy and pleasurable to read and should be the focus of the site, which is a reading, rather than a shopping site.
4. Navigation should be clear and intuitive. The user should be able to skip the navigation.
5. The site must deliver a recognizably branded look and feel without using needless images. The site must not waste resources.

Chapter 2

Tools and Methodology Used

This chapter covers the methodology and tools used for the Phenix project.

2.1 Methodology

Any web site, no matter how big or small, can benefit from a systematic approach to its design and implementation. At Dixite, we have a *methodology* for website development: [ESTIME](#). Refet to the Explore, Sketch, Tipography, Imagery, Make-up, Execute (ESTIME) documentation to learn more about it. *ESTIME* ↗ www.dixite.com/docs/estimate

2.2 Tools

When it comes to the website design and development, there's far too much software tools that can be used; but none of them satisfied our [Design Goals](#) (§1). So we have built [Silkpage](#). What is SilkPage?

SilkPage is an XML based Web publishing framework that has evolved from the Docbook Website. With strong foundations in XML, it is a publishing framework with a focus on web standards and usability. SilkPage provides a framework for publishing structured and standard compliant websites in XML.

Refet to the SilkPage website to learn more about it. *Silkpage* ↗ silkpage.markupware.com.

Chapter 3

Timeline

This section provides a timeline covering the Phenix life-cycle.

Global Timeline As of this writing, we only cover two phases of ESTIME, that is *Explore* and *Execute*:

- [Explore Phase Timeline](#) (§3.2)
- [Execute Phase Timeline](#) (§3.2.2)

How to read the timeline ?

Iteration some sub-phases require more than one iteration. When present, it indicates the iteration count of the sub-phase

Estimated specifies the estimated deadline for the sub-phase completion

Achieved indicates the actual completion date

Who specifies the name(s) of the consultant(s) participating in the sub-phase

What the sub-phase

Table 3.1: Phenix Team Members and their Roles

Short Name	Full Name	Role
RDE	Rudy Demo	Information Architect
JHE	Javad K. Heshmati	Information Architect
SHE	Sina K. Heshmati	Markup Programmer

3.1 Explore

To apply the *Explore* phase of ESTIME, we have identified several sub-phases that are described in this section. Refer to the ESTIME document mentioned in [Related Documents](#) (§4) to learn more about the Explore phase of ESTIME.

3.1.1 Explore Phase Timeline

Table 3.2: Timeline for the Explore Phase

Estimated	Achieved	Who	What
2005-07-22	2005-07-29	JHE	Explore Solutions (§3.1.4)
2005-07-29	2005-08-05	JHE	Explore About Dixite (§3.1.5)
2005-08-08	2005-8-13	RDE	Explore Services (§3.1.3)
2005-08-15	2005-08-15	RDE, JHE	Explore Site Architecture (§3.1.6)

3.1.2 Explore Phase Deliverables

1. Web Site Glossary: is the global glossary document including the glossaries of the following documents:
 - *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Services* produced in the sub-phase: [Explore Services](#) (§3.1.3)
 - *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Solutions* produced in the sub-phase: [Explore Solutions](#) (§3.1.4)
 - *Dixite in a Nutshell* produced in the sub-phase: [Explore About Dixite](#) (§3.1.5)
2. Web Site Architecture: the main sub-sections of this chapter already suggests the main sections of the Phenix . But at the end of this phase, the `layout.xml` must be produced. Refer to [SilkPage User Guide](#) to learn more about `layout.xml`.

3.1.3 Explore Services

Explores services provided by Dixite.

3.1.3.1 Deliverables

The outcome of this sub-phase should be compiled into a document under the title of: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Services*.

3.1.4 Explore Solutions

Explores solutions provided by Dixite.

3.1.4.1 Deliverables

The outcome of this sub-phase should be compiled into a document under the title of: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Solutions*.

3.1.5 Explore About Dixite

Dixite in a Nutshell Explores Dixite as a company including its history and culture.

3.1.5.1 Deliverables

The outcome of this sub-phase should be compiled into a document under the title of: *Dixite in a Nutshell*.

3.1.6 Explore Site Architecture

Based on the [Explore Phase Deliverables](#) (§3.1.2), the *Web Site Glossary* should be compiled. Given this glossary and produced documents specified in [Explore Phase Deliverables](#) (§3.1.2), the website architecture is established.

3.1.6.1 Deliverables

The outcome of this sub-phase is the `layout.xml`.

3.2 Execution

Once in this phase, the site's architecture has been established. The focus of this phase is to implement (markup) and test the site.

3.2.1 Execution Phase Deliverables

This phase includes two iterations:

1. In the first iteration, the focus is on the website structure, layout and content. At the end of the first iteration of this phase, the first draft of the website is completed and tested.
2. The Phenix Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) are implemented in the second phase. By the end of the second iterations, the website must be ready to go online.

3.2.2 Execute Phase Timeline

Table 3.3: Timeline for the Execution Phase

Iteration	Estimated	Achieved	Who	What
1	2005-07-22	2005-07-28	SHE	SilkPage Customizations (§3.2.3)
1	2005-08-19		SHE, JHE	Implementation (§3.2.4)
1	2005-08-26		SHE	Testing (§3.2.5)
2	2005-09-05		SHE,RDE	Implementation (§3.2.4)
2	2005-09-12		SHE	Testing (§3.2.5)
2	2005-09-19	2005-09-26	RDE, JHE, SHE	Site Polishing (§3.2.4.3)

3.2.3 SilkPage Customizations

In order to use the SilkPage publishing framework in Phenix , it's required to perform the following customizations:

- Content Feeds: Add support for Atom and provide a tabular format for the content feeds presentation. In addition, make Atom and Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds generation automatic.
- Download Elements provide a generic approach in order to encode and present download elements.
- Project and Client Items provide a generic approach in order to encode and present project and client items.

- Link Customizations customize the SilkPage link element in order to distinguish between external and internal `ulinks`.
- Page Footers improve the foot item presentation.

3.2.4 Implementation

3.2.4.1 Site Structure

1. layout the website based on `layout.xml` produced in [Explore Site Architecture](#) (§3.1.6)
2. Given the documents produced in the [Execution](#) (§3.2) phase, markup the site in Extensible Markup Language (XML).

3.2.4.1.1 Site Global Structure The following structure is the draft proposal for the HyperText Markup Language (HTML) content tree.

`/company`: Refer to the *Dixite in a Nutshell* document. Moreover, add the following sub-sections: *Partners*, *Team* and *Careers*.

`/news`: migrate all the *news* items from the Dixite website to support RSS and Atom feeds.

`/client-and-references`: migrate all the *clients* and *projects* from the Dixite website and organize them by sector.

`/solutions-and-services`: Refer to the *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Solutions* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to Dixite Services* documents.

`/opensource`: make this section based on the aggregation of the following documents: ESTIME, Software Production Process Using Open Source Software (SPPOSS), Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP (LAMP) and Java, JBoss, Apache MySQL (JAM)

`/docs`: include documents under the following CVS module: `dixite/doc/en`

In addition to the above directories, you need to add the required SilkPage directories for the news and the Content Feed management.

3.2.4.2 Site Presentation

The CSS is used to control the web pages format such as typography, placement and compositions, color and so on. For the first draft of Phenix produced in the first iteration of the [Implementation](#) (§3.2.4), the SilkPage *ALA* theme should be adapted¹ and used. However, in the second iteration, a new Phenix theme should be developed and used.

3.2.4.3 Site Polishing

This sub-phase includes the final bug fixing and polishing before publishing the website online.

¹Change the color set to correspond to the Dixite website color set.

3.2.5 Testing

Appropriate tests must be executed in order to ensure the quality of the website.

3.2.5.1 Browser Platforms

Table 3.4: Supported Platforms

Operating System	Firefox	Explorer	Safari
GNU/Linux	≥ 1.0	≥ 5.5	
Windows	≥ 1.0	≥ 5.5	
Mac	≥ 1.0	≥ 5.5	> 1.0

Table 3.5: Supported Operating Systems

Operating System	Distribution
GNU/Linux	Debian, Redhat, SuSE
Windows	NT, 2000, XP
Mac	MacOS X

3.2.5.2 W3C Conformance

The final version of the site must be a valid website, it should validate against the W3C CSS and The Web Standard Project (WaSP) validators.

Chapter 4

Enhancements

This chapter lists and describes a list of enhancements proposed for Phenix .

Table 4.1: Phenix Enhancements Summary Table

Priority	Title
H	PaperWare Center (§4.1)
H	Imagery (§4.2)
M	Restricted PaperWare (§4.1.1)
L	Team Member Page (§4.3)
L	Company Blog (§4.5)

4.1 PaperWare Center

PaperWare Center is to be added as a new top level section ¹ of Phenix . What does PaperWare mean? it's the center to provide Dixite PaperWare including documents, manuals, reports, articles, presentations and so on. Refer to *PaperWare Specification* to know more about PaperWare.

With the addition of the PaperWare Center, the *Document Center* should become a subsection of the PaperWare Center.

4.1.1 Restricted PaperWare

Access to some PaperWare maybe restricted. When the user attempts to download a *Restricted PaperWare*, he should be prompted for some additional information². It's recommended that an extra attribute is added to the (**URFM!**) vocabulary to identify this restriction.

4.2 Imagery

Review Phenix in order to examine the possibility of adding some images.

¹with small link before search link

²to be defined later

4.3 Team Member Page

Add a page per team member to include:

photo

Short Bio

Link to C.V.

Link to Blog

Link to Personal Website

4.4 Feedback Form

Provide a footer link to a feedback form in which the visitor's feedback about phenix is collected.

4.5 Company Blog

Integrate a Blogging software so that team members can use it to blog.

Document Information

This document was typeset by the author using \LaTeX ³.

Revision

Table 4.2: Document Revision History

Revision	Date	Modified Sections
0.3	02-10-2005	Added Enhancements (§4) chapter.
0.2	28-07-2005	Revised the Timeline (§3).
0.1	14-07-2005	Initial Revision

Related Documents

Table 4.3: Related Documents

Title	URL	Description
ESTIME	www.dixite.com/docs/estime	A Methodology for Web Site Publishing
SilkPage	silkpage.markupware.com/docs	SilkPage User Guide

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³ \LaTeX ↗ www.latex-project.org

Glossary

ESTIME Explore, Sketch, Tipography, Imagery, Make-up, Execute is the Dixite methodology for website development and publishing. *URL* ↗ www.dixite.com/docs/estime

XML Extensible Markup Language Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a simple, very flexible text format derived from SGML (ISO 8879). Originally designed to meet the challenges of large-scale electronic publishing, XML is also playing an increasingly important role in the exchange of a wide variety of data on the Web and elsewhere. *URL* ↗ www.w3.org/XML

HTML HyperText Markup Language XHTML 2 is a general-purpose markup language designed for representing documents for a wide range of purposes across the World Wide Web. To this end it does not attempt to be all things to all people, supplying every possible markup idiom, but to supply a generally useful set of elements. *URL* ↗ www.w3.org/MarkUp

GNU GNU's Not UNIX *URL* ↗ www.gnu.org

FSF Free Software Foundation *URL* ↗ www.fsf.org

ASF Apache Software Foundation *URL* ↗ www.apache.org

W3C The World Wide Web Consortium develops interoperable technologies (specifications, guidelines, software, and tools) to lead the Web to its full potential.

CSS Cascading Style Sheets is a simple mechanism for adding style (e.g. fonts, colors, spacing) to Web documents. *www.w3.org/Style/CSS* ↗ www.w3.org/Style/CSS

RSS Really Simple Syndication is a lightweight XML format designed for sharing headlines and other Web content.

WaSP The Web Standard Project *www.webstandards.org* ↗ www.webstandards.org

SPPOSS Software Production Process Using Open Source Software *www.dixite.com/docs/spposs* ↗ www.dixite.com/docs/spposs

JAM Java, JBoss, Apache MySQL *www.dixite.com/docs/jam* ↗ www.dixite.com/docs/jam

LAMP Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP *www.dixite.com/docs/lamp* ↗ www.dixite.com/docs/lamp