

INFORMATION SYSTEM AND APPLICATIONS PORTALS. THE CASE OF BRAȘOV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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Abstract: In the past 10 years, information technology gained a huge development. Informational systems are already an important part of any economical or non-profit entity. Thus, the informational system at Brașov Chamber of Commerce and Industry is aligned with the concerns for informational flow optimization. Within the informational system of Brașov Chamber of Commerce and Industry, are found specific elements like software applications portal used at intranet level. The paper aims to analyze the necessity of the portal and to present its structure as a response to the problems identified after analyze.

Key words: information systems, portals, applications, intranet.

1. Introduction

The past years represents a great transformation regarding the information system, and , as a result, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has enrolled within the effort of accomplishing the goal of modern information system.

2. The study

The study was made on the observation method, was conducted over the past five month and the results has shown that the employees and the management needed the same source of information in order to accomplish different tasks.

3. The portal

The software applications portal used at intranet level in Brasov Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIBV) is developed using latest technologies in web-programming, using PHP as server-run programming language, MySQL as database engine, general and custom jQuery libraries, combined with the latest HTML standard - HTML5. It also uses the modifications of jQuery libraries and corresponding CSS based on metro-style web framework for friendly, elegant and modern user interface.

The portal is created for flexibility, using customizable configurations and parameters files and tables for general portal settings, applications settings and user access rights at portal level and application level. It is intended to be used for a medium period of time, being the successor of first version of portal created, maintained and improved since 2005. It consists in specific applications, some related to each other, some independent.

The portal has, from audience perspective, two sections groups, as presented in figure 1 and 2:

- Public sections, available for everyone accessing the intranet. The public sections consists in various information like weather forecast, exchange rates, news collected from RSS links like Google alerts and on-line editions of newspapers. It also contains feeds from CCIBV's web-site, Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

- Private sections, available for authenticated users. The private sections consists in applications like: Partners information, Mail registration, Booking meeting rooms, Events, Courses, Newsletter, Forms, File Management. It also contains primary social-like components: videos and links sharing and offers users to configure shortcuts for applications features.

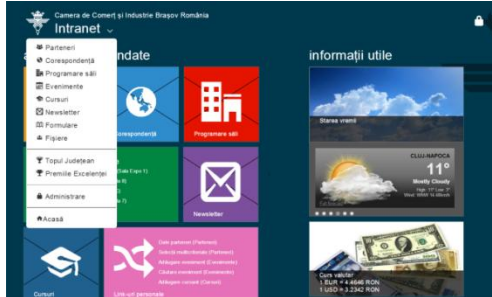


Figure 1. First section group



Figure 2. Second section group

The most important application of the portal is Partners, which contains information about companies, persons and other entities. In this application, the “partner” is considered any entity as previously mentioned that comes or can come in contact with CCIBV. Applications main interface as presented in figure 3 has its main features:

- Partner's data
- Criteria selection lists
- Financial indicators analysis
- Market trends
- Nomenclatures
- Application statistics and user settings

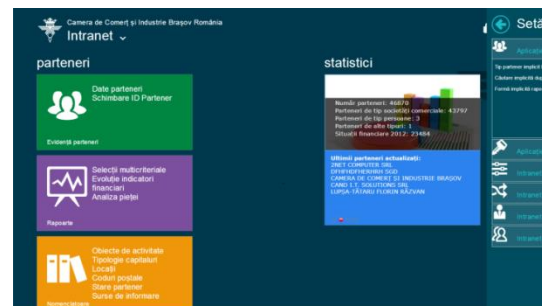


Figure 3. Main interface

Partner's data feature allows permitted users to view and update partner's information. Each partner's data is organized in 5 main sections (*for companies*), as presented below, figure number 4:

Identification data: partner type, unique partner ID, partner name, Trade Register Number and registration date, legal organization form, social capital subscribed amount, partner status and information source. All this all mainly legal information which identifies a partner.

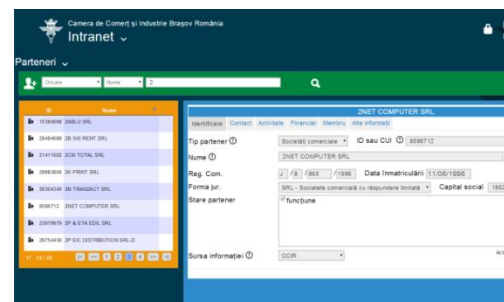


Figure 4. Partner's data

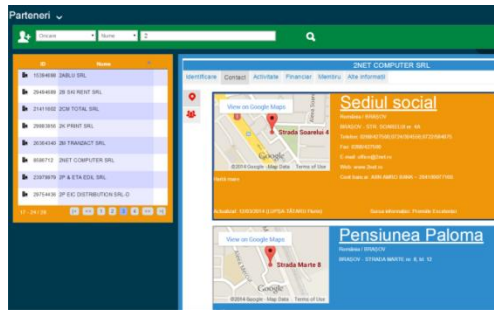


Figure 5. Contact data information – first subset

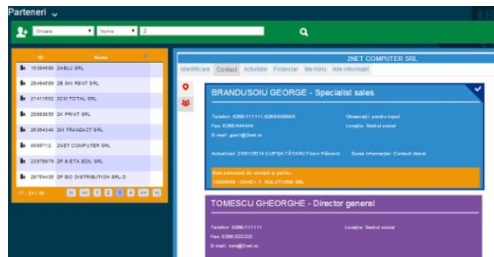


Figure 6. Contact information data – second subset

Activity data refers to companie's activities, identified by activity code (according to CAEN nomenclature), description and details and also the location where the activity is held, according to figure 7.

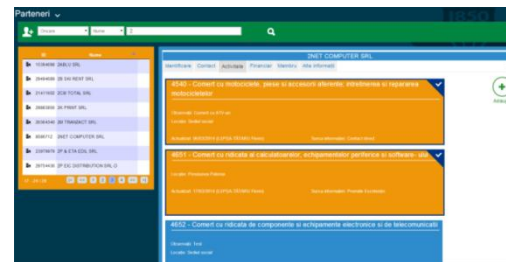


Figure 7. Activity Data

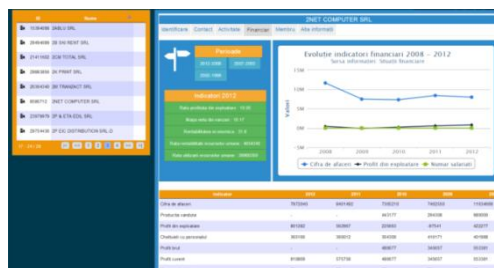


Figure 8. Financial data

Membership data has two subsets of data: membership evolution data and fees payment data, as shown in figure 9.

Membership evolution data refers to the moments of registering as member, changing membership type and other membership situations.

Fees payment data refers to dates and amounts paid as membership fee,

Contact data has two subsets of information, localisation and contact persons, as shown in figure 5 and 6.

Localisation refers to headquarters and other offices where partner can be located. Each of those gather data like: address, phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses and websites and also bank accounts.

Contact persons gather data like: phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses and the location where person can be contacted.

Financial data refers to historical evolution of financial indicators and calculated financial customizable rates, as shown in figure 8.

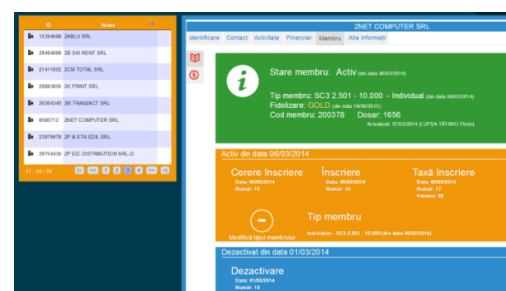


Figure 9. Membership data

according to member type.

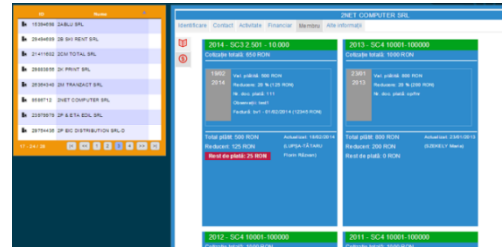


Figure 10. Other membership information

4. Conclusion

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry information system is adjusted to the needs identified from the study, and is very complex, the solutions mentioned and the structure being updated periodically.

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