

Stone Brewing and FMT Consultants Working Hard Like Yeast

Yeast is a hardworking organism that, under optimal conditions, multiplies rapidly, fermenting the brew and endowing it with unique character and flavor. Stone Brewing, like the yeast it makes a brilliant proprietary use of, began very small in 1996 as a craft brewery in North County San Diego. It has steadily grown into a bold, robust enterprise currently ranked as the tenth largest craft brewery on the Brewers Association's Top 50 Craft Breweries in America list.



THE POUR

Stone Brewing, with more than 1,100 team members worldwide, attracts top tier people that work hard, but enjoy themselves. Stone Brewing wishes to preserve its close-knit, craft brewery culture while continuing to expand its Southern California facilities to new locations including Richmond, Virginia and Berlin, Germany. To gain clarity on how the organization was doing, Stone surveyed the employees. The results revealed an opportunity to improve cross-team collaboration and communication.

"We trusted FMT as our implementation partner for this highly strategic initiative for our company and they delivered."

—BRIAN ANDREWS
VP OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
STONE BREWING

Stone knew that both are common issues with growing companies and can be improved with technology, so it reached out to FMT Consultants. Stone's wish list included a company intranet with a home page for company news posts, a news channel called Stone TV, company calendar, feed to highlight team member anniversaries and new hires, press articles, and more. Stone also asked for an updated document management system for the entire organization with sub-sites for each department.

STONE BREWING

- › Founded in 1996 and still privately owned
- › Headquartered in Escondido, CA
- › Over 1,100 employees worldwide
- › Ranked 10th largest craft brewery in U.S. in 2015

CHALLENGES

- › Improving internal communications
- › Single platform for multimedia rich content
- › Improve outdated document management system
- › Secure team collaboration sites
- › Electronic forms to manage workflow

SOLUTION

- › SharePoint 2013 on premises
- › Stone Central branded intranet portal
- › OneDrive for Secure Doc Management
- › Nintex for custom electronic workflows
- › Personal Beer App for user adoption

OUTCOME

- › Improved communication and collaboration
- › Increased productivity
- › Secure documents
- › Platform is scalable and mobile responsive
- › Stone retains its tight-knit company culture



A COMPLEX, LAYERED TASTE

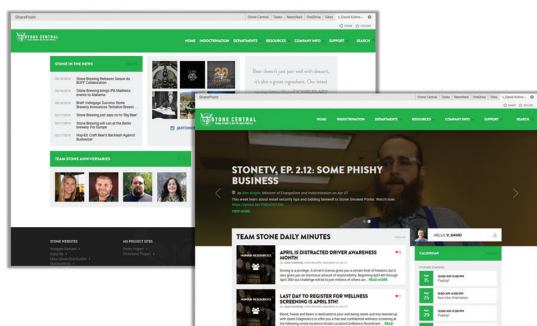
Using Microsoft SharePoint 2013, FMT Consultants checked off Stone's wish list, keeping budget and best practices in mind. "FMT used what they could out-of-box in SharePoint, and wove in custom components when the return on investment was justified," says Andrews.

Collaborating with Stone's media department to brand the intranet, FMT Consultants designed Stone's portal, Stone Central, to function as an attractive, mobile responsive, content-rich site. Stone Central also contained searchable individual employee pages for every member of the organization.

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Next, FMT turned to Stone's file system, establishing a structure of sites, libraries, views, content types, and metadata to enable migration of files into SharePoint 2013. FMT introduced OneDrive with sync services to enable migration of individual Stone team member's documents from their computers and Windows drives to improve document management, collaboration, and off-line work capabilities. Then FMT added Nintex for SharePoint, an automated process plugin compatible with SharePoint 2013. With Nintex, Stone team members could easily create workflow and form solutions.



A STRONG FINISH

Stone Brewing retains top talent by providing an optimal work environment that naturally includes an allotment of free beer. FMT leveraged that free beer to encourage user adoption of Stone Central.

FMT custom coded a mobile-friendly application within Stone Central called Personal Beer replacing an inflexible legacy custom app that IT was required to maintain. Employees would use Stone Central to order their monthly supply of free beer from the Personal Beer page and the business fulfillment team is able to add and remove beer options through a SharePoint list. In the year since the SharePoint 2013 implementation, Personal Beer logged 11,300 requests. Beer was an excellent motivational tool.

By gaining widespread intranet user adoption, an updated document management system and automated workflows, Andrews says, "This technology was a key component to lifting our collaboration and communication throughout the company. It's become instrumental to how we manage and share information."

With strong communication and collaboration across multiple locations in the U.S. and abroad, a growing enterprise like Stone Brewing can retain its tightknit craft brewery character. Stone continues to partner with FMT Consultants, together working hard like yeast to maintain the unique Stone culture while scaling for growth. "FMT demonstrated strong command of the features and technology, paired with effective project management, business analysis, and sensitivity to our unique organizational culture." concludes Andrews.

