

City Parklands Services Pty Ltd

OpenText Content Manager integration with SharePoint streamlines and safeguards document management to increase stakeholder productivity.





At a glance

Industry

Government

Location

Australia

Challenge

Securely share large documents with external stakeholders and streamline document management processes

Who is City Parklands Services?

City Parklands Services (CPS) is a wholly owned subsidiary company of Brisbane City Council. It manages the operational services, events, and marketing activity for South Bank Parklands, Roma Street Parkland, and Victoria Park.

Seeking alternative for expensive and unsecure file sharing

The organization managed a SharePoint-based intranet which held policy and process documents, as Heather Mitchell, Records Manager for CPS, explains: "We would expose content on the intranet via links from OpenText™ Content Manager, which held our corporate documents. But many of our stakeholders didn't have access to our network and so we also used a variety of file transfer platforms to send large documents, such as our board pack to board members. This was an expensive solution with a potential security risk too, so we looked for a more efficient way to manage this. At the same time, we wanted to refresh our intranet and saw an opportunity in combining both objectives."

The team decided on an upgrade to SharePoint Online to redesign their intranet. Content management experts WyldLynx recommended an integration with OpenText Content Manager to easily share content and create a secure portal for external shareholders. WyldLynx consultants managed the server-side integration and provided team training and support, while Heather built the refreshed intranet in SharePoint Online, ready to accept OpenText Content Manager content.

"We tested the concept by exposing content from our training dataset to the new intranet," comments Heather. "When that worked, WyldLynx connected the integration to our production dataset, and I started exposing the necessary OpenText Content Manager documents."

Products and Services:

 OpenText Content Manager

Success Highlights

- 50% productivity improvement for board members
- Annual cost savings in eliminating filesharing platforms
- Easy and secure access for external stakeholders
- Fast onboarding of new CEO

"Our CEO was delighted. These documents are too sensitive to just send by email and OpenText Content Manager made it extremely easy for him to be productive as soon as he arrived in Australia."

HEATHER MITCHELL

Records Manager City Parklands Services

Successful OpenText Content Manager test with board members and CEO

The native integration between SharePoint and OpenText Content Manager enables CPS to manage SharePoint content and expose OpenText Content Manager content according to established business rules. This process is transparent to the user and all managed content is easily discoverable from SharePoint and OpenText Content Manager.

"We found an easy and secure method of exposing OpenText Content Manager content onto our new Intranet, while allowing external stakeholders relevant access," says Heather.

Board members were given early access to the new solution and were pleased to discover their board packs in just one click, rather than having to download and copy confidential documents via unsecure filesharing links.

Meanwhile, CPS welcomed a new CEO, who came from abroad. Because of COVID-19 restrictions he had to adhere to a 14-day quarantine period when he arrived in Sydney. The CEO was without a corporate laptop or network access, but Heather prepared a secure document library containing a selection of critical company documents for his review.

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Potential for many more use cases and possible move to the cloud

As Heather and the team are discovering additional opportunities with OpenText Content Manager, new use cases continue to emerge. Most of CPS's external stakeholders, such as Brisbane City Council or State Government staff, are a member of a Microsoft tenancy. This means that additional document libraries can be shared, keeping them secure and confined to specific content relevant to the stakeholder.

Private companies too can benefit from this. CPS maintain public swimming pools in their parks and constantly monitor water quality. There is an opportunity to allow pool companies direct access to a library with water test results so that they can monitor these real-time and take corrective action quickly.

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HEATHER MITCHELL

Records Manager City Parklands Services Currently, when an incident occurs in any of the parks, the responding team completes a Google form which is escalated to the relevant parties via email. Heather is exploring the use of SharePoint in combination with Microsoft Power Automate to have these details automatically logged in OpenText Content Manager, with the relevant stakeholders being notified by email of the incident. This same process will be adapted to assist HR in onboarding new team members too.

OpenText Content Manager is currently an on-premises implementation for CPS, but the team is looking into a cloud version, as Heather explains: "Running a hybrid environment with SharePoint cloud-based and OpenText Content Manager on-premises has worked fine for us. However, we moved to remote working during the COVID-19 pandemic and need to access OpenText Content Manager via VPN. With a cloud instance of OpenText Content Manager, we wouldn't need the VPN connection which can sometimes be unreliable. Definitely something for us to consider."

Heather concludes: "WyldLynx provided great support in the integration effort between SharePoint and OpenText Content Manager and we have found the Micro Focus (now part of OpenText) user community really helpful too. When quizzing our board members, they report a productivity improvement of 50 percent and I know we also have realized annual operational cost savings as we don't need to fund filesharing platforms anymore. We are excited about the potential we have for future use cases for OpenText Content Manager."

"We juggled management of our software licenses between [OpenText] Asset Manager, [OpenText] Service Manager, and [OpenText Universal Discovery and CMDB]. SMAX gave us the opportunity to consolidate asset management, so all our asset data was transferred into [OpenText Service Management] which eases the overall process and is more cost-effective."

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