

FOREWORD

Remembering back to the late nineties, I can still recall when we decided to start building a product code-named Tahoe. For those of you who don't keep up on our code names here at Microsoft, Tahoe was the code name for SharePoint Portal Server 2001. At the time, I was in the Exchange Server group, which supplied the underlying storage technology to the Tahoe team. Many folks, including myself, were nervous about how customers and partners would accept the new technology, especially since it provided portal, enterprise search and document management functionality of which two of the three were completely new categories offered in Microsoft software.

Fast forward to 2007, and we've just released the latest version of SharePoint: Office SharePoint Server 2007. Three years of development went into this release. We've added three new categories to the product: enterprise content management, e-forms and workflow, and business intelligence. The product has sold over 85 million licenses in the past 6 years, making it one of the fastest-growing server products in Microsoft's history; tens of thousands of companies depend on SharePoint technologies every day to achieve business goals. Much of the success of SharePoint has to be attributed to the early adopters who saw the vision we were painting in the 2001 release and volunteered to help shape and mold that vision and the product over time.

One of those early adopters is Scott Jamison. I first met Scott ten years ago when he was doing consulting work and I was on the Exchange Server team. Scott was a pro at developing Microsoft Office applications that connected to the new set of server technologies Microsoft was introducing. Scott believed in the collaboration vision in which Microsoft was investing, and he saw the potential offered by that vision to help his customers increase their business productivity. In fact, Scott worked with the original WSS (which back then was the Web Storage System) which was the underlying platform technology for SharePoint Portal Server 2001.

Any reader of this book will benefit from the history, teachings, and best practices that Scott has internalized over his many years working with Microsoft technologies. Scott has also tapped the experienced minds of Mauro Cardarelli and Susan Hanley, both are industry experts who work with customers every day to solve business issues through software. This book will become a mainstay in your SharePoint library. You will find yourself reaching for it whenever you run into a difficult situation or need extra guidance on how to use the new SharePoint product set. As I was reading this book, I was happy to see the breadth of coverage of the new functionality in SharePoint without sacrificing depth and expertise.

When you are done reading this book, you will have a better understanding of SharePoint and how it can help you achieve new levels of personal and business productivity. I guarantee that you will have earmarked many pages where you learned new skills or ideas that sparked your interest for follow-up. Enjoy the book, and enjoy the product. Both are labors of love.

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