

Outlook Classification Tool (OCT)

Information Strategies developed the Outlook Classification Tool (OCT) using the Microsoft Visual Studio Tools for Office development platform, which provides scalability, flexibility, and extensibility.

BACKGROUND

The Outlook Classification Tool (OCT) version 3.0 provides an integrated solution for applying classification markings to emails and meetings in Microsoft Outlook 2003 and 2007

Problems

Existing email classification tools forced customers to recode and redeploy whenever changes needed to be made to their classification marking standard.

Existing email classification tools did not provide a way to mark email created with Exchange Outlook Web Access application.

SOLUTION

This is why Information Strategies has developed the OCT Configuration Tool with the use of latest Microsoft .Net tools, Visual Studio Tools for Office 2005 and SQL Server 2005.

OCT v3 uses a metadata driven User Interface which means less code to maintain and the ability to make most changes without requiring a developer or redeploying the application. OCT clients access their configuration settings through a central web service, where configuration settings are stored locally on the client workstation. These settings are only updated when a version of configuration settings is published. This allows this user to classify messages while off-line.

The OCT Configuration Tool that Information Strategies has developed allows most OCT updates to be accomplished without building and redeploying a new release of code. Both OCT user interface and group configurations (networks, users) can be configured with the OCT Configuration Tool. A working "preview" of the tool is also available for administrators to view.

OCT also provides a web based version for Outlook Web Access that fully integrates with the OCT configuration system.

Solution at a glance

Microsoft Outlook based application that leverages .NET extensibility

Technologies Involved

Microsoft Outlook, .Net Framework 2.0, SQL Server

LOOKING FORWARD

To expand on the current features of OCT and enhance its performance, the following are being analyzed for development:

- Interoperability with other classification marking tools
- Ability to mark other types of Outlook items such as Tasks
- Ability to mark other types of Office documents