



Sonjara, Inc. Capability Statement

Sonjara, Inc is a small, woman-owned and operated Virginia consulting company specializing in bringing modern internet technologies for social benefit. Our goal is to marry our considerable technical expertise with a deep understanding of the challenges, problems and opportunities that are unique to social assistance.

Services Offered

ICT Strategy Formulation

- Web and other information technology strategies
- Knowledge management and business engineering processes
- Technology integration into current business processes
- Online collaboration strategies

Software Architecture and Development

- Full-lifecycle software development
- Web, desktop and handheld software development
- Software Quality Reviews
- Architectural Reviews

Project Management Solutions

At Sonjara, Inc. we pride ourselves on a strong project management process. Before even starting to discuss the details of a task, we ensure that the overall mission, vision, purpose, and objectives have been identified and agreed to by all relevant parties. This step helps keep us on track during the development process and gives us an ability to measure its success when the project has been completed.

Using our project development process, we work with clients to determine the goals of the project, and then flesh out different methods of achieving those goals. We work closely with our clients to ensure they are fully involved in the design and development process and give our clients access to design documents and development versions of the project at nearly every stage of the activity. We also help clients bring in other stakeholders within and outside of their organizations as we understand that no project can succeed without political and institutional support.

Whenever appropriate, we will work with clients to identify the long term management process for the project, often by integrating the project into clients' ongoing business processes so that the project will be sustainable after we have delivered the final product.

Development Platforms

At Sonjara Inc, we are platform agnostic. Our primary focus is to develop a technology solution that will integrate with your infrastructure and be maintainable and financially sustainable. We can build custom applications or find appropriate off-the-shelf applications, dependant on the needs of the project. We have direct expertise with the following platforms:

Web Application Platforms

PHP, Java, JSP, J2EE, ASP.NET, Perl/CGI, ColdFusion, XML/XSL, RSS

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Relational Databases

Oracle, SQL Server, MySQL, Access

Operating Systems

Windows, Linux, Solaris

Programming Languages

Java, C++, Perl, C#, Visual Basic, PHP, XML

Portfolio

Global Health, Office of Population and Reproduction Health Evaluation of INFO Project

Client: USAID/GH through QED, LLC

Status: Project is completed.

Sonjara contributed to the USAID Global Health evaluation of the Johns Hopkins Knowledge Management for health project, INFO, by performing the technology and KM analysis of the five year activity. Through interviews, technology analysis, and other means, Sonjara reviewed the various KM and technology elements to this project and gave an overall analysis of both the technology investment and the overarching KM strategy. Sonjara also provided concrete recommendations to USAID Global Health Bureau for the follow on contract.

Office of the Chief Information Officer Intranet Redesign, Release 1.0 and 2.0

Client: USAID/CIO through SRA, International

Status: This site is actively maintained.

Technologies Used: Static HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Perl, integration with CommonSpot CMS, Remedy, other existing applications used by USAID.

Sonjara played the role of information architect and web developer for the intranet site redesign and consolidation process for the Office of the CIO at USAID. The task involved developing the web strategy for the OCIO, identifying use cases and user groups, interviewing stakeholders, identifying and consolidating existing content (over 37 existing, independent websites), developing wireframes and navigation system for the new site. The team also performed a collaboration functionality analysis, focusing on existing software applications approved by USAID, and integrating some of the recommendations of the Release 2.0 phase of the activity. Release 2.0 encompassed transferring the content from static HTML into a Content Management System (CommonSpot), a task which including writing custom scripts for mass data import (including documents and images), tweaking the navigation and user interface to meet the needs of the CMS, and creating custom Coldfusion modules for collaboration functionality.

Asia & Near East Content Submission Tool (ANE CST)

Client: USAID/ANE, through Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Status: This tool was rolled out June 2007.

Technologies Used: ASP.NET, SQL Server, C#, XML/XSLT, RSS

Sonjara, Inc developed a content submission tool to help overseas Missions manage their own web content without the need for a dynamic content management tool. Residing on USAID's Intranet, the CST allows user to add and edit activity and article information through web-based forms, create new web page layouts using XML/XSL, and "churn" USAID compliant html pages, which are in turn either FTP'd directly to the USAID intranet server or downloaded as a ZIP file onto the user's hard drive. The CST also allows cross population of content onto the ANE

central website from each of the subsites, by pulling shared content from the database, and by pulling in RSS feeds from two Mission sites managed by a content management system.

ICT-in-Education Toolkit

Client: InfoDev, UNESCO, AED, Knowledge Enterprise, Inc.

Site: <http://www.ictinedtoolkit.org>

Status: This site is actively maintained. UNESCO, World Bank, and other partners are currently using or have plans to use the tool to train Ministries of Education around the world.

Technologies Used: PHP, MYSQL, Linux

Sonjara, Inc. provided software development and management expertise in the production of this highly-complex set of inter-related policy tools. Sonjara was also involved in addressing usability concerns, additional functionality requirements, and review of training process for recommendations on improved training workflow.

The site was implemented in PHP/MySQL using a custom developed XML-based form engine that provides a high-level mechanism for describing the complex workflows within the toolkit. The site was debuted in September 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand and substantially extended in March 2007. A fully functional and dynamic CDRom version was also developed as part of this project.

USAID ICT Web Presence

Client: USAID/EGAT/E&I/ICT, through AED

Site: <http://ict.usaid.gov>

Status: This site is actively maintained.

Technologies Used: PHP, SQL Server, Static HTML

Sonjara has developed an overarching web presence strategy for the ICT Team's various web sites (Public, intranet and extranet). On the extranet site, Sonjara has overseen the development of three releases of ICT Inventory and Photo Gallery. This tool has a web based user interface and three level login system to manage decentralized data entry and review process. Photo Gallery has a mass upload feature to allow multiple photos to be uploaded to the site all at once. Release 3.0 of the website includes a complete redesign of the look and feel, new search criteria, improvements to functionality and user interface, and an RSS feed.

ICT Policy Development

Client: Internews Network, Inc.

Site: <http://www.internews.org/ICT%5FPolicy/>

Status: This site is no longer actively maintained.

Technologies Used: ASP.NET, SQL Server, Visual Basic, RSS

The site, divided into public and administrative versions for secure decentralized data entry, is implemented in ASP.NET with SQL Server as the back-end database. The administrative site combines a customized Management Information System (MIS) for program, funder, and project reporting in a structured manner, and a Content Management System (CMS) to allow editors the flexibility to create unstructured pages, constrained by the global look and feel designs.

The site also includes a mass document and mass image file upload capacity via Virtual Private Network (VPN), document and link library, photo gallery (including automated image manipulation), ability to create online tutorial pages, automated glossary feature, XML synchronization with a partner website, and an RSS feed for news items.

Personnel

Siobhan Green (CEO), Lead Technology Strategist and Web Developer

Siobhan has over 15 years of experience managing and developing programs in social benefit, working with non-profits, for-profits, USAID, World Health Organization, UNAIDS, World Bank, Unesco, and various foundations. She holds a BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, and a Master's in Anthropology of Development from University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where she received a distinction on her Master's thesis on Policy Perspectives on the Use of the Internet in Africa.

Over the course of her career, she has gained a great deal of experience in how information technology can be used for social benefit – both in regard to improving program performance and in service delivery to target beneficiaries. Due to her intimate understanding of the “business” of non-profits and NGOs, Siobhan is well placed to help academics and professionals use technology in appropriate, cost effective, and sustainable ways which meet programmatic and funder requirements.

Siobhan has managed the development of complex information systems and teams, including needs assessments, training, and workflow and business process evaluation. She is also able to program in PHP and Cold Fusion and is highly proficient in HTML, XHTML, and Cascading Style Sheets. She has a great deal of experience with Information Architecture, usability studies, Section 508 Compliance, and US Government Information Technology, Security, and Privacy requirements.

Siobhan is a citizen of the United States.

Andrew Green (President), Software Architect and Developer

Andrew has been programming computers since he was nine years old. He has a BSc in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Bath, UK. He has 12 years of professional experience developing software for a variety of industries, including international development, biometrics, online collaboration environments, web development, financial systems, and geological research.

Andrew combines his deep understanding of technological systems with an understanding of customer needs – spoken and unspoken. He has strong skills in determining feasible and cost effective methods of achieving high impact technological solutions, using the resources and constraints facing any industry or company.

Andrew's software experience includes work with PHP, Java, JSP, J2EE, C++, C#, Visual Basic, ASP.NET, Perl/CGI, ColdFusion, Oracle, SQL Server, MySQL, and MS Access. He also learns new technologies on an ongoing basis.

Andrew is a naturalized citizen of the United States.