Why is M-Files a better solution for document management than SharePoint

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2010 and SharePoint Foundation 2010 as well the older versions of SharePoint only offer light basic properties for document management, whereas M-Files provides an overall solution specifically designed for document management.

Key differences between the properties of M-Files and SharePoint Document Library are specified below. For document management, M-Files gives you significant benefits that you cannot achieve with SharePoint.

M-Files is compatible with all applications

- SharePoint is truly compatible with MS Office products only.

- M-Files is fully compatible with all Windows applications (also non-Microsoft products, such as Adobe applications).

- M-Files integrates well with, e.g., special functionality of AutoCAD products (such as XREF images).

M-Files offers dynamic folder structure

- In addition to a fixed folder structure, M-Files offers a dynamic folder structure wherein documents can be automatically displayed in the desired positions, sorted by their metadata.

- SharePoint only offers a fixed folder structure through document libraries, which does not solve the problems related to fixed folder structure that are particularly common with network drives.

M-Files can have a multilingual metadata structure

- The whole metadata structure of M-Files, including value list values, can be translated into the desired language(s).

- In SharePoint, the metadata structure cannot be translated into different languages.

- M-Files can be used in 14 languages, including Finnish, Swedish, and English.

M-Files provides better search capabilities

- Searching in M-Files is fast, even with large numbers of documents and users.

- Full-text search in M-Files works with over 300 file formats.

- There are diverse options for defining search criteria (with quick search and advanced search).

M-Files is a fully integrated part of the Windows system

- M-Files offers a familiar and easy-to-use user interface.

- A Web browser is required for using SharePoint, which creates usability problems due to restrictions caused by the Web technology.

- Full integration of M-Files into Windows ensures compatibility with all Windows applications.

M-Files operates efficiently even with slow network connections

- Working abroad and in different offices is significantly faster with M-Files than with SharePoint.

- M-Files automatically maintains local copies of the individual files, which makes opening and saving files significantly faster.

- The difference in efficiency is emphasized when, for example, you are processing image files.

- Working with M-Files is possible when, for example, you are using slow mobile connections.

M-Files can be used offline

- Unlike SharePoint, you can use M-Files even without a network connection.

- M-Files offers diversified capabilities to use metadata when specifying the kinds of documents that must be available offline (for example, documents on specific projects or customers, or those edited within the last month).

M-Files offers ready-to-use interfaces to other systems

- M-Files provides versatile ready-to-use capabilities to interface with existing database systems (CRM, ERP, project management, and other systems).

- M-Files offers automatic import of documents from e-mail systems.

M-Files supports scanning

- M-Files offers automatic text recognition (OCR).

- M-Files offers zone recognition (Zone OCR) functions and barcode identification. The identified data can be automatically stored as the document metadata (for example, the invoice number or customer information).

- Documents can be scanned directly into M-Files with a desktop scanner or network scanner.

M-Files provides a versatile, expandable metadata structure without requiring any programming

- M-Files gives you the opportunity to specify automatic metadata (for example, naming of proposals according to the desired standard method).

- M-Files enables smooth processing of even large value lists (with millions of values).

- In M-Files, different metadata can be interdependent (for example, filtering contact persons according to the customer company specified).

- The functionality of the metadata can be expanded with diverse scripting capabilities.

M-Files provides full version history functionality

- In M-Files, old versions of documents can be opened directly.

- The M-Files version history functionality provides version information for metadata, too.

M-Files can be easily incorporated into other applications

- M-Files offers an application programming interface (the M-Files API) for integrating M-Files into other applications.

- The M-Files Client user interface (M-Files Shell) can be embedded in most Windows applications without modification.

M-Files is integrated seamlessly with SharePoint

- Documents in M-Files can be directly linked to SharePoint with either M-Files URLs or the M-Files for SharePoint add-on.

- Via the application programming interface for M-Files, it is easy to make your own SharePoint Web parts.