# Site Builder 3.0 Redesign Plan



## Evaluation of Other Systems

The Web Action Team has evaluated several popular content management systems, looking both at the way content is handled and included features. WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, and Mambo all use a flexible approach to site creation and maintenance, relying on modules to drive specific needs rather than compartmentalized sections and behaviors. This design allows them to offer a variety of content enhancements without cluttering the administration of the site, a direction in which Site Builder needs to move in order to meet the present and future needs of our users.

## What's Going

Following is a list of things we plan to remove from the new version of Site Builder, and an explanation of why.

- **Static Pages** –New version will be 100% dynamic, allowing us to put modules on any page. This will allow us to do much more with each site.
- **Individual Sections** – About us, links, publications, etc. will be removed. Instead, each page will have the ability to become one of these things through the use of modules.
- **File Libraries** – We have three separate file libraries running in Site Builder, and we hope to bring that down to one.
- **Guestbook** – Will be replaced with a comments module that can be added to any page.
- **File Groups and Photo Albums** – File groups will be handled within each page, and photo albums will be replaced with gallery module.
- **Multiple Site Designs** – New Site Builder will focus on organization rather than specific design. Instead of several site designs, we will offer several organizational variations for a core design, such as single column, two columns, or three columns. This will provide us with more flexibility to offer different navigation menus, custom headers and multiple color schemes. We will also offer an "internal" design that will serve as the template for our state site and all internal ANR sites.
- **Cluttered Dashboard/Navigation** – Dashboard and navigation of administration pages will be optimized and made simpler to use.

## What's Coming

Following is a list of things we plan to add to the new version of Site Builder, and an explanation of each.

- **Integrated Assets** – Surveys, Datastores, Blogs, FAQs, Repository Items, and other ANR web applications will be further integrated into Site Builder, providing a better user experience, more dynamic content and expanded search capabilities.
- **Modules** – Modules are merely includes of any flavor. They can be anything from a staff list to a photo gallery. Modules are portable and will be able to sit on any page of the site.
- **Online Polls** – This mini survey system will allow sites to poll users and provide real time results.
- **Pages, Not Programs** – Sites will use a page system similar to what other content management systems use, where there is a parent-child relationship. Similar to the program/subpage relationship, the parent-child relationship will also allow for an endless nesting of pages. The system will also allow pages to be copied and moved around in the navigational structure.
- **Page Archive** – Pages will automatically store the last twenty versions for the users, just in case of an emergency!
- **Warnings** – Users will be warned if they are trying to leave a page on which they have edited content. Users will also be warned if they decide to open two or more sites in the same browser.
- **Site Access** –Currently, Blaine provides folder level security for sites that must be protected. New Site Builder will allow administrators to "hide" site contents from general audience and assign access to users. Users will be driven by new "Universal Login" system, which allows us to automatically let in assigned users who are already logged into the Portal.
- **Site Administrators** – New Site Builder will also use "Universal Login" to assign administrators, allowing us to give users on-click access to edit a page. If a user is visiting a site they have access to (and they are logged into the Portal), they will see a link allowing them to edit the content.
- **Site Builder 2.0 and Site Import** – Site Builder 3.0 will feature new database tables, a heavily revised administrative structure, and a brand-new display layout. We plan to keep Site Builder 2.0 active for at least one year to allow users to become familiar with the new system. We will also create a site importation routine that will rebuild a site in the new Site Builder. Therefore, county sites will still have an about us section, as the new system will create the necessary modules in each page. We will not be importing site designs or headers.
- **Site Copy** – Users will be able to copy an existing site to speed up the redesign process.
- **Google Analytics** – Site Builder will allow users to track their site activity with Google Analytics. SmarterStats will still be an option.
- **Custom Headers and Modules** – WAT will have the capability to quickly create modules and headers for site users, either on a no-cost or recharge basis.

## Timeline

We plan to begin development of Site Builder 3.0 on February 2, 2009. On June 1, 2009, we will launch into beta testing and individually assist volunteering sites in their switch to the new system. After 60 days of beta testing, the system will be launched to the division, and several trainings will be organized. We also plan to have a demonstration available for the statewide conference in April.