

ABOUT THE CLIENT

Maurice A. Rothman set up the very first Kane's Furniture store in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida and has become one of the most popular and respected furnishing stores in town. The major focus of the furniture house was to showcase contemporary furniture with a classy and distinctive style of craftsmanship for its patrons. Over the years, as the local store flourished and expanded to other parts of the region, Rothman decided to start an e-commerce site for the business. The e-commerce site of Kane's Furniture is directed towards connecting the store's exclusive collection of classy home and office décor store with a global consumer base.

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

Kane's Furniture already had a website when they approached us, however, it lacked certain features and functionalities and the client wanted us to add certain modules to the website using Kentico CMS. They wanted us to brush up the existing website by adding features, enhancements and by upgrading the website to Kentico CMS version 8.1. We carried out the following initial enhancements on the website:

COUPON MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A coupon management system was designed to generate, update and delete multiple number of coupons at the client's back end and the registered customers receive their coupons in the form of emails with the requisite details.

ONLINE PAYMENT

An online payment module was also designed and developed to ease the process of buying products and making payments online.

HEALTHCARE ENROLLMENT SYSTEM

The employees of the organization were provided with benefits in the form of a healthcare enrollment form, which allowed them to register themselves for healthcare benefits and plans issued by the organization.

After further studying and analyzing the website, the toughest goal of the project turned out to be the upgrading task, as the existing website consisted of a lot of custom codes and modules. The goal for the next phase of the project was the upgradation of the existing web site to Kentico 8.1, which in itself was a Herculean task. Besides this, there are some other goals as well, which we intend to realize in the near future.



INDUSTRY

Engineering and Manufacturing

PARTNER

www.clavax.com

EMAIL

info@clavax.com

PHONE

1-844 425 2829

REACH US @

1754, #210,
Technology Drive San Jose,
CA 95110

LONG TERM GOALS:

- ✔ Inventory integration
- ✔ Integration of online payment options
- ✔ Modules for add-ons to manage warranties, combo offers and other product-related offers
- ✔ Managing and coordinating the availability of products in the warehouses and the ones being displayed on the web site, similar to a real time system. The system would be allowed to display the current status of product availability in real time, as against the current process of running a nightly cron for product updates once in a day.



Technologies Used

- ✔ KENTICO 8.1
- ✔ ASP.NET FRAMEWORK 4.0
- ✔ WINDOWS SERVER 2008 R2
- ✔ IIS 8.0
- ✔ SQLSERVER 2010 R2
- ✔ ORACLE 11I
- ✔ OPERATING SYSTEM - WINDOWS SERVER 2012

● CHALLENGES

The website for Kane's Furniture was built using a lot of custom codes and also consisted of a number of custom functionalities, which was a matter of concern for the team of developers. Upgrading the website appeared to be a very time-consuming task as it involved the effective and efficient handling of the following:



✔ MANAGING CUSTOM CODES

The original website consisted of a lot of custom codes and custom functionalities that were difficult to be imported directly into the Kentico 8.1 development environment. Also, the client wanted the addition of enhanced functionalities to be incorporated into the base code, which not only required a lot of effort, but a great deal of time as well.

✔ MANAGEMENT OF ALL CUSTOM PAGE TYPES AND MACROS

Kentico 7.0 had a doc type feature which was enhanced to page type with the release of Kentico 8.1. And this changed functionality required us to convert/ rewrite all of the original custom codes into a format more aligned with the new scheme of development.

✔ DATA TYPE ISSUES DURING PRODUCT SYNCHRONIZATION

A lot of issues pertaining to the data type of values were incurred while migrating the site from Kentico 7.0 to 8.1. This required us to change the functionalities and webparts, which further led us to rewriting entire code sequences in Kentico 8.1 as most data types and values had been upgraded with the latest release as well.

● SOLUTION

The above mentioned challenges could be easily handled with Kentico, as it provides a Upgrade Utility feature that offers assistance to the developers while upgrading a particular website to a newer version of the CMS. This tool generates a list of all the possible bugs and errors that would be encountered by the developers in the upgradation process. This list enables the developers to efficiently manage and effortlessly debug error code. The newly upgraded Kane's Furniture web site is streamlined for efficient handling of incoming traffic and multiple customers at a time. This upgradation has enabled us in successfully encountering the earlier challenges and issues that we faced while starting work on the website.

✔ UPDATED MACRO SIGNATURE

Importing databases into the Kentico 8.1 development environment involved the change of data types, but a macros could not be changed until and unless the macros signature was updated. The development team had to write entire sequence of codes while updating the macro signature of the web site.

✔ IMPORT/ EXPORT PAGE TYPE

This was a solution in response to the upgrades in the data types available with Kentico – the Kentico 7.0 version used to support doc types which was converted to pages type in the latest version. The development team had to export entire pages of codes before they could be imported and changed in the upgraded development environment.

● KEY CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING KENTICO

An effective outcome of developing a web site using Kentico CMS solution is that it is aimed at improving the productivity of the developers without affecting the flexibility of the applications being developed. The website was already developed on the Kentico CMS platform and it was only feasible that the system be upgraded to the latest version of the CMS, i.e., the 8.1 version. The advantage of using Kentico are listed below:

- ✔ The easy-to-navigate Kentico user interface enables project managers and team members to easily share content and code snippets related to undergoing project development properties.
- ✔ There are a number of built-in webparts in Kentico to assist developers, thereby eliminating the need to write thousands of lines of code from scratch.
- ✔ Lesser the time spent in typing thousands of lines of code, lesser the the time required to complete and deploy the project.

RESULTS

The website for Kane's Furniture has achieved the following as a result of the upgradation procedure:

- ✔ There has been a steady increase of inbound traffic on the website, which is expected to rise further in the future.
- ✔ With the use of Kentico 8.1, the back-end of the website has been updated and it has become more organized and users can now effortlessly access and manage data at the back-end.
- ✔ Kentico offered a cost as well as time-effective solution that greatly accelerated the time to deployment and the launch of the updated version.