

What do you want your website to do?



PROJECT MANAGEMENT STARTER APPLICATION DEVELOPER'S GUIDE

VERSION 1.1

REVISION 1

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Table of Contents

Ektron Project Management StarterApp	3
Overview.....	3
What is a StarterApp?	3
What is the <i>Project Management StarterApp?</i>	3
PMSA Architecture	5
Diagram	5
PMSA Architecture Detail.....	6
PMSA's Relationship to CMS400.NET	6
PMSA Installation.....	6
PMSA Initialization	7
PMSA Navigation.....	8
Overview.....	8
User Types.....	8
The Projects Template.....	9
Adding, Removing and Inviting	9
PMSA Ektron Server Control-Based Templates.....	10
Overview.....	10
WIKI template.....	11
Discussion Template.....	12
Documents Template	12
Milestones Template	13
Blog Template	15

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Ektron Project Management StarterApp

Overview

What is a StarterApp?

With version 6.1 of CMS400.Net, Ektron released a Software Development Kit (SDK) and a revised Application Programming Interface (API). These tools significantly enhanced CMS400's ability to provide a foundation for enterprise-class, Web-based content management initiatives.

To demonstrate the effectiveness of these tools, Ektron set out to develop an application proof-of-concept, based on a real-world use case. The resulting application had to demonstrate how CMS400.NET plus the SDK and revised API could be used as a development *platform*.

Thus was born an initiative to create a *StarterApp* – a fully-functional application that addresses a real-world problem using CMS400.NET as a development platform. An Ektron *StarterApp* is open-source application included with a CMS400.NET purchase. You are free to use SAs as they ship, or customize them to suit your needs.

What is the *Project Management StarterApp*?

The Project Management StarterApp (PMSA) addresses a common use case at Ektron: managing communication between Ektron and our clients.

Ektron routinely opens initiatives with clients that require ongoing management. These initiatives are not always contract-based – the PMSA is not a time-tracking application used for billing purposes. From a content deliverables perspective, these initiatives resemble a professional-services engagement. Ektron's initiatives comprise

- Stakeholder communications
- Status/Progress reporting
- Milestones
- Ongoing discussions – both internally and with clients
- Deliverable definition/specification documentation

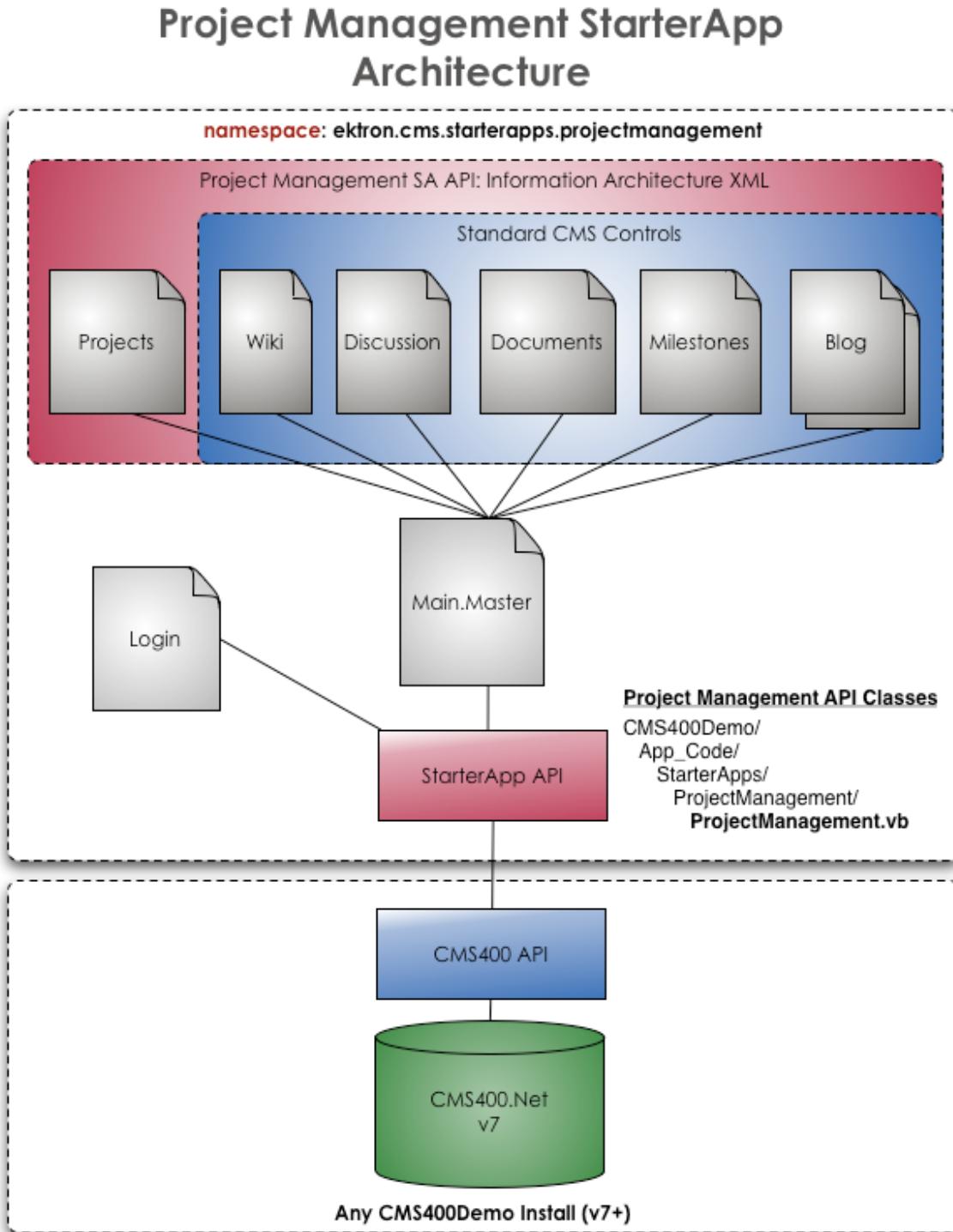
The PMSA application provides a central place for initiative-based teams to communicate and store initiative-specific documentation.

Specifically, the PMSA provides a permissions-based

- Wiki (HTML content)
- Discussion Area (Forums)
- Document repository
- Date-based “Milestones” repository
- Issue Tracker
- Open and Private Blogs

PMSA Architecture

Diagram



PMSA Architecture Detail

The PMSA has two main template types. These types and their associated .NET aspx templates are described below.

Template Type	Template Name(s)	Description
Navigation-based	Projects.aspx	The user's <i>landing</i> page upon logging-in. Provides clients and projects the user is authorized to view and interact with.
Ektron server control-based	Wiki.aspx	Displays Wiki content for each project
	Discussion.aspx	Displays discussion forums available for each project
	Documents.aspx	Displays document repository for each project
	Milestones.aspx	Displays calendar milestones for each project
	Issues.aspx	Open, track and close issues that arise in the project
	Blog.aspx	Displays two blogs per project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An "open" blog – viewable by any user authorized to view the project• A "private" blog – viewable only by certain users

PMSA's Relationship to CMS400.NET

The PMSA is built on top of the CMS400 SDK and API. This means it is entirely *forwards*-compatible with any version of CMS400.NET version 7.0 and above. So, you may independently upgrade your CMS400.NET installation with point releases without disturbing the PMSA.

PMSA Installation

Since the PMSA is built on top of CMS400.NET, no separate installation is required. When you install CMS400.NET, the following files are moved to the locations specified below.

File Type	Location	Contains
Visual Basic .NET class file	<siteroot/> / App_Code / VBCode/ StarterApps / ProjectManagement / ProjectManagement.vb	Object classes used by the PMSA
PMSA application files	<siteroot/> / StarterApps / ProjectManagement	The main files of the PMSA

Logging In

Logging in to the PMSA means entering admin credentials to the PMSA login template, which is normally "installed" at the following address:

<http://localhost/CMS400/StarterApps/ProjectManagement/login.aspx>

In addition, CMS400.NET's default home page has a link to PMSA.

PMSA Initialization

An initialization process occurs upon your first login to PMSA. The process performs several tasks, such as

- creates the "StarterApps" and "ProjectManagement" folders in the CMS400 database
- creates CMS400 usergroups
- creates metadata definitions
- registers display templates (see PMSA Architecture Detail above)

You will notice additions to your CMS400 Workarea after you copy the PMSA files to their proper locations and log in.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet login interface. At the top, there is a logo consisting of three colored circles (blue, green, and orange) followed by the text "Ektron Extranet". Below the header is a "Login" form. The form contains two input fields: "Username" with the value "admin" and "Password" with five masked characters. To the right of the password field is a "Log In" button. Below the form is a light green footer bar containing links for "Register" and "Recover Password". At the very bottom of the page, there is a dark footer bar with the copyright text "©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.0.1)".

PMSA Navigation

Overview

The PMSA manages navigation by instantiating an XML-based information architecture for every user, on every page-load. The PMSA generates InformationArchitecture.xml by looping through each client folder, checking to see if the user making the request has been invited to projects belonging to each client.

Thus, InformationArchitecture.xml contains a list of all clients and projects the user can view and interact with, and all information necessary to generate navigation widgets.

The methods used to create InformationArchitecture.xml check to see if the user has been invited to a client. If so, he may view and interact with all of that client's projects. However, he cannot see nor interact with clients to which he is not invited.

User Types

CMS400.NET and the PMSA have three user types

- CMS400.NET Administrator group members
- CMS users
- Membership users

Administrator group members have view/add/remove rights to all clients and projects. They don't need to be invited to any clients.

Any Ektron CMS400.NET CMS user may log in. If you add a CMS400.NET user to the PMSA CMS usergroup ("starterapps.pm") in the Workarea, he can view/add/remove clients and projects, and invite members to projects. starterapps.pm members have "admin"-level rights to the PMSA.

Membership users are authenticated "guests" of PMSA. Any Membership user may log in. However, Membership users can only view and interact with clients and projects to which they have been invited. Membership users are invited to projects at the client level. That is, they are added to a user group set up for each client ("starterapps.pm.<clientName/>").

The Projects Template

The projects template (project.aspx) is the landing page for users after log in.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet interface with the title "Ektron Extranet" at the top. Below it is a navigation bar with "Contents" and "Actions". The main content area displays a hierarchical tree structure under "Clients".

- Clients +
 - Ektron ✖⚠
 - Members +
 - None
 - Projects +
 - Draco ✖
 - Scorpius ✖
 - StarterApp ✖
 - Indianapolis Colts ✖
 - Members +
 - Manning, Peyton (peytonm@colts.com) ✖
 - Projects +
 - Colts.com ✖
 - ColtsFanZone.com ✖
 - New England Patriots ✖
 - Members +
 - Brady, Tom (tomb@patriots.com) ✖
 - jmember, jmember (jmember) ✖
 - Member, Super (supermember) ✖
 - Projects +
 - Patriots.com ✖
 - PatriotsFanZone.com ✖

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Using InformationArchitecture.xml as its data source, the projects template displays all clients and projects the user can view and interact with. If the user is the CMS400.NET Administrator or a starterapps.pm members, he also sees remove buttons next to clients, projects and members.

Adding, Removing and Inviting

Three main actions a user can take from the Projects template are described below.

Action	Glyph	Notes
Add	+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CMS400.NET Administrators and CMS400.NET users may add Clients and ProjectsMembership users may add Projects
Remove	✖	CMS400.NET Administrators and CMS400.NET users may remove Clients, Projects, and Members <i>Note:</i> Removing a member does not delete the membership account
Invite	+	CMS400.NET Administrators , CMS400.NET users, and Membership users may invite membership users to clients

PMSA Ektron Server Control-Based Templates

Overview

The following templates are based mainly on Ektron Server Controls

- Wiki
- Discussion
- Documents
- Milestones
- Issue Tracker
- Blog

WIKI Template

The PMSA Wiki is the project's landing page.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet interface for the Patriots.com Wiki. The top navigation bar includes links for home, new england patriots, patriots.com, wiki, discussion, documents, milestones, blog, private blog, and search. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Recent Updates' showing entries for 'free agents' and 'patriots.com wiki'. Below that is a 'Search' section with a keywords input field and a 'Search' button. The main content area has a title 'Patriots.com Wiki' with a magnifying glass icon. It contains a brief history of football arriving in New England and a bulleted list of categories: Hall of Fame, Anniversary Teams, Historical Dates, All-Time Draft/Trade, All-Time Player Lists, Free Agents, Super Bowl XXXVIII, Super Bowl XXXVI, Super Bowl XXXIX, and Past Rosters. At the bottom right of the content area, it says '©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.0.1)'.

This template provides an interface to Ektron Wiki capabilities (see CMS400 documentation for more information). This template is based on three Ektron Server Controls, described below.

Control	Notes
ListSummary	Uses EKML for presentation (<sitepath/> / StarterApps / ProjectManagement / ekml / Wiki.ekml)
Directory	Uses EKML for presentation (<sitepath/> / StarterApps / ProjectManagement / ekml / Taxonomy.ekml)
ContentBlock	

Discussion Template

The PMSA discussion template provides an interface to Ektron's Discussion Forum (see CMS400 documentation for more information). This template does not modify the discussion control's feature set.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet Discussion page. The top navigation bar includes links for home, new england patriots, patriots.com, discussion, wiki, documents, milestones, blog, private blog, and search. The main content area features a "Discussion" icon and the title "Patriots.com General Discussion". Below this is a table with one row showing "Patriots.com Forum" and "Patriots.com General Discussion". The table has columns for Forum, Topics, Posts, and Last Post. The footer contains the copyright notice "©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.0.1)".

Documents Template

The Documents template provides an interface to CMS400.NET's document management features.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet Documents page. The top navigation bar includes links for home, ektron, draco, documents, wiki, discussion, documents, milestones, blog, private blog, and search. The main content area features a "Documents" icon and a table titled "Document". The table lists three items: "Ektron Project Management StarterApp", "Project Management Starter App", and "Tuesday Update". Each item has a download link. Below the table is a drag-and-drop area with the instruction "Drag files into this window to drop and add to Folder 'Documents'". The footer contains the copyright notice "©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.0.1)".

Using the Directory and ListSummary controls, users may drag-and-drop documents within this page, and have them listed for display.

This ListSummary control uses an EKML file to control the display. This file resides at <siteroot/> / StarterApps / ProjectManagement / ekml / Documents.ekml.

Milestones Template

The Milestones template provides an interface to collect and display important calendar dates (Milestones) for the project.

The screenshot shows a web browser window for the Ektron Extranet. The title bar says "Ektron Extranet". The navigation bar includes links for home, ektron, draco, milestones, wiki, discussion, documents, blog, private blog, and search. The main content area is titled "Milestones". It displays a list of milestones grouped by month:

- March, 2007**
 - 12th ► Stakeholder Meeting
- February, 2007**
 - 16th ► Status Report Due
- January, 2007**
 - 19th ► Project Specs Due
 - 3rd ► Project Kick-off

At the bottom right of the content area, it says "©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.0.1)".

This template is based on the ListSummary control and uses an XSLT as its presentation medium. The control is data-bound, and the XML is extracted via code-behind in .NET.

Only CMS users can add Milestone content. Membership users may only view Milestones. Milestones are added via a CMS400 "SmartForm." After a Milestone is created, it may be imported into Microsoft Outlook's calendar.

Issue Tracker Template

The Issue Tracker template provides an interface for members of the project to track issues with a project. See Also: Ektron CMS400.NET Project Management Start Application User Manual

The screenshot shows a web application interface for the 'Issue Tracker' template. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'home', 'jedit', 'test project', and 'issues'. Below the navigation is a toolbar with icons for 'wiki', 'discussion', 'documents', 'milestones', 'issues', 'blog', and 'private blog'. The main content area is titled 'Issue Tracker' and displays a table of 'Open Issues'. The table has columns for 'Title', 'Disposition', 'Assign To', and 'Date Closed'. There are three items listed:

Title	Disposition	Assign To	Date Closed
Need Issue Tracker Documentation	Not Started	Jack B.	
Test Issue	In Progress	me	
Textbox not working correctly on EntryPage Web page	Request Review	Tim B.	

At the bottom right of the content area, it says '©2007 Ektron Inc. (Ver. 1.1.1)'

This template is based on the ListSummary control and uses an XSLT as its presentation medium. The control is data-bound, and the XML is extracted via code-behind in .NET.

CMS users can add, edit, close and archive Issues. Membership users may only view Issues. Issues are added via a CMS400.NET "SmartForm."

Blog Template

The Blog template uses the standard CMS400 Blog control.

The screenshot shows the Ektron Extranet interface with the title "Ektron Extranet" at the top. The navigation bar includes links for home, nfl, patriots, blog, wiki, discussion, documents, milestones, blog, private blog, and search. The main content area is titled "Patriots Blog" and contains a message stating "all client members may view and contribute to this blog". A "Project Kick-off" post is listed with a link to "edit permanent link". The post content is a long block of placeholder text (Lorem ipsum). At the bottom of the post, it says "Posted by Ted Henry at 3/12/2007 5:09 PM Comments (0)". To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a calendar for March 2007, a "Blogroll" section, an "Archive" section (listing "march 2007"), a "Categories" section (listing "status" and "questions"), and a "Recent Posts" section (listing "project kick-off").

The control renders two types of blogs per project.

- a public blog - all project members can view and interact with
- a private blog - only CMS users can view and interact with

Based on the requesting user's type (CMS user or Membership user), the navigation methods that retrieve the Information Architecture (see PMSA Navigation above) will include a link to the private blog.

Only a CMS user can view and interact with the private blog. Membership users do not see the link to "Private Blog."