

2010 Secrets

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UNDERSTANDING SHAREPOINT JOURNAL

Bjørn Furuknap

SharePoint 2010 Secrets

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This book is dedicated to my wife.

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Credits

About the Author



Bjørn Christoffer Thorsmæhlum Furuknap is a senior solutions architect, published author of *Building the SharePoint User Experience*, speaker, and passionate SharePointaholic. He has been doing software development professionally for 16 years for small companies as well as multinational corporations. He has also been a teacher at a college-level school, teaching programming and development to aspiring students, a job that inspired him to begin teaching what he has learned and learns every day.

About Understanding SharePoint Journal

Understanding SharePoint Journal is a periodical published by UnderstandingSharePoint.com. The journal covers few topics in each issue, focusing to teach a deeper understanding of each topic while showing how to use SharePoint in real-life scenarios.

You can read more about *USP Journal*, as well as get other issues and sign up for regular updates, discounts, and previews of upcoming issues, at <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal>.

Other Credits

A great big thanks to Kim Wimpsett for doing the copyedit. The quality of work in this issue is greatly attributed to her skill.

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Introduction

Asking the right question at the right time to the right people can trigger a landslide.

As I am writing this, it's 4:04 a.m. here in Norway. I just got the news that the SharePoint 2010 SDK beta was released, and you know that won't keep me in bed, even if I fell asleep just an hour ago.

In any case, welcome to another issue of *Understanding SharePoint Journal*—a very special type of issue at that. As you know, this issue is a digest of the most recent news on SharePoint 2010, and as a reader, you will get several of these issues over the coming months, leading up to the public beta of SharePoint 2010.

I want to make one thing absolutely clear. I am not under any nondisclosure agreement with Microsoft, nor do I gain any unfair advantage from knowing people who are under NDA. In fact, I have explicitly asked people who have inside information to keep that information away from me in order to avoid any legal issues.

That said, I won't have room to reference every source here, but I can tell you that my two main sources are the newly released SDK preview and the information released as part of the technical preview program, in which I am partaking.

Before you ask, let me quickly quote a big yellow banner on the Microsoft Connect website:

The Office 2010 clients have been publicly disclosed and are not under a confidentiality obligation. You are free to talk about the Office 2010 client build as you wish.

<https://connect.microsoft.com/office>, July 17, 2009. 4:13 a.m.

As such, any information you find here is publicly available.

Also, please remember that the SharePoint 2010 platform, including both WSS 4 and SharePoint Server 2010, is not in release yet. Any information you gain here is thus worthless, and you should not base your future income on the correctness of anything I say in this issue.

Also, I'm just guessing on most of this stuff.

Seriously. Don't take anything I say as fact.


Summary of Known Facts


What has been revealed publicly prior to July 13.

On July 13, 2009, Microsoft released three videos with “sneak peeks” of SharePoint 2010. As many other SharePoint enthusiasts, I got no sleep that night. Instead, I sat up all night, scouring every nuance of every frame to learn more about my future line of work.

- ? Prior to that, however, Microsoft has also released a lot of other information through conferences, interviews, and public statements. In this chapter, I’ll give you an overview of what that information is and what it may mean to you as a SharePoint user.

ICON KEY

 Valuable information

 Test your knowledge

 Exercise

 Caution

Web Interface Changes

As with any prior version of SharePoint, the web interface gets an overhaul—not just visually but also in functionality.

The biggest change may be the introduction of an Office-style Ribbon in the web interface. If you have feared that ribbon, it is time to face your dragons and get used to it because, apparently, it is here to stay.

By the way, developers and SharePoint Designer 2010 users will be able to modify the ribbons.

Second, inline editing directly in the web interface improves with SharePoint 2010. List items can now be edited directly in the list view using Ajax, meaning end users no longer need to go into an edit form and submit changes. Of course, the columns available for editing depend on the list view, so to edit columns not in the list view, you would presumably still need to enter the edit form.

Support for Silverlight improves. If you don’t know what Silverlight is, think of it as a Microsoft alternative to Adobe Flash. Although it’s possible to use in the current version of SharePoint, the support is somewhat awkward, and it requires you to manually configure the SharePoint installation.

However, in SharePoint 2010, Silverlight support will be point-and-click, and the configuration will be set up out of the box.

Note

Somehow, I get flashbacks to early 1994 when the term plug-and-play was introduced. I still haven't gotten my fairly new Dell printer to either plug or play, but hey, it's only been 14 years.

In the sneak peek videos, I also learned some details on how this will be supported when Tom Rizzo, the director of the SharePoint group at Microsoft, showed how to easily add Silverlight controls using a Silverlight web part.

Finally, Ajax will play a major role in the SharePoint web interface. Developers, if you haven't started thinking about Ajax, jQuery, and all the other JavaScript goodness, it is time to start your engines.

Note

The meaning of goodness may vary depending on your view of masochism. Not all is lost, however, because Visual Studio 2010 will greatly improve the JavaScript authoring experience. But that's another issue.

Oh, and vitally important: cross-browser support will greatly improve, and SharePoint will support the major browsers such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. However, Internet Explorer 6 will *not* be supported, so give those IT departments a company card for Pizza Hut and start planning to upgrade your old browsers.

New Features

No new SharePoint installation should be without a horde of new features.

The Business Data Catalog is dead, and good riddance! Instead, a renamed and much improved service called Business Connectivity Services (BCS) will debut. In short, the BCS allows SharePoint to connect to external data, such as line-of-business databases or other back-end systems, and works with that data more or less like any other SharePoint data. And yes, both read and write operations will be supported, unlike with BDC.

Microsoft has also focused on bringing the FAST search engine into SharePoint. Search becomes more and more important, not just in the Google sense but also in navigation, meta search, and faceted search. Enterprise search is a whole other ball game than web search, and Microsoft invests boatloads of cash to get a piece of the action.

During the sneak peek, I also learned about the existence of Visio Services. Much like Excel Services, Visio Services will allow for server rendering of Visio documents and diagrams for use in SharePoint.

However, another aspect of Visio and SharePoint is revealed in the SharePoint Designer 2010 preview, in two menu options in the Workflow menu titled Export to Visio and Import from Visio. I'll mention more on this in the next chapter.

Of course, the entire scenery changes when it comes to SharePoint Designer workflows. Now, SharePoint Designer will support reusable workflows and get a whole new editor for workflow authoring. I'll tell you more about this in the next chapter.

For developers (nontechies can skip this part), the introduction and official support for LINQ in SharePoint means that your data querying experience will greatly improve—well, if you're fond of LINQ, that is, and you should be. Gone are the days of wandering through `SPListItemCollection` objects and manually mapping columns to create a decent join query.

Requirements

The requirements for SharePoint 2010 was actually known as early as May, but SharePoint will support only 64-bit operating systems of the Windows 2008 variant—well, at least until Windows Server 2011 releases.

In addition, the database must also be 64 bits, but you can use either SQL Server 2005 or SQL Server 2008.

These changes in supported platforms are important from an administrator's perspective and for companies investigating whether to upgrade early. If you are the typical early adopter, you will not be able to do an in-place upgrade, for example, because Windows 2008 Server was not available in the early days of SharePoint 2007.

Perhaps a bit puzzling is that SharePoint 2010 will not be based on .NET 4.0, even though the scheduled release for .NET 4.0 is close to the SharePoint 2010 release date. However, this makes perfect sense when you think about the massive issues that organizations had upgrading from .NET 1.1–based SharePoint 2003 to SharePoint 2007. The changes in .NET 4.0 may not necessarily rival those from .NET 1.1, but there may be breaking changes, leading to problems for existing SharePoint solutions.

However, despite focusing on maintaining an easy upgrade path, some changes will affect any upgrade process. For example, custom list definitions and custom field types change the language used for rendering, meaning custom list definitions and field types for 2007 may not work in the new version.

To check the upgradability of your solution, Microsoft has included a preupgrade checker as part of Service Pack 2 for SharePoint 2007. Joel Oleson wrote a brilliant walk-through of the features of that upgrade checker that you really should check out for the most comprehensive information available.

<http://www.sharepointjoel.com/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=0cd1a63d%2D183c%2D4fc2%2D8320%2Db5369008acb&ID=238>

No Release Date Yet

Perhaps the most frequently asked question is, when will the public beta will be available? Sadly, no date has been set. The official word is “later this year,” but since the target release of SharePoint 2010 in production is the first half of 2010, Microsoft is in no rush.

SharePoint Designer 2010

Workflows

From my blog and other sources

SharePoint Designer 2010 also gets a complete overhaul. Gone are the old eon menus and in are the ribbons.

In this chapter, I will give you an overview of the new features of SharePoint Designer 2010.

Of course, if you are a reader of my blog, and I hope you are, you also know that I published some information prior to the technical preview, including some screenshots, shown in Figure 1

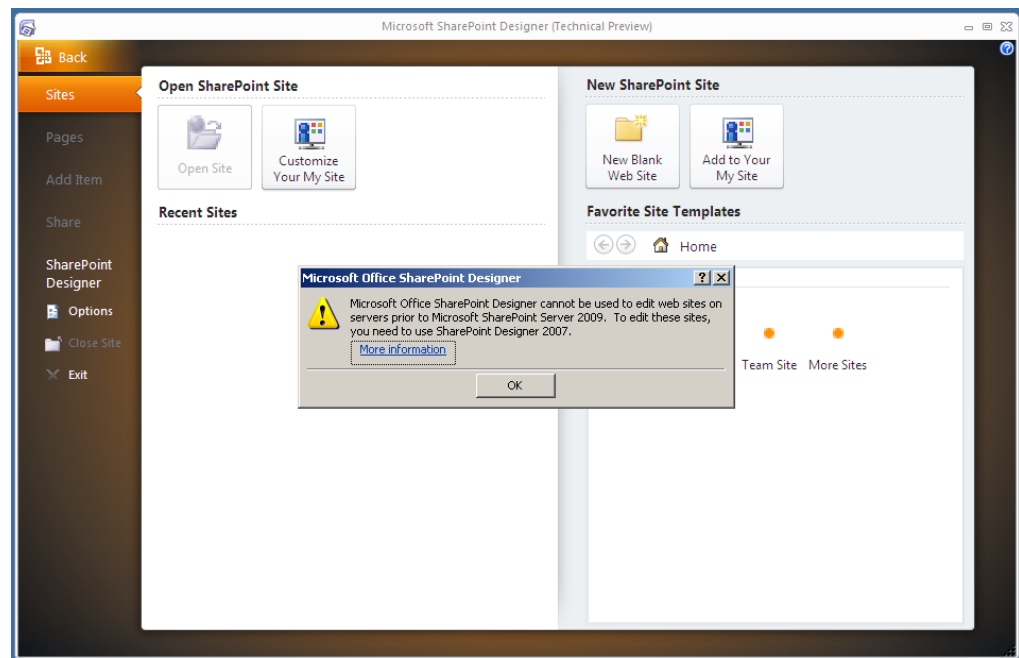


FIGURE 1. SHAREPOINT DESIGNER 2010

Sadly, the technical preview works only with SharePoint 2010, which was also the topic of the blog post. As such, outside of closed circles and NDA limitations, no one has actually run SharePoint Designer 2010 against any SharePoint site.

That doesn't stop us, though, from learning tons of information.

Workflow

Issue 4 - SharePoint
Designer Workflow

<http://www.sharepointdesignerworkflow.com/>

I don't know, after the SharePoint Designer Workflow issue of *USPJ*, I've been fascinated by workflows in SharePoint Designer, so it's no big surprise that I just had to write a blog post as soon as the technical preview was released.

This is when I wrote in that blog post:

(<http://furuknap.blogspot.com/2009/07/sharepoint-designer-2010-workflow.html>)

-----BEGIN BLOG POST-----

I am sure you all saw the really fancy sneak peek of SharePoint 2010 yesterday. I thought that since most people now have seen the stuff, I can post some more info about what's coming.

Let's start with what you likely know already.

The first thing I am going to mention is that SharePoint Designer 2010 will now support reusable workflows. But you knew that, so not much news there. You can create a workflow and then attach it to different lists.

Of course, the Workflow Designer itself will improve and offer a more visually intuitive interface. I haven't seen the designer myself, but I suspect that you will have a workflow designer integrated into SPD more like a page editor is today, as opposed to the dialog box wizard of SPD 2007.

In any case, you'll be able to add steps, branches, if/else conditions, etc. If Microsoft wants to mimic a really good and intuitive interface, it will make something like the Nintex Workflow Designer.

If you want to learn how intuitive the Nintex Workflow Designer is, pick up the free "Using Nintex Workflow 2007" issue of *Understanding SharePoint Journal*.

Let's move on to what I have learned but haven't seen mentioned elsewhere.

Since we were talking about reusable workflows...well, actually, I was talking, or more correct writing, and you were reading. Anyway, on the topic of reusable workflows, you can now also create workflows that are made available for later attachment from the web interface.

Special Issue – Using
Nintex Workflow 2007
<http://www.learnnintex.com/>

This is how workflows are made in Visual Studio: you create the workflow and deploy it to the site; then, when the need arises, you attach it to any list from the web interface. This hasn't been possible in SPD before, but if all features remain intact, it will be possible in SPD 2010 workflows.

Another massive improvement in SharePoint Designer 2010 is that SPD will support attaching workflows to content types, not just lists. Content types are by far the coolest thing in SharePoint, but a serious lack in functionality is the ability to attach SPD workflows to specific content types. That's all about to change.

If you want to learn just how cool content types are, pick up issue 2 of *USPJ*, titled "Developing SharePoint Content Types."

What you might not know, however, is that SPD 2010 will support workflow templates. Much like other workflow tools, such as Nintex and K2, you can now create workflow templates for use at a later time. I don't know too much about the details except that it will be possible.

Another topic I don't really know much about is the ability to import and export workflows from Visio. You may know that, like Excel got with its Excel Services, Visio now gets a service as well, Visio Services. Thank heavens for creative naming. However, I do not know at this time whether the workflow interaction will be part of Visio Services, but I do know that you can both import SharePoint Designer workflows from Visio and export SharePoint Designer workflows to Visio.

If you have worked with K2 before, you may have heard about the concept of outcomes. Basically, rather than having simple approve/reject outcomes from a task, a task can have any number of outcomes, such as approve/reject/get second opinion/fire that bastard. From what I can tell, SharePoint Designer workflows will also support multiple and custom outcomes from a single task.

Now, I do have a surprise for you if you haven't worked with K2 before, and you will want to sign up to the *USPJ* mailing list to learn more.

I'm starting to sound like a commercial for myself. I'll stop now.

Ooh, and one more thing. SharePoint Designer workflows will now have the ability to impersonate another user in selected steps. This allows workflow designers to temporarily raise permissions in order to access functionality beyond the scope of a limited user, much like developers have been able to do in code for years.

I'm not sure if one is able to impersonate a specific user, though; I'm not sure how they would solve the security issue of storing and maintaining passwords.

Issue 2 - Developing SharePoint Content Types

<http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-2>

As always, everything I say here is a blatant lie, and I have likely gotten this information from highly illegal sources, meaning you should shun the information here. In fact, your best course of action is to burn this page and never think of it again.

-----END BLOG POST-----

More Workflow News from the SDK

The SDK hints at further SharePoint Designer workflow news, such as in the Microsoft.Office.workflow.Actions namespace. A new OfficeTask action is available for SharePoint Server 2010 users only (as opposed to WSS 4 users), and the SDK hints at Office integration possibilities not present in SharePoint Designer 2007.

Workflow isn't the only new thing in SharePoint Designer 2010, though, and I'll return with more information on other new features of SharePoint Designer 2010 in the next 2010 issue.

News from the SDK

Fresh off the press

Now, after a few hours of furious reading and comparing the newly released SDK to the previous one, I have found some very interesting information. Of course, it is difficult to say anything exact from the documentation alone, especially when it comes to early versions of the documentation and especially considering this is SharePoint documentation.

Note that the material here is strongly developer-focused, although other readers may also learn about new features if they just mentally block out the geek lingo.

Here is some of what I have found so far.

Upgradable Features

On the official Microsoft SharePoint 2010 sneak peek page, Microsoft highly recommends utilizing the solution framework in SharePoint for deployment.

Consider packaging all custom code that you deploy to SharePoint as SharePoint Solutions in WSP files. SharePoint 2010 has new technology that makes this solution deployment format more valuable.

*http://sharepoint.microsoft.com/2010/Sneak_Peek/Pages/Get_Ready.aspx,
July 17, 2009. 6:17 a.m.*

I've been curious about the new features of features, so to speak, so I immediately dive into anything upgrade-related. What I found was two attributes of the feature element, called UpgradeReceiverAssembly and UpgradeReceiverClass. These new attributes support a new method on the SPFeature object called Upgrade.

You can now upgrade any feature, rather than having to reactivate features for every change. Simply install a new feature, and upgrade it using the Upgrade method as such:

```
SPFeature feature = SPContext.Current.Site.Features[FEATURE_ID];
```

```
feature.Upgrade(false);
```

The false parameter here specifies whether to force the upgrade.

When called, the Upgrade method will call the feature's UpgradeReceiverAssembly and run the code, allowing you to perform custom code as part of the upgrade process.

Note

You can use the SPSite.QueryFeatures method to find features that require an upgrade.

Of course, an upgrade means that there must be a previous version, further signifying that features in SharePoint indeed will finally support versioning using the Version property of the SPFeature class.

Site Subscriptions

Related to features, but oh so promising, are site subscriptions. A class called SPSiteSubscription reveals that other site collections can subscribe to this site's services partitions, settings, and features.

The SPSite object has a corresponding SiteSubscription property containing the SPSiteSubscription to which this site belongs.

The SPSiteSubscription class, and related classes, exposes methods and properties, such as the SPSiteSubscriptionSettings class and its GetSettings and TryGetProperty method, that seem to be used to store hierarchical-scoped data and functionality.

This can indicate that in SharePoint 2010 a new hierarchical method of managing site features will be available.

Solution Sandbox and Versioning

The solution framework is getting a major overhaul, as mentioned, and a class that hints at a new feature here is the SPUserSolution class. The SPUserSolution class allows SharePoint solutions to be deployed at a specific site collection and run in a sandbox on that site without affecting other site collections.

Even more hints at this come from the `SPFeatureReceiverProperties` class, now exposing a new property called `UserCodeSite`. The `UserCodeSite` property returns the site collection object where the current feature runs, or returns null if the feature is globally available.

Sadly, very little other information is available, but an interesting comment may indicate yet another improvement to the framework. The `SolutionId` property remarks state that multiple solutions in a library may have the same solution ID, and this indicates different versions of the same solution.

User Custom Actions

Another interesting class, hinting at a new feature, is the `SPUserCustomAction` class. `CustomAction` elements are used to add items to menus and lists in SharePoint, and the presence of an `SPUserCustomAction` may indicate that `CustomAction` elements may now be user-scoped to allow for user-specific items in menus.

A related class in the new `Microsoft.SharePoint.Client` namespace is `UserCustomAction`. Note the absence of the `SP` prefix as is customary in web and user controls. The `UserCustomAction` further hints at user-scoped `CustomAction` elements in that it exposes a `Location` property using the same example as for traditional `CustomAction` elements.

Further, the `UserCustomAction` description mentions that a `UserCustomAction` can be associated with a list or web, hinting at the scope.

Note

You can read more about `CustomActions` in both issue 1 and issue 5 of *Understanding SharePoint Journal*:

Issue 1: `SPCurrentUsers` Explained

<http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-1>

Issue 5: Beginning SharePoint Development

<http://www.beginningsharepointdevelopment.com/>

User Defined Localization

Localization is the term for translating content into different languages. In SharePoint 2010, a new class is added, called `SPUserResource`, that can host user-specific translation of texts.

Several objects use the SPUserResource class, such as SPField, SPList, SPDocumentLibrary, SPWeb, and SPContentType. However, you still need to call these translated properties explicitly through code:

```
string localizedtitle = ↵
```

```
SPContext.Current.Web.TitleResource.Value;
```

```
string localizedDescription = ↵
```

```
SPContext.Current.Web.DescriptionResource.Value;
```

SPList New Features

The SPList will get a new method, AppendDataTable, that allows you to query a list for items and append the resulting list item collection to a DataTable. That's nice if you need to expose your SharePoint data as a DataTable, and it's especially nice if you need to get data from multiple lists into a single DataTable.

Sadly, the remaining methods documented in the SDK are present in the current version as well, so no big changes here.

Note

The absence of documentation is no indication that any object model objects will not get a billion new methods.

However, a more interesting revelation comes when we look at some new properties of SPList.

For example, there is a new property called IsThrottled that reveals some information about the performance enhancements of SharePoint 2010. In a web application, you can now set a MaxItemsPerThrottledOperation, and if the number of items in a list, as retrieved by the ItemCount property, exceeds the value from the property, the list is throttled.

The throttling works by causing SPList queries to throw an SPQueryThrottledException to avoid performance overload.

However, the SPQuery now includes a new property called RequestThrottleOverride. Basically, this property lets the SPQuery request an override of the throttling, which will allow some users, defined by the farm administrators, to bypass the exception.

In short, and for the nontechnies, this means lists can now be limited so that they don't consume too many resources when queried, but certain users may still be allowed to override this.

Related to the previous mention of the new `SPUserCustomAction` class is the `UserCustomActions` property of the `SPList` item. According to the documentation, this “gets the collection of user custom actions defined on the list.”

SharePoint 2010 will also support external data in lists, as mentioned as part of the Business Connectivity Services. A property called `HasExternalDataSource` can be queried to find out whether this list has external data. If so, the `DataSource` property is set to an `SPListDataSource`.

Finally, the `SPList` will also support a calculated field style validation rule for new or modified items. This means that rather than having to create event receivers to run code, you can set the `ValidationFormula` property and `ValidationMessage`. If the `ValidationFormula` fails, no updates or additions are done.

Note

Individual fields (`SPField`) will also get a `ValidationFormula` and `ValidationMessage` but will also include a JavaScript/ECMAScript validation function to allow for easy client-side validation.

SPField and Children

I have just found a couple of really notable things so far.

First, the method `ListsFieldUserIn` will return a list of, well, lists, in which the custom field is used.

Two event handlers may be very useful; `OnAddingToContentType` and `OnDeletingFromContentType` allow you to react to your custom field being added or deleted from a specific content type.

As mentioned earlier, the `SPField` class and children also have a `TitleResource` holding an `SPUserResource` object.

For `SPFieldLookup`, a new property may suggest a new feature. The property, titled `IsDependentLookup`, has little or no documentation but may suggest a form of cascading lookup or another form of dependency.

There's also a new field class, SPFieldIndex, that "represents a content index extending over one or two fields in a list. This class supports the efficient query of list items that filter by those fields," according to the SDK. However, I have no idea what this actually does.

<http://furu.knap.blogspot.com/2009/03/question-why-are-there-always-two.html>

The very bad news is that it does not seem like the method of having two constructors for two different tasks in a single class changes. I wrote a blog post explaining this a while back.

One absent thing, though, is any information on the XSL rendering of custom field types in SharePoint 2010. CAML rendering schema seems to be dead (good riddance!), and both lists and columns now render using XSL instead.

Note

An upcoming issue of USP Journal details XSL as it relates to SharePoint 2010. Sign up for the mailing list to learn more.

<http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/uspj-mailing-list>

Other Object Model News

Many of the well-known object model classes also have interesting information exposed in the SDK. This section details some of the changes and new features I have found.

Not much is new in the area of event receivers, one of my favorite features of SharePoint. The documentation lacks most references to event receivers, listing only the SPItemEventReceiver class and the SPListEventReceiver class. That doesn't mean that event receivers won't be changed, however, only that we still don't know.

Of notable interest is that the SPListEventReceiver has a method for ListAdded that should fire whenever a list, well, has been added. Certainly, this has been possible using a feature receiver before, but at least it shows that Microsoft is indeed continuing to improve on this technology.

In addition, you get more options for handling the event cancellation. Previously, if you wanted to stop an event, you would need to set the Cancel property to true and return an error message to the user in the dull and dreary error message template.

Now, the SPEventPropertiesBase has additional options, such as Continue, CancelNoError, CancelWithError, and, especially cool, CancelWithRedirectUrl. Now, rather than returning just a single string of text when something needs to cancel, you can send the user to a descriptive page.

The SPWeb exposes a new property titled CustomUploadPage that allows the site to specify a different upload page for documents and files in the site. This allows you to develop a custom page for handling uploads instead of the default `_layouts/upload.aspx` page.

For administrators, the SPBasePermissions class is missing from the SDK, although it is referenced in several other classes. The SPBasePermissions class represents the specific permissions available for assignment, such as ManageSubWebs, CreateAlerts, EditListItems, and so on. The lack of this class in the SDK may indicate that the available SPBasePermissions will be modified, meaning that new options for defining permission levels will be available.

Auditing will also be revised, and certain objects, such as an SPSite, SPWeb, and SPList, will support individual auditing settings for the retention period of audit events and whether to trim the audit log automatically. These settings indicate that the somewhat awkward auditing framework in SharePoint 2007 will be getting an overhaul.

In the next issue, I'll walk through other namespaces and also update you if I find anything new about the Microsoft.SharePoint namespace.

Final Thoughts and Additional Resources

Never stop learning.

With all the new information already available and with plenty of new information made available on a regular schedule, you can now rest assured that with your SharePoint 2010 Beta issues subscription I will keep you apprised of anything important.

In the next issue...well, the very nature of being incredibly quick with new information is that I have no idea what will be in the next issue or even when it will be available.

However, I will continue to work with the SDK to learn about new features and give you some insights into what you can expect.

Remember, stay on the SharePoint 2010 Beta mailing list to receive the future issues. If, by any chance, you are unsubscribed or if you do not get the issue automatically when I announce that it has been released to the *USPJ* mailing list, send an email to journal@understandingsharepoint.com and include the date you purchased the subscription. I'll make sure you are signed back up.

.b

Previous *USP Journal* Issues

What you have missed so far but can still get from our website.

Issue 1: SPCurrentUsers Explained

This issue deals with the solution SPCurrentUsers available from CodePlex and covers the following main topics:

- DelegateControls
- CustomAction, both CAML-based and Assembly-based
- Custom application pages in SharePoint, using code-behind files
- List deployment and column manipulation
- Solution setup using SharePoint event receivers

URL: <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-1>

Issue 2: Developing SharePoint Content Types

If you want to learn everything about developing SharePoint content types, you should get your hands on issue 2, covering the following:

- Content type introduction
- Visual interface using FormTemplates
- Inheritance
- Behavior using event receivers
- Content types as folders
- Custom XmlDocument solutions

URL: <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-2>

Issue 3: SPTags Explained

If you have ever tried to build custom field types in SharePoint, you definitely want to pick up issue 3, covering the following:

- Custom field type development
- SharePoint web part development
- Custom page development
- Custom web part properties
- Field type custom property storage

URL: <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-3>

Issue 4: SharePoint Designer Workflow

In issue 4 of *Understanding SharePoint Journal*, you will learn how to create workflows in SharePoint Designer. The issue covers the following:

- Workflow in a nutshell
- SharePoint Designer workflow activities
- Workflow branching

- Working with variables
- Loops in SharePoint Designer workflows

URL: <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-4>

Issue 5: Beginning SharePoint Development

Issue 5 introduces you to development for SharePoint. You will learn the basics of various SharePoint development techniques, including the following:

- Setting up your development lab
- Using Collaborative Application Markup Language
- Using the SharePoint object model
- Creating features and solutions from scratch
- Using event receivers and workflow
- Working with web parts

URL: <http://www.understandingsharepoint.com/journal/volume-1/issue-5>

Special Issue 1: Using Nintex Workflow 2007

The first free issue of *Understanding SharePoint Journal* covers Nintex Workflow 2007. In this 128-page special issue, I will introduce you to Nintex Workflow 2007 and the following:

- How to install, configure, and test Nintex Workflow 2007
- How to use the Nintex workflow designer
- How to write completely custom workflows
- How to use and modify workflow templates and snippets
- How to use both sequential and state machine workflows, including combining the two
- How to develop a complete workflow solution to send “Get well soon!” greetings to sick employees
- The gotchas, the dos and don’ts, and any problems you may encounter
- Some best practices and advice on monitoring and managing workflows

URL: <http://www.learnnintex.com/>

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