Telerik
Sitefinity

Why you should upgrade to Sitefinity 5

telerik
deliver more than expected

# Executive Summary

In early 2011 Telerik released a new version of Sitefinity CMS.  This release included a re-architected platform, a cutting-edge user-friendly UI, new features and additional opportunities for developers to extend the system.   In addition, the latest version established a modern platform designed to confront a new generation of online opportunities.

Throughout 2011 Telerik delivered a steady stream of additional improvements to Sitefinity.  Each update included additional features, performance improvements, intensive testing and extensive polish.  These enhancements were inspired by customer feedback and tested on real-world deployments.

However, the latest version of Sitefinity introduced a new architecture, which created incompatibilities with previous versions of Sitefinity.  As a result, many customers continued to use Sitefinity 3 while these incompatibilities were addressed.

To overcome these challenges, Telerik created a powerful Migration Tool.  This tool was designed to make upgrading accessible to all Sitefinity 3 customers.  The Migration Tool is now included as part of Sitefinity 5 and makes it effortless to transition native content & pages from Sitefinity 3 web sites.

For Sitefinity 3 customers interested in improving their web experience, the time has never been better to upgrade to Sitefinity 5.  The product contains numerous features not included in Sitefinity 3 with features on the way.  By upgrading to Sitefinity 5, 3.x customers will immediately discover new opportunities and gain access to a steady stream of updates that deliver even more value.

# New features and new opportunities

Over the past few years web site requirements have steadily matured as organizations rely more heavily on their online presence for customer engagement.  As a result, these organizations require more features and functionality from their CMS.

The primary motivation for the new architecture introduced in Sitefinity 5 was the maturing requirements of our existing customers.  As our customer's web sites continued to mature their projects began to require advanced workflows, richer classifications, granular permissions, sophisticated scaling options and more.  These requirements were not easily addressed with Sitefinity 3's architecture.

Sitefinity 5's modern architecture enables features not possible with Sitefinity 3, and creates even more opportunities in the future.  Below is a chart that illustrates some of the opportunities now available in Sitefinity 5.

| FEATURES | SITEFINITY 3.X | SITEFINITY 5 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Form Builder | | ✓ |
| Template Builder | | ✓ |
| Layout Editor | | ✓ |
| Advanced Workflow | | ✓ |
| Mobile Web | | ✓ |
| Ecommerce | | ✓ |
| Analytics | | ✓ |
| Email Campaigns | | ✓ |
| Granular Permissions | | ✓ |
| Ecommerce | | ✓ |
| Backend Page Editor | | ✓ |
| Publishing System | | ✓ |
| Module Builder | | ✓ |
| Advanced Taxonomy | | ✓ |
| Site Synchronization | | ✓ |
| Image Editor | | ✓ |
| In-line Editing | | ✓ |
| Forums | ✓ | ✓ |
| Wiki | ✓ | |

# Modern Platform for Modern Challenges

In 2007 Sitefinity 3.0 was released on the .NET 2.0 platform. .NET 2.0 was originally released in 2005 which predates numerous advances in web development. This includes .NET 3.5, .NET 4.0, jQuery, cloud technologies, LINQ, HTML 5 and more. In addition, our customer's projects have become more sophisticated and require features not addressed by Sitefinity 3's architecture.

> *Sitefinity 5 utilizes modern web development technologies.*

We chose to re-architect Sitefinity from the ground up to utilize modern technologies instead of layering on patches to existing legacy architecture. As a result, Sitefinity and your web site are better positioned to react to today's and tomorrow's opportunities.

| FEATURES | SITEFINITY 3.X | SITEFINITY 5 |
|---|---|---|
| .NET Framework | Based on .NET 2.0 | Based on .NET 4.0 |
| Web Services | Minimal | API is fully exposed through WCF Web Services |
| Workflow | Simple 2-step workflow | Advanced workflows based on Windows Workflow Foundation 4.0 |
| Data Layer | Nolics (defunct product) | Telerik's OpenAccess ORM |
| Cloud Support | None | Azure support |

# Tap into a steady stream of updates & innovations

Web site requirements are constantly evolving. A few years ago, mobile devices and social media were barely a consideration for most organizations. Today these technologies are an essential part of how organizations engage with customers. In the midst of this evolution, it's important to have a CMS that is continuously adapting to your needs.

Telerik maintains an aggressive roadmap for Sitefinity 5 and is committed to delivering new value with each release. Since its original release, Telerik has delivered multiple updates with more on the way. Each update includes new features, performance improvements, intensive testing and extensive polish.

| RELEASE | DATE |
|---|---|
| Sitefinity 3.7 SP4 | Sept. 20th, 2010 |
| Sitefinity 4.0 | Jan. 14th, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.0 SP1 | Mar. 2nd, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.1 | Apr. 18th, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.1 SP1 | May 13th, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.2 | Aug. 10th, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.2 SP1 | Sept. 28th, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.3 | Nov. 3rd, 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.4 | Dec. 2011 |
| Sitefinity 4.4 SP1 | Jan. 2012 |
| Sitefinity 5 | Mar. 2012 |
| ... | |

# Upgrade Accessibility

Sitefinity introduced a brand new architecture to address a new generation of web site opportunities and challenges. However, this caused Sitefinity 4 and Sitefinity 5 to be incompatible with Sitefinity 3's older architecture. As a result, many customers were unable to easily upgrade to the latest release.

In response, Telerik heavily invested in a built-in Migration Module enabling customers to easily transition their Sitefinity 3 web sites to the latest version. The Migration Module is fully aware of Sitefinity 3 content types and is able to import this content into the latest versions of Sitefinity. The chart below illustrates the difficulty associated with migrating version 3 content to Sitefinity 5:

| SITEFINITY 3.7 CONTENT | MIGRATION DIFFICULTY |
|---|---|
| Pages | Easy |
| News | Easy |
| Blogs | Easy |
| Images | Easy |
| Events | Easy |
| Lists | Easy |
| Generic Content | Easy |

| SITEFINITY 3.7 CONTENT | MIGRATION DIFFICULTY |
|---|---|
| Page widgets | Moderate |
| Multilingual sites | Moderate |
| **Features requiring custom development** | |
| Custom Widgets | Moderate |
| Custom Modules | Moderate |
| Polls | Moderate |
| Wiki | Challenging |
| Forums | Challenging |

# About Sitefinity

Sitefinity is a modern CMS platform designed to help organizations pursue their online goals. Today the system powers over 10,000 websites worldwide across various industries- from Financial and Government Services, to Communications, Retail, and Entertainment. Thanks to Sitefinity's flexible architecture and scalability, you can create successful commercial websites, community portals or intranets. Sitefinity offers a revolutionary easy-to-use interface, simplicity, scalability and unmatched performance – everything you need, beautifully crafted in one product.

# Sitefinity Around the World

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