

# Application Management: How Much Should It Really Cost?

Managing your Microsoft® Office® SharePoint® 2007 Applications with Kivati Studio



KiVATi

White Paper

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## SharePoint Application Management in the Enterprise

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Microsoft® Office® SharePoint® developers and administrators have been given the tools to get a large portion of development labor done in a highly configurable way. The comprehensive capabilities SharePoint brings have enabled the extension of business capacity through portals and composite applications. At the same time, these capabilities have made collaborative application platforms more complex. As a result, developers and administrators are spending valuable time and expensive resources deploying and managing applications. Add to this an increasing need for quick, efficient changes to applications, creation of new applications from existing information systems, and enterprise-wide simplification of development and deployment efforts, and you'll find these developers and administrators with very full plates.

As Microsoft platforms and technologies are clearly the future protocol of choice for enterprise systems, developers and administrators continue to build on the comprehensive foundation SharePoint provides, but will need to resolve the challenge of effective, simplified application deployment and management that comes with complex platform environments and composite applications.

### From Development to Deployment to Management: Simplifying Application Management

A move from application development to deployment is never an easy one, as many administrators and developers will tell you. There are significant challenges that can influence the time, cost and quality of application deployment and the management of ongoing changes to applications required to ensure they meet ever-shifting business needs.

#### **Time**

Working in a highly-configurable environment such as SharePoint gives end users the ability to personalize an application to meet their own needs. However, at an enterprise level, this ability to personalize means that there can be a plethora of end users customizing views, changing functionality, and adding specific settings to a single application. These changes often occur in different locations, without a cohesive strategy for taking tasks and changes from development to deployment. In the end, it means developers and administrators must manually move all the changes made in a development environment to a production environment, which requires intense efforts and large amounts of time from development and IT teams. Worse, once changes are made in the production environment, there is often no way to scale and repeat deployment in a modular and maintainable way. The bottom line is a lack of scalability requires strategic team members to perform tasks, pulling time away from vital projects they might otherwise be working on.

#### **Cost and Quality**

In organizations of all sizes, IT issues related to application management and deployment are often not budgeted for, or are under budgeted. These tasks can be time-consuming and often can be accomplished only by senior technical resources. Scripted deployment, a process that takes applications seamlessly from development to deployment to management, reducing the need for quality assurance (QA) processes for each deployment, can often solve these deployment challenges. However, to-date, it has almost always been a difficult, time-consuming, and expensive process. Reducing the time and resources needed for scripted deployment is key to decreasing overall IT costs in an organization.

In addition, manual application deployment and management processes can bring inconsistency and lower the quality of application deployment across an entire enterprise. If IT and development resources have to develop and deploy manually many times, the margin for error rises exponentially, as it does when scaling applications across multiple, complex, and interconnected SharePoint environments.

## A Move to Scripted Deployment

While there are many parts of SharePoint applications that are easy to deploy, such as solutions and features, there are others that are more difficult, such as site content and structure. Conducting batch operations or bulk data load can also be very challenging, usually either requiring the services of an expensive developer resource or many hours from lower-cost resources.

Scripted deployment is the answer to many of these development difficulties, as it can minimize the time, cost, and quality issues that are generally associated with composite application management. Scripted deployment consists of a series of scripts, utilities, and/or custom code that are used to deploy a composite application. Using scripted deployment, deploying a SharePoint site with some lists will, as an example, require you to write a script that initially creates the site and then creates the lists that you need. Scripted deployment is an excellent deployment solution because it enables deployment processes to be easily repeated in a wide variety of environments with the same results each time. Organizations using scripted deployment practices to deploy their composite applications report reduced time and costs related to deploying applications as well as increases in overall application quality.

## Solutions: What's Out There?

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In an enterprise environment, lowering costs and risks while raising the quality of application management means finding a comprehensive, centralized solution to any number of SharePoint challenges. It can't simply be a "get it done quickly" approach to management. It must be an end-to-end solution that takes into account the need to integrate applications with business needs and to do so quickly, efficiently and with the highest level of quality assurance.

Building an application in SharePoint can be quite easy. But when requirements for an application are constantly changing, or new applications need to be developed from existing information systems, there is often no way for users, developers, and SharePoint administrators to keep up with the changes and stick to organizational quality management processes. As collaborative platforms become more complex and the need for integration within application projects increase, it has become more difficult to deploy and manage composite applications with mainstream application management processes.

Scripted deployment addresses this problem, but, to date, there has not been a comprehensive, end-to-end software system that makes scripted development a scalable and repeatable part of development and management processes without exhausting senior technical resources and distracting them from strategic efforts.

With the introduction of Kivati Studio, organizations can now experience a shift in how they effectively manage scripted development for SharePoint – moving from a manual deployment and management process to a set of scripted development tools that can deploy applications to multiple locations, delivering consistency and repeatability with limited technical resources. Kivati Studio allows developers, administrators, and non-technical staff members alike to build, make changes to, and customize an application in scripts and easily deploy it on many environments. This is a breakthrough in SharePoint application management—more than just a tool-based solution, Kivati Studio is an all-inclusive way to simplify the development, deployment, and management of applications in today's organizations.

With Kivati Studio, developers and administrators can build and change SharePoint-based applications without writing code – all while supporting repeatable, maintainable processes and organizational best-practices.

Additionally, Kivati Studio extends the reach of non-technical users by opening up areas of SharePoint to them that were previously only accessible to programmers. This kind of reduction in process complexity and increase in speed of development and deployment reduces the possibility of human error and improves quality across the board. Kivati Studio improves the quality of composite applications built on the SharePoint platform with tested and repeatable processes that also enable source control and provide consistency in deployed applications.

Other vendors offer tool-based solutions for SharePoint platform challenges. They address specific issues within the application lifecycle such as batch administration and IT permissions. This means organizations must often piece-meal an answer to SharePoint issues, without a complete solution that will take them throughout the entire application lifecycle. In addition, today developers and administrators often find themselves in a situation where they must find answers to these challenges on their own, taking on a “do it all” approach to development and deployment. The time and costs associated with this approach are obvious for a company’s bottom line.

Kivati Studio was designed from a comprehensive development and management perspective so that the entire application process is taken into consideration, not just the infrastructure behind it. This perspective includes solutions for scripted deployment and composite application deployment, while giving users with a wide-range of IT skill levels the ability to engage in application development and management. Kivati doesn’t just make application management easier – it takes it to the next level.

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## Time and Cost: The Real Bottom Line

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Kivati Studio brings a new level of efficiency and cost-savings to application management on the SharePoint platform. In fact, organizations using Kivati Studio have a considerably lower cost for enterprise-wide composite application deployment and management. With time and cost for application deployment and management drastically reduced through highly repeatable processes, organizations can now put more hours and dollars towards more strategic projects – and free up their senior technical resources to lead them. The savings then become essential, as organizations can focus on strategic business issues and how to solve them through application management instead of focusing on IT challenges. This could be considered the next generation of application management – moving with the business instead of trying to catch up or falling behind.

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## About Kivati Studio

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### Application Management... simplified

Kivati Studio is a composite application management product that provides powerful scripted deployment capabilities for Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007. Using Kivati Studio, you can quickly and easily build scripts to develop and deploy even the most complex SharePoint applications and content. When you're ready to deploy to your production environment, simply copy the compiled scripts to the production server and run them to deploy your complete application!

### The right solution for your business

SharePoint environments have become more complex, and deploying and managing composite applications can become very time consuming, stressing already taxed resources, schedules, and budgets. Kivati Studio is the right solution for your business because it can help you:

- **Decrease the cost of application management** with scripted deployment tools that can eliminate manual processes and expedite project schedules.
- **Reduce the time required for solution management** by enabling repeatable deployment and automation of composite applications built on the Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 platform.
- **Improve the quality of your composite applications** with tested and repeatable processes that provide consistency in deployed applications and enable source control tools.
- **Scale your systems** across multiple environments and locations.
- **Expand your IT resources** with a solution that simplifies application deployment and management - freeing up your more valuable resources for strategic projects.

### The right solution for your projects

Kivati Studio is very versatile and works across a wide variety of scenarios. Some common scenarios that Kivati Studio can help with include:

- **Deployment of complete composite applications.** Build your entire application in a Kivati project and easily deploy it again and again to many different environments.
- **Deployment of content management sites.** Automatically create complete site taxonomies and content using Kivati Studio's simple processes.
- **Use data to drive deployments.** Use a spreadsheet or database as the foundation for building SharePoint sites and applications.
- **Large-scale batch changes across an entire environment or application.** Need to add a web part on every page on your portal? It's easy to do with Kivati Studio.
- **Automation of repetitive tasks.** Tired of manually checking in and approving large lists of files? Create a project to automate it in Kivati Studio.

- **Daily builds and continuous integration.** Integrate SharePoint with the rest of your build tools and enable good software development practices.

Of course, Kivati Studio isn't just limited to these scenarios - you will undoubtedly find it useful in many more scenarios as you become familiar with it!

## The right solution for your people

Kivati Studio isn't just for programmers. Non-programmers can be productive quickly with our easy-to-use tools and helpful suggestion features. Of course, programmers will feel right at home, and can even [extend Kivati Studio](#) to support additional functions as needed by your business.

Kivati Studio works the way your people work. You don't need fancy development environments or expensive servers to use Kivati Studio - use Kivati Studio from your laptop anywhere and build and run projects on a server located elsewhere using Kivati Studio and Kivati Server together.

## Get started today

You can get started with Kivati Studio today by visiting our [online store](#) to purchase your copy. If you still have questions, check out some of the other information on our website, <http://www.kivati.com>, or [contact us](#) and we'll be happy to help answer your questions.

## Contact Information

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To inquire about this product available from Kivati Software, call 1-888.4KIVATI (1.888.454.8284) or contact us via email at [info@kivati.com](mailto:info@kivati.com).

**You can also learn more about Kivati Software by visiting our website at [www.kivati.com](http://www.kivati.com).**