

## EUROPEAN IT RESEARCH FIRM MWD ADVISORS WARNS ENTERPRISES TO PLAN CAREFULLY WHEN CONSIDERING AN UPGRADE TO MICROSOFT'S SHAREPOINT 2010

**Although the new SharePoint 2010 release offers an array of enhancements, the new version does not present a major change in direction and will have little impact on the user experience. But an upgrade from previous versions will require major planning.**

Cambridge, UK – 12 May 2010 – As Microsoft prepares to launch the fourth major version of one of its most successful brands, IT-Business alignment experts MWD Advisors (MWD) today unveiled the findings of a report that provides an independent examination of the key enhancements and changes in SharePoint 2010. The report also assesses the implications for the market, both in terms of the impact on partners and competitors of the new release, as well as the key messages for existing customers and organisations considering implementing SharePoint.

The *MWD Vendor Insight* report, entitled “*SharePoint 2010: Microsoft’s strategy for enterprise collaboration*”, was researched and written by Angela Ashenden, MWD’s Principal Analyst for collaboration. The report was first published exclusively to members of the MWD Collaboration Continuous Advisory Service, a subscription-based service combining research, self-service decision support tools and dedicated analyst support designed to support collaboration investment and deployment decisions. Non-members can now purchase the report for £200\*.

The report examines the key enhancements and changes in SharePoint 2010 and explains how Microsoft is today repositioning SharePoint squarely in the collaboration software arena.

“SharePoint has always been a product which spans multiple technology markets, and over the last decade this breadth has extended significantly,” said Angela Ashenden, Principal Analyst at MWD. “With this release, the emphasis has been on strengthening areas of weakness in the product, such as social collaboration, records management and business intelligence, in order to compete more effectively in each of these growing markets, rather than reaching into new markets,” she continued, referring to the new release as “the Swiss Army knife of information management tools”.

“Overall though, from a features and functionality perspective, the new SharePoint 2010 release is very much an extension of previous versions of the product,” said Ashenden, “and from the end user’s perspective there is relatively little change to the SharePoint experience.”

Customers upgrading from previous versions need to plan their project carefully, and start preparing as soon as possible, warns Ashenden. “SharePoint 2010’s support for a 64-bit only architecture means that the upgrade from SharePoint 2007 will not be a minor exercise, with hardware as well as software upgrades needed,” she said. “Any customers hoping to upgrade from earlier versions have an even more complicated task ahead, since this is unsupported by Microsoft. In addition, you need to make sure you carry out any desktop refreshes

or browser upgrades well in advance of your main SharePoint 2010 rollout to minimise disruption caused by the new “Ribbon” navigation mechanism.”

The report goes on to explore the impact of the new release on partners and competitors, and puts forwards a number of recommendations to enterprises considering an upgrade to SharePoint 2010.

\* To purchase the report, please visit the MWD Advisors website or contact Denise Bradley on +44 (0)20 8099 4301.

Further information about the MWD Advisors Collaboration Continuous Advisory Service can be found at <http://www.mwdadvisors.com/services/cas.php>

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## **About MWD Advisors**

MWD Advisors is a specialist European IT advisory firm which focuses exclusively on issues surrounding IT-business alignment. Founded in 2005 by two high profile UK-based industry analysts, MWD provides advice to enterprise IT organisations and suppliers of IT technologies and services to help senior decision makers make better business decisions, and to maximise the business value received from IT investments.

MWD’s analysts bring over 60 years’ experience working with senior IT decision makers worldwide from a range of industries including retail, financial services, oil and gas, travel and leisure, utilities, manufacturing, public sector, healthcare and telecoms. We use our significant industry experience, acknowledged expertise, and a flexible approach to advise businesses on IT architecture, integration, management, organisation and culture.

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## **Contacts**

Note to editors: Accredited members of the press may request a free copy of the report for review. To submit your request or to arrange an interview with Angela Ashenden, please direct all enquiries to:

### **Beth Barling, Director**

Phone: +44 (0)20 8099 8297

Email: [beth@mwdadvisors.com](mailto:beth@mwdadvisors.com)

Please direct all sales enquiries to:

### **Denise Bradley, Account Manager**

Phone: +44 (0)20 8099 4401

Email: [sales@mwdadvisors.com](mailto:sales@mwdadvisors.com)