

Colligo Contributor SDK

Contributor Development Environment



INTRODUCTION

Providing users a rich desktop experience for accessing and managing SharePoint content is a common issue within SharePoint deployments. Colligo Contributor provides this SharePoint integration through its core engine and main User Interface/Outlook Add-in. Support is taken one step further with Contributor providing a seamless experience in a disconnected (offline) environment. Customers have recognized the power of Contributor and demand more flexibility. To provide customers the greatest flexibility, the Contributor engine has been abstracted into a .Net API.

Contributor Development Environment

Colligo Contributor Client builds on the traditional desktop experience via a stand-alone user interface providing a rich client with offline capability.

Colligo Contributor Add-In for Outlook extends MS Outlook integration with SharePoint and enriches user access through the familiar drag and drop interface.

Customers have recognized the power of Contributor and demanded more flexibility to both integrate Contributor into their desktop environment and to extend its functionality to meet specific business requirements.

Colligo Contributor Software Development Kit contains a .Net API to the Contributor Application engine and relevant technical information and specifications to enable custom development, management, configuration, and installation tools.

Contributor Release 3 Products

The Contributor product set is built on top of a core runtime engine, which provides the synchronization logic, interface to Microsoft SharePoint Services, local data repository (for caching) and a metadata and item management database. There are two distinct User Interfaces (UI) available; one for the desktop and one as an Outlook Add-in.

Customization and Integration

In cases where the user needs further integration into their desktop Contributor has exposed elements of its configuration schema and internal operations for customization. Currently Contributor enables the following to be customized:

- Installation system that enables the installation to be bundled with other applications transparently to the end customer.
- Alter the UI appearance based on the configured Windows color scheme.
- Metadata editor that is used whenever an item is added for synchronization to SharePoint. This enables custom editors which may use different display styles, specific filtered look-ups/pull-down lists, structured data entry, etc

Contributor Custom Development

The Contributor Development Environment provides the flexibility to develop and deploy in a number of different architectures. The Microsoft .Net API and Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 provide a familiar environment for developers.

The API is categorized as a set of services reflecting the major operation types:

- Data: insertion, deletion and creation of SharePoint data items
- Metadata: viewing, editing and management of related metadata
- Sync: control, selection and invocation of synchronization

- Config: setup, operation and configuration of the Contributor Server
- Security: access control, credentials and rights management

CONTRIBUTOR API

The Development Environment exposes the internal services of the Contributor Application Run-Time Engine and currently makes the following types of operations available:

- Creation of new list items and documents
- Importing existing documents in to the Contributor store
- Getting collections of sites, lists, list items, and documents from the store
- Getting metadata of list items and documents in the store
- Updating the metadata of list items and documents
- Removing list items and documents from the Contributor store
- Initiate synchronization of sites or individual lists

Colligo will continue to expand and extend the available operations in future releases and as new Contributor features and functionality are delivered.

Development and deployment of applications using the Contributor Development Environment will require the following:

Development IDE	Visual Studio 2008 and higher
Operating Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows XP • Window Vista • Windows 7
Installed Components	.Net Framework V3.5 Runtime
Contributor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributor Pro, Client or Add-In V3.0 or higher • Contributor Run-Time V3.0 or higher