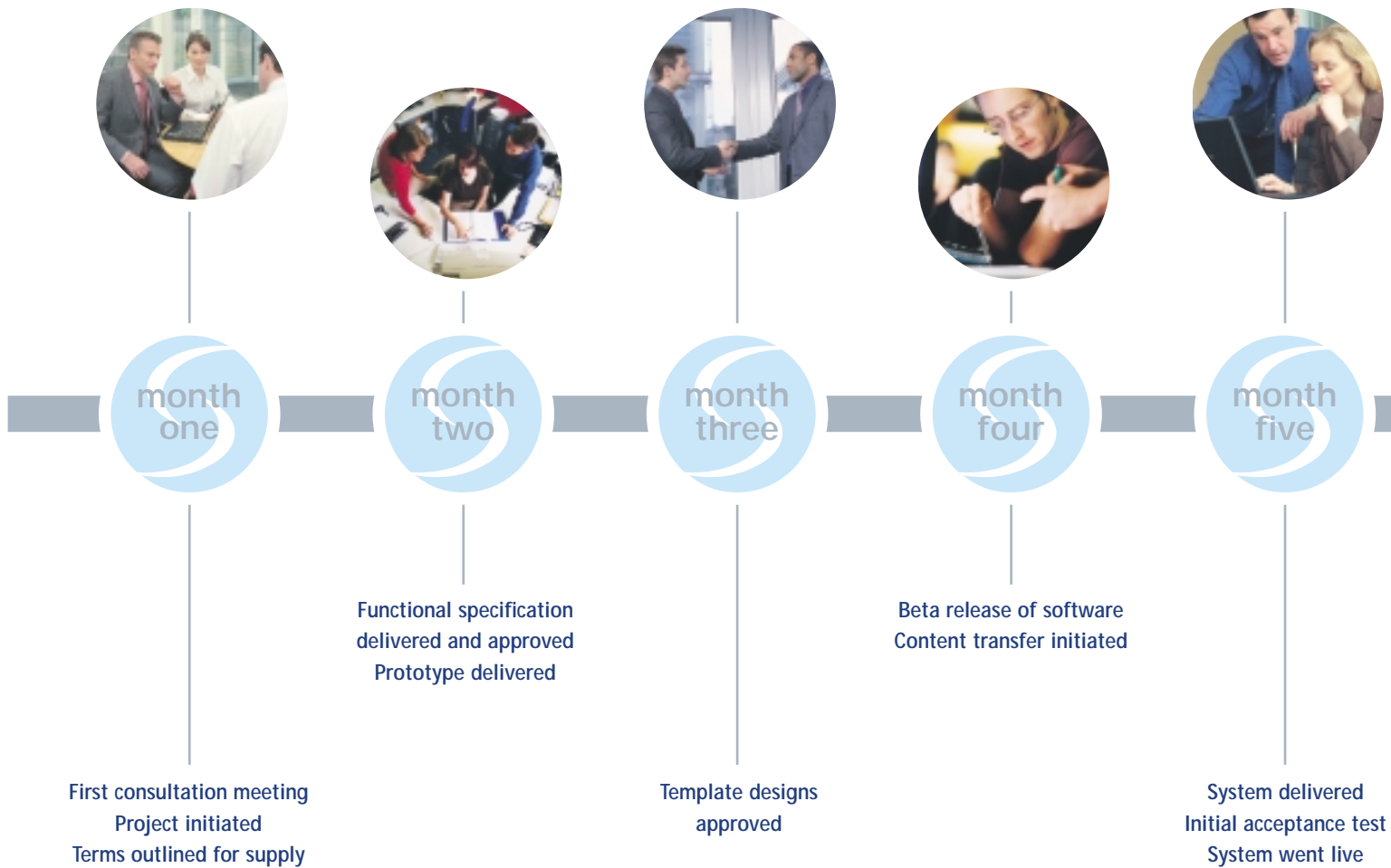




*considered IT solutions*

*New Content Management System  
for Global Users*



## The Business Requirement

The International Save the Children Alliance is the world's largest independent global organisation for children with programmes in over 115 countries.

Save The Children fights for children's rights and delivers immediate and lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

The International Save the Children Alliance Secretariat, which co-ordinates the work of the Alliance organisations, wanted to realise a global internet strategy, sharing information from its projects across the world. This would be achieved by linking together its various websites and enabling staff to publish information online from a range of locations across the world.

There were a number of issues with the previous system which would need to be addressed. The system lacked scalability for the large number of users and websites across the organisation.

The previous system was unable to cope with providing access to different sections of the sites by different users. Nor did it allow the Secretariat to make cross-organisational template changes. The speed of the system and published websites also needed to be improved.

In addition, the new system needed to comply with accessibility levels.

However, while the Secretariat wanted to provide web publishers with an element of autonomy regarding web content, it was also essential to maintain the brand image and core site design.

A content management system that would control the brand message content, but save authorisation time by providing members of the Alliance with the ability to change certain types of web content, would fulfil this requirement.

Another requirement the Secretariat had was that the new system could support a number of languages, due to the international scale of the Alliance.





Final acceptance test  
Project completion

*“Sigmer is extremely professional and it is refreshing to work with a flexible company that listens and is focused on solutions.”*

## The benefits of Scribe

- Increased communication flow and promotion of work on a global scale
- Autonomy provided for individual users to quickly and easily update content
- Management of branding retained firmly across the Alliance
- Vast increase in speed for end user page display
- Multiple Latin languages supported
- Supports Accessibility priority level 1
- New Scribe system delivered within 6 months

## The Sigmer Solution - Scribe

Sigmer Technologies created a high featured web content management system called Scribe, which by separating content from design allows non-technical users to maintain their website.

Scribe is a server-based technology; its functionality is delivered to its users through a web interface in their web browser (MS Internet Explorer or Netscape).

Scribe is based on two cross platform technologies (PHP and MySQL), which means it can be installed on a number of different server platforms.

Sigmer Technologies made the pioneering decision to base the new content management system on a managed file system.

In this way, pages could be displayed to the end user at a much faster rate than with any database-driven model. In addition, less load would be placed on the server, and the content of the website would not be locked into the content management system.

If Scribe was to allow non-technical individuals to edit content, Sigmer realised it had to build a system with an intuitive and familiar looking interface.

Scribe's interface looks not unlike Microsoft Explorer and Word; users can select where they want to add or change text, type in the new text, see a preview of the changes and then simply click 'update' and the content immediately becomes live on the site.

While providing users with autonomy over web content, the Secretariat needed to retain control over the sections and type of content users were allowed to edit.

Sigmer therefore developed a hierarchical security model in which 'normal' users would be limited to the areas of a website they could edit.

Webmasters would have further editorial functionality to areas such as templates, site headings and static content, which could include background organisation information or archived information.



For the purpose of easily managing multiple users of Scribe, Sigmer has created a user group functionality, for defining a set of permissions to apply to a certain group.

Users can easily be added or removed, but when they join a group their personal editorial permissions will be unique. This approach restricts user access to certain functionalities.

There was also a need for users of multiple languages to have access to Scribe and although the system's interface is in English, the editor supports any Latin (non-Cyrillic) languages.

## HEAD OFFICE

Sigmer Technologies Ltd  
The Sussex Innovation Centre  
University of Sussex  
Falmer  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN1 9SB

T 0870 870 8735  
Intl +44 1273 234663  
F 0870 870 8738  
E [enquiries@sigmer.com](mailto:enquiries@sigmer.com)  
W [www.sigmer.com](http://www.sigmer.com)

## LONDON OFFICE

Sigmer Technologies Ltd  
The Bow House  
Mill Lane  
Little Hallingbury  
Bishops Stortford  
Hertfordshire  
CM22 7QT

T 0870 870 8737  
Intl +44 1273 234663  
F 0870 870 8736  
E [info@sigmer.com](mailto:info@sigmer.com)  
W [www.sigmer.com](http://www.sigmer.com)



## The Result

The International Save the Children Alliance Secretariat and a number of Alliance members can now communicate information dynamically with their supporters and staff.

They are particularly impressed by how it provides users with autonomy while at the same time, the hierarchical structure of the system ensures the branding of the websites remain firmly in keeping with the International Save the Children Alliance brand.

**Becky Marshall, Webmaster of the Secretariat commented:**

*"The content management system has enabled staff in Save the Children organisations across the world to promote their work online easily and quickly. Sigmer is extremely professional and it is refreshing to work with a flexible company that listens and is focused on solutions. The system has met our needs well, giving us the ownership and*



***flexibility to manage all aspects of our websites, and creating accessible web content."***

A number of Alliance members have embraced the new system and are happy to have the ability to assign different users with different editing powers.

There are a number of members that currently still maintain their own website management systems, but Sigmer has developed the technology to be scalable and support the roll out of the system to a large number of members' websites within the organisation.