



VENTIENT
ENERGY

**Utilising Valo Intranet to design an
engaging employee experience.**

ThinkShare.

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Our Client and Their Challenge

Ventient Energy are Europe's largest independent generator of onshore wind energy. Their enterprise spans the continent, and their commitment to the environment drives them on their mission to build a sustainable future for us all.

As a business, they value their people, teamwork and creating an inclusive environment built on respect, integrity, and trust.

To maximise the potential of their wind assets they promote a high-performance culture. Their team is comprised of innovators constantly searching for ways to improve their approach to renewables and to continue their work protecting their environment and their people.

As the business spans across the UK, Portugal, Spain, France and Germany, Ventient recognised the need to create an engaging central communication platform that brought together globally distributed teams. They wanted a solution that could provide team news and updates in a more dynamic way, available anywhere on any device.

They highlighted that they need a place to:

- Facilitate access to key policies, documents, and resources (e.g., HR policies, the business plan, brand toolkit)
- Share news about the exciting initiatives they were undertaken to futureproof the renewable market and host information about upcoming events and project launches
- Enable input and feedback from different teams on key areas of work (e.g., pulse surveys)
- Build internal relationships and a sense of team (e.g., 'Getting to know [X employee/ X team])
- Spread insight and learning across the team (e.g., blogs/vlogs from team members)



Why ThinkShare?

Ventient found us whilst conducting research for new intranet providers. They were impressed with our references, so reached out to schedule a call with one of our Microsoft Certified Consultants.

We recognised during the early stages of our initial discussion that they were looking for the trusted functionality of SharePoint with a rich design that would truly engage and inspire their employees.

This led to the demonstration of Valo Intranet, a tool created to do just that. It goes beyond the customisable themes of SharePoint, offering the opportunity to effortlessly add more of what your people actually want. It makes it easy for your admins and editors to create pages and content from templates, to ingrain your branding to the most granular level, to connect people with the information, documents, and people they need to do their job well.

As one of only eight Certified Valo Partners within the UK, and with many successful implementations under our belt, Ventient recognised that we were best placed to implement the solution.

Why Valo?

Valo Tools

In line with their project objective Valo could facilitate access to Ventient's company news, information, documents, and social activities all from one centralised platform. At any time, on any device, anywhere.

As part of the project, we recognised that the following Valo features would be key in helping engage employees and create an inspiring intranet.

Valo Universal Web Part

We've split this area of the intranet into three columns (shown below). In each column we have a separate instance of the Valo webpart, populated with Ventient's social channels. Whilst the Universal Web Part can take a number of different forms, here we wanted to utilise it to pull the companies engaging social content into their flow of work.

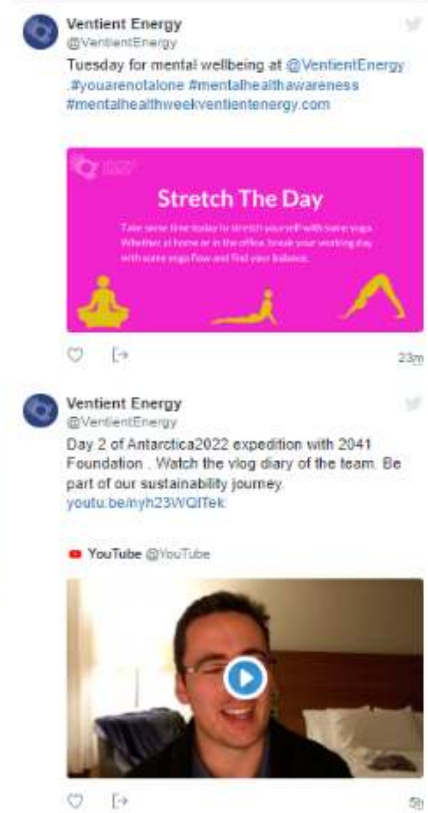
The web part offers greater flexibility than that of a more traditional SharePoint, so we utilised its parameters in the LinkedIn module to highlight a post sharing some incredible company news, making sure everyone regardless of their geography could see the message. We altered the height of the webpart so the whole message could be shared, and its these little touches that can improve the intranet.

The Twitter module has its own unique parameter that can be configured to showcase a range of tweets. This was useful for employees working part time as they had ample time to catch up with any missed messages.

LINKEDIN



TWITTER



YOUTUBE



Page Templates

Templates can be useful for projects that require multiple pages utilising layout and structure, for example department pages. Whilst SharePoint already allows user to create a page template it only allows templates for single sites e.g., if you create separate SharePoint sites and templates within those sites, they can only be used within that one sit, Valo extends that functionality.

Instead of site templates, it facilitates the creation of global templates that can be utilised in any site collection or hub site. Whilst also separating these templates into News templates and Page templates.

Valo empowers users to create the content they need to do their jobs, but it also gives admins tools for governance and control. If an admin wants a template to be restricted to a specific site, then they can simply turn on that option when creating the page template in the Valo Toolbox.

Quick Links

By default, Out-Of-The-Box SharePoint allows for the creation of a quick link which includes these parameters:

- The Link - Where the user will be brought to when link is clicked,
- The Title - Label shown to users
- The Icon -By default it is auto-selected and can be changed to a custom image or from a list of Icons SharePoint provides.

Whereas Valo offers other options including whether a quick link should open in a new tab or overwrite the current tab, and so on. In addition, the interface for Valo quick links allows for easy positioning of quick links which can be helpful when you may have double figures of quick links.

Shown in the picture below is the interface:



The dropdown on the left that contains a number is the position of the quick link meaning you can easily change the position.

Branding

In SharePoint the branding is limited to a single theme, and while for some organisations this might meet their requirements but for others it doesn't go far enough.

Valo extends the branding capabilities by allowing the use of custom CSS to style and really align an Intranet with a client's brand guidelines. Some examples of this style are font sizes, font colours, hiding unwanted attributes on pages such as the total comments on a news article.

An example is shown below.

In this image the Font sizes of the web part titles have been increased, the text colour of the new titles has been set to the brand colour for titles.

Whilst these details to some might seem trivial when viewed in the context of an entire intranet and a communication hub, each and every detail connects your teams to your business.

GLOBAL NEWS



[SaxaVord Spaceport agrees multi-launch deal with Skyrora](#)

5 months ago - Valo Admin

SaxaVord Spaceport and rocket company Skyrora have reached a multi-launch deal for its XL rocket beg...



[Belgian port installs wind turbines to charge 20,000 EVs a week](#)

a year ago - Valo Admin

A total of 11 wind turbines will be used in Belgian Port to charge more than 20,000 electric vehicle...



EVENTS

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Que Manilium Ab Iisque M Sed Ad Bo...
Sat, May 14, 18:10



Quod Quidem Iam Fit Etiam In Acade...
Fri, Jun 10, 17:00



Nihil Illinc Huc Pervenit
Tue, Jun 14, 17:00



Sed Residamus Inquit Si Placet Nunc O...
Fri, Jul 15, 16:30

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The Project

Here we showcase the stages the project went through from concept to execution. How we pulled together the above features to create a beautiful, engaging, and functional intranet to delight the dispersed teams at Ventient.

At ThinkShare, we have developed a tried and tested framework that breaks each project down into distinctive phases. Our consultants worked closely with the Ventient team to maintain an agile approach that resulted in the creation of an intranet that was as unique as they are.

The Discovery Stage

The discovery phase began with the aim to understand and articulate the users' and business requirements for the intranet. Through an in-depth workshop, the requirements and scenarios were gathered from the key users and project stakeholders.

The workshop included several exercises designed to engage users, provoke new ideas and drive enthusiasm about the intranet.

The Design Phase

In this phase we worked closely with the team to develop an intranet requirements document that showcased how each requirement would be prioritised and detailed how they would then be built in SharePoint.

In collaboration with Ventient we created an information architecture that worked for them. Understanding their work culture and exploring their branding requirements, we pulled upon the functionality of Valo to create an inspiring intranet.

Build and Implementation

The build phase of the project kicked off without issue. Our certified Microsoft experts were given access to Ventient's Microsoft 365 tenant and configured the SharePoint functionality as discussed at the workshop. From there we designed the platform in line with their requirements, focusing on communication, collaboration and connecting teams across Ventient's main hubs. During this phase, the focus team from the workshop were able to test the intranet and identify any necessary edits.

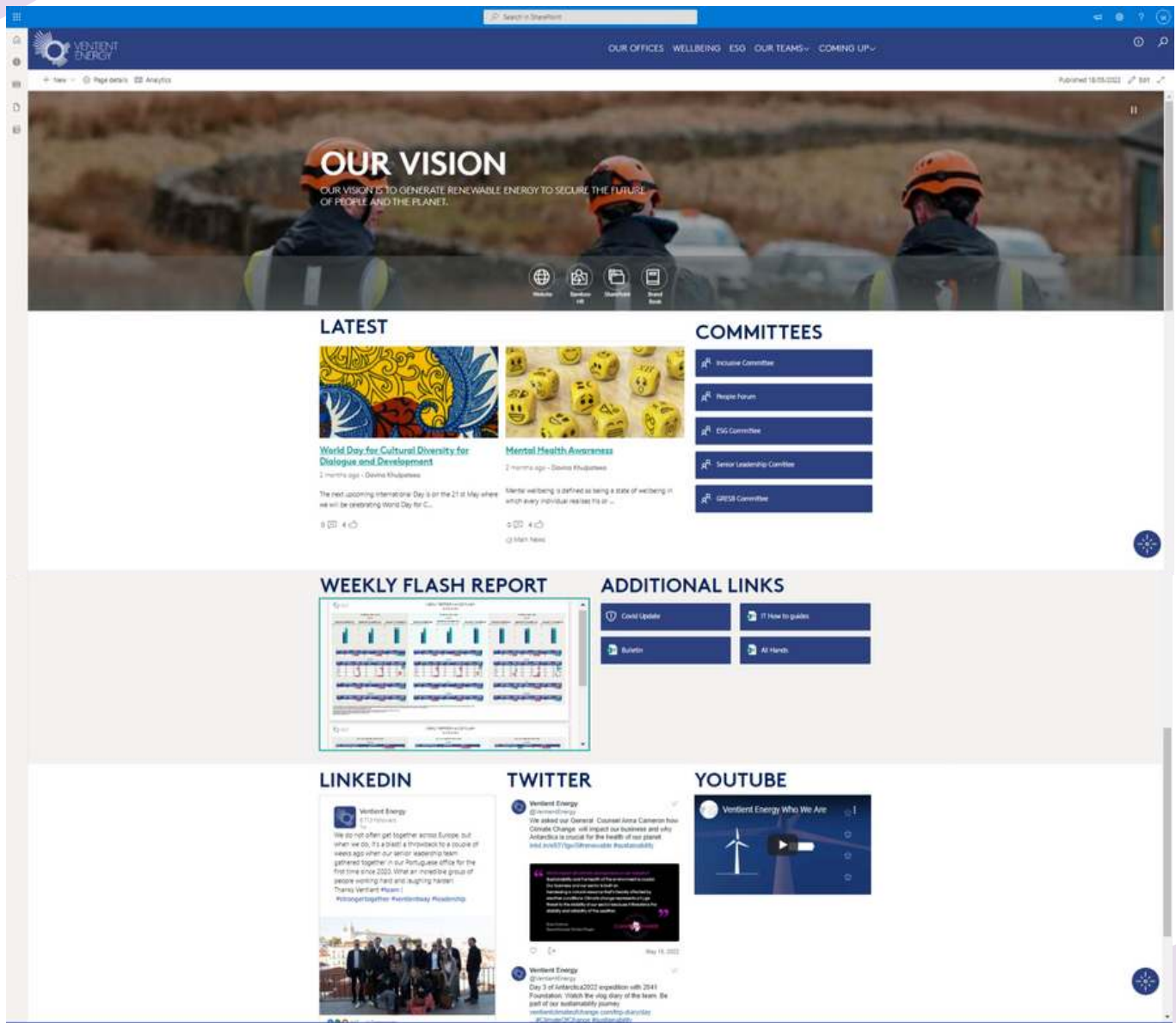
We hosted training workshops with the users to drive enthusiasm for the project and really create excitement for the launch. Teaching users how to update the News page, how to create and share events and share updates. By teaching users from each team, we were able to connect each team with the final version of the intranet, building anticipation for launch and laying the foundation of high adoption levels.

We then moved onto the best bit of the project, go live. When their users were given the opportunity to view the brand new Valo Intranet and finally interact with their new collaboration tool.

On the next page we showcase the final design of the Ventient Home Page.



Ventient Home Page Design



The Outcome

By utilising the extensive features of Valo we were able to not only achieve the objectives of the project but surpass Ventient's expectations.

Their new intranet connects their people with the information they need to do their job effectively. It fulfils their need of sharing information, strengthening employee relationships, allowing them to feel better aligned with their business and so much more.

Its functionality provides everything the business needed, but more than that it has begun to pay dividends in the relationships and shared purpose of their distributed teams. Collaboration has never been easier for the company, and we can't wait to see how this team spirit and shared purpose for future proofing our planet pays off.

Feedback

Ventient were an incredible company to work with, and it was wonderful to work with a company that cares as much about the planet as they do their people.

Our CEO Andy Hodges, shared his thoughts on the project, “The team at Ventient were a joy to work with, they had clarity on both the project objective and worked in partnership with our team throughout the project to ensure it's success.

This Valo intranet, with its rich engaging design will empower collaboration throughout their regions, for years to come. We cannot wait to see what they achieve in the future.”

