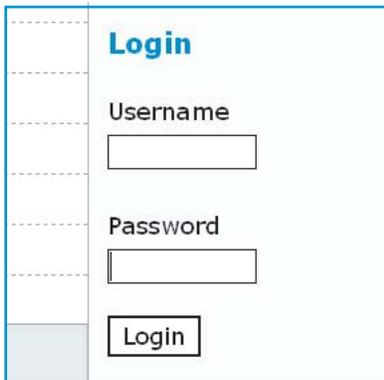## Web site Introduction

The University Of Maryland 2005 Solar Decathlon Team has created a website to inform the public about solar living, establish an inter-active community among 6 distinct academic disciplines, and to efficiently share design files. Without an established program to achieve these goals, the team engineered a system that pushes the limits on effective electronic communication. The Maryland website gathers, organizes, links, and archives gigabytes of data, quickly and conveniently.
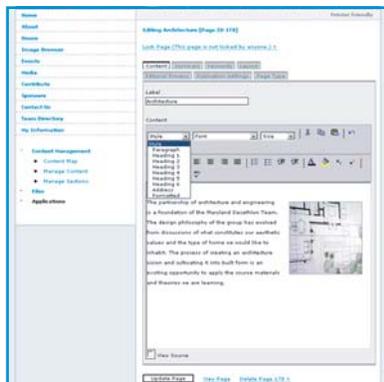

Individual Access

Each team member has an individual login name and password. Once logged in team members are able to access shared files from all of the task groups, update webpages, and archive files. Team members can also access a team directory that has contact information for all members. This is an important feature for a team spread across the entire campus
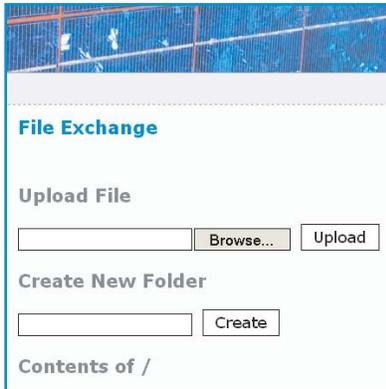

Everyone is a Webmaster

The Information Technology (IT) group never has to answer to "please, can you make just one more change to website." Individual team members are able edit pages without having to write code.

Every page has an "edit page" link at the bottom. Team members are able to edit text, insert pictures and control various publishing options in a browser layout. Pages can be made visible to the public, just the team, and can include internal notes.
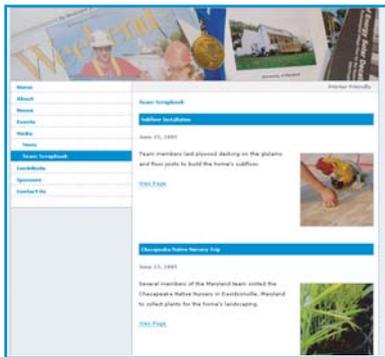

Design and Layout Consistency

The visual style of the website is consistent thanks to style sheets. When our communications team ads a news article link to the site, They choose from predefined heading and subheading styles. This saves time and keeps the site consistent looking.

Centralized File Exchange

Tens of thousands of design drawings, letters, photographs, movies, fonts, you name it, are organized on a central server that is accessible via multiple secure protocols including sftp, ssh, webdav, and https. While ssh has a high level of functionality, most users access files with https – over the web. Once logged in, users can upload and download files using the web-based file exchange. Like the other backend applications, the file exchange looks as sexy as the front-end of the website because they all share the same style sheet.

Pictures + Stories = Scrapbook

Not everyone will be able to make it to the National Mall this fall – and for those who do, time is limited. The team scrap book is a web log of pictures and stories documenting the personality of the team, exciting moment, accomplishments and the behind the scene activities on the Mall.

Content Targets a Broad Audience

The website design encourages interdisciplinary collaboration between the technical and social science disciplines.   For example in the technology corner engineering students draft articles highlighting key technical details and our journalism students help gather pictures and edit to make the writing accessible to a non-technical audience. This type of collaboration is a core value of the Maryland team and helps us achieve our goal to encourage the public that sustainable technology is available today.