

samarind

complete **NETWORK** and **SOFTWARE** solutions

Samarind Achieves Gold Partner Status with Zen Internet

Samarind has achieved Gold Partner status with Zen Internet in under 18 months!

Zen Internet, one of the first Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the UK, was born in 1995. As a company they have consistently proven themselves to be a reliable and successful source for providing Internet solutions.



Sadik Pothiwala shows off Samarind's new Gold Partner plaque

Like Samarind, Zen Internet believe in being both technically minded and customer focused, and have grown with this vision.

By the end of 2005 Zen's turnover had exceeded £19m and there were over 200

members of staff. The ZenPartner Programme has also increased to over 500 partner companies in 5 years, proving that businesses want to work with a company that is capable of sustaining success.

A Zen Partner since November 2005, Samarind have been working alongside Zen to deliver a range of internet services, focusing mainly on broadband and leased line connections. Sadik Pothiwala, Managing Director and head of Networks says 'We partner with Zen in order to ensure a high level of customer service and quality service provision for our customers. The number of technical issues we get from their internet services is minimal compared to other providers we've worked with. Zen always work to ensure that customer solutions are achieved as efficiently as possible and to the highest possible standards. We're pleased to have achieved Gold Partner status and look forward to a successful future working with Zen to deliver excellent service and customer satisfaction'.



Tips 'n' Tricks Windows Vista



Search & Organize in Windows Vista

Explore the new Windows Vista start menu.

Looking for specific applications, web sites and e-mails is faster than ever with the streamlined Windows Vista start menu. To find a specific application or file, click the Windows key on the keyboard (or open the start menu) and enter the file name in the Instant Search field. As you type, Windows Vista dynamically searches filenames, metadata, and the full text of all files and displays the choices by file type. For example, type "out" to find Microsoft® Outlook®.

Experience the enhanced user interface.

If your PC supports the Windows® Aero™ user experience, open multiple files and see how easy it is to locate the

right open window using the Windows Flip (simply ALT+TAB) or the new Flip 3D (Windows key+TAB).

Backup and Security

Recover a previous version of a document

Windows Vista introduces a new feature: Previous Versions. This allows you to "roll back" the clock to an earlier version of a file that you may have accidentally saved over or edited. In the Documents Explorer, open a document, edit it, save it, and then close it. While selecting the document, choose the Previous Versions option on the command bar, which will bring up a list of previously saved versions of the individual file. Choose a previous version and Windows Vista will restore your file to that version. Careful: all edits since that version will be lost.

For the complete Top 10 Vista Tips 'n' Tricks visit our website at www.samarind.co.uk and check out our News pages.

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What's Hot- Wallet Flash

Super Duper Solid State - USB Flash Drives

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networks

software

web

consultancy

support

Microsoft Office 2007

What's new in Microsoft Word

Share documents confidently

When you send a draft of a document to your colleagues for their input, Office Word 2007 helps you efficiently collect and manage their revisions and comments. When you are ready to publish the document, Office Word 2007 helps you ensure that any unresolved revisions and comments aren't still lurking in the published document.

Quickly compare two versions of a document



Office Word 2007 makes it easy to find out what changes were made to a document. When you compare and combine documents, you can see both versions of the document — with the deleted, inserted, and moved text clearly marked in a third version of the document.

Find and remove hidden metadata and personal information in documents

Before you share your document with other people, you can use the Document Inspector to check the document for hidden metadata, personal information, or content that may be stored in the document. The Document Inspector can find and remove information like comments, versions, tracked changes, ink annotations, document properties, document management server information, hidden text, custom XML data, and information in headers and footers. The Document Inspector can help you ensure that the documents you share with other people do not contain any hidden personal information or any hidden content that your organisation might not want distributed. Additionally, your organisation can customise the Document Inspector to add checks for additional types of hidden content.

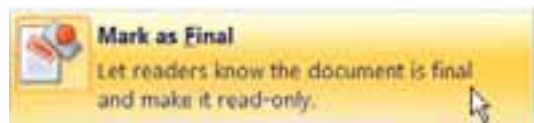
Add a digital signature or signature line to your documents



You can help provide assurance as to the authenticity, integrity, and origin of your document by adding a digital signature to the document. In Office Word 2007, either you can add an invisible digital signature to a document, or you can insert a Microsoft Office Signature Line to capture a visible representation of a signature along with a digital signature.

The ability to capture digital signatures by using signature lines in Office documents makes it possible for organisations to use paperless signing processes for documents like contracts or other agreements. Unlike signatures on paper, digital signatures provide a record of exactly what was signed, and they allow the signature to be verified in the future.

Prevent changes to a final version of a document



Before you share a final version of a document with other people, you can use the **Mark as Final** command to make the document read-only and communicate to other people that you are sharing a final version of the document. When a document is marked as final, its typing, editing commands, and proofing marks are disabled, and people who view the document cannot inadvertently change the document. The **Mark as Final** command is not a security feature. Anyone can edit a document that is marked as final by turning off **Mark as Final**.

Microsoft Office Word 2007 helps people create and share professional-looking content by combining a comprehensive set of writing tools with the new, easy-to-use Microsoft Office Fluent user interface. Here are the top 5 ways Office Word 2007 can help you create professional-looking content faster.

1. Communicate more effectively with SmartArt diagrams and new charting tools.

New SmartArt diagrams and a new charting engine help you create great-looking content with 3-D shapes, transparency, drop shadows, and other effects.

2. Quickly assemble documents using Building Blocks.

Building Blocks in Office Word 2007 can be used to assemble documents from frequently used or predefined content such as disclaimer text, pull quotes, sidebars, cover pages, and other types of content. This will help ensure you don't spend needless time recreating content or copying and pasting between documents; it also helps ensure consistency across all of the documents created within your organisation.

3. Publish and maintain blogs directly from Office Word 2007.

You can now publish blogs directly from Office Word 2007. You can configure Office Word 2007 to link directly to your blog site, and use the rich Word experience to create blogs with images, tables, and advanced text formatting features.

4. Connect your documents to business information.

Create dynamic Smart Documents that update themselves by connecting to your back-end systems using new document controls and data bindings. By using the new XML integration capability, organisations can deploy intelligent templates to assist people in creating highly structured documents.

5. Reduce your file sizes and improve corrupt file recovery.

The new Ecma Office Open XML Formats offer a dramatic reduction in file size as well as improvement in recovery for damaged files. These new formats provide a tremendous savings to storage and bandwidth requirements, and reduce the burden on IT personnel.

For more information on Office 2007 visit the Microsoft website. We'll be featuring the latest Office add-on for 2007, The Ribbon, in our next newsletter.



Case study African adventure



The web development team have taken a walk on the wild side with their latest project.

Samarind were asked to build a website for Ultimate Safaris and Islands, a provider of luxury, tailor-made holidays in Africa and the islands off the African coastline. The company was set up by Gara Gharagozlou and Alexia Walker, who fell in love with the continent after enjoying a holiday in South Africa. Subsequently they ran a safari camp in Botswana and this gave the couple the idea of providing bespoke holidays at the very best camps and destinations. They wanted to share their love and knowledge of the real Africa.

'We wanted a very visual site,' said Gara. 'The images are what make people want to go to Africa; they capture the imagination by showing its beauty and wonder. We were very fortunate in that we had access to pictures by some of the best photographers in Africa.'

The result, www.ultimatesafarisandislands.com, is a stunning website. It features more than 1,200 images and all have been optimised for the web. 'It was big challenge for the team, placing and optimising all those pictures, but one of the things that made this project such a joy to work on,' said Samarind's Software Sales Executive, Phil Turner. 'It really is a beautiful website and we're very proud of it.'

Senior Web Developer Matt Worrall and his team worked very closely with Gara and Alexia to make sure the site fully answered their needs and matched their vision.

'Gara and Alexia show great attention to detail in everything they do,' said Phil. 'I know they worked very hard researching the safari camps to make sure only the very best feature on Ultimate Safaris. This focus extended to the building of the website and was a big help. It's great when clients have clear ideas of what they want.'

Gara confirmed: 'It was a backwards-and-forwards process and we had lots of input. Samarind were very good at communicating with us. It was good fun working with those guys – they were able to interpret what we were trying to do.'

'Alexia and I had never been involved in web development before and Samarind allowed us to enjoy the process. We're hugely delighted with the end result.'

Like all Samarind-built websites, www.ultimatesafarisandislands.com doesn't just look pretty, it's also a very effective marketing tool. The site has been effectively search engine optimised and Ultimate Safaris are able to collate email addresses for mail-shots. A news section has been set up which Gara and Alexia can content manage themselves.

'We needed to be able to update that area ourselves,' said Gara, 'but otherwise we'll only need to alter the content after we've been to Africa on site inspection trips or something radical has changed at our properties, such as upgrades or refurbishments.'

'Samarind have more than matched our expectations. We're very pleased we chose them, rather than the London-based agencies we also approached. A big factor in their favour was their enthusiasm: they were really keen to do it. That enthusiasm was maintained throughout the project.'

Employee Profile

Pete Reed

Great balls of fire!

A young man with a burning ambition now has a starring role at Samarind.

Pete Reed, 28, joined Samarind in February as Customer Services Co-ordinator. Pete is passionate about customer services. Previously, he has trained Sainsbury's staff in the art of customer relations and had a similar role at Cheshire County Council.

'My job is to take care of all Samarind's customers,' Pete says. 'I help them if they have any questions and find out whether there's anything else we can do for them. I always enjoy talking to our customers!'

'Because I love IT and am very techie myself, I understand the terminology, which helps me when discussing a customer's needs. I'm learning so much more here, though.'

Pete's not just hot stuff in customer services. He's blazing a trail in quite a different arena. Pete is proficient in Fire Poi, an extraordinary performance art from New Zealand.

Pete explains: 'In the old days, Maori warriors used to build up their muscles by swinging round rocks attached to the ends of vines. The women of the tribe then took this and turned it into a performance form. The more modern form of Poi is to spin balls of wick soaked in paraffin, which are then set alight.'

The result is spectacular, as the performer spins the balls to create arcs and wheels of flame. Pete is a member of a fire Spinning group in Manchester and travels with them to major festivals, including Glastonbury. As well as fire, the group spins with other illuminated and luminous materials, such as LED equipment and flags made of UV-reactive fabric.



Pete taught himself to spin. In fact, he learnt the moves off a website – without, he says, 'suffering too much in the way of injury' while learning.

'Obviously, you don't use flaming equipment until you've got the moves right,' he says. 'Safety is paramount. You need to know what is safe to wear, what substances you should use and you must check your equipment is in perfect condition.'

'I did have one accident, when a burning ball of wick rolled down my face during a performance. It singed my eyebrow and kind of Velcro-ed my eyelashes together – I had to carry on with just one eye open!'

The Poi techniques have come in very useful for Pete's other performing passion – musical theatre. Pete has been a member of Ellesmere Port Light Opera Company since he was a child. Recently he played the lead role in Barnum, where his juggling and spinning skills added a new dimension to the show about the circus entrepreneur. Another favourite role is Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar.

'That's a role you can really get your teeth into,' he says. 'Villains are more interesting than heroes, I think, although I would love the chance to play Valjean in Les Miserables. That's a role I covet.' Pete is no less delighted with his role at Samarind.

'It's a great place to work,' he says. 'What attracted me to the job is that Samarind isn't a company driven by sales. Its motivation is to provide a service and offer continued support and help. That's a great foundation for me to build on.'

What's Hot

The world's first credit card sized USB Flash Drive!

The world's slimmest USB device, and the only one that can be conveniently carried in a wallet. Capacity is from 64Mb right up to 2Gb, it's waterproof, the thickness is only 1.9mm and the product weighs just 12 grams. The Walletflash™ is also temperature tolerant so no matter if it's left on the dashboard in the sun, your data will still be protected! Walletflash™ provides the discerning user with several major advantages over conventional USB drives:

Not an extra thing to carry

Doesn't get lost, forgotten or misplaced

Fits easily into wallet

Always there, as available as your credit cards

Double sided USB connector

Makes it quick & easy to connect to even those hard to get at USB ports



The first and only wallet friendly electronic gadget

Elicits admiring responses whenever shown!

Trendy stylish design

A natural part of your wallet

Large, double sided printed area

Great private labelling opportunity! Walletflash™ not only for branding - also very useful

Long lasting promotional present

Long after other gifts have been binned

Walletflash™ was winner of the innovation award at the annual International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas in January 2007.

For more information please contact Sales on 01244 288281 or email sales@samarind.co.uk

Super Duper Solid State!

USB flash drives offer potential advantages over other portable storage devices, particularly the floppy disk. They are more compact, generally faster, hold more data, and are more reliable (due to both their lack of moving parts, and their more durable design) than floppy disks.

Until recently, solid state disks were too costly for mobile computing. "Solid state disks" are now being more accurately renamed "solid state drives" - they have no disks but function as drives - for mobile computing in the enterprise and consumer electronics space. As a result, flash-based solid state drives are becoming increasingly popular in markets such as notebook PCs and sub-notebooks for enterprises.

They have many uses...

Personal data transport

The most common use of flash drives is to transport and store personal files such as documents, pictures and video. Individuals also store medical alert information for use in emergencies and for disaster preparation.

Computer repair

USB Flash drives enjoy notable success in the PC repair field as a means to transfer recovery and antivirus software to infected PCs, while allowing a portion of the host machine's data to be archived in case of emergency.

System administration

Flash drives are particularly popular among system and network administrators, who load them with configuration information and software used for system maintenance, troubleshooting, and recovery.

Application carriers

Flash drives are used to carry applications that run on the host computer without requiring installation.



To boot operating systems

In a way similar to that used in LiveCD, one can launch any operating system from a bootable flash drive, known as a LiveUSB.

Windows Vista ReadyBoost

In Windows Vista, the ReadyBoost feature allows use of a flash drive to augment system memory.

Flash drives are nearly impervious to the scratches and dust that were problematic for previous forms of portable storage, such as compact discs and floppy disks, and their durable solid-state design means they often survive casual abuse.

This makes them ideal for transporting personal data or work files from one location to another, such as from home to school or office or for carrying around personal data that the user typically wants to access in a variety of places.

The near-ubiquity of USB support on modern computers means that such a drive will work in most places. A drawback to the small size is that they are easy to misplace, leave behind, or otherwise lose. Although Flash drives are much more tolerant of abuse than mechanical drives, they can still be damaged or have data corrupted by severe physical impacts.

Flash drives are also a relatively dense form of storage, where even the cheapest will store dozens of floppy disks worth of data. Some can hold more data than a CD (700 MB). Top of the line flash drives can store more data than a double-sided dual-layer DVD - even 16 GB and more.

For more information and pricing on USB flash drives please contact Peter Reed on 01244 288281 or sales@samarind.co.uk