Re-Wired for Life Foundation

Adobe GoLive speeds delivery of a dynamic, accessible Parkinson's patient survey

Margaret Tuchman had an ambitious goal: create an accessible survey that would yield an unprecedented collection of data on patients who have had deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery. DBS is today's most promising treatment for the debilitating symptoms of Parkinson's disease. It typically involves electrodes implanted in the brain's subthalamic nucleus (STN). Tuchman, a DBS recipient herself and president of The Parkinson Alliance, led the effort to make her goal a reality. The DBS/STN Survey, built with Adobe GoLive software's Dynamic Content feature, is now online at the Re-Wired for Life Foundation Web site(*www.rewiredforlife.org*).

Re-Wired for Life's Web site is a gathering place for DBS patients, their families and friends, and those considering the surgery. The DBS/STN Survey in part seeks to determine how long the quality of life improvement from DBS surgery will last—a very important question for those evaluating treatment options.

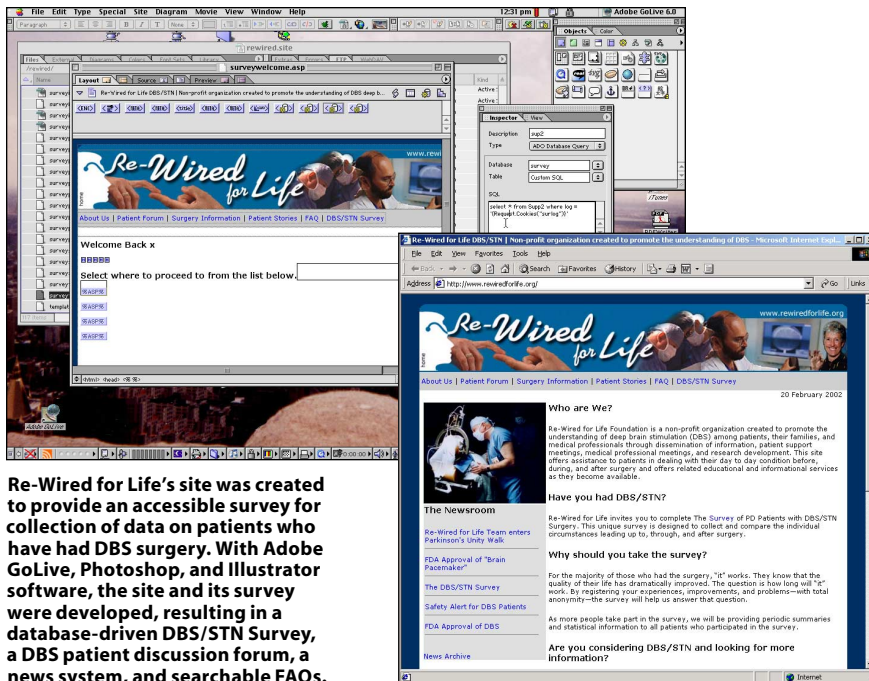**A complex survey to span years**

Taking the DBS/STN Survey online was a daunting assignment. The survey is intense—with 300 questions—and requires resampling patients every six months for three years. The main challenge was making the survey usable by people dealing with a serious disease. The GoLive solution proposed by Gloria Hansen, art/media consultant for The Parkinson Alliance, and her partner, Derry Thompson of GloDerWorks, L.L.C., was the one accepted for its simplicity, cost-effectiveness, and rapid delivery.

"Early on," Hansen says, "we decided to break the survey into digestible chunks, giving respondents the option to take a break and return another day to continue." Technically, this meant tracking users and their paths through the survey. "We needed software with extensive site management features, integration with Photoshop and Illustrator, and the ability to generate dynamic scripts and check for Section 508 accessibility," says Hansen. "GoLive was the answer."

A new site for Re-Wired for Life

Hansen and Thompson reviewed the original Re-Wired site, evaluated available development tools, and determined GoLive Dynamic Content would dramatically reduce development time. The associated reduction in costs was vital for a nonprofit organization. The team proposed GoLive, along with Photoshop, Illustrator, and a Microsoft Access database, to overhaul the site of Re-Wired for Life.

Six weeks later, the new Re-Wired site sprang to life, with the database-driven DBS/STN Survey at its heart. Along with the survey, Thompson and Hansen delivered several more features built with GoLive Dynamic Content: a DBS patient discussion forum, a news system, and searchable FAQs. On the back end, a new content management system enables non-HTML-literate staff to administer dynamic areas of the site. Also important, the site met U.S. Section 508 requirements, which ensure a site's source code is usable by software for the disabled.

Re-Wired for Life's site was created to provide an accessible survey for collection of data on patients who have had DBS surgery. With Adobe GoLive, Photoshop, and Illustrator software, the site and its survey were developed, resulting in a database-driven DBS/STN Survey, a DBS patient discussion forum, a news system, and searchable FAQs. GoLive accelerated production of this complex Web survey and dynamic site, enabling its designers to move from concept to completion in six weeks.

"The greatest benefit of GoLive is that we can develop dynamic, accessible sites very rapidly, which meant getting the DBS/STN Survey to its users as quickly as possible."

—Derry Thompson
Co-founder
GloDerWorks, L.L.C.

Collaboration across an ocean

With 5,000 miles separating them, Hansen (in the United States) and Thompson (in the United Kingdom) used GoLive site management features to clean up the original site code, implement cascading style sheets, and ensure consistency across browsers and platforms. Photoshop and Illustrator sped the process of building the site's artwork and optimizing it for the Web.

Dynamic Content "a breeze"

Next, Hansen and Thompson created the site's dynamic areas and the content management system. At the same time, they generated HTML templates for the survey. Once the final questions were delivered, Thompson pasted them into GoLive and built HTML forms embedded with AppleScript pop-ups. Form field names were extracted and used to generate the Access database. Last, ASP scripting was done with the Dynamic Content feature of GoLive.

Thompson says the project could not have met its accelerated time frame without GoLive. "The greatest benefit of GoLive is that we can develop dynamic, accessible sites very rapidly, which meant getting the DBS/STN Survey to its users

as quickly as possible," says Thompson. "The ability of GoLive to connect with a wide range of database products and use ASP, PHP, and JSP gives us countless development options. GoLive is easy to use, even without programming knowledge. As someone who has hand coded similar solutions in the past, I found its Dynamic Content feature a breeze."

GoLive facilitates accessibility compliance

Accessibility by the disabled is important for the Re-Wired for Life site. To obtain a certification known as "Bobby approval," source code is submitted for automated analysis against World Wide Web Consortium and U.S. Section 508 requirements. "Before submitting the Re-Wired site, we ran the GoLive Accessibility Reporter, then used search-and-replace features to make the needed changes extremely quickly," says Thompson. The team was pleased to note that the first submission of the Re-Wired site passed the Bobby check.

The survey reaches out

No cause or cure has yet been identified for Parkinson's disease. The Parkinson Alliance, however, is on a fast track to find a cure by 2005. In the meantime, organizations like The Parkinson Alliance and Re-Wired for Life work diligently to serve patients and medical professionals. Energized by dynamic content, the Re-Wired site has experienced a marked upswing in visitors. Best of all, the DBS/STN Survey is successfully reaching those who can furnish its most relevant data.

TOOLBOX

Adobe GoLive
Adobe Illustrator
Adobe Photoshop
AppleScript
Microsoft Access

Macintosh G3 and G4 PowerBook computers
Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Server running IIS5
Virtual PC

CLEARLY
Adobe
IMAGING

Adobe®