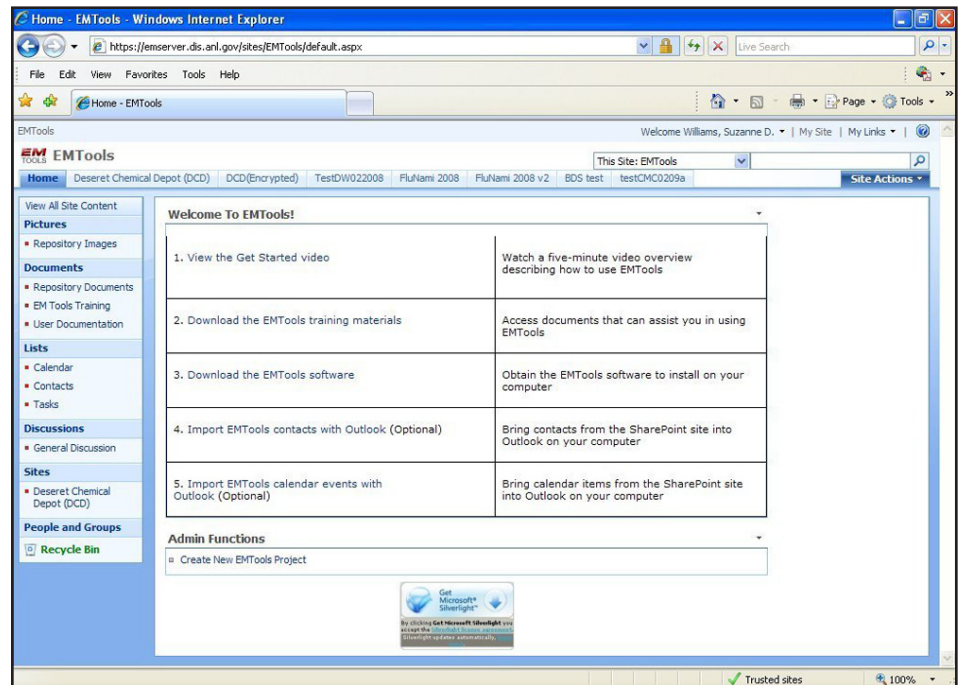## EMTools and SharePoint® Services
Bringing the Full Power of Collaboration to Emergency Response Planning

Effective emergency response planning and management depend on successful collaboration and information exchange among key jurisdictions, departments, and supporting organizations. Argonne National Laboratory's EMTools System takes collaboration to new levels with the support of Microsoft® SharePoint® Services 3.0.

The EMTools System integrates the functionality of Argonne's previous-generation emergency management software applications (Sync Matrix, Exercise Management Tool [XMT], and WatchBoard) into a unified software platform that addresses the entire emergency management lifecycle (planning, training, and exercising) with an improved user interface and more robust client-server architecture, thanks to its use of SharePoint as EMTools' data and collaboration backbone.

EMTools implements an innovative approach of hosting its data in a customized Windows SharePoint Services (WSS) 3.0 site, and uses a Microsoft WinForms front-end technology to access the back-end SharePoint list data as a client-server application. The WinForms technology gives plan and exercise designers powerful, visual charting tools. WSS 3.0 allows for a compact application with the power of project, data, document, and user management tools that can link with everyday applications such as Microsoft Office products, especially Outlook.

EMTools-SharePoint Home screen

Highly secure and extremely configurable, SharePoint brings a new level of interoperability and transparency to your emergency response planning efforts. Because SharePoint supports a scalable approach to network design, you can start small and expand your EMTools System as your needs and user base grow. EMTools can get your organization on the road to using the most sophisticated emergency response planning and management tool available today.

SharePoint Improves Workflow

Say goodbye to inefficient e-mailing, disjointed data storage schemes, and "sneaker nets" for transferring information among team members, because seamless integration between EMTools and SharePoint gives users the ability to access multiple emergency plans, exercise projects, and supporting documents with a couple of mouseclicks from a single location, using the familiar Microsoft Office 2007-style tab and ribbon bar interface. At the same time, full document and file libraries can be viewed and downloaded from within EMTools, and team contact and calendar information can be integrated into the individual user's desktop version of Microsoft Outlook®. Users with Microsoft Office 2007 will experience nearly transparent integration between EMTools' SharePoint functions and the Office desktop.

Project managers can further extend the power of SharePoint for their projects through the use of web parts and wikis. Web parts allow creation of "on-the-fly" SharePoint pages that incorporate prefabricated components into one customizable view. Wikis take collaboration to new levels by providing an easy-to-use contributory platform for team content development.

SharePoint Streamlines the Desktop

SharePoint offers EMTools users tremendous breadth and depth of functionality, including:

- Single-workspace access to documents, libraries, calendars, and contact information.

- Document check-in/check-out provides clear chain-of-possession tracking.

- Version control allows authorized users to roll back to earlier versions of project data and documents.

- Task list management tools that integrate easily with Microsoft Project, and allow for export to Microsoft Excel.

- Highly customizable interface allows for a wide range of views to be created and maintained easily.

- On-the-fly questionnaire creation and processing facilitates quick consensus building among team members.

- Interactive information-sharing and collaboration tools bring the best of the internet experience to the individual project level.

- Easy synchronization of data between SharePoint on the server side and Outlook on individual users' computers.

- Excellent security and permission features ensure that your information is secure.

To maximize EMTools' SharePoint functions and features, Argonne recommends the following hardware and software components.

Server Hardware
- High-speed internet access (1.5 mbps or greater).

- Single Server Deployment: A computer with processor clock speeds of 2.5 gigahertz (GHz) or higher; a minimum of 1 gigabyte (GB) of RAM (2 GB of RAM recommended); disk space up to 2 GB for installation minimum, 5 GB or more minimum for data.

- Server Farm Deployment: Computers with processor clock speeds of 2.5 GHz or higher; minimum of 1 GB of RAM, 2 GB of RAM recommended; SQL Server 2000 SP3 (or later) or SQL 2005 system with dual processors of 2.5 GHz and 2 GB RAM minimum; disk space up to 2 GB for installation minimum, 5 GB or more minimum for data.

- Servers must use the NTFS file system.

Server Software
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 or 2008 (Standard, Enterprise, or Datacenter Edition) with SP1 or later, or Windows Server 2003 x64. All EMTools users must be able to access this server via intranet or internet connection.

- Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0.

- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.0 installed with ASP.NET 2.0 enabled.

- The server computer must be configured as a Web server running Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) 6.0 with common files, Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) service, and World Wide Web service.

Desktop Software
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional, SP2 or later.

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 with the most recent service packs or Internet Explorer 7.0 (recommended for maximum functionality).

A complete list of requirements for Microsoft SharePoint Services 3.0 and the SharePoint Services 3.0 Technical Library are available at http://technet2.microsoft.com/windowsserver/WSS/en/library/dcdb7f80-5d48-4b7c-9cb5-affa5f2936531033.mspx