

Connecting Gate (www.connectinggate.com) is a new cross-continental multilingual site for building international connections, and learning about travel and relocation options in the U.S. and China.

Overview

Connecting Gate wanted a safe and robust platform for individuals to connect with others over a wide range of interests and activities, including travel, fashion, sports, hobbies, academic interests, the arts, and business. They also wanted to provide vendors and their potential customers a platform to connect on travel packages, relocation services, and other commercial ventures related to cross-border immigration and commerce.

Goals

The primary goals of Connecting Gate include:

- Create an informative, reliable, fun, and interactive networking platform for world travellers that differs from existing social or professional sites by combining personal needs with business opportunities.
- Automatic content language translation from English to Chinese and Chinese to English for registered user's posts, allowing users of different languages to communicate seamlessly.
- A secure and spam-free environment in which users feel comfortable sharing public and private details knowing that the information shared will only be available to the intended audience.

Page Types and Business Logic

Registered users of Connecting Gate may post content to the site and interact with other users. All user-based content is automatically translated to English or Chinese. The types of posts/sections available and their business logic include the following:

- **Community Forum** (see Fig. 2): a collection of relevant subjects in which users may browse, read posts, and respond to others, or start a new topic relevant to the subject. Users may subscribe to any topic as desired to receive an email notification when a new

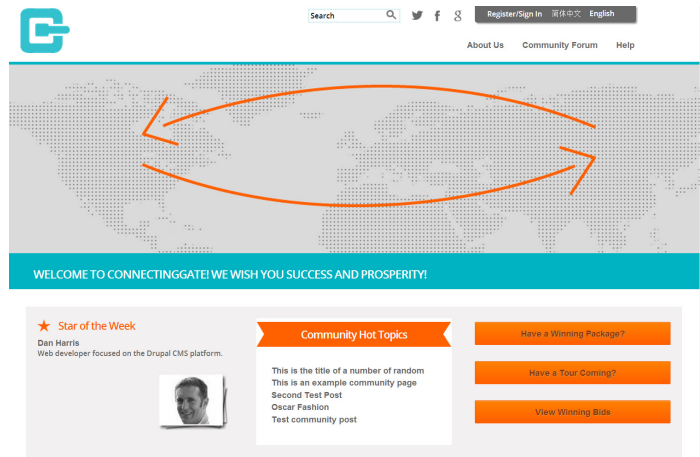


Figure 1: Connecting Gate Website Home Page

Community Forum

View Forums Active topics Unanswered topics New & updated topics

Forums				
	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post
	Academic	2	4	Welcome to... by Tomato 03/22/2013 - 10:22am
	Books	1 1 new	1	Test WYSIWYG by testmod 03/25/2013 - 11:47pm
	Business Casual Talk	0	0	n/a
	Cooking and Health	1	1	Test related links by jb_admin 02/01/2013 - 1:05am
	Cultural Exchange	0	0	n/a
	Fashion	1	3	Oscar Fashion by Tim Schlegel 02/26/2013 - 3:04pm
	General Discussion	4	9	This is an... by maggie

Figure 2: Connecting Gate Community Forum

comment is added.

- **Packages:** a package is a request for quote that a buyer creates for a potential seller. Packages consist of a title, minimum/maximum budget, a package description, and one or more categories associated with the package (e.g. public schools). When a package is created (see Fig. 3), it gets added to the

package listing page. The buyer and seller may create a discussion on the package that's only visible to them.

- **Bids:** one or more sellers may create a bid, which consists of a title, price, public field for all visitors, and private field only visible to the original buyer. After a bid is created, it gets added to the bid listing page (see Fig. 4), and an email is sent to the original buyer. If there's more than one bid, all bidders get notified that someone else posted a competing bid. A buyer would typically pick a winning bid, which may be purchased by other buyers for a flat fee.
- **Person:** a person is a user with login credentials, name, photo, video introduction, and description. An administrator may select one user to be the "Star of the Week", which promotes that user around the site, and they may later be added to the "Past Stars of the Week" listing page.
- **FAQ:** allows content managers to create questions and answers for a given category. All questions and answers are automatically added to the FAQ landing page.

Other Requirements

Connecting Gate required the following additional features and functionality:

- A home page hub displaying the most recent Star of the Week, the latest community hot topics, and some quick links (see Fig. 1)
- A complete multilingual solution, including local manual translation of the user interface and generic page content, and automatic content translation using the Microsoft Translator tool
- Searchable listing pages for the community forum, packages, and bids
- An invitation tool that integrates with Google and Yahoo
- Subscription platform for tracking pages, entire page sets, and tagged content
- A complete commerce solution for paid memberships and bid products required a shopping cart and secure checkout
- Simple user forms for adding/editing content, including a WYSIWYG editor
- Content sharing and rating
- Significant SEO integration.

Outcome

Using the Drupal CMS, Webdrips developed Connecting Gate on a secure platform that provides automatic content translation, allowing users from the United States

Create Request for Quote

Figure 3: Create New Package Form

Bid Title	Overview	Post date
Bid test WYSIWYG	This information is public.	3/25/2013
1500 USD the best deal ever	Public	3/22/2013
Another test bid	this is the text of my test bid.	3/12/2013
Test seller bid on test package	This is my bid description.	3/11/2013
Test bid with tags	Public test bid with tags	1/30/2013
Test seller bid Dec 20	This is my test bid.	12/21/2012
Test seller bid November 15	Public	11/15/2012
jbr-admin bid November 15	This is public.	11/15/2012
Test User 1 Bid Node 27	Test bid	11/13/2012
Test seller bid 2	This information is publically available to anybody.	11/12/2012

Figure 4: Bid Listing Page

and China to buy and sell seamlessly.

About Webdrips

From the back of the napkin to production, Webdrips has your back. We turn complex business logic problems into sophisticated, yet easy-to-use sites.

Whether you're starting a new website, giving your website a facelift, or converting a legacy site to Drupal, we'll help you get it done quickly.

Don't know Drupal? Don't worry. Our goal is to leave you with a website that exceeds design expectations, while allowing content managers to focus on creating brilliant content.