



Sitefinity 5 vs. Sitefinity 3

## Developer Productivity Outline

*This document outlines a comparison of the developer productivity that can be achieved with Sitefinity 5 versus Sitefinity 3. There are quite a few improvements and things in progress, so it will be frequently updated. In addition to the development tasks, we have included notes on the upgrades and the deployment.*

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# Introduction

We will summarize the productivity by the features related to developers. We will organize the tasks by relative complexity in Sitefinity 3.

## Development comparison

### Simple tasks

TASK	SITEFINITY 3.X	SITEFINITY 5
<b>Installing the project manager and creating a project</b>	Around 10 minutes if the required IIS setting are met, up to 30 minutes if configuring IIS is needed	< 1 minute
<b>Creating a Page through the API</b>	Around 15 lines of code, several classes used. Good knowledge of the common API classes is required	1 line of code, self-explanatory Fluent API
<b>Create a Content item through the API</b>	Around 10 lines of code. Good knowledge of the common API classes is required	1 line of code, self-explanatory Fluent API
<b>Modify a Site Template, so new place holders are added</b>	The developer/designer should open Visual Studio, modify the template, and upload it back to Sitefinity. This task can take up around 30 minutes. Cannot be done by the end user	Using the Layout Builder, the template can be modified through the UI. < 1 minute
<b>Modify a Control Template</b>	The developer is required to map the template, open it in Visual Studio and upload it back to the web site. For a simple change, this might take up to 15-20 minutes	Using the Widget Template Editor, the template can be changed from the Sitefinity UI. For a simple change, this will take up to 1 minute. Can be done by the end user.
<b>Adding a Custom Field to a content Item</b>	A developer should edit the web.config file, and upload the config file back to the system. Then he should edit the templates related to the	The developer can use the UI to add the field by simple drag-and-drop. This will take up to 2-3 minutes with the templates editing.

content module, so the new field can be shown. This task can take up to 20-30 minutes or more if he should map the template first.

### Modifying a back-end page

A developer should edit the right control templates in Visual Studio, then upload them back to the live system. Up to 15 minutes for a single change.

Now the backend pages are part of the CMS editable pages, so the UI can be used for all modifications. Up to a minute for the change.

### Selecting Content from the storage

Using the API, complex sorting and - filtering expressions had to be built with classes provided by Sitefinity.

LINQ implementation for searching, sorting and filtering content helps to reduce the time and complexity of this operation

## Tasks with average complexity

### TASK

### SITEFINITY 3.X

### SITEFINITY 5

#### Integration of 3rd party applications through Web Services

The system does not support web services out-of-the-box. One experienced developer will be required for developing the web services for all content modules plus pages for about 2-3 weeks. Applying security on these services can take additional time.

WCF RESTful services for every module, page, security unit and framework feature (example: localization) are available. Security on web services is available out-of-the-box. The integration can start immediately.

#### Reading/Writing large amount of data into the database

Can take significant amount of time for optimization, so no database load is present.

The out-of-the-box use of distributed transactions saves valuable time for optimizations.

#### Customizing Content Syndication

Requires a new implementation of the RSS providers. Can take up to several hours for a developer to add a new field to the RSS stream.

The Developer can use the UI to define what fields and what sources should be presented in the feed. Up to 10 minutes to create a custom feed and publication pipe.

#### Localization of Resources

This could take significant amount of time, if Sitefinity team had to recompile resources.

The system provides LStrings model – Localizable string. Now every string in the CMS can

be translated through code.  
(Localization framework).

**Mapping controls to Custom Fields**

It could take up to 1 hour to map a control to a specific type. For example, mapping a Listbox to a metafield, having list of values.

Field Controls make this a trivial task. Up to 2 minutes with the template editing.

## Tasks with high complexity

**TASK**

**SITEFINITY 3.X**

**SITEFINITY 5**

**Adding a custom field to a page**

Very complex task. Can take up to several days for an experienced developer.

Simple task. Adding custom fields to pages is supported out-of-the-box.

**Implementing a custom module**

Up to 2 hours for the bare-bones module.

A ready-to-use bare bone module is available in the Sitefinity SDK.

**Changing a Manager or other Base class implementation**

Not possible out-of-the-box. A whole new provider/base class had to be implemented, which may consume significant amount of time.

By using Dependency Injection/Inverse of Control design patterns, a developer can change for example the BlogsManager class with custom implementations, simply by registering a new type by using Sitefinity's ObjectFactory class.

*Based on the above comparison and estimation, we may conclude that Sitefinity 5 significantly reduces the development time required for customizations. **Based on the experience of the developer, the development time could be cut by more than 60-70%.***

## Upgrades

Sitefinity automatically merges all changes made in the configuration with the configurations of the newer version. Sitefinity does not write anything in the web.config file so web.config conflicts are not an issue during upgrade. The database schema changes are handled automatically.

## Deployment

Sitefinity 5 is deployed as a traditional web site or web application. By default, the project manager creates the projects as web applications. Developers will not have to spend additional time transforming the web site to web application.