



ARTstor

THE CHALLENGE

ARTstor is a non-profit organization created by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to apply digital technology to enhance scholarship, teaching and learning in the Arts. ARTstor has developed a Digital Library that makes hundreds of thousands of images and related information available for noncommercial educational and research purposes world-wide.

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James Shulman,
Executive Director,
ARTstor

ARTstor's charter required that its Digital Library be available to a diverse, global user community. Many of its users, especially those in remote parts of the world, would use shared, older computers with limited network access, typically dial-up connections. The ARTstor solution was therefore required to run in a wide variety of web browsers and operating systems, with no additional installation requirement. It also had to be able to run over unreliable and/or low-bandwidth networks. Additionally, as

ARTstor anticipated that its users will need to spend significant amounts of time navigating the Digital Library and reviewing images, the solution needed to provide a highly responsive and function-rich user interface.

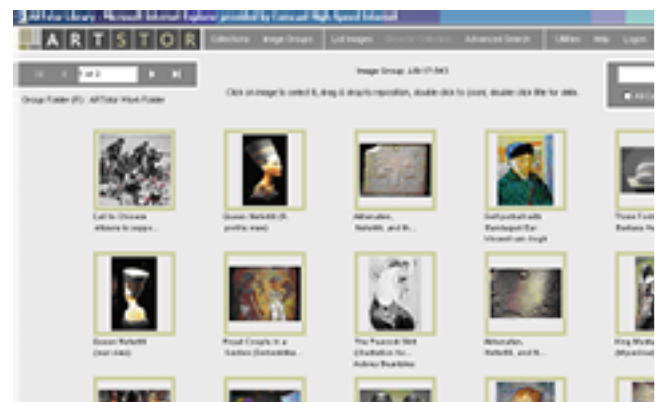
"We looked at many rich Internet application solutions and chose Nexaweb because it offered us a way to make ARTstor accessible to a wide variety of users without compromising functionality," said James Shulman, Executive Director of ARTstor. "Working with images in research or teaching requires active use of those images—and users need a fairly sophisticated workspace that will allow them to create a group of images and edit or share these groups. Nexaweb offered the required application richness, flexibility and scalability to best serve our users' needs."



THE SOLUTION

After evaluating many Rich Internet Application (RIA) technologies, ARTstor chose the Nexaweb Platform. Standards-based Nexaweb technology enabled ARTstor to deliver a feature-rich, high-performance Web application that

- Provides access to the ARTstor image collection from virtually any Web browser, with no need to install software or reconfigure users' systems
- Allows users to view and manipulate large volumes of data in the form of full-color images, quickly and easily, with outstanding performance over all connection types from dial-up to satellite to broadband.
- Enabled ARTstor to quickly develop online "drag-and-drop" image manipulation capabilities. These features allow faculty to teach using Digital Library image presentations, and allow scholars, curators, students and others to view and analyze images with features like zooming and panning, and to save groups of images online for personal or shared uses such as study, research and exhibition planning.
- Supports offline access to Digital Library images saved on users' desktops with all the rich image manipulation capabilities available over the network, including the ability to deliver presentations.



The Nexaweb-enabled ARTSTOR application provides rich image analysis tools and is accessible to almost any web browser over any network connection from dial-up to broadband.

