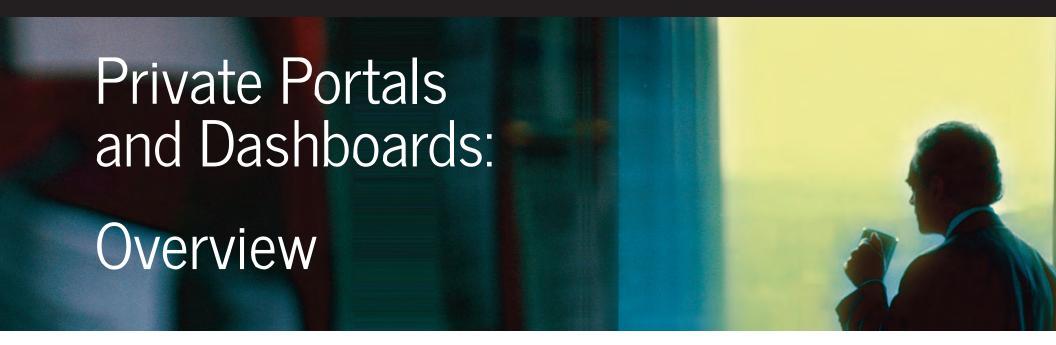
## aabalone[red]



# September 2016

# Confidential Information (your eyes only please)

Our intention is to give you a sense of market standard to best practices in password-protected web products; clarify the process by which they are created; and provide examples of work we've accomplished in this area – from barebones (with some personalization) to premium.

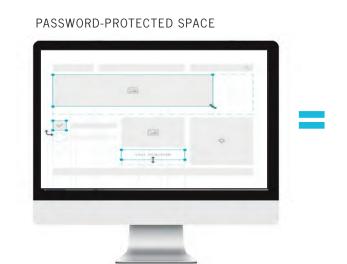
# What are Market Standards?

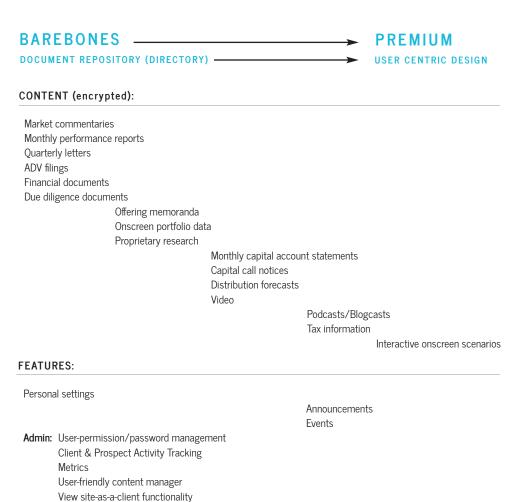
As of 2016, the minimum market standard web assets (digital products) in the investment management space include a public website, mobile site (responsive – not simply a reduced version of the desktop site), secure private investor portal and branded email platform. To increase engagement with prospects, some firms also have a password-protected area for this audience.



# Private Portal + Dashboard UX (user experience)

Investment managers currently provide a range of password-protected user engagements (= content + features) to their clients and prospects, from barebones to premium. That said, excellent user experiences across the interactive spectrum are raising user expectations as a whole.





# What Are the Steps?



#### **ESSENTIAL**

# **Identify Content (**analog + digital)

#### Clients

What types of content do you currently distribute to your clients?

Provide an example of each kind.

What is the source of the data for client reports? (potential for onscreen display in the portal)

### **Prospects**

What kinds of content do you currently distribute to your prospects? Provide an example of each kind.

### **IDEAL**

## **Know Your Audiences** (buyers)

#### Clients

Brainstorm engagement opportunities.

Conduct formal discovery (more on this later).

Develop persona profiles.

### **Prospects**

Ditto the above

# What Are the Steps? (continued)



#### **ESSENTIAL**

## **Define Scope of Work**

#### Clients

Level of complexity + personalization

Define user-permission types: Admins, Client firms, Individuals etc.

Define internal mandates (encryption, security questions, IT etc.)

Mobile experience?

### **Prospects**

Level of complexity + personalization

Define user-permission types: Admins, Client firms, Individuals etc.

Define internal mandates (security questions, tech platforms etc.)

Mobile experience?

#### IDEAL

# Wireframe/IA Engagement

#### Clients

Outline (Information Architecture) the full portal experience in wireframes and lo or HiFi prototypes as needed

### **Prospects**

Ditto the above

# What Are the Steps? (continued)



#### ESSENTIAL = IDEAL

## **Get To Work**

Wireframes (interactive as needed)

Information Architecture (IA/site map/scent of information)

Lo fidelity prototypes (interactive as needed)

Set up development server

Implement collaborative ideation, iteration, design (screens, email notification sequence, password creation etc.)

Create high fidelity prototypes (fully designed screens as needed)

Approve HiFi prototypes

Build + test

Launch

# Why aabalone[red]?

Performance and fees aside, the wealth management space is under siege as the advisor-client relationship is increasingly mediated digitally and the media churns out bad press. For this reason, best practices demand a fresh look at the ways in which clients (and prospects) are engaged, informed and serviced online, especially on mobile devices. It is essential to have some form of password-protected product, customizable to some degree (individual user settings) and regularly refreshed with new content.

For more than 25 years, aabalone[red] has consulted on, created, produced and served as outsourced marketing strategists across a spectrum of traditional brand-building disciplines such as discovery and brand positioning, identity, print advertising, corporate collateral, annual meeting materials and presentations.

In 1994 we began designing and building web-based digital products (hence, our fluency in both analog and digital marketing). We have delivered a variety of straightforward and extremely nuanced custom solutions (including content management, user permissions and admin) for our clients, primarily in the wealth management and intellectual property space. These include highly secure private portfolio management portals; document repository systems (+ intranet); investor dashboards and investor reporting areas; a social media platform and a web-based payment system (see Exhibits). Our clients trust us with highly confidential information and we are rigorous in safeguarding those relationships and the integrity of the products we shepherd into being.

\*aabalone[red] recommends employing the Discovery phase of its aaredway<sup>sM</sup> process to ascertain the appropriate user engagement tools that will benefit your clients. Discovery entails a review of your current client touch points through an audit and in-depth discussions with your team. We then move to one-on-one phone interviews (7 anticipated) with clients whom you identify. aared scripts a detailed external questionnaire, principally to uncover the ways in which your clients appreciate what you are doing to engage them, and what other investment managers are doing. We will push interviewees to imagine new possibilities. Following the completion of the interviews, we distill our findings and share the results with you, both orally and via a written report. These findings drive the persona profiles – which in turn inform the UX, overall design and functionality of your client engagement portal.

# A Few Words on Security

All our clients need to adhere to the highest security standards. We will speak with your IT people at the outset to make sure we understand your technical mandates. Here is some of our preliminary thinking.

#### **User Logins**

Users could have the option of logging in via their email address and password – or opt to use sign-in link that would be emailed to them.

#### **User Passwords**

User passwords are hashed (using bcrypt) and stored in the database. The plain-text (unencrypted) password is never written to the server's database or hard drive. When the user attempts to login, the hash of the password they entered is checked against the hash of their real password (retrieved from the database). If the hashes match, the user is granted access. If not, the user is told they entered invalid login credentials. This process is repeated anytime someone tries to login to their account.

#### "Forgot Your Password?" Feature

The user will be able to click a link and enter their email address to receive an email with a password reset link. This link would expire after 1 hour. Upon clicking the link, the user would arrive at a page where they can enter a new password for their account.

#### "Password-less" Login Feature

Instead of a traditional username/password login form, the user is presented with a single field to enter their email address. When submitted, the system would lookup the user's account and (if an active/valid account was found) generate an email to that address with a login link. Upon clicking this link, the user would be logged in. This auto login link could expire after one use, after a set amount of time, or some other parameter.

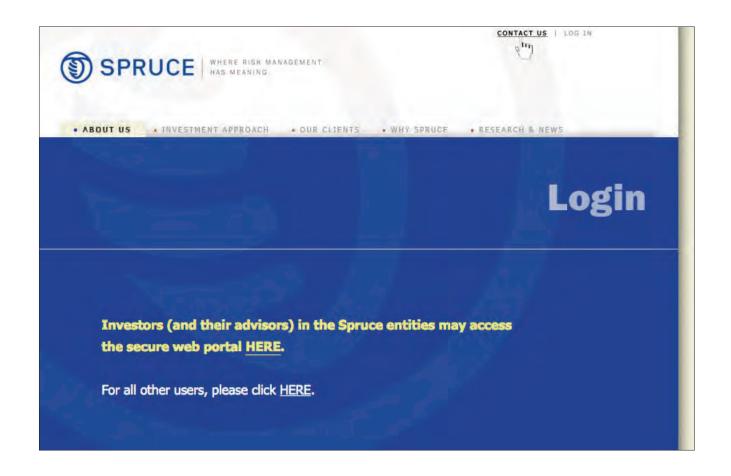
#### PDF Report Storage & Retrieval

PDF files would be encrypted (with AES-256) and stored in the database rather than in a directory on the filesystem. This adds another layer of protection in the event of a compromised server. When a user requests access to a particular PDF, the system would verify their access, decrypt the PDF and push it to the user's browser.

#### **EXHIBIT 1: PUBLIC**

## **Branded Entry page**

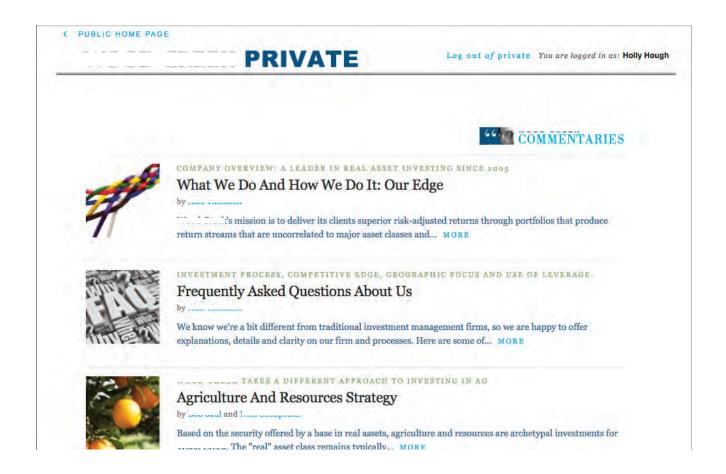
This public-facing screen provides access to private portals and reporting areas.



#### **EXHIBIT 2: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

## Simple Prospect Portal

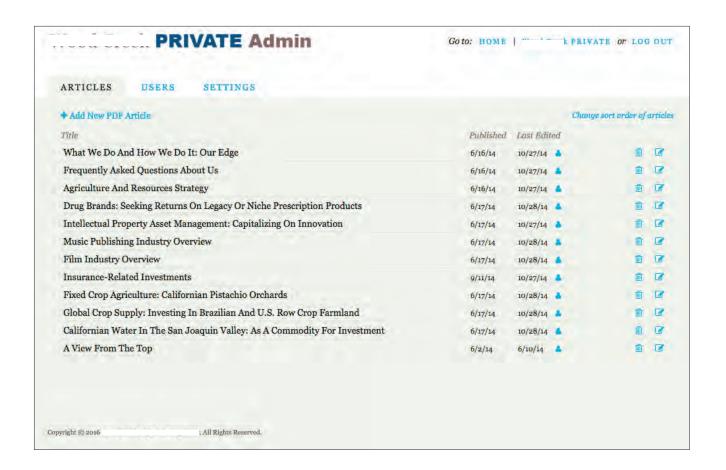
This client wanted to present its marketing brochures and commentaries to prospects as premium content in a user-friendly, editorial-style design, behind a universal password. Access was given to approved applicants via a custom admin suite.



#### **EXHIBIT 3: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

## Simple Custom Admin

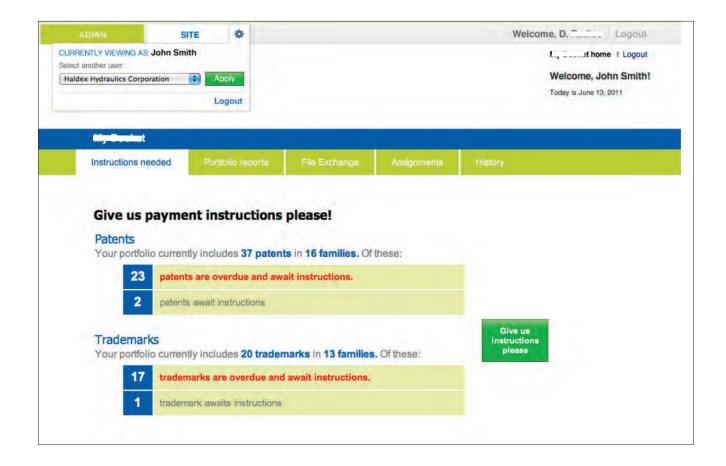
This barebones system includes the ability to manage pdfs, users and prospect portal settings.



#### **EXHIBIT 4: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

## Private Portfolio Portal/Individually Customized Dashboard

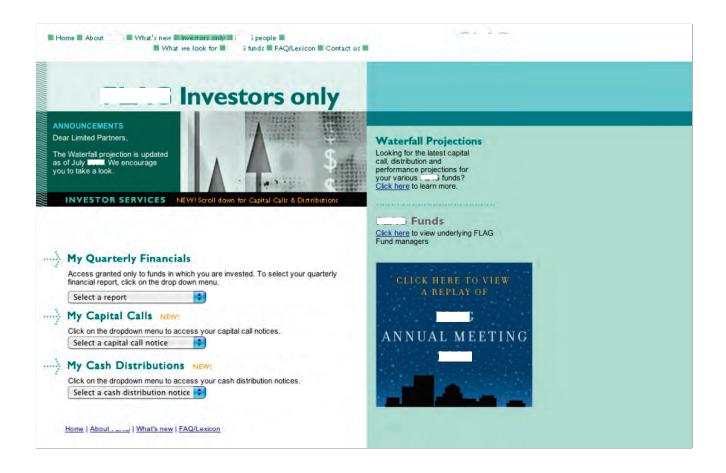
This custom intellectual property payment and portfolio management product includes the ability for Admin to "see" the page display of individual client users (view site-as-a-client functionality). Client features include onscreen data interactions and creation and export of custom portfolio reports.



#### **EXHIBIT 5: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

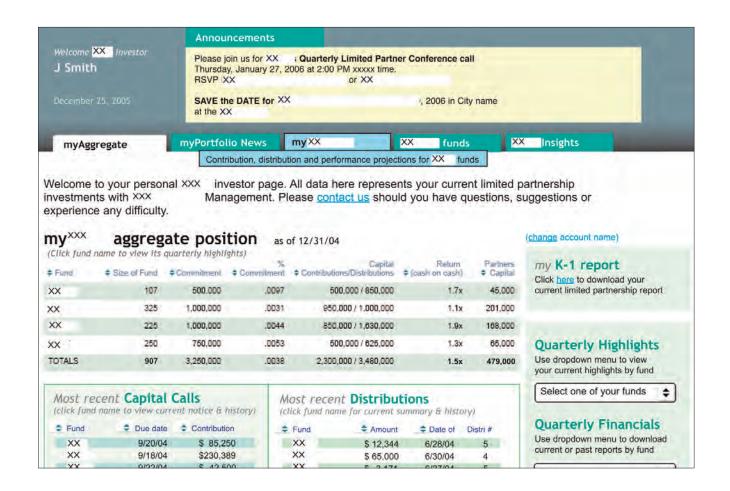
### **Private Investor Portal**

This premium portal presented clients with sophisticated options for interacting with their investment data – a decade and a half before their competitors even reached the starting gate.



### Individual Portfolio inside the Investor Portal

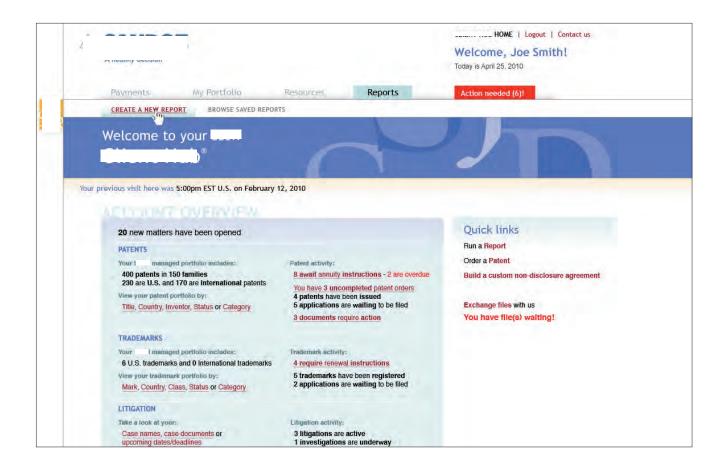
Custom display includes aggregate public companies data in user's portfolio by stock price, etc.



#### **EXHIBIT 7: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

## Private Portfolio Dashboard

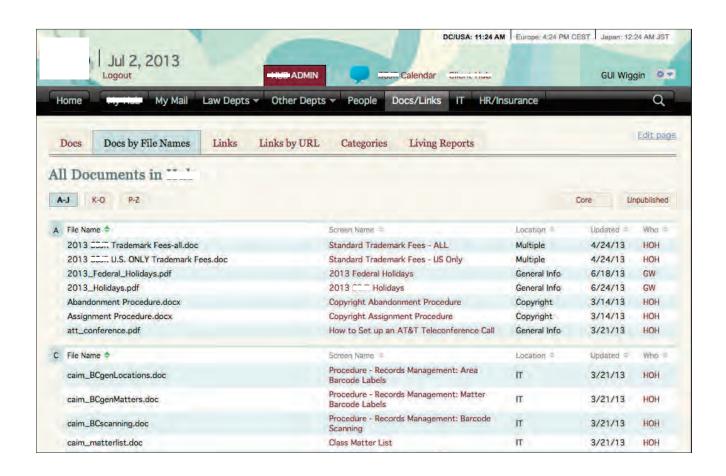
This custom intellectual property portfolio management product includes "action needed" feature; onscreen data interactions and creation and export of custom portfolio reports.



#### **EXHIBIT 8: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

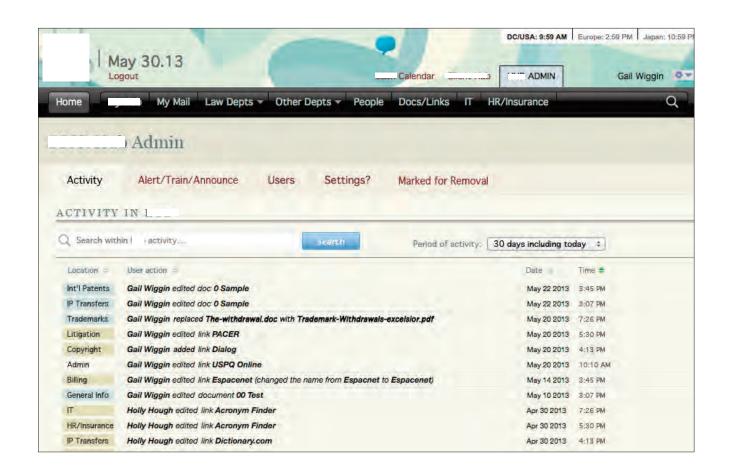
## Private Document Repository/Dashboard

Designed in directory-style, this custom document management system provides intricate, varied permission levels to an assortment of users, each of whom control their dashboard settings. Admin suite is elaborate.



## Sample Activity Feed - Admin Feature

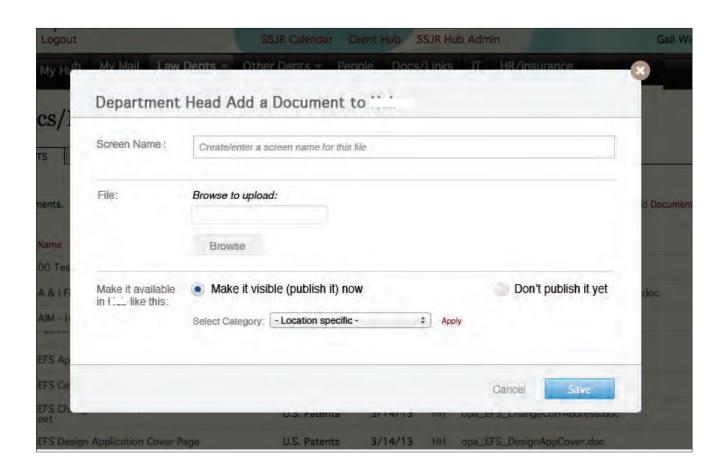
This is an admin's view of all user actions inside the private document repository.



#### **EXHIBIT 10: PASSWORD-PROTECTED**

## Sample Document Management Model

This is an admin's view of a custom modal created for uploading files into a private document repository.



# Thank You!



Virtually yours, principals Gail, Alec and Holly aabalonered.com/snapshot