

# The Sydney Morning Herald

## CASE STUDY

# Team conquers curly problem

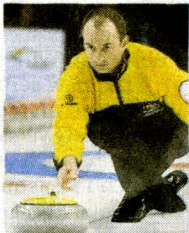
By **CYNTHIA KARENA**

With no personal assistants and no secretaries, the Australian Men's Curling team is using document-sharing software to help manage the plethora of documents that land in members' email in-boxes.

Team members live in Melbourne and Sydney, and their coach is in Canada. They need to provide information to their coach, to regulatory bodies in Australia and overseas, compile team profiles, organise training schedules and travel arrangements. As there are no Australian-based training facilities, the team travels overseas a lot to train and compete.

The Australian team finished sixth at the recent World Curling Championships in Canada. Curling is a Winter Olympics sport, similar to lawn bowls but on ice, and played with heavy, polished granite stones that are swept towards a target. Ian Palangio (pictured) is team vice-captain and a business productivity specialist who focuses on

collaboration technologies. He came up with the idea of using Microsoft Office Live Workspace to manage the team.



Email was the primary form of communication between team members, says Mr Palangio.

"There was a lot of information in the in-box. People didn't have the latest schedule or didn't know which one was current."

The team recently started to use Office Live Workspace to share information. "It's all in one space," says Mr Palangio. "I populated it with forms, (team member) profiles, itineraries, schedules, drug testing information. We can now see each other's calendars, and use that to create a training schedule. And the coach in Canada can easily keep track of what we're doing."

Mr Palangio synchronises his Outlook to the team's event schedule and adds new appointments to Outlook, such as learning the details for an opening ceremony, and uploads the information back to the Office Live Workspace to share with the rest of the team.