

# Drupal Terminology

## **anonymous**

An anonymous user is a visitor to a Drupal website who is not currently logged in. Drupal considers any such visitor as being the anonymous user, with the user ID 0, and belonging to the anonymous user role.

## **block**

Blocks are a method for positioning data within a page. They often contain lists of nodes or other navigational content and are frequently placed in the left or right regions of a page. Assignment to a region is specified through the admin settings. Blocks themselves are not nodes. You can specify that a block only appears on certain pages or in certain contexts.

## **CCK (Content Construction Kit)**

A contributed module which permits site developers to define custom fields and content types. A variety of extension modules to CCK exist permitting specialized field definitions such as images, dates, and computed values.

## **child**

Used to describe objects that can have hierarchical relationships, such as menu items, book pages, taxonomy terms and so on. A "child" menu item, for example, is nested under another menu item, which is referred to as the "parent" menu item.

## **content**

Often erroneously used in Drupal documentation as a synonym for [node](#), content refers generically to the text, images, and other information on a web site. Some content on a typical Drupal site is not actually nodes, such as comments that are attached to nodes, and file attachments.

## **content type (or node type)**

Every node belongs to a single 'node type' or 'content type', which defines various default settings for nodes of that type, such as whether the node is published automatically and whether comments are permitted. Modules can define their own content types; the core Drupal Book and Poll modules are two examples of modules that define content types.

## **core or Drupal core**

Refers to the Drupal files and modules included with the Drupal project download

## **cron**

Cron (short for chronograph) is a command scheduler that executes commands or scripts (groups of commands) automatically at specified time/date intervals. Drupal uses a 'cron job' to perform periodic tasks that help Drupal to run smoothly and efficiently.

## **log**

A log is a list of recorded events. A log may contain usage data, performance data, errors, warnings and operational information. Watchdog is Drupal's primary event log.

## **menu**

In Drupal, the term menu refers both to the clickable navigational elements on a page, and to Drupal's

internal system for handling requests. When a request is sent to Drupal, the menu system uses the provided URL to determine what functions to call.

## **module**

A module is software (code) that extends Drupal features and/or functionality. *Core modules* are those included with the main download of Drupal. *Contributed (or "contrib") modules* are available for separate download from the modules section of downloads. Note: Be sure that the version of the contributed module you wish to use matches your version of Drupal -- when you are viewing the list of modules, you can filter for compatibility to a particular version of Drupal by clicking on links in the sidebar.

## **node**

A node is a piece of content in Drupal, typically corresponding to a single page on the site, that has a Title an optional Body, and perhaps additional fields. Every node also belongs to a particular content type, and can additionally be classified using the taxonomy system. Examples of nodes are polls, stories, book pages, images, etc.

**node type** (See content type)

## **parent**

Used to describe objects that can have hierarchical relationships, such as menu items, book pages, taxonomy terms and so on. A "parent" menu item, for example, contains other menu items, which are referred to as "children" menu items.

## **path**

In Drupal terms, *path* is the unique, last part of the URL for a specific function or piece of content. For instance, for a page whose full URL is *http://example.com/?q=node/7*, the path is *node/7*. Drupal can use "clean URLs" if the Path module is enabled, which would change the full URL in this example to *http://example.com/node/7*; the path would still be *node/7*.

## **permission**

1) Drupal - Permissions control access to content creation, modification and site administration at the application level. Administrators assign permissions to roles, then assign roles to users. The first user ID (uid) of a Drupal site (uid=1) automatically receives all permissions, no matter what role that user belongs to. Any anonymous user has uid=0 (see also anonymous).

2) UNIX/Linux/Windows - Permissions are security settings restricting or allowing users to access information or perform certain functions at the operating system level. In the case of files on UNIX or Linux systems, there are three types of permissions: read, write, and execute.

## **role**

Roles are sets of permissions that can be applied to individual users. Users can belong to more than one role. Two roles, authenticated users (those users that sign up for an account) and anonymous users (those either without an account or not logged in), are supplied by default with Drupal installations. Users with sufficient permission can create additional roles, and the permissions granted to the two default roles can also be configured.

## **RSS**

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a family of Web feed formats used to publish frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines or podcasts. An RSS document (which is called a *feed* or *web feed* or *channel*) contains either a summary of content (*teaser*) from an associated web site or the full text.

## story

A type of node that is defined in a default Drupal installation, typically used for content that has a date associated with it, such as a news item.

## style

A CSS file (or files) replacing the default CSS of a theme or engine. Appears in the theme selection list with the same precedence as themes and templates.

## taxonomy

Taxonomy is literally "the science of classification". The Drupal taxonomy system enables authorized users to categorize content using both tags and administrator-defined terms. It is a flexible tool for classifying content with many advanced features.

- term - a category or tag or keyword ie what gets assigned to nodes. Terms can be structured as children and parents to create hierarchies.
- vocabulary - a collection of terms that share some sort of relationship with each other. The vocabulary isn't part of any hierarchy as such.
- Taxonomy - the name of the whole system and the name of the module that implements it. In some versions of Drupal, that is also the name of the menu item in the admin menu.
- category - A synonym for taxonomy, and the name of the menu item in some versions of Drupal.

## theme

A theme is a file or collection of files (PHP, INFO, CSS, JPG, GIF, PNG), which together determine the look and feel of a site. Drupal modules define themeable functions which can be overridden by the theme file. There are additional themes available in the themes section of downloads.

## URL (uniform resource locator)

A URL is the address that defines the route to locate an object on an Internet server. Generally, the syntax for a URL contains the scheme, host-name, port, path and filename, for example:  
*<http://www.drupal.org/node/937>*

## views

A contributed module which allows site developers a simple graphical interface for modifying the presentation of content. Views permits selection of specific fields to display, filtration against various node attributes, choice of basic layout options (ie. list, full nodes, teasers, etc.), and other more advanced features. Many Drupal sites use Views extensively.

## weight

Weight is a term used by Drupal to define the priority or order in which an function is processed or a block / node is displayed. From Drupal 6, the weight field is adjusted dynamically using a drag-and-drop interface. Note: A lower weight value (-10) will float to the top of lists, while heavier (+10) weights will appear lower in lists.

## **For more information and terms:**

**Drupal Terminology** -- <http://drupal.org/getting-started/before/terminology>

**Drupal Jargon. Glossary for beginners** -- <http://drupal.org/node/122018>

**Acronyms and expressions used on Drupal.org** -- <http://drupal.org/node/302232>