

Welcome to

Website Conception with Drupal 6

with

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Course Overview

Introduction to Web Publishing. Introduction to Drupal
Site config and administration. Core modules
Information Architecture. Third-party modules
User Management and Site Maintenance
Content Construction Kit and Views
Theming in Drupal
Multimedia
Advanced Options – Where to go from here?
Student presentations

Web Publishing. Introduction to Drupal.

How the Web Works?

- What is a website? And a webpage? Www?
- Website components
- About Web 2.0. or “participatory web”
- Dynamic vs Static websites and contents
- Organising contents: different types of CMS
- Example websites + exercise

Websites

- **Hosting** (the server space reserved for your website, rented \$ per month or per year)
- **Domain** (the URL that is given to your website)
www.example.com
- **Structure** (the site architecture – position of menus, place of the logos, photos, text...)
- **Design** (the graphical decoration of your website – colours, rounded corners, fonts, effects)
- **Contents** (all this what we publish online to communicate with the world: text, video, audio, images)

This course is about managing and organising
content...

Content Management Systems

- Web based software that plugs into the website and serves for updating content (text, photos, video...).
- Used frequently for storing, controlling, revising and publishing documentation.
- Aiming to “eliminate the webmaster” but actually giving us (users) more flexibility and autonomy to add contents whenever we like

Some advantages of the CMS

- Provides flexibility: easily added content, substracted, and edited. Leads to more frequent website updates.
- Ability to delegate content publishing and tasks. Allowing many people to contribute and share data (+controlled access).
- Reduces repetitive duplicate input (ability to easily reuse content and to prgram dynamic displays).
- Protect the layout integrity of the website. When content is edited, the code remains hidden, and unable to be altered. Prevents layout disasters.
- Improves and encourages communication and online communities

CMS Types

- Drupal: <http://drupal.org>
- Spip : <http://spip.net>
- Joomla: <http://www.joomla.org>
- Others:
 - Wordpress: <http://wordpress.org>
 - MediaWiki: <http://mediawiki.org>



Example Websites

<http://www.zofiart.com/>

<http://www.drupalsites.net/>

<http://alternatives.ca>

<http://www.automasites.net>

<http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>

<http://wikipedia.org>

<http://www.joomlabased.com/>

<http://www.webdesignerwall.com/trends/30-untypical-wordpress-sites/>

Exercise

Visit at least 2 websites of each CMS type. How is content organised? Look at the structure, differences in URL, static and/or dynamic content.

Drupal CMS

Advantages

- Huge community of developers & users
- Easy setup
- 1 000 000+ modules contributed
- Flexible for any use (blog, wiki, portal, site)
- Big choice of features, big choice of design themes

Disadvantages

- Complex software
- Steeper learning curve (needs more time in the beginning)
- Less information for newbies and more technical forums



What is Drupal?

- Drupal is a CMS helping to build content-rich websites
- Once built, Drupal can be maintained by using forms and no need to changing the code manually.
- Drupal is **free to use**: it has an enormous capacity, of constantly evolving tools to make a website shine.

Free and Open Source Software

- Free Software is a software that is free to use, modify, study or to copy and diffuse.
- Free Software and Open Source are similar notions when it comes to FS principles.
- Free Software is distributed under free licences, the most common one of which is GPL (General Public Licence).
- Learn more: <http://gnu.org/philosophy/free-sw.html>

Some facts about Drupal

Created by Dries Buyteart in the University of Anwerp (*Anvers* in French) in 2000.

The name comes from the Dutch word *dorp* which means village (fitting for a name of a small community) (typo -> drop.org = druppel (Dutch))

The software was distributed as FS on January 15, 2001 in order to encourage other developers to contribute to its improvement.

In 2006 – 70 participants at DrupalCon, in 2009 – more than 1000.

Latest version of Drupal is 6.x.

Uses of Drupal

- Community portals (news on certain topic, multiple editors to the contents, comments)
- News pool (online magazines, ...)
- Blogues
- Intranet, company website (easy to give and take rights, hierarchic structure of users, simple publication via a web interface)
- Resource sites (info related to a topic, links to other webistes)
- International sites (multilingual websites)
- Education (learning communities, plate-forme for online learning)
- Art, culture, mulimedia (available functionalities for mulimedia sites which offer to share et distribute their oeuvres d'art).

Some examples: <http://drupal.org/cases>

Drupal community

- One of Drupal's biggest asset
- More than 700 contributors to the source code of the core component of the software
- More than 2,000 developers contributed to the modules
- Countless more helping with testing, documentation, user support, translations.
- Drupal groups (<http://groups.drupal.org>)
- Drupal Con, Drupal Camps, Drupal Meetups

Drupal Community Website

- **Drupal.org**: documentation, community, forums download, modules, themes, translations
- Documentation (handbooks, glossary, etc.), Books about Drupal, installation guides
- Drupalfr.org since 2004
 - Introductory documentation, support forums, translation resources, canals IRC (chat room) #drupalfr.org on irc.freenode.net
 - events: monthly meetings in Paris, DrupalCamp 2 (April 2008) with a hundred participants
 - Drupal meetups in Montreal, Drupal Camp Montreal (this year more than 100 people)

Who uses Drupal?

- Drupal is used by hundreds of thousands of organisations and individuals to build engaging-rich websites.
- Some examples: MTV UK, Sony BMG Records, New York Observer, The Onion, UN, Amnesty International, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Calgary University (with 1200 websites)
- In Quebec: Oxfam Québec, Studio XX, Réseau Koumbit (and more than 300 clients), Equicosta
- Bloggers, such as Tim Berners-Lee, the BlogHer community

Drupal Licence

GPL (General Public Licence) – protects the users of the software, which is a fundamental difference from proprietary software licences, which are globally created to protect the rights of the company that has created and developed the software.

The idea of the licence is the following: the creator can stop every user or third party who wishes to distribute the software (modified or not) under conditions that provide less rights to users.

In general, Drupal licence stipulates that you are free to use, diffuse copies or modify the software, with the condition not to modify the terms of the licence. If you make modifications to the source code you are obliged to distribute them as free software, as the Drupal source code is.

Homework!

For next time: draw your website needs on a paper. Think about how you want your website to look like, what structure would be suitable for the content you wish to present.

Find 1-2 websites that have similar presentation and keep them as examples.