

# Website Conception with Drupal 6

## **Course 4. Chosing and Configuring Modules.**

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Slides on: <http://www.ludost.org/howto/foss/slides-drupal-course-2009>

# What we did last time

- Drupal installation (finish)
- Site configuration and basic administration
- Ways of organising content
  - Nodes
  - Blocks
  - Menus
  - Modules
  - Path
- Publishing content on the website

# Cours overview

- Hands-on: Playing with nodes, menus and blocks.
  - a) Exercise 1: install front page and about us page
  - b) Exercise 2: add/remove a block (search engine).
- Introduction to third-party modules
- How to find and select modules
- Modules selection and installation (exercise)

# Modules

- Modules = plug-ins = functionalities
- Activating modules is necessary to ensure its functionality
- Two types: core and contributed modules
- Activate the following core modules: Agregator, Color, Contact, Database logging, Help, Path, Ping, Search, Statistics, Taxonomy, Trigger, Update status, Upload.

# Site Navigation - Menus

- Administer->Site building->Menus  
(admin/buil/menu)
  - Provides possibility to organise content.
  - Holds the navigation links to various pages
- Three default menus:
  - <Navigation> - main system menu
  - <Primary links> - home, about us, contact, blog
  - <Secondary links> - terms of service, faq..

# Site navigation - blocks

- Administer -> Site building -> Blocks  
(admin/build/block)
- supplementary info, which might be constantly changing
- block content is not searchable
- Who's online, users log-in, recent comments,  
powered by Drupal
- placed in a region of a page (left/right sidebars,  
footer, content)

# Hands-on: adding home & about us

- 1) Create content -> Page (node/add/page)
- 2) Title, Menu link title: home, Parent item: <Primary links> (default), weight 0, Body: Welcome to our website!
- 3) Click save to create the page
- 4) Note the path = node ID: node/1
- 4) Create content -> Page (node/add/page)
- 5) Title, Menu link: About us, Parent item, Body.
- 6) Save to create the page.

# Hands-on: home & about us (2)

- 7) Administer->Site configuration-> Site information (admin/settings/site-information).
- 8) Find \*Default front page\* (we will fix that the title brings us to the home page)
- 9) Replace the contents of the field from that text to the node selected for Home (node/1).
- 10) Save the configuration.
- 11) We can manually move the menu-items to decide on their order (handles on the left).
- 12) Save the configuration.



# Hands-on: Configuring Blocks

- 1) Administer->Site building->Blocks (admin/build/block)
  - 2) Remove the Powered by Drupal block: Click the handle next to the block and drag it from the Footer region to the Disabled region.
  - 3) Adding a header block with a message: admin/build/block/add
  - 4) Fill in: Block description (message board), Block title (this week's message); Block body (New this week:...). User specific visibility settings (none), role-specific (none), page specific (show block on specific pages): show only on the listed pages. Pages <front>. Save block.
  - 7) Click the handle next to the block description and drag the table row up to the Header region. You can also choose the region.
- Note: Page-specific-visibility-settings ensure that the block shows up only on the home page.

# Modules

- Administer (admin/settings), view \*By module\*
- Files that contain PHP code and set of functionalities for Drupal.
- All in Drupal comes from modules: admin or end-user functionalities, log in, creating content, photo galleries, voting systems, e-mail notifications
- Two types of modules:
  - Core modules, included into Drupal core
  - Contributed modules, provided by the community.

# Contributed modules

- Also called third-party modules
- Separately downloaded and enabled
- Turn on/off functionality on the website
- A module can have dependencies (might require other modules in order to work properly), ex. Forum + comments & taxonomy
- <http://drupal.org/node/340271>- module full installation instructions

# Finding and Installing Modules

- Browse and download contributed modules from <http://drupal.org/project/Modules>
- Module page:
  - Name of module, Name of chief maintainer
  - Description, screenshots, documentation
  - Download (see compatibility requirements) - tar.gz
- Once extracted, the module should be placed in /sites/all/modules file
- Check if the module has appeared in admin/build/module (and enable)

# Disabling or Removing Modules

- **Disable** - by unchecking the enable checkbox and saving the form. Switches the module off temporarily. You can re-enable it at any time. You can disable it only if no other module requires it.
- **Uninstall** - removes the module permanently. First needs to be disabled, and then may be checked off from the Uninstall tab (`admin/build/modules/uninstall`). Uninstalling deletes all data with that module (+content). Uninstalling a module does not remove it from the file system – need to do manually.

# Modules to install

- Administration menu  
[http://drupal.org/project/admin\\_menu](http://drupal.org/project/admin_menu)
- Content Construction Kit  
<http://drupal.org/project/cck>
- Views <http://drupal.org/project/views>
- BU Editor <http://drupal.org/project/bueditor>
- Math Captcha <http://drupal.org/project/captcha>

# Modules configuration

- Uploaded modules are added to folder */sites/all/modules*
- Visit the */admin/build/modules* to enable the installed modules
- Save the changes!
- You can see immediately after saving the effects on the newly installed modules
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# Other suggested modules

- Filefield – for uploading large number of files
- Imagecache – presets for image processing
- Backup and Migrate – for easy migration of your website
- Switch user block, useful to work from the same browser, connected as different users.  
<http://www.drupal.org/project/devel>

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