

Introduction to



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Collaboration Services Team

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History

Inspired by Dries Buytaert in 2000 to create a small news site and bulletin board system. Became an open-source project in 2001.

The name Drupal is derived from the Dutch word “druppel”. Originally was going to be “dorp”, the Dutch word for “village”.

Has experienced c125% growth in 2007-2008.

Purpose of Drupal

Drupal is a Content Management Framework with a strong collaborative orientation.

Drupal provides a system where sites and content can be easily deployed, but also has the flexibility for programmers to make significant modifications.

Drupal is designed to be lightweight, fast-loading, and is modular by design.

Drupal Core

Drupal core includes the following:

- sophisticated user management, authentication and permissions
- pages, stories, blogs, forums, collaborative books, syndication feeds
- advanced search and taxonomy functions
- various themes and logging statistics.

Contributed Material

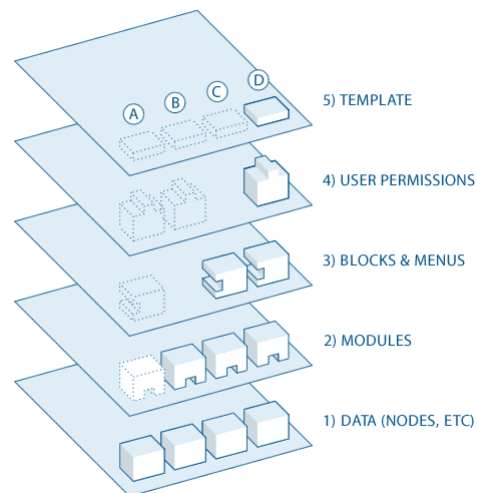
- revision moderation and notification
- advanced graphic HTML editors
- wiki syntax module
- trackbacks for 'blogs
- multimedia modules
- chat room
- ecommerce and advertising modules
- many, many themes!

Technical and Installation Aspects

- Runs Linux, Mac OS X, MS-Windows etc. Any platform that supports either the Apache (version 1.3+), or IIS (version IIS5+) web server.
- Requires PHP 4.3.5+ (with image library and XML extensions, recommend 5.2+, especially for higher versions) and MySQL or Postgres database.

General Administration

- Understanding Drupal as a layered model.



Content Creation and Management

- Test Drupal site: <http://drupal.ac3.edu.au>, user ereseach1, ereseach2, ereseach3 etc.
- *Create* content through 'Create Content' section on the menu. Content can be static pages, blog entries, stories, forum topics, book pages or polls.
- *Manage* content through the administer - content management section (e.g., book outlines, comments, editing of pages etc, forum hierarchy and settings), posting behaviour (e.g., teaser length), rss publishing, taxonomy.

User management

- New accounts created from /sitename/user; includes by default on frontpage.
- From administer – users path default user settings can be established (including signature and pictures), including access rules and account availability.
- From administer – users path manage user roles and fined-grained permissions. Default roles are anonymous and authenticated (and “owner”).

Basic Site Management

- From administer – site building basic site management options are available; modules, themes, menus, blocks.
- Modules can be implemented, some are dependent, options within modules can be implemented (/site/admin/by-module). *ARCS will install contributed modules for you.*
- Blocks and themes control “look and feel” of the site (see <http://drupal.org/project/Themes>).

Advanced Site Management

- Access through Administer – Site Configuration and Administer - Reports.
- You *should* implement clean URLs, manage file uploads site information and search settings.
- You *may* wish to implement performance, logging and alerts, error reporting, input formats.
- You *should* also check status reports. ARCS will do this as well, but many eyes makes all bugs shallow.

Further Information

- Drupal website: (<http://drupal.org>)
- Numerous books (ProDrupal Development, Drupal Themes, Drupal: Creating Blogs, Forums, Portals, and Community Websites).
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- And of course... help@arcs.org.au



THE END