Build Websites With Drupal

100 Most Asked Questions on Drupal - The Free and Open Source modular framework and Content Management System (CMS)

Andrew Haney

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DRUPAL 100 SUCCESS SECRETS

There has never been a Drupal Guide like this.

100 Success Secrets is not about the ins and outs of Drupal. Instead, it answers the top 100 questions that we are asked and those we come across in forums, our consultancy and education programs.

It tells you exactly how to deal with those questions, with tips that have never before been offered in print.

This book is also not about Drupal best practice and standards details. Instead, it introduces everything you want to know to be successful with Drupal.

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THE NEXT GENERATION DRUPAL 7: CHANGING THE NATURE OF WEBSITES

Drupal 7 is the next generation version of Drupal content management system. Although its development is still ongoing, the new system promises to become fully integrated as a Web 2.0 content management framework. It will have qualitatively different features from the previous releases of Drupal such as versions 4.7, 5 and 6.

Some of the most favored developments that users want to integrate in Drupal 7 are the inclusions of what you see is what you get editor and the automatic upgrade tool. These functionalities will make Drupal extremely user friendly and can be used by almost anyone with basic computer knowledge. Drupal users are advocating for these functionalities in order to popularize the system to the general public.

Another development work in progress for Drupal 7 is the integration of content management and distribution. The object of this integration is to create Drupal sites that serve as a Website and an information portal. The proposed design seeks to make Drupal a content management system fully functional as content distributor. This functionality will overtake the RSS and Atom technologies because new Websites created in Drupal framework will be fully capable of syndicating their own content and broadcasting it to wider audience on the Internet.

The concept for Drupal 7 follows the idea that a Website could become a standalone information and data server. This can significantly enhance the utility of a Website. Modern sites using Drupal technology can become active distributor of content from interlinked sites on the Internet.

CREATING FAQS ON YOUR SITE WITH DRUPAL

Wherever you search on a Web page, you would see that the site would not be complete without an FAQ page. Of course, this page is so important since it contains all the important things especially terms that consumers need to know about the company. Some are even creating FAQ sites to aid in learning easily about a certain topic. Doing all these FAQ sites or pages is easy with the use of Drupal. Beginners need not be confused with the whole process since the steps are simple to follow.

You would just need to install Drupal 5.1 and establish an account. Then you just have to complete the initial configuration of the software. Once done with the set up, you can install the FAQ module. The on screen instructions are also easy to follow. Go to Admin option and then choose categories and add a new vocabulary from there. On these vocabularies, you would then provide terms that would fall on your FAQ segments. You are then ready to set up the access for the users who would update or contribute information on your FAQs. Once done, you can start on creating a unique theme for your FAQ site.

Creating FAQ with Drupal is no brainer. And one thing that is good with this software is that you can assign as many contributors as you wish to have a very fruitful FAQ content. You just have to set up the access for these users and you are ready to have an FAQ that would help your consumers know more about your company and your products or services.

SHARING PHOTOS USING THE DRUPAL GALLERY MODULE

The Drupal content management system provides different modules for creating content. These modules can be easily added to the site and they can also be edited by the administrator. One of the best modules available is the Drupal gallery.

The Drupal gallery allows administrators to create photo pages similar to other photo sharing sites. Site builders can upload photos and still graphics or images on the Drupal site. The gallery module then can be customized based on the design preference of the administrators. They can create small thumbnails of the photos linked directly to the full resolution images. Users can see the thumbnail with a brief caption underneath. By clicking on the thumbnail, they will be redirected to the image with its full description and other specs.

The Drupal gallery module is ideal for a social network site. Through the gallery module, authenticated users can upload their stock images and create customizations within the Drupal framework. This functionality can also be useful for a socially shared site like group blogs or community Websites.

The gallery module is available on the administrator settings of the Drupal content management system. Site administrators can simple activate the module and it as a dedicated page. They can control access to this site by assigning different roles to different users. If the site has a login facility, access and editing of the Drupal gallery will be much easier as more users can create their own gallery. Otherwise, only the administrators can upload images and edit or modify the Drupal gallery module.

THE NO BLOG LOOK DRUPAL HOMEPAGE

The Drupal software is open source software where you can create Web sites without the technicalities of knowing Web installer. All you have to do is download it and you are all set to use it. And though it is generic software that can be used for creating different pages for a Web site, you can still design and make some varieties on the page layout. It is just so flexible that you can choose to customize it.

But this flexibility is the one thing that administrators find difficult to manage. They end up having the blog look homepage when they try to create a classic, professional Web site. This very generic homepage is the kind where the different pages of the site are all cluttered in a long list. Some administrators try to divert the page to a current node and then they try to change it to look like the classic one. Using this method, would not help with the feature to promote the front page.

If you use Drupal on your Website, you can actually have many documents on the homepage and you would be able to control the text's length that you would be putting on the document list. If you want to achieve the classic but no blog look homepage then you can change the setting of the note to let the longer length of document be displayed on the list as well as your homepage. You can also reset the settings to allow as many pages you want on the homepage. It is important that you choose a page, endorse it as your front page, and have it published on the top of your lists.

MUST-DO DRUPAL MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

One thing that people enjoy with Drupal is that they can almost do everything – from creating blog, online store, social networking media, a simple FAQ site and many more. But along with all these things that you can do, one thing that people should invest upon is creating their maintenance procedures should a certain downtime happens with the software. You need to make sure that your Web site is up and running the whole time.

To make sure that your Web site is serving its purpose 24/7 and that the performance is doing well, you need to devise some steps on maintaining the software. One method is doing a back up for your database. If you are installing plugins or upgrading to another module, it is important that you first create a back up. In this case, should the installation or upgrade failed, you can always restore your Web site to the original from before doing the other procedures.

It is also important that you upgrade the modules for your Drupal software. With up-to-date software, you can be sure that your Website is stable. You can get these updates automatically. All you have to do is click the link to make sure that you get the updated modules on your Drupal software.

Performing all these maintenance procedures will assure you that your software will work better, and should problem occur you can always restore your Web site without hassle. Just back up and upgrade the software so that you would be able to maintain the performance of your Drupal Web site.

EASY DRUPAL PHOTO GALLERY BUILDING

Photos usually make the Web site more attractive to the readers. Photos have this effect to let the viewers stop and take a look what is on your Web page. And if you want to create this impact on your viewers then it is advisable that you use Drupal in creating your photo gallery. Some say that doing this on Drupal is somewhat very complicated. Usually, viewing the photos would mean opening each photo gallery you have. And some disappointments are coming since they are unable to do the things they wanted for their gallery.

Actually you can have a very easy to create photo gallery in Drupal. There are so many tutorials, forums and even handbooks that would teach you how to build a very easy to view photo gallery. You can create a photo gallery using Image Field, Contemplate and CCK. Just create a new content type of your choice and then add image field. You can then upload photos and add in some customizable texts for each. From your image cache, you can set then the thumbnail size that you prefer. Then go to create content and choose Image Gallery. You can then upload all the photos and you can proceed to Display Fields and choose Thickbox. This image cache should be hidden.

From there, you can use Contemplate now to create some style on the page. You can still continue styling it then using CSS. Creating photo gallery in Drupal should never be complicated. You just have to learn how to sort the information you get from other forums or handbook so that you can devise your own photo gallery.

DRUPAL ROLES: DEFINING THE ACCESS RIGHTS OF USERS ON A DRUPAL SITE

There are two general Drupal roles set by default. These roles are assigned to users by the system. By assigning roles, the Drupal framework sets the limits of user access to the Drupal created Website.

The first role is called **Anonymous User**: This is set by default to those users who are not logged in to the Drupal site. Generally, these are the general Web users who visit sites. They can just view the content of the site and read them.

The other Drupal role is set by the system as **Authenticated User**: These users have access rights to the site as long as they log in to the administrator interface. Site administrators and managers are the primary authenticated users. They have full access and full control of the Drupal created Website. They can do what they like on it even deleting the entire framework. Site administrators can also set specific roles to other authenticated users.

For example, users who have access rights can be given the role of a writer. As writers, these users can log in to the Drupal site and write articles or content for it. They can also edit or delete what they wrote. Administrators however can control the publication rights of these writers. This means another layer of Drupal role for authenticated users must be set.

In this case, Drupal site administrators can assign editor roles to some authenticated users. These users can also be called moderators or mods. Their role is to review what the writers created and edit the material for publication. Through this system, the production of quality content can be ensured.

ECOMMERCE IN A SNAP USING THE DRUPAL SHOPPING CART

The Drupal framework for content management is not only ideal for standard personal or business Websites. It can also be utilize to create a highly productive ecommerce site. Drupal CMS is becoming very popular for online business owners because of its shopping cart facilities. The Drupal shopping cart module can be embedded easily into the ecommerce site to provide users with a tool for their online shopping.

The Drupal shopping cart feature is part of the entire ecommerce package offered by the Drupal framework. It is also a free module and an open source application. This means that online business owners can fully customize their Drupal shopping sites on the Web to fit on their target market.

The ecommerce module can easily be downloaded from the Drupal ecommerce solution community sites. It can be installed even by non-technical users. Ecommerce site building and management are also easy because they follow the general management structure of standard Drupal Websites.

The Drupal shopping cart can be edited to reflect the theme of the site and to correspond to any product available on it. The shopping cart module has a payment scheme plugin, which can be activated on the administrator panel. The payment plug-in links the Drupal shopping cart module to selected online payments processing sites. Aside from these functionalities, the Drupal ecommerce CMS also features inventory management control and other management tasks needed for running an online business. That is why Drupal CMS especially its ecommerce shopping module is slowly becoming an instant hit among small business owners.

HOW TO OVERRIDE DEFAULT THEMES USING DRUPAL TEMPLATE PHP FILE

Drupal is a comprehensive framework for managing Website content. It can be used to create, publish and edit Websites with a few simple clicks using the standard theme functionalities of the Drupal interface. The basic theme functionalities of Drupal such as the box, nodes, comments, block, and pages are set by default in the system. It can be used for any type of designing task and can be very handy for users without deep knowledge of PHP programming.

For advanced users who want to customize the site functions, the default Drupal template PHP theme can be overridden by editing the theme source codes. Drupal is created using the PHP language so users need to learn basic PHP programming in order to override the default Drupal template functions.

To perform the operation, users need to create a specific template PHP file on the Drupal theme directory. By referring to the API documentation, users can find the list of themes and functions that can be overridden using the template PHP file.

Administrators then can write the PHP codes that will create new functionalities and themes for the Drupal site. The standard themes can be rewritten or some functions can be trimmed down. This operation involves lots of coding in PHP so it would be suitable for those who have enough background on this type of programming language.

Aside from editing or overriding some or all of the themes and functionalities in the Drupal framework, administrators of the site can also change the default forms available on it.

IMPROVING SITE DESIGN USING FREE DRUPAL TEMPLATES

Drupal is an open source content management system using PHP as its chief programming language. As an open source framework, Drupal can be customized by its users according to their preferences. That's because the source code of an open source system is available to its users.

The Drupal framework makes Website creation and publishing simple and very easy. However, the default design of a Drupal Website comes in standard light blue and looks like a typical blog. Some users like the default design of a Drupal site for being very eye-friendly and highly functional. Others however want a more customized and unique look for their site. This is to reflect the content being provided on the Drupal site.

Customized themes can be created using free Drupal templates. These templates will change the color scheme, layout, graphics design, and functionalities of the Drupal site. Themes can be very informal and individualistic for personal Websites created on Drupal. They can also be very formal and business-like for corporate sites and other business Websites.

Free Drupal templates can be downloaded easily. They are also open source and allow users to perform their own customization. A simple search on the Internet would yield hundreds of Drupal Websites offering free templates. And because the templates are very professional looking and have clean source codes, there is really no need to buy a commercially available Drupal template.

Free Drupal templates can significantly enhance the look and features of a Drupal Website. Without spending anything, administrators can customize their site to improve its performance.

DRUPAL ACIDFREE: MEDIA CONTENT MANAGEMENT IN A JIFFY

The Drupal Acidfree album is a comprehensive media content module ideal for creating large photo and video nodes. As a media content management, Acidfree fully integrates with the Drupal system so that users can create highly dynamic media pages for their Websites.

Site administrators can customize the themes of Acidfree albums so it could complement the general theme of their Drupal created Websites. The customization allowed in Acidfree albums also include highly flexible drawing time tables for better management of media content.

The Drupal Acidfree module has two kinds of site upload functionality. First, administrators can add media content to the Acidfree node through individual upload of photo or video on the Drupal interface. On the other hand, they will have the option of mass-uploading media content to their sites through the import page facility. By using this method, site administrators can easily import entire directories of media content from a server and place them on the Acidfree design module on the Drupal site. This process speeds up media management and makes content administration simpler.

Several releases of the Acidfree Drupal nodes have been developed already fixing some issues regarding management and design. By integrating Acidfree nodes in the Drupal system, administrators will be able to fully integrate the functionalities of a social media sharing site on their own Website. The Drupal Acidfree nodes and modules can be downloaded from the Drupal community Website. The downloadable files also contain important notes on the latest releases of Drupal Acidfree to help administrators integrate the functionality on their sites.

USING DRUPAL FEEDAPI AGGREGATOR: ENSURING FRESH CONTENT EVERYDAY

The Drupal FeedAPI tool is a content aggregator that can collect feeds from Websites such as published content, news materials, and blog posts. This tool generates feed collection of lightweight nodes in order to be displayed on a Drupal site.

The FeedAPI tool can be very useful especially for community blog sites, portals, or news Websites. Through the Drupal FeedAPI functionality, displaying content on the site would become automated.

One of the biggest advantages of having a FeedAPI tool on a Website concerns search engine optimization. Search engines favor sites that regularly refresh their content. By aggregating content into a Drupal Website, it will certainly display new Web content on a regular basis thus helping optimize its positioning on search engines.

The Drupal FeedAPI tool can be downloaded for free at the Drupal Web portal. The simple application has a small file size that will not use up valuable computer or server resources. The downloadable application also comes with free documentations and installation guidelines written in text format.

Feeds aggregators significantly streamlines information and Website content management. With the overload of content being published daily on the Internet, administrators will have a difficult time following updates and embedding them on their own sites. Through the FeedAPI functionality of Drupal CMS, this administrative task has become automated, simpler, and easier.

When activating the Drupal FeedAPI, administrators must install the tool software first on the Drupal site. After installation, the FeedAPI will become live. Administrators then can set the parameters and setting of the Drupal FeedAPI so that content aggregation will become more systematic.

TAKE HOLD OF A DRUPAL HANDBOOK

A school, a company or even an appliance has a handbook so that they would be guided on the right conduct that is expected of the users or the one concerned. And a deviation on what is written on the handbook, can most of the time put the user or the person concerned to be in such trouble. These handbooks serve as guides to those who are new and old users. This is just the same with the Drupal handbooks.

Actually, these handbooks are very helpful to those who wants to know Drupal and to those who already know how to use Drupal. They are good reference to novice and experienced Drupal users. These handbooks actually have all the documentation need so that you would be able to manage the software with ease.

Drupal is software that would allow so much functionality such as creating personal or corporate Websites, creating ecommerce applications, creating directories, social networking sites, blogs, content management system, forums, picture galleries, newsletters and so much more. And with all these things that you can do on Drupal, it is just put proper that you get hold of a Drupal handbook so that you would be guided on how to go along with these functionalities that you can do on the software. You do not want to get mislead and lost along the way since you might be wasting time. A handbook would walk you easily to managing the software and get you to do what you want to accomplish with Drupal.

EASY STEPS TO DRUPAL INSTALL

What is nice about Drupal is that is open source software. All you have to do is download it and viola you have your own Web site in the making. With this software then you would be able create a blog, an ecommerce site, a photo gallery and much more. But then of course, first thing that you need to do is to install Drupal on your computer so that you can start with managing and creating your own Web site.

Actually installing Drupal is so easy. You can save that 5 minute coffee break of yours into installing Drupal in your computer. You can actually use Fantastico De Luxe to easily install it and you can also manually install it. Using manual installation is much recommended to make sure that you get updated Drupal software. You can conveniently download Drupal sip file form the official Web site of Drupal. Do that Google thing you would find that site easily.

Then you need to extract the files and have them uploaded on a Web folder. You then need to copy sites/default/default.settings.php and have it pasted at sites/default/settings.php. You are then ready to do the Drupal database with the use of MySQL. Make sure that you have granted the privilege to select, insert, delete, update, drop, create, alter and index to the Drupal user. Then just have the Drupal installer run on the computer. Installation would come automatically and this would correct those settings on your setting.php configuration. It's that easy! You are now ready to having your own Web site.

HOSTING A DRUPAL MULTI SITE

Isn't it amazing that with Drupal's free software, you can do just about anything about your Web page? You do not really have to spend so much money just to make sure that you would be able to house your corporate or personal Website in reliable software. What is more remarkable with this software is that you can actually put blogging, content management software or even forum to be integrated in the software. It makes online life easier with maintaining a Web site.

Another notable truth about Drupal is that you can actually host multiple sites so that you would be able to maximize the use of varying contents form a mirrored domain. There are of course companies that offer this service but you would be stunned with the prices that they charge. So why bother paying when you can have this feature with the use of Drupal? You can achieve this with Drupal by mirroring these other domains on your Drupal root folder. You can then be able to configure your setting to these different contents from the other domains. You can also configure then some conditions on what content would you just use for your Web site.

It is also important you modify the .htaccess file that is setup on your folder so that you would be able to mirror the right domain that you wanted. This is just but one thing that you can do on Drupal software. There are still so many features that you need to explore to appreciate open source software like Drupal.

DO MORE WITH DRUPAL PLUGINS

Who said that you couldn't do much with Drupal? Being open source software for content management platform does not mean that you are limited to just a little capabilities in creating Web sites. Actually, being a free software, it just have so much functionalities that you can enjoy. It is really a flexible and powerful tool if you know how to play it along with the other tools that can help you enhance the Web page. That is why there are Drupal plugins. These plugins would help you achieve what you want to get out of the Drupal software.

Some of these plugins would include:

1. **Content Construction Kit** – This one is very helpful when creating content. If you are tired of boring content types then use CCK and you would be able to find the material that you wanted to be on your page.

2. **Admin Menu** – You can create your own drop down menu on the upper part of the administrator pages. This makes the software administration easier by having all the links available in a single menu list.

3. **Front Page** – If you want to have your very own design of front page then use this Drupal plugin. You can always go away with those boring front page designs by using Front Page.

4. **Image** – A Web page would be so plain without images. Use this plugin to create galleries on your Drupal page.

These are but few Drupal plugins that you can use to improve your Web page. They also help you to make the job of customizing your Web page easier.

DO YOU NEED DRUPAL SERVICE?

Drupal is quite very easy to install. It even has so many features that you could not imagine possible with just free software. But most often the confusion comes in on how you can go about doing the things you wanted to be accomplished if you are not well versed with the Drupal software. There could be some functions that you want to be added on your Drupal Web site but are quite hesitant to add them because you lack the professional know-how on doing through the process in Drupal.

Worry no more since right now, you can actually get the services of Drupal experts. You just have to go online and check for Drupal services and you will get results of different companies who could help you with your dilemma in Drupal software. Most often, these companies will offer services such as installing and configure the software. They give you the assurance that your software was properly installed and set up and it would do its job perfectly.

Some would even offer you training among the users in the organization. They want to provide you the professional guide that you need so that confusion on how to use the software would not happen. They would teach you on how you would be able to customize the software so that you can achieve all the functionalities that you wanted. Along with the services offered is consultation should you and the other users in the company encounter some difficulties. Now, do you think you would go away with these Drupal services?

USING DRUPAL STATISTICS MODULE TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC ANALYTICS

The Drupal statistics module offers users of this open source content management system an easy to use traffic analytics tool. The statistics module in Drupal is comparable to popular scripting technologies that can monitor unique hits and user engagement on a Website.

Drupal is an open source framework that makes Website building easier because it allows Website administrators to add, edit, and manage content in a snap. It is composed of different modules that can be added instantly on a Website to create personal Web pages, social network communities, and corporate sites.

The statistics module is just part of the numerous modular frameworks that can be added to a Drupal site. Administrators of a site can just activate the statistics tool to make it live on the entire site. Once activated, the Drupal statistics module will immediately monitor site activities in terms of traffic sources, unique hits, length of visit, bounce rate, and other important traffic analytics data.

Website administrators therefore can see and analyze where they get their traffic and what sites are directly linking to them. They can also determine what page in their site is most popular among Web users. The Drupal statistics module can help administrators troubleshoot pages that produce the biggest bounce rate.

Although the Drupal statistics module lacks the comprehensive traffic data report provided by commercial traffic stats applications, it will surely add functionality to the site. Administrators can get the basic traffic data they need from the statistics module in order to improve their Website.

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE DRUPAL UK COMMUNITY

The Drupal UK community is one of the most active and dynamic groups in the entire Drupal network. The Drupal user community in the UK is composed of core developers, programmers, Website administrators, and regular users of the open source Drupal content management system.

For administrators residing in the United Kingdom, they can find a comprehensive list of the UK Drupal community on the network's main Website. A dedicated site for the Drupal UK community can also be found linked on the network portal.

By establishing links with Drupal community, administrators of site can learn valuable inputs regarding the different methods of improving the current deployment of Drupal CMS. There are also regular updates on new module being developed by both core developers and ordinary users of Drupal content management framework.

For the UK based administrators, the Drupal network in England holds regular meetings and conferences for all Drupal users and those interested in it. Usually, meet-ups are held in major cities around the country to provide lots of leeway for those outside of London.

The Drupal UK Website can also be a good source for Website professionals looking for jobs. Usually, administrators of the UK groups posts job opportunities for Drupal professionals. They are in constant need for developers and programmers because of the growing demand for the Drupal content management system.

To enjoy the dynamism of the Drupal UK group, administrators can simply register on their site and attend regular events, meetings and conferences sponsored by the network.

MODULES NEEDED TO CREATE IMAGES IN DRUPAL

The most important component in a site is the images or photos displayed. There is just this magnetic effect from photos that is pulling the visitors to stop for awhile and check what is in store for them in a Website that has images. Actually, you can easily handle images in Drupal. But of course, to get this functionality you will need some Drupal modules.

You just have to be creative and use some modules. Use image to describe the image content that you would be using. You can also use image exact sizes so that you can crop and resize photos, image gallery to organize the pictures, image import to import pictures by batch and tagadelic to create tags.

Another module that you can use is the CCK or content construction kit. In there you can define the photo content type and at the same time, you would be able to create or customize the metadata. This is used to filter and sort the photo nodes. In CCK, you can categorize and handle these metadata for photos in the administrative panel making them easier to manage and organize.

It is important that you organize and tag your photos on your Drupal site so that you would be able to optimize the use of these resources. These images are important so that you can easily manage the content of the whole Website. Online stores would have to attest to this since their successes most of the time relies to properly handled images in their Drupal ecommerce site.

GETTING STARTED WITH DRUPAL ACTIONS MODULE

If there is one module in Drupal that lacks much information that would definitely be the Drupal Actions module. Most often, this module is being is being ignored since it does not work on itself.

It still needs to have the workflow module so that it would create a favorable functionality. That is why it is important to note that when you install the action module for Drupal, you also need to install the workflow module. In short, they should be used as a team.

Using this module, a company can actually make some configuration that would help some business process. An example could be sending of emails. The organization can just program the needed information like subject, message and recipient in the action module.

From there, the action needs to be fired up so that it would do the action. So the next time that an email needs to be sent to this recipient, it would be easier to do the business process.

The action module also makes the sharing of one module possible with the other functions. You can set up the configurations on what are the things that can be shared to the other functions while maintaining that information on the current function.

These configurations can be effortlessly made using the administrative function in Drupal. It is in here that the workflow can be fired up so that the organization would save time on doing these routinely business processes. These modules make Drupal a great content management system for some organizations since it allows more time to be productive.

STEPS IN BUILDING A DRUPAL FORUM

Online forums are great additions to any Website. By building and setting up an online forum, administrators could create a community that will increase user engagement on their site. Besides that, forum sites usually get top search engine rankings. That is why most community Websites make it a point to build and nurture a very active forum for their users.

The Drupal content management system, which is an open source framework using the PHP programming language, can be a very good tool for creating online forums. Drupal CMS is not just a Website building and management tool. It can also be used for designing Web 2.0 sites because of its enhanced Web services and functionalities.

A Drupal forum is one such service, which can be easily added to a Website. There is a specific forum module in the Drupal framework, which can be activated by the administrator. Once activated, the Drupal forum will be ready for editing or they can be simply left alone and allow the default configuration to work. Administrators of the site then can set up the access rights on the Drupal forum in order to shield it from malicious users.

Web administrators however can also customize the Drupal forum if they have enough knowledge in PHP language. Specifically, they can change the themes and designs of the forum. They can also set additional functionalities on the forum and increase its security features. Once the Drupal forum is live, the Website can surely reap its concrete benefits.

2 Ways to Customize the Drupal Home Page

Drupal is a very powerful and highly flexible content management system that allows Website administrators to easily build and publish a site. There is no limitation to the type of sites that can be created using the Drupal framework. This gives administrators much leeway in designing their site and managing its content.

However, some users find the Drupal home page to be too blog-like. This means the first page of the site, where visitors land, is composed of a long list of other published pages arranged in chronological order. If one is familiar with popular blog sites like WordPress and Blogger, then the interface on those sites would be similar to the Drupal home page.

But because of the extreme customization offered by the Drupal framework, administrators can perform two actions that can change the look of the Drupal home page into the standard index pages of Websites.

First, they can design a home page using Photoshop and convert the final layout into a workable template that can be adapted into XHTML format. The design can now be used as the home page linking other pages to it.

Second, administrators can also tweak the settings in the Drupal management panel. They can simply create a node and design it like standard home page. Then they can just simply point to that node as the Drupal home page.

Through this processes, administrators can create a professional looking home page without the look and feel of a blog. They can also limit the number of content that can be displayed on the Drupal home page in order to avoid page cluttering.

DRUPAL LOCAL GROUP: PROVIDING VALUABLE HELP FOR DRUPAL USERS

There are many Drupal local groups and communities throughout the world. These groups of Drupal users organize themselves informally in order to develop and improve the system. To facilitate the administration of this kind of loose organization, local coordinators are assigned to organize events and conferences for Drupal development. These coordinators are called Drupal local ambassadors. The list of Drupal ambassadors can be located on the community Website of Drupal. Users who want to participate actively in the events organized by a Drupal group in their locality can simply contact the local ambassador.

There are several types of events that a Drupal local group can perform. The events are guided by a manual designed for a specific Drupal group activity. The events manuals can also be found on the Drupal community portal.

One of the most commonly held activities of a Drupal local group is a development conference. A conference usually last for just a day where Drupal users and administrators discuss the latest innovation in the program. Development designs sometimes are also included in the agenda of a conference in order to come up with a general framework that can be submitted to Drupal core developers.

Another typical Drupal local group activity is the Drupal boot camp. It is also called simple as Camp by Drupal users. This is the group training and community dynamic of the Drupal network. It serves as an instruction and development camp. Normally, a Drupal Camp will last for two days depending on the agenda set by the Drupal local ambassador.

ON HAVING AN IMPROVED DRUPAL PERFORMANCE

Sometimes even if you try to make sure that your Web site is the best among the rest, you might find that your site is not performing well because of one thing. It just does not load easily and that your readers are waiting so long just to see a page of it. This is the same case especially if you are using Drupal. Some would say that the slowness could be because it's just open source software.

What really happens is that most of the response time for your Web site is being used to process what is on your HTML file, which includes your photos, video streaming or CSS. Sometime of this response time is being used to retrieve your HTML document. That is why if you want to optimize your Drupal page loading performance, you need to optimize these things to cut off on that response time for uploading your page.

Another thing that could help you improve your loading performance is using some tools like YSlow. You can actually read this as why slow. This tool would help you determine why your page is loading so slowly. You just need though to install Firebug and Firefox to have this tool work. Good thing about YSlow is that it does not only analyze your page why it is slow but it gives recommendations on how you would be able to resolve a Drupal performance on your Web site. Now, you would not have to worry anymore of a slow Web site.

USING THE DRUPAL READ MORE MODULE TO ENHANCE INTERACTIVITY ON WEBSITES

By using the Drupal content management framework, users will be able to create a fully functional Website and easily add or edit content on it. Standard Drupal sites however follow the general designs of blogs. This means the full content of a page is published on the home page of the Drupal site. For some users who want to add more content on the home page of a Drupal site, they can tweak the display settings for the content page. In this way, only portions of a published material can be displayed on the home page so that other modules can be added.

A Drupal read more link therefore would be very useful for this purpose. The read more link can be appended at the end of a summarized content pointing to the full version of the page. This link instructs the user to follow the page if they want to know more about the content. By embedding a read more link, the Drupal site would be more interactive and user-friendly.

Some administrators however encountered problems regarding this functionality. In their deployments, the Drupal read more links will not display properly. In some cases, the links will be totally invisible on the page thus losing valuable user engagements.

Developers and advanced users of Drupal CMS created a separate module for the Drupal read more functionality. It can now be set as a standalone tool that can be easily activated on the administrator interface of Drupal. The read more module significantly helped other administrators in developing a highly interactive Website.

THE GROWING DRUPAL SHOP COMMUNITY: PROFITING FROM A DRUPAL WEBSITE

Numerous Drupal shops are being developed everyday by online entrepreneurs to improve their ecommerce sites. The Drupal content management framework offers an extremely flexible solution to create and build an ecommerce Website with full functionalities and tools. And as an open source technology, online business owners will be able build their sites at no cost.

A typical Drupal shop will be able to create customizable ecommerce tools and buttons such as shopping carts and buy now functionalities. These Drupal shop tools can surely improve the online shopping experience of users, and could help drive sales and customer loyalty. The customizable ecommerce tools can be plugged in to the Drupal Website and directly link to an online payment center.

Even non-profit Drupal shops can benefit from the ecommerce tools. There are highly customizable donate buttons which can be added as a module in order to generate support for the non-profit site.

However, the most useful modules that can be used by any Drupal shop are the ecommerce management functionalities. These management tools can be installed on the Drupal shop ecommerce site to organize invoices, transactions records, and track sales summaries.

These Drupal management tools can simplify monitoring of ecommerce site activities and troubleshoot issues on the performance of the site. Administrators of a Drupal shop can simply activate the modules for these functions on their management panel. Owners of a Drupal shop can get valuable input and the latest update from the Drupal community portal. They can also see samples of successful ecommerce sites on that portal.

Drupal Store: The In Thing in Ecommerce

Who out there is not engaged in online stores?

As an online buyer, getting what you want is so easy and convenient. How about online sellers? They can create a Website, insert their product, and within seconds be making money through their online store.

But of course, creating an online store does not happen in just a day. There are so much things that you need to be able to establish one. And the single thing that is very important to consider is the software that you would use to create your online store. Drupal makes this possible together with Drupal ecommerce. By using these, you would be able to manage your content management system. Ecommerce would allow you to plan your online shop, create your catalog, style up your Web page, and devise a security measure for the payment process on your online store.

Though Drupal is a free software, you are still able to create a secured online shop with this application platform. An advantage Drupal has is that it can work just with any operating system such as Linux, MAC OS or Windows. You just need to have a plugin for ecommerce so that you can make your own Web site using a little of free resources such as Drupal and more of that creativity and patience. You too can actually create your own business online with just a few simple steps with your Drupal software.

LEARN WITH DRUPAL TUTORIAL VIDEOS

Drupal is getting so popular with using it as the platform for online Web sites. And since a lot of people are starting to appreciate the features of using Drupal, the clamor for more video tutorials is also increasing. Of course, document tutorials and handbooks are also effective way of learning the Drupal software but getting to see the actual stuff in a video is much appealing.

With different modules that you can use with Drupal, you would be able to create different functionalities. And each functionalities right now has a video tutorial. All you have to do is search the Internet for the things that you wanted. There are Drupal video tutorials that give you the basics of how to create Web page using the software, how you can create photo galleries, how to create discussion forms, how to create a blog and an online store.

There are also video tutorial series that you can check which would educate you on how to use Drupal as a very effective content management system for your organization while you maintain constant communication using the same software.

Right now, there is also a new module for Drupal Video that you can check out. Using this module, you would be able to upload your own video using Drupal without the fear of using a lot of your bandwidth. Having known this, once you get to know how to use Drupal, you can also create your own Drupal video tutorial using the Drupal module for video. Now, Drupal is getting really promising by the minute!

LEARNING THE ABCS OF DRUPAL

They say that if you want to learn something, you need to know the foundation of that thing. And as you try to understand the volume of concepts and frameworks involved you can become pretty rattled and tempted to skip certain things. Learning Drupal should not be like that. You need to know the very foundation of it so that you would be able to manage the software.

What are the things that you need to know first so that you can perfectly create themes on Drupal? Of course, your ABCs should include PHP, CSS and HTML. If you know HTML, then your themes would be easily created since you've got the very backbone that would allow you to deliver a good page using Drupal. You just have to start learning Drupal by learning HTML.

Then the next thing that you need to know is using CSS. You will find that there are so many codes that you need that would be based on using CSS. It can help you style your Webpage and create the theme that you wanted. And the last thing that you need to know is PHP. This is the one that would give life to your Web page theme.

Remember, learning Drupal is not taking the shortcut. You need to know all the basics so that you would be able to learn how to manage the software. You should have the right attitude and mindset so that you would be able to appreciate learning the software.

DRUPAL: FOR INTERACTION

In the world of interaction, where people mingle with all sorts of people for different moments in time, accessibility is of the utmost importance.

Of course, the security and efficiency of the interaction is also important, but in the interest of interaction and people-to-people communications, the users often leave these out of the equation.

And while the users may look upon these two in a too matter cursory, the programmers aren't always as lax as the users may be.

For example, there a software package named Drupal that is being offered for free, and yes, there are still things in this world that is left of charge, but even though it is free of charge, its functions and programs are really first-rate.

Well, as Drupal is meant for interaction between people, it certainly gives the users the extensive reach into flexibility and efficiency, and experience-wise, a program that could provide these is widely used by people.

Today, Drupal proudly claims that it is indeed used by people in great numbers owing to its effective designs and flexibility, as well as the functions provided to the users, which allow them to do a lot of things not available in other programs.

Of course, the number of users may vary on a per country basis, but it is also undeniable that Drupal is now also being used by different organizations for whatever Web sites that they may have or wish to have.

It is a revolutionary program, and it's free so there's really nothing wrong with trying it out for the first time.

DRUPAL 6: NEWEST DRUPAL TO BE RELEASED

There are many expectations about the so-called Drupal 6, which is the newest ever Drupal program version released, and the rate of expectations just keep on rising with every person, who've used it.

Of course, it's not always what one hears and it's a matter of experience, but why limit oneself to the sidelines with just hearing stuffs about it?

Drupal is famous for allowing its users, or rather giving them, a wide variety of options with regard to their Website, which includes first and foremost the content.

Aside from this, these options are excellent in helping the users publish and manage their Websites as easy as a walk in the park, while even managing to put many different concepts under one Website.

Evidence of this, lies on the great variety of users and organizations using Drupal for a wide variety of reasons, whose only similarities with each other are that they are not easy to make under a normal program, and that they are interactive.

In providing all these at the same time is not an easy task for Drupal, which is really the reason why Drupal 6 was released, as the new program was able to defeat the earlier defects of the program.

There were changes made, but the program itself is still fundamentally the same in its purposes, which is to create easy accessibility and interaction among people with the use of Websites.

Now as to the matter of changes, well, there were improvements made on the functions of maintaining better security systems, as well as better maintainability of the program and its installation packages.

JOOMLA DRUPAL: MIGRATION

In the advent of many changes being implemented on the Drupal program, as well as the current release of the latest of these programs, there are many people asking as to how could a proper migration from Joomla to Drupal be done.

Of course, there are many reasons for such migration and they could range from the seriousness of wanting to have a program that is user-friendly in use and installation and to the frivolity of just wanting to try something different.

Of course this shouldn't be the case, but there are people doing it so there might as well be a discussion about it, and there are in fact forums about it in the Internet, especially in Drupal's Website.

And as the topic is centered on both Drupal and Joomla, it's always best to categorically decide which is better than the other before initiating any migration as such.

Joomla is known to be able to support only one section and category for a single content, but Drupal could do this in multiple numbers in terms of sections and categories, which provides a whole lot of flexibility and not much limitations.

Of course, forums are important and Drupal has a built-in forum, which is better than Joomla in matters of usage as the owner of the Website is one who must create the forum.

In this, Drupal is obviously superior as there's already a forum in place and there is no longer a need to install any additional modules needed by the forum, which saves a lot of time and effort.

DRUPAL 5: TRY EVERY AVAILABLE SOURCE

In wanting to have the best of Websites, it's always best to try out every available source possible and available in the Internet today, and it's just a matter of looking it up and downloading it.

For starters, they should try to download the Drupal 5, which is still a good program to have in aspiring to have a good Website to note, and its applications are designed to give the programmer an easy time so using it will be a breeze.

Aside from this, there are now more than ample reasons on why a shift towards Drupal 5 is called for.

First, the innovations and improvements to be found in Drupal 5 are basically many steps in front of the rest of the programs that are like it in purpose, but different in approach, which the ace in its makers' sleeves.

It was even expected by the makers that more people will be migrating towards Drupal 5 soon after its release, and indeed, this expectation came true.

Second, there's an evident improvement in the Drupal 5's design of the program, which makes it even more adept in responding to the needs of the user.

Now that's better flexibility, and better usability improvement.

Drupal 5 also has improved versions of the administration pages, which had to be retooled completely to achieve the purpose of making it as user-friendly as possible.

Now, there's a default task view that allows the user to hide the descriptions, as well as better than average configuration options.

The settings pages were also improved, or rather split up and divided into smaller pages, which in effect made it easier for the user to locate the options sought for.

DRUPAL MENU: NOT A BORING MENU

With Drupal being one of the best programs today that could cater to the different Website needs of the users, it's only fit to wonder on how this is even possible as everyone knows that there are no similar Websites.

Now one aspect of Drupal that is best portrayed as one of the reasons, why this program is used by many people for all sorts of reasons, is the presence of its able program code that allows the users to make Website menus as easy as possible.

Now Website menus are a number of Web links that are inserted in Websites, and they are present in all, and are used to navigate the Website itself.

Without these menus, then the Website would be as boring as a single paged document, even if it had the latest neon colors ever made to show up in a computer.

In Drupal, the users are able to see the menu in a manner that is considered efficient and flexible as it allows them to have sufficient control and therefore customize their menu system as their own will.

Custom Drupal menus are usually located in the portion of the Website that is considered best and strategically placed, and in a strictly hierarchical list, which is not totally devoid of any of Drupal's flexible features.

Aside from this, there are many Drupal themes to choose from and they generally give the users the out-of-the-box support, which is need for the proper functioning of two menus, which are considered primary and secondary links, respectively.

ROLE OF DRUPAL ADMINISTRATOR

There should be someone designated to manage your Website. There is information in your Website that perhaps you would want to share only to your selected viewers. Whether your Website is a community Web portal or business Website, you will need an administrator to manage it. Drupal is an open source content management system that allows users to perform variety of options to include changing how Web site looks, how users interact with it, and the kinds of information to display. But such actions, cannot just be opened to all users of the site but someone has to act as administrator.

An administrator in the Drupal system is considered to be the super administrator. Site administrators grant permissions for users to create experience using the Drupal system. He takes charge in the initial configuration.

The Drupal system includes an Administration Menu that provides a theme-independent administration interface such as navigation, back-end for Drupal. The Administration Menu is considered to be helpful to new Drupal users coming from other Content Management System, as it is designed in such a way that Drupal site administrators experience real time saving.

The module does not only contain the regular menu items but also local tasks, allowing fast access to any administrative resource and function Drupal installation provides.

The following are steps to assign an admin role:

1. Create your "Administrator" Role if it doesn't exist already;

2. Select menu Admin -> User -> Admin Role; and

3. Select your role.

You can assign other administrators other than the super admin. Permissions of course, are defined. In the event that you need to add a new module, you need to update permissions, as a new module will give other administrators automatic permission. Therefore, if they shouldn't be granted, you will need to update such.

HOW DRUPAL AND CSS WORKS?

CSS known as Cascading Style Sheets is a style sheet language that describes presentation of document written in markup language. It is designed to style Web pages written in HTML and XHTML. Drupal's Web pages are in XHTML.

Drupal system allows theme designers to change Website presentation from XHTML to CSS. The combination of CSS within the functionality of a Content Management System brings considerable amount of flexibility in programming content submission forms. With CSS and Drupal applications, a contributor, who is not familiar or able to understand or edit CSS or XHTML code can select the layout of an article or other page they are submitting on the fly, in the same form.

For example, a contributor, editor or author of an article or page is able to select the number of columns and whether or not the page or article will carry an image. Such information is passed to the Drupal system, and the program logic will evaluate the information and determine, based on a certain number of combinations, how to apply classes and IDs to the HTML elements. Then, CSS styles and position them according to the pre-defined CSS for that particular layout type. To better understand it, let's say that HTML Web pages hold the structure and CSS files hold the presentation elements.

Web themes were complex to write and maintain prior to CSS aggregation. There was less control on the Web content to display, however with CSS feature available on Drupal system such gave Web designers more control over site. Indeed, Drupal's built-in CSS aggregation makes styling elements and positioning easy.

THE OPTION TO ENABLE OR DISABLE DRUPAL LOGIN

You have work so hard to build your Website and certainly you wouldn't just let anyone make changes on it without your knowledge. As a means of security, you would require viewers to login to your Website. Drupal system has login feature. Login feature is one of the blocks that you would see available if you are using a Drupal system.

To be given access to a Website requires viewers to login is to register first. The system administrator needs to configure the user registrations with any of the following options:

1. Site Administrators are the only one who can create new user accounts;

2. Visitors can create accounts without the need for administrator approval; and

3. Visitors can create accounts but the administrator will have to approve.

The Drupal login block is shown always on the default setup, unless a user is already logged in. Login is a tool for administrators to monitor the system and record the system events. Site administrators are provided with a quick overview of activity on the site. Users who interact with your Web site and who have not logged are labeled by Drupal as "Anonymous" by default.

Others administrators choose to disable the login block. They believed that if you have small number of people actually logging into the system to create or edit content, there is really no need to have a large portion of your screen up with a login block that doesn't relate to them. The following are the steps to disable the login block:

1. 1. Go to the block configuration (administer » blocks); and

2. 2. Uncheck the box for User login in the Enabled column.

USE OF THE DRUPAL SEARCH MODULE

One of the core modules included in the Drupal system is the Search Module. Search Module allows users to search for specific content on your Website. Search can either be users or particular words.

To do a regular search, is to enter more than one search term on the search box. The search module will look for content, which match the terms you have entered. Using the Advanced Search, you can look for "any of these words" or "this phrase," or both, rule out the words that you don't want and choose content types within which to confine your search. Users have the option to enable or disable the search module on the modules page using administer >> modules options.

Drupal's Search Module can also be customized. Customizing the search module allows users to define the content to be search either it be custom node types, users, or comments. Search results could be array of information for which the module wishes to display.

To use a search result default would display each item with the following keys:

1. Link refers to the found item URL.

2. Type refers to the type of item.

3. Title refers to the name item.

4. User refers to the author of the item.

5. Date refers to the timestamp when the item was last modified.

6. Extra refers to an array of optional extra information items.

7. Snippet refers to an excerpt or preview to show with the result.

ABOUT DRUPAL VIDEO MODULE

Vlogging or video logging is one form of blogging, which uses video as its medium. Drupal is one of those open source content management systems that hosts and allows bloggers to post video content and manage their own video blogging sites.

Drupal has a video module were users post video content to their site. With video capture on portable phones, video capturing is always present. Vlogging has been a phenomenon. Videos are believed to be useful as a means for creative collaboration among community members. If members within the community are unable to meet in person, videos of meetings are used to make it happen. It is a good means of enhancing interaction between community members.

The video module uses flash player settings. Among the popular recording applications are Snapz Pro, iShowU and Jing for Mac, Wink, CamStudio, Camtasia, and Jing for Windows, RecordMyDesktop, and Krut for Linux.

You can use number of page and menu links, to add to your play and download video content on the site. You can include configurable options such as counts of plays and downloads. You can also configure to play multi-file downloads.

The following are video module procedures that you need to know:

1. To enable most played videos, latest videos, and top videos blocks, select menu administer >> block.

2. To create video posts, select menu create content >> video.

3. To administer video module settings, select menu administer >> settings >> video.

4. To file issues, read about known bugs, and download the latest version, select menu Video project page.

WHAT IS A DRUPAL BLOCK?

Drupal is a free and open source content management that supports Websites ranging from personal blogs, corporate brochures and large community-driven Websites. It has a flexible platform that allows users with variety options to include changing how Web site looks, how users interact with it, and the kinds of information to display.

One of the basic configuration options in the Drupal system is the Block functionality. Blocks are those boxes that you see in the sidebars of the Drupal Website. The blocks that you see are mostly generated on the fly by various Drupal modules. On the fly means that these blocks were created when needed. Other than those, users can create their own blocks.

A block is a snippet of code that gets called from your template files. All the templates that make up a page are laid out in the master template. The location of the blocks on your Web page will depend both on the theme enabled and on administrative block settings.

Control of the block settings is performed under the block administration screen, which can be reached through clicking the administer >>blocks. On this screen, you will be able to enable each block and locate where the block should be placed on the page and which pages the block should appear on.

Drupal's block custom visibility settings should permit the block to be displayed for a given user. You can set a particular block setting to either appear always and display by default unless individual user preferences has chose to disabled it. The Drupal block system has the feature of allowing individual users to select or disable optional blocks from their "my account" page.

AVAIL OF FREE DRUPAL SYSTEM

Drupal is a free and open source content management system written in PHP programming language. It is a language that controls software applications. It is a software package that allows users to publish, manage and organize easily the content of their Website in various ways. Drupal system has powered various types of Websites such as community Web portals, discussion sites, corporate Web sites, Intranet applications, personal Web sites or blogs, aficionado sites, E-commerce applications, resource directories, social networking sites.

Drupal was released under General Public License (GPL). Inasmuch as Drupal is free, the GPL grants users of the software the rights of the free software definition and the freedom for users to copy or reproduce a wok. The software allows the openness for developers to add what they need using modules, thus creating an infinite platform for expansion and growth.

Drupal provides free hosting of Website. This means you don't need to rent a server or learn how to maintain and keep your Website secure. Drupal offers it free. As you used opt for the free Webhosting service, Drupal has the right to place low key advertising on your pages. It is their means to generate income to pay for the hosting costs (although others who prefer to disable the advertising will need to need to pay a small fee for the hosting service).

Drupal's free features include the following:

1. Complete free services at no hidden cost.

2. Free Website using yourname.com, .net, .info, etc.

3. Multiple free Websites

4. Avail of the 1 GB Free Web space

5. Unlimited email ids for used on your Website like (info@yoursite.com,contact@yoursite.com).

6. With hundreds of templates to select for free.

7. Free Technical support.

CREATING A DRUPAL PROFILE

Drupal system runs community portal Websites. These Websites are created to share information with work groups or those groups of people you share same interest. Included in the Drupal system is the Profile Module.

The profile module gives users the opportunity to share information about themselves. In your Website, you set up forms for users on your site to fill in. Users fill up the form found on the edit tab of their "My Account" page. The profile information for which the user provided is visible to the rest of the users on your site.

To enable the profile module is to select on the modules page, select the menu Administer >> Site Building >> Modules in D5. To set up the forms for user profiles, select the menu Administer >> User Management >> Profiles.

Fields and examples of questions commonly used on profile modules are:

1. Single Line Textfield. Example: Username?

2. Multi-line Textfield. Example: What are you looking for in this Website?

3. Checkbox. Example: Please select box that you show interest at?

4. List Selection. Example: Which of these house pets do you prefer to have at home –cat, dog, or bird?

5. Freeform list. Example: What subjects you like most?

6. URL. Example: What is the address of your personal image?

7. Date: Example: When were you born?

Under your profile module you can have as many fields as you need. Each field you add, you will be asked to categorize the field. This is to divide users profile into section. You may also require fields that need entry, or else the system will not process. Profiles are always accessible to site administrators. Administrators would have to grant permission to view user profiles.

THE DRUPAL UPLOAD SETTINGS

Drupal system has powered various types of Websites such as community Web portals, discussion sites, corporate Web sites, Intranet applications, personal Web sites or blogs, aficionado sites, E-commerce applications, resource directories, social networking sites. There are so many things that you can work on with your Website. You can upload files such as music, videos, pictures, etc. on your Websites.

Drupal system has an upload module that allows users to upload files to the Website. Uploading files to a Website is important for members of a community, in that community Websites are primarily for sharing information. Administrators also find upload module as useful as they try to connect the uploaded files to a node or a page.

Permission to upload files is granted by system administrators. Users can choose the post types, thereby controlling their own submission of attachments on the content type settings page. Administrators provide each user the permission to customize the setting as to the allowed file size of uploads, and the dimension of image files.

The following are key commands used to perform upload:

1. To enable/disable uploads for individual content types, select under the administer >> settings >> content types.

2. To administer storage location of uploaded files, select under the administer >> settings in the File system settings area.

3. To configure file size, file extensions, and other user role defaults, select under the administer >> settings >> file uploads.

4. To control who can upload and view attached files, select under the administer >> access control.

Your maximum upload size depends on what your PHP environment sets. 2 MB is the standard PHP default.

D RUPAL ' S V IEW M ODULE

One of the modules available in the use of Drupal system is the Views Module. Drupal's View Module provides a customized, flexible method for Drupal administrators to control how lists of nodes are retrieved and presented. With the view module, administrators and site designers are able to create, manage, and display lists of content. Administrator can create pages and blocks that list down new posts such as forum or blog posts, create alphabetical lists by taxonomy, create weekly, monthly or yearly archive pages, create a table of posts that are flagged as unread, and many more.

The output of a view is called as a "display". They are shown either in the form of a block or a page. It is presented in a single view having multiple displays. As a default, views maybe created by list content (a Node view type), content revisions (a Node revisions view type) or users (a User view type). The access to View Module maybe restricted to members of specific user roles. To add, edit or delete a view is made under the views administration page.

Drupal's View Module conceptual framework includes:

1. **Fields** – refers to the individual pieces of data being displayed. Adding Fields to a node view such as Node: Title, Node: Type, and Node: Post date would display the title, content type and creation date in the displayed results

2. **Relationships** – refers to information as to how data elements relate to one another.

3. **Arguments** – refers to the additional parameters that refine the view results, passed as part of the path.

4. **Sort criteria** - determines the order of items displayed in the view results.

5. **Filters**- limit items displayed in the results.

6. **Displays** – refers to the output of the View Module.

W H A T ' S N E W W I T H D R U P A L 5 . X

The Drupal 5.x version was released and became available in the market on January 15, 2007. This software is considered a mature and well developed product with so many concepts and design features included on it. Interesting to note about the Drupal 5.x version is that some of the concepts and features included on it were shared by some of the well known content management application systems.

The Drupal 5.x version is providing translations of the whole interface package. This is made possible by using the files that reference to portable objects. Incidentally, these portable object files are capable of being generated by employing the GNU internationalization library and the function therein which is known as the gettext function – a translation structure used by many open source program codes. This is one new and innovative feature that Drupal 5.x version has.

However, one of the major drawbacks of this new feature of the Drupal 5.x translation framework is that it cannot give full guarantee that the whole language is going to be totally translated. Although the majority of the international languages when translated are fairly and completely brought across, there are still some that are not being completed. The reason behind this drawback is attributed to the fact that there are some translators do not have dedicated and localized team to work on the flaws but rather a group of people who volunteered to translate the framework. This makes it rather difficult for Drupal company to ensure that translation of the framework has successfully completed because there is no specific work of a team that can be referenced to.

UNDERSTANDING THE DRUPAL CONTEMPLATE

Drupal has a module named Drupal ConTemplate or the Content Template module. This specific module of the Drupal software is responsible in permitting the modifications and enhancements to be performed on Drupal's body and teaser field via the use of the accurately defined administrator templates. These defined templates were coded using the PHP language code and every node on the object entity is available in the template.

The primary objective why this module of Drupal was made is to resolve the necessity for a Content Construction Kit or the CCK which, presumably when ConTemplate is not made, facilitates a bigger chance of an output content that is way behind the acceptable standard. With the Drupal Content Template, there is a bigger chance of making it easier to do some rearrangements on the fields such as removal of the headers on the field title, produce a different field for teaser and anything you might need.

Content Template is applicable to be used on any type of node and permits changes to be made on the teaser properties prior to shelling it out via the RSS or search index. The templates that go along with this module are particularly stored on a central database nonetheless, it is still possible to generate templates that are drive-based which can be stored on your Website's directory and from there can be extensively mapped and monitored. This is also possible to be shared across all installed systems just like the themes or other modules.

VISITING THE DRUPAL HOME PAGE

When you are in need of relevant and pertinent information that concerns your Drupal software, the only best place to go is the Drupal Home page site. Every established company has a Website to offer – the one that is properly maintained and periodically updated. The Drupal makers have also made one which home page is enticingly attractive.

The Home page of the Drupal software is where you can initially have a view about the Website can actually offer. More often than not, when you visit an official Web page, the things that you see on the home page are the usual stories about how the company has evolved or some anecdotal stories about how the software came into what it is at the moment. But when you visit the Drupal home page, what you will basically encounter are things that can be best offered by Drupal or some personal testimonies of the actual users of the software. This form of a home page practically diverts your attention into knowing the software better as it impacts your interest and your drive to use it further.

Although the Home page of the Drupal site is seemingly flawless due to its professional maintenance by a group of Web design and content management specialists, there are still some reported issues, however these incidents are practically isolated cases and have been consistently resolved.

ACCESSING THE DRUPAL LOG-IN PAGE

It is the standard of the Drupal makers that when a system has newly installed Drupal software on the PC system, the log in block is set down at the left side of the navigation column. This log in block is set as it is in order to have the proper mechanism to block users who do not belong to your site. The log in block permits or disallows anyone who tries to use your Website.

However, generally of the Websites were launched onto the Internet because they want the consuming public to browse and visit the Website. Having the log in block enabled would be tantamount to setting the perfect doomsday for your site. It is for this reason that Drupal has the ability to turn off the log in block in order to permit and allow any potential user to use the Website made under the Drupal system. When the log in block has been disabled, you can still log in as a user by having some codes injected on the log in page. This is usually being performed by the system administrator.

This method is perfectly made to create a still secure and effectively blocked Website for any modification and changes. It fits just right as it tries to de-motivate any further the malicious act of the potential hacker. Drupal made sure that all of the needs and wants of the user in terms of proper security and anti-fraud and anti-theft are being met and satisfied. And clearly, Drupal made a success on this aspect.

THE BASIC AND CORE MODULES OF THE DRUPAL SYSTEM

The Drupal Core is the released system of Drupal which comprises of the general and common features that are contained on fundamentally all of Content Management Systems. These features are effective management of the system menus, management of the registration and maintenance of the account of the user, Real Simple Syndicate feeds, layout customization, and versatile privileges for accounts.

The Drupal Core System has core modules that help the whole functionalities of the system. Below are some of the core modules which have the following features:

A. Logging and statistics access. This menu allows the user and the administrator to gain access to all activities that transpired on the system detecting any unauthorized access to be traced easily.

B. Search function. With the advanced search feature that is included on the Drupal modules, locating for specific entity or content can be easily performed.

C. Forum polls and ability to comment. The Drupal System was specifically designed to supplement Web features and needs such as Web logging and forum posting. With this module, the ability to post comments on the Web log or able to support forum needs, then the realization of the prime objective of the Drupal system has been attained.

D. Effective Descriptive mechanism on URL. There is a module on Drupal that allows for a better description on the URL rather than merely embarking on a generic URL address.

E. Diverse system level of the menus. The Drupal Core has a designated module that carries on supervising the menu levels of the system or the Website that was designed.

DRUPAL SYSTEM MADE OUT OF PHP SYSTEM

Drupal is one form of a content management system that is fundamentally Web-based. The mechanism works via the Web browser allowing the user to execute any command on the system and in turn return the request via a connection on the Internet. The PHP or the Personal Home Page software was effective in designing this sort of system mechanism because it was able to integrate these complex procedures to allow such component to happen.

The Drupal System is an open source and free content management software that was created and developed using the PHP programming language. PHP language is an all purpose scripting software, a known and powerful scripting language used to design and develop a Website. The PHP language is known to be running under a Web server using the code generated by the PHL language as the input and the created Web pages as the desired output. Generally, any PHP language is capable of being used as a command line script likewise as a client-based graphical user interface application.

One good thing about PHP which led Drupal to choose chose it as their programming language is its ability to be deployed on generally all kinds of Web servers, and compatibility with almost all types of operating system platforms. Apparently, the PHP language is also compatible to be used in any of the RDBM Systems that are available in the market.

Drupal software has been gaining extra mileage due to the massive demand of people for a powerful and effective content management system. And because of this, PHP continues to be on the sidelight as newer versions are beginning to be developed.

GETTING SOME HELP FROM THE DRUPAL SITE

With the fast evolution of Website designing and development a lot of Web designers both enthusiasts and professionals are seeking for advanced knowledge about powerful software packages that can give them maximum features to develop the Website that they desire.

The Drupal software is one of the most widely used systems in developing and managing Web contents. It was able to entice a lot of Web programmers because of the extensive features that it has. Although the Drupal makers do not have live technical assistance that they can provide their users, the Drupal site was able to come up an online help that can give them exactly what a live support can give.

The Drupal site is capable of giving the users potentially almost all answers to their inquiries ranging from simple and general how-to questions to highly technical questions such as embedding videos from the YouTube going to the Drupal site. The help section is one area that is constantly being maintained and updated. Periodically, a group of expert people are engaged into analyzing the freshness and the usability of the information that is stored on the help database. Further, the help section is also the effective avenue of the Drupal makers to keep its followers updated with any new patch released by the Drupal Company. These patches are the updates or the fixes to potential bugs that were released together with the software.

So, if you are thinking about where you can get by a little help with your Drupal issues, you can just go their official Website and you can practically get all the information that you may find relevant and pertinent.

TAKING DRUPAL TRAINING TO WIDEN WEB CMS SKILLS

Skills are being earned. As it is, there are specific methods and means that one can use in order to enhance the skill that they have. Web Content Management is a skill that is being earned. Getting to know and getting familiar with the tools that create a content management system is the key towards developing that skill. There are many ways that you can use in order to develop such skill and getting a good training is one of them.

Drupal may not be a very well known software to a lot of people most especially those who are not directly engaged in Web development and content management. But there are people who are experts in the field of Web development and who use the Drupal system as their main tool for developing the Website. These people are the same people whom you can get training to. They will be much capable to handle the training as they are efficiently trained to be purveyor of knowledge and effective enhancer of skills.

There are online trainings that are available to make it fit onto your hectic schedule. Although there are formal trainings that you can attend to that are being conducted just like how a teacher runs the whole classroom. There are advantages and disadvantages on both methods, however both training modes are capable of adding up to your skill sets and knowledge. These trainings are meant to be effective in enhancing someone's skill sets and not perfecting the skills that they have. It still takes initiative to learn and gain perfection on the craft.

THE DRUPAL SOFTWARE POWERED BY PHP LANGUAGE

The construction of the Drupal software is largely because of the impeccable strengths and features of the PHP (Personal Home Page) language. The different versions of the Drupal software beginning with the older one, all have been developed and built using the PHP language.

PHP language is commonly being used as the language to build many applications. This is largely because of the sophisticated and modern look interface that it has. This makes it easier and comfy for programmers to build and construct a new system. In addition, the PHP language is capable of being supported by various software and hardware platforms which makes it very compatible and versatile to use.

The Drupal software powered by PHP language is capable of being executed and run under different operating systems such as the Mac OS, the Windows OS, Linux, Solaris, and some of the Open Source Operating Systems like OpenSolaris and others. For the database management portion, the Drupal is also versatile as it can permit the use of the MySQL as its database management software and PostgreSQL for the repository and storage of databases and for other settings. The versatility of the Drupal System permits the following features to be used:

• Customize and modify the presentation interface of the system based on personal preference.

• Create an automatic means to administer the tasks of the system.

• Effective management of the Website visitors and the contributing people of the site.

• Pre-defined access granted to the administrator to generate and develop structure for the content.

THE DRUPAL 6.x VERSION AND ITS INNOVATIVE FEATURES

The Drupal system 6.x version is a 12-month system on work. It took the Drupal system engineers and developers to create and fully maximize the features that are bound to resolve the so many issues, at approximately 1600 issues, of the earlier releases of Drupal systems.

The Drupal 6.x version is boasting the new line of improvements that will be evidently witnessed upon its release. Some of the major changes that are bound to create enthusiasm to a lot of Web page makers are: the major improved usability of the system, far advanced security and maintenance features; a lot user-friendly installation process, and a system framework with expanded progress. These highlighted improvements of the Drupal 6.x version were seconded by the some of the sidelights that were found to be excellently integrated are the ability of the Drupal software to develop personal blogs, improved podcasting abilities, and wider connection to some online communities.

The installation process is usually one of the tedious parts that a user faces. However, with the new and improved Drupal 6.x version, the user is no longer being faced with mind-boggling steps and nerve-wrecking procedures in order to complete the installation process. There is an easy and well-guided pattern that one can use in installing the system. And with the drag and drop administered menu development, designing menu driven Websites will no longer be as taxing. Now, with the latest Drupal version, moving blocks of icons and fields around the site is no longer posing technical threat to the user.

DRUPAL: AN EFFECTIVE WEB-BASED CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

It is very well known that the primary design of the Drupal Software is geared towards effective management of the Web content via the World Wide Web. The Content Management Framework of the Drupal software made it to be regarded as the Drupal Content Management System.

Drupal as a CMS, it has massive capabilities that range in between working on effectively managing contents and working on efficiently enabling dynamic range of Web services and functions. Primarily, the Drupal system is extensively powerful in terms of the following content management features and abilities:

a.   Ability to share and impart the Web contents via a connectivity that works massively with the Web browser and the Internet connection.

b.   There is collaboration mechanism present on the CMS. With the collaboration method there is an easy and simplified means on how one can gather pertinent information from across the given geographical limit and disseminate it in the same manner.

c.   There is an impeccable security measure on the Drupal given the user access rights that are being identified on every user account. This gives the system an amount of security measure against malicious access and fraudulent attacks.

d.   There is better installation process that Drupal can give. With the smoothly created modules of the system – the CCK or the content construction kit and the view feature – there is an easy and a lot simplified method to install the whole system

These given features and capabilities of the Drupal system made it one of the best choices of the consuming public in terms of acquiring a content management system.

HOW DRUPAL HOOKS WORK

One of the fundamental components of the Drupal system is the core module. The core modules are basically the elements that are work behind the successful execution of the system. These core modules are interacting with the other modules of the Drupal core using the Drupal hooks.

The Drupal module system is anchored on the idea of hooks. Hooks allow these modules to bridge interaction with the Drupal core modules. A hook or a group of hooks are functions of the PHP language which are referenced as the foo_bar function. The function name foo is referencing to the module's name and he bar function name references the name of the hook. These sets of hooks have clearly defined parameters which comprise of a specified type f result.

A Drupal module needs a hook so that it can be implemented and executed. When the Drupal system wants to permit any intervention from the specific kind of modules, what Drupal does is it practically determines the type of module that tries to implement the hook and from there it calls and commands this hook that is enabled on all core modules that have the intervention to implement and execute it.

The Drupal system has about a hundred sets of hooks stored on its engine. Every hook has its specified and designated function to perform and implement. And every module of the Drupal is responsible in implementing the function that is being called. The whole process may seem very alien when tried being deciphered, however, the whole process is never complicated when done inside the system.

THE VARIETY OF DRUPAL MEDIA MODULES

The Drupal software was significantly developed to contain different media modules designed to a far better Web content management capability. Media is one form of Web feature that is very essential to Website owners as this is the commonly looked for feature on a Website.

One good example of a full media content management application is the AcidFree Album application. This efficiently driven media system makes it a lot easier for any Drupal user to manage and control all forms of multimedia such as videos and photos. The media items that were generated by the AcidFree application are nodes of the Drupal system that are geared towards better integration with the system. Another good thing about the AcidFree album is the fact that it offers a variety of themes to choose from. These themes are stored designs that one can use to provide effective aesthetics.

Another one compatible media application is the Apture application. The Apture application allows a publisher of the site to locate and include pertinent multimedia objects on their own Web pages. The users of the Website can then directly access these objects without the need to exit from the initial page that they are into giving them better Web experience. The Apture application is one of the compatible "modules" of Drupal that auto links the generated codes that are needed to execute together with the Drupal node. Once this is done, the publisher who has the Apture access can then link all these media files (videos, pictures, animated graphics) to the key points of the page that they prefer.

DRUPAL ORG: THE OFFICIAL DRUPAL COMMUNITY SITE

The Drupal.org is the Web domain that stands as the official and authorized site for the Drupal software. With this site, every legitimate and latest update that concerns the Drupal users and makers is being posted on this Website. Generally, all users and followers of the Drupal software are referencing to this Website for possible up to date patches or news about new bugs that are not yet being fixed on the system.

The Drupal.org was made and customized to support all the various needs of its users. Some of the interesting things that are found on the Drupal.org site are: things that concern Drupal and its makers, the features of both the latest and the earlier Drupal version, the hosting capabilities and offerings of the Drupal system, some screenshots for better understanding, there are also demo videos and graphics that help facilitate learning, some of the paid services or premium offers of the Drupal software, and even job postings that help community find a source of living. These and all are just some of the contents that are placed on the drupal.org Website.

Periodically, the Drupal.org site is being maintained and updated. All contents that are not seemingly creating an impact are being re-generated or at times expelled from the site. From time to time, the Drupal.org maintenance team are conducting online survey about what interests the viewing public and they incorporate those feedback when deemed useful and worthy of being published. The Drupal.org Website is made sure to contain only the latest and the up to date news there is in the online community.

HOW THE DRUPAL PICTURE MODULE IMPACTS A SITE

You could just imagine how bare-looking and dull a Website is when the textual content of the site is not accompanied by any image or picture as a representation of the text content. This, I believe shall never be as attractive as the Websites that contain pictorial representation of what is being narrated.

The use of the embedded images on the Website is plainly not because you would like to enhance the aesthetic side of it, but rather, the use of the image creates an ambience that allows the readers to significantly understand and appreciate better what the textual content is all about. This line of thinking was absorbed by generally of the content management systems developers. They view that the incorporation of multimedia on a Website not only impacts the aesthetics of the site but more relevantly, it creates a newer method to allow for better understanding to transpire and an effective way to educate Web users.

The Drupal software has the image module whose primary function is to permit its users to upload and embed images and pictures on the Drupal-made Website. The ability of the image module to create variety of image forms (like in thumbnail and actual image size) made it realistically useful. Best of it, these image sizes are automatically being generated once the image has been permitted to be uploaded on the Website. This is a feature of Drupal that has remained unmatched to this date. Now, the latest revisions of Drupal are capable of switching the image size into their own preference which makes it a more preferred feature.

THE STORY BEHIND THE WORLD RENOWNED DRUPAL SOFTWARE

Every man made creation has its own story to share and tell. The story may be a simple anecdote about how the invention came into a world renowned thing of the present and modern days. This same line of thinking is the similar experience that happened with the Drupal software – a now globally known and used Web designing and content management tool.

In the year 2000, when having an Internet connection that is permanently hooked was a highly priced thing for the students of the University of Antwerp, there were two students who are thinking about how they can share and extend their ideas and concepts on the Internet with a few other people. With their genuine intelligence and creativity, they were able to connect the main modem connection from one place going to another place. However, no matter how genius the whole plan was, something was practically missing with the plot – the ability to discuss the things that were placed on the Internet board.

The missing thing with the plot prompted student Dries to come up with a Web site that has integrated Web board which will allow people to electronically leave a message for another person when he would want to. This re-engineered plot became successful and was practically useful to everyone else. This innovation did not at an instant have a name. When it was time to launch the Web board online a name to register it was missing. So, student Dries thought of naming it as drop.org, however, due to some typing issues, the original name drop.org was typed and submitted as dorp.org. In the year 2001, Dries made a decision to release in the market the software that made the whole drop.org. He released the software with a brand name Drupal. This is the software name that has been dominating the computing industry for so long.

WHAT IS A DRUPAL UBERCART?

Ubercart is a component of the open source environment of electronic commerce that is extensively integrated with the online store of the Drupal. Drupal, the software made for Web development and content management is also employing the open source environment.

The Ubercart was potentially structured to take full utility on the central and essential core of the contributed component of the Drupal software which then allows the Ubercart application to provide its potential clients with a cart to shop function that is directly related to the other integral components of the Website.

The Drupal Ubercart is seemingly one of the efficiently combined applications that is geared towards building a community for a product, offer access to contents which are for a fee, offer downloading of files that are essentially to be paid, and practically offer video upload and download that is premium.

The Drupal Ubercart has come into existence because the makers of the Drupal software have seen that there is an emerging need for selling and offering products and services from varied catalog forms; that there is an emerging need for selling and offering premium downloads of files such as mp3 files, video files, and software utilities; that there is a need for offering and selling access to some sites for either members or non-members of the Website.

The Drupal Ubercart is primarily useful because of its strong design which permits both the third party and authorized and endorsed developers to practically modify the features of the Website in order to have room for any e-commerce needs of the Website.

THE FUNCTION OF THE DRUPAL VIDEO MODULE

The audio element just like any other multimedia elements is a very important building block of any Website. The incorporation of audio files on the Website creates an attraction to the Website because it adds up to the aesthetic side of it. This is the reason that prompted many Web content management systems to consider the effective method towards embedding audio files, just like video files, on the site.

The Drupal software has emerged successfully in fully integrating this demand onto their system. The audio module was included on the system engine and was designed to be responsible in permitting or rejecting authorization to users who may want to upload or include an audio file onto the Drupal-made site. The process works by ensuring that each audio file that is created is equivalent to a unique audio file on the node.

This is being made successfully with the use of the library file known as the getID3 library which function is to read the ID3 meta tag and read write on it properly to and from where the location of the audio file is. The getID3 module is also capable of generating records of the recently submitted audio files and the recently uploaded audio files created by the user.

The audio module for a better and efficient performance is integrated with another application that is innately embedded onto the site. This application is the Flash Player XSPF file. This Web-based music player is uses the XSPF format of the playlist in order to play and execute MP3 and MP4 file types as well as the other WAV files.

GUIDE TO DRUPAL'S MODULES

Majority in the Drupal software is comprised of different and variety of modules. These modules are integral elements of the system that detail the full functionality of the Drupal software. There are Drupal modules that are particularly important that when they are left not installed on your system, it is an assured nightmare on the user's end. Below are some of the more important Drupal modules that you may want to give more importance:

A. The Module that acts as the editor. Every Web designer program needs an editor. This editor is particularly useful in terms of editing the source code of the Website design. This editor is fully functional editor.

B. The module that calls the feedback form. The Drupal system was particularly designed for Websites and Web content management. Every known good Website has a feedback form in it that enables visitors to leave any comment for the site.

C. The module that creates good experience for non-techie people. There is a module known as the blockbar. This module works on allowing non-techie people to get a friendly environment when they visit a Website via removal of the blocks.

D. The module for a printer friendly section. Making a print out on a site is essentially significant. For this reason, the need for a printer friendly section is very much needed. The module for this must be installed.

E. The module to remove bad behavior. Your Website is not quarantined all the time from bad comments, malicious feedback, undeniable trackback and all forms of bad comments. You will need a mechanism that will allow you to grant access to every visitor who may want to leave comments on your site.

THE WORK OF THE DRUPAL l FUNCTION

The Drupal system created under the PHP software was constructed and built to work around so many different functions. These functions are internal to the system that calls upon a specific procedure of action when they are being used on the code. One of the mostly used Drupal functions is the Drupal l function which is responsible in creating a valid format for an internal Drupal link.

The Drupal l function accurately handles and supervises the paths which bear aliases and apparently, the Drupal l function is also the one responsible in allowing or disallowing the themes to create highlighted links on the current Web page appropriately and correctly. This means that every internal link that is placed on the Website as products of the module should be created only by the Drupal l function when possible.

The Drupal l function has considerable easy parameters to follow. These parameters are what guide the Drupal user to have a clearly made source code for the Website. The parameters are giving several options to the user just like in terms of putting either the path or the link. When a user enclosed the complete URL address or the Universal Resource Locator address on the code, then it shall be considered and shall result into an external Universal Resource Locator address. However, if the user enclosed the path and only the path, then the parameter is going to be translated as an internal link. These parameters for the Drupla l function are substantial in building internal and external links for the Website that is being developed.

GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS VIA DRUPAL

In this modern age of technology, the manner of receiving and sending an e-mail message has been impeccably developed. In fact, with the smooth construction of this messaging method (considering the vulnerability of the medium used to malicious hackers and fraudulent people) it still managed to come out very impeccable.

Message exchange is an essential component of the modern times. Generally of people rely very much on the capabilities of the Websites to facilitate the exchange of messages across a common medium. This is the reason why is a very integral component with a Website as the Website requires messages (e-mail messages that is!) to be sent and received from potential clients or affiliates. The Drupal software has a message function that one can set in order for messages to be delivered and received on the Website box. This message module is usually tied up with the major POP3 servers of the Internet.

The message module of the Drupal system works just like any messaging system. The delivery system is being facilitated by a separate server and the receiving end is also being performed by another server, however, these varied servers are being controlled and supervised by a single module known as the Drupal message module. There are no known bugs or issues that generally of the users have encountered about the message module except for a few isolated cases like improper configuration or settings of the message module which can be patched up by merely resetting the installed configuration of the Drupal software on the system.

WHAT IS A DRUPAL PATHAUTO?

The Drupal software contains numerous engines and modules which bear functions relevant towards attaining simplified and easy works to be performed. The pathauto is one part of the Drupal module that automatically generate an alias for the path designed for every node that uses the Drupal system, for every system user, and the intricate terms of category that are being used. This auto generated aliases are useful and functional in entirely eliminating the need for these aliases to be manually created and generated. As a result of this easy and simplified work, the site then becomes a lot user friendly on top of that it also becomes search engine friendly which is an essential driven factor for a better page ranking.

These automatically created aliases are far more descriptive in the content that it describes making the whole process a lot easier and efficient compared to having to do it manually. These pathauto modules of the Drupal software come on various different default model and outline that are capable of providing an alias for blog users and owners, the system user, even the users of the taxonomies and vocabularies. Core and focal types of contents like story, book, and page are also driven by aliases generated by Drupal.

With the pathauto, it is not just about the automatic generation of the aliases, ostensibly, with the use of the autopath, you can actually do and perform the following:

A. Create and file known system issues that are being experienced by the software.

B. Read and decipher the known bugs that are affecting the system efficiency and functionality.

C. Download and install the most up to date version of the Pathauto project page.

WHAT THE DRUPAL SIMPLENEWS DOES

Have you ever wondered how a Website is capable of sending thousands of news e-mails to your e-mail box at given time schedule or at times they on a daily basis. This feature is an innate feature that generally of Websites has. This mechanism is being performed by the Simplenews module provided by Drupal.

Simplenews module basically is responsible in publishing and sending of newsletters and update e-mails to both the registered and the non-registered users who opted and subscribe to the mailing list of the Website. The simplenews module is similar to the mime module of the HTML. With the latest version of the Drupal, specifically the 6.x and above, the simplenews module is capable of supporting varied language of a newsletters and triggers.

The simplenews module works very effectively by sending a list of questions to each subscribed or non-subscribed members of the mailing list and majority of the questions placed on it are referencing to what sort of features or functionality these users desire so that an update can be included on the software. A given time frame of usually one month and at least 60-70 contributors have been gathered, the referencing questions shall now be ended.

Although the simplenews module may look to be perfectly working, there is still a drawback (a bug as they usually call it) that it possesses. The simplenews module is not yet compatible to work with the category module. However, this was compensated well with the recent development in compatibility issue. The latest simplenews is compatible to work with the RC2 and the Views module version 2.0.

WORKING ON A DRUPAL THICKBOX

The term thickbox is a technology-based term that is clearly associated with Javascript – a known scripting language designed for Web designing and development. The thickbox is something that is on top of the library of the Jquery language. This thingy thickbox shows a graphic or a text or a combination of the two on a window pop-up. This mechanism allows the user then to have a very good view of the image and the text without being asked to leave and close the Web page that is being originally viewed. The thumbnail feature that allows for viewing a larger size of the graphic is fundamentally the purpose of the thickbox.

The thickbox as an element that is being integrated to the Drupal system has specific requirements to be complied in order to have an effective and fully integrated thickbox on Drupal. There specific integration requirements are as follows:

A. The effective mechanism to handle the image and graphic modules for the specific node.

B. The effective mechanism to handle the links for log-in on the node system.

C. The effective ability to eliminate the presence of the thickbox on the pages.

D. The effective mechanism to have a formatting tool for image elements when the modules for image field and image cache are present.

E. The effective mechanism to use a Drupal translating tool for strings on a thickbox text field box.

These specific integration requirements are supposed to be met as these ensure the proper and effective integration of the thickbox component with the Drupal software.

YOUTUBE AS THE ONLINE VIDEO PLATFORM OF THE DRUPAL SYSTEM

A lot of Drupal enthusiasts are having quite a difficult time to understand the processes that are involved in injecting or embedding a video on the YouTube down to the Drupal site that was made. This indeed is such a mind-boggling thing to comprehend and understand, more so, when you do not have enough skills and know-how to do it.

Drupal has always been thinking about having a main online video platform that it can use as a compatible and integrated system. This has been brought about by the massive demand of people towards having the capability to upload or embed a video file onto a Drupal-made and designed Website. When Google has announced that they will be officially allowing the use of the API files of YouTube publicly, Drupal grabbed this opportunity to work on having the YouTube as the major platform for online video in uploading video files onto the Drupal site. The very simple necessity to acquire the API keys can allow for videos to be running with the guided process using the Drupal system.

Initially, people who wish to upload these video files onto the Drupal site will be experiencing difficulty in having it done perfectly because of the newness of the protocol. However, as people get used to using the process in uploading, they would realize that it is not after all that burdensome. All they need to do is to make sure that the input filters are not filtering the codes from the YouTube Website.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT DRUPAL BOOKS

Nowadays, people are learning and entering the information technology bandwagon. Businesses and individuals want to know more about building Websites either to reach out to other people or to offer their services and products. Drupal is one of the useful open source Web content management frameworks currently gaining popularity. It is useful in building Internet portals, corporate Web site, e-commerce sites, and others.

If a person wants to know more about Drupal, there are several Drupal books available online. These are those that are specifically written for beginners who don't have an idea about Drupal. However, there are also books that are intended for intermediates and professionals.

How to choose from many books?

A beginner could choose from among the many Drupal books for beginners. But it would be better to find the newest and improved edition. This is because this kind of Drupal books builds on the earlier editions. There are changes to the new version such as more slimmed down writing which provides a fast flow of information in a concise manner. It also offers all the enhanced features of Drupal, which increases the depth, and coverage of many topics.

Meanwhile, Drupal books for professionals who already have knowledge of PHP are also available. These books have different modules that are linked together to create an install file. There are also useful tips and links relevant to the topics.

If a person wants to browse first into the contents of the books, there are sample chapters that can be downloaded online.

INTEGRATING DRUPAL AND GALLERY 2

Here is good news for all Drupal users. It is finally out. Drupal Gallery 2 which integrates Drupal with Gallery is finally available through Drupal CVS repository or Gallery CVS repository. Drupal Gallery 2 is a module that combines Gallery photo, video and media management features with the Drupal CMS. It makes the images, image grid and navigation blocks of Gallery available into Drupal-powered Websites. Users may now easily insert images from Gallery into Drupal nodes via an input filter or what is known as TinyMCE button.

Why is this good news?

Gallery 2 and Drupal are both open source software packages and when these two can be combined, a powerful and versatile gallery/CMS is created. However, there are some users that experienced some problems with server load. Naturally, users can do something to solve this issue. He can configure Drupal Gallery 2 from their individual interfaces and then use caching as a solution.

If the user makes Full Acceleration, Drupal Gallery 2 has a 90% increase in performance and a 10-25% performance increase when there is Partial Acceleration. There is a disadvantage to caching though. Sometimes data are not updated until the cache expires.

There are some tips to make the integration of Drupal and Gallery 2 effective. First, Gallery 2 should be enabled through the Show Item url rewrite. Then, the user can install the program in Gallery 2/directory under Drupal; disable modules Ffmpeg, ImageMagick and NetPBM. Finally, he can activate ImageBlock.

Second, he can activate the module in Drupal and make the block visible. Then, he can set the directory under administer->settings->gallery. After these, the integrated Drupal Gallery 2 is fully functional.

THE USES OF DRUPAL LANGUAGE

Drupal is a free and open source content management system and modular framework. It is written in the programming language called PHP. System administrators can create and organize content, customize the presentation, and manage visitors and contributors. It also offers a multi-language support under Drupal language.

How does Drupal language work?

Drupal language allows the user to present his Website in other languages other than the default English language. It can also be used to set up multi-lingual Web site or it can change the built-in text with text which has been customized for the Website. When Drupal language encounters a text that has to be displayed, it will translate the text into the selected language. When translation is not available, the strings are stored so that this untranslated text can be found easily.

Drupal language offers two options when providing translations. First, it offers the integrated Web interface wherein the user can search for untranslated strings, and then he can specify their translations. Second, it offers to import existing translations for the preferred language. These translations are available as .po files. Many translations for various languages are available for download from the translation page. This second option is said to be much easier and less time consuming.

However, if the existing translation does not meet the needs of the users, then he can edit the .po files using special editing tools. Drupal language module has a feature that permits the user to add strings into the site's database.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DRUPAL POSTING

There are many things that an administrator can do in terms of managing postings in Drupal. Sometimes, there are comments that are inappropriate and rude that he might not want to have them read by others. There are also some people who don't want their posting information to be seen in their posts. Drupal posting can help these problems.

More about Drupal Posting

- 1.If a person wants to edit or remove individual posts, he can do this by clicking on blogs or forums in the menu. This is located on the top-left of every screen. He has two options in editing the Drupal post, he can remove the offending post and then click on Submit at the bottom of the window. He can also click on Delete at the bottom of the window to delete the whole post.

- In Drupal Posting, a person can decide to edit, delete or unpublish some comments if they are deemed inappropriate. He just has to click Comments in the navigation menu, and then a list of comments will appear on the screen. Then, he can place a check in the box next to the comment he wants to delete or unpublish. Then, he can select Unpublish or Delete from the Update options drop down list and click Update.

- He can also edit comments in the navigation menu. All he needs to do is click on the Comments and then click the Edit hyperlink. He can then make the required changes in the text and then click Publish Comment.

There are still many things that a person can do in Drupal post. All he needs to do is read about them online. There are lots of step-by-step instructions available online.

ALL ABOUT DRUPAL XML

In layman's terms, XML is an extensible language, which allows the users share structured data on the Internet. In the context of Drupal, XML would mean that a user could use either Writer or Microsoft word for writing his contents and then later converting this contents into Drupal. Of course, the user needs to use Drupal XML to automatically convert these contents for import.

As for the future of Drupal XML, many users believe that XML is not a good format for storing and working with contents. That is the reason why many are trying to create a new module for Drupal and are asking for feedbacks during its development.

One example of this is XMLnode. The basic principle behind this module is that it will allow node content to be expressed as XML, and then transformed to XHTML by using XSLT. The advantage of this is that there is flexibility in terms of authoring, storing and consistent presentation of complex content.

Further, XMLnode configuration can be specified and associated with an XSLT filter in XML document types. In cases when an XML node is requested, it can detect the document type and eventually filter the content through the linked XSLT. In addition, XSLT transformation output is cached. This will ensure that volumes of request for nodes need not be transformed. XMLnode is also being planned to allow a fill-in-the-blacks style XML content creation.

XMLnode is one try to create an improved module for Drupal XML. Although there are still some weaknesses and questions on this, many users can look forward to new developments such as this in the future.

DRUPAL CATEGORY AND ITS USES

Drupal category module is creating so much buzz nowadays. This is considered to be advanced module that is being currently developed. It has a big function in Drupal.

Drupal category module's main function is to allow a user to structure his site into a tree-like hierarchy of pages. It also allows him to classify his content in one seamless interface. Further, a user doesn't have to do two tasks using different and incompatible tools.

The Drupal category module is said to be an alternative to both Taxonomy and Book modules in Drupal core. The distinctive feature of this module is that it has vocabularies and terms nodes. Unlike in Drupal core, these are separated into two tools: one is taxonomy terms and vocabularies to classify the contents and then book nodes are used to structure the content into a hierarchical manner.

Drupal category is said to be huge and complex. Installing this into the existing data is not easy and uninstalling this is more difficult. There are also claims that installing Drupal category can slow down the Website especially if the user has enabled many sub-modules. There are also bugs in Drupal category especially under the Drupal 5 version.

It is therefore better if the user could research other options before deciding to install Drupal category. If there are no other options and the user needs it to achieve some outcome, then that is only the time to use Drupal category module.

WHAT IS THE BIG DEAL ABOUT DRUPAL GROUP?

Drupal is a Web-based interface that is easy to use. It is said that a person can build a Website in one hour's time but this are for those with a little knowledge of Drupal. A beginner could take longer time. Moreover, Drupal is being used extensively by big businesses worldwide such as Google, Yahoo, and even universities such as Harvard. Drupal is not just for individual use, it can also be used for Drupal groups such as clubs and associations for calendars and community events.

Drupal group is free and an open source. It rolls out new versions when the user group needs them. A group of users can easily publish, manage and organize various contents on a Website. Moreover, it has many free themes and modules and a massive user community that is supportive.

One of the special features of Drupal group is that it can provide a set of simple constraints. For example, a community blogging Website can be set up. If this group wants certain contents of their Website to be accessible to certain members and also not to the general public, then Drupal group can be of big assistance.

Drupal group also allows members of the community to create their own groups. It is very flexible and has again an added bonus feature: content can be controlled based on group membership. This is done by enabling Organic Groups and then the Access Control, which is in the settings page.

Drupal group is a convenient software that can be used by community blogging Website because it can control the contents to be viewed and who can view these contents.

INFORMATION ABOUT DRUPAL PHOTO MANAGEMENT MODULE

It is said that Drupal photo management module needs more time to be perfected. Many users think that there is some important functionality that needs to be patched. They said that it has no manual sort, which means that there is a need to use numeric title and sort by title. There is no mass upload, and mass edit and it is difficult to implement gallery hierarchies. Almost everyone seems to view Drupal as having some weak spot in photo management.

May it be image module, Img Assist, IMCE or CCK + Views + Imagefield + Imagecache, all of them have certainly good features but there is nothing that handles everything perfectly in one shot.

There is some good news though. Some users like the direction in which Drupal is headed with CCK and Views. It has the functionality of creating custom content types with custom fields. There is even a tutorial available for setting up a gallery utilizing Views. It also has the added benefit of using the Taxonomy module to categorize the images into libraries.

What Dupra is basically doing is building a good strategy out of the different function pieces that already exists. For example, it uses Taxonomy, which is good in categorizing images, then Views which is good in customizing lists, tables and pages and Imagecache for automatically creating different sizes and versions of the thumbnails.

The future holds so many possibilities for the improvement of Drupal photo management module. Many users think that it is heading in the right direction.

INFORMATION ABOUT DRUPAL SETTINGS

Drupal Settings is defined as a global storage of JavaScript settings that may be needed on the client side. A user needs some modules for his pages to function properly.

There are several guidance and tips provided online on how to have two sites and only one installation of Drupal. The step-by-step instructions assume that the reader has a prior knowledge of Drupal and is using Drupal 4.6.x. The reader must also have two shared sites wherein the primary site is already configured. He must also have a second domain that is directed to his Drupal home directory.

The step-by-step instruction focuses on the settings.php setup. There are several steps to do to set this up in terms of location, creation and editing. Four parts of the Drupal Settings has to be edited which are database name, database prefix array, base url, and the variable overrides.

First, the user needs to create his Drupal site directory for the secondary site. He has to go to the sites directory in Drupal. If the user has not changed the name of the default directory, then he must change that directory to become the domain name of his primary site. After that, he can create the secondary directory.

Second, he can upload the Drupal settings to the secondary site, which can be copied from the primary site, or it can be the default he got with Drupal.

Third, he can set-up the database name and the database prefix array, and the base URL.

Lastly, the user can setup the primary variable overrides. These variables will provide a unique theme to the site, which is the basic requirement to make the same sites look much different.

ACCESSING WWW.DRUPAL.ORG

The www.drupal.org is the official Website of Drupal. For those who haven't heard of Drupal, this is an open source content management platform. It is equipped with various features that support many kinds of Websites, may it be for business, for communities or for individual use.

Inside www.drupal.org are several basic information about Drupal. It is a free software package that is intended for an individual or a community of users to publish, manage and organize a wide variety of content on a Website. Presently, there are tens of thousands of individuals and groups that are using and benefiting from Drupal. This is being used as community Web portals, discussion sites for people with the same interests, corporate Websites, personal Websites and others.

If a beginner wants to use Drupal, he can have it easily. All he has to do is download Drupal with its easy to use Web installer, built-in functionality and add-on modules.

Downloading from www.drupal.org is easy. A beginner can start downloading the official Drupal core files. These files have many modules and themes that shall aid the beginner in building his site. This includes basic community features such as blogging, forums, contact forms.

It also has several built-in functionalities such as a collaborative book, which allows the beginner to set-up a book, and then gives authority to other people to give their contents. There are other general features such as modules, online help, open source, personalization, role based permission system and others.

A beginner in Drupal need not worry when starting his Website because of the clear information provided under www.drupal.org and the users who are just willing to give him advises.

STANDARDS TO FOLLOW IN WRITING A DRUPAL CODE

Drupal is useful for sites like forums, social networks, blogs, resource directories and intranet applications among others. That's because Drupal is an open source software that enables its users to publish, organize and manage content on their sites. This is a free software so people can use it freely if they want to take advantage of the many features it offers. Among its features, of course, are podcasting, newsletters, blogs, content management systems, forums and picture galleries.

It only requires a simple download since it is a ready to use software. It is also equipped with an easy-to use Web installer. Drupal offers what seems to be a complex and sophisticated programming interface but it can actually be used without any programming. As with other software, Drupal is continuously evolving as its users and developers discover the bugs and resolve the problems.

The core modules of Drupal include many features such as access statistics and logging, comments and forums, and advanced search functions. It also has other functionalities like multi-user content creation and editing. Basic functions such as user profiles and RSS feed are included as well.

Drupal is written PHP programming language. So advanced users must be conversant in the PHP language if he wants to write Drupal codes. It is also important to know the standards in Drupal codes. For instance in indenting, there should be 2 spaces indention but there should not be any tabs or any trailing whitespace. For control structures, if, for, while and switch are used. A space should also separate the control keyword and the opening parenthesis. These are only examples as there are also standards for writing Drupal codes for function calls, function declarations and others.

DRUPAL NEWS: FOUND IN AND OUR OF DRUPAL PORTAL

Drupal is popular among many Website owners and Web developers. With the many features that are offered by this software, it seems an optimal choice for them. For those who want to use a software that could run without any programming, Drupal is also a good choice. And since Drupal is free, the more that it becomes an attractive choice for them.

Drupal is an open source software. So it is being maintained and further developed by a community of users and developers who interact with each other in the Drupal portal. All information about Drupal and many of its popular users are also interacting with each other in the portal. They are listed on the site and case studies are also listed there. Links to the studies are also given there.

With such resources given within the Drupal portal, developers will have everything they need to know right away. What's even better is that all news about the developments of the Drupal software and on all of its popular users is always posted there.

Drupal news would also include all new versions of the Drupal software. New high profile users would be announced there too. Seminars and new resources are also listed right at the home page for the users to always be updated. For a complete and concise list of Drupal news, the Drupal news aggregator is also there. Drupal news is also posted in many Web developer portals so users and potential users also have other means to keep updated regarding the software.

DRUPAL USERS: GROUPED AT THE DRUPAL WEBSITE TO HELP

The Drupal Website is made alive with the users and developers that are working together to make the Drupal software better and more functional. Through the community of Drupal users that are actively participating in reporting bugs and errors they encounter using the software, such bugs are resolved and the software is improved. All feedback also becomes the basis for the development of new versions.

So, Drupal users are really essentially very important in making the software the best that it could be. Drupal users are even encouraged to do testing on the software. By having people from various walks of life test the software the stability of the platform can be tested and strengthened.

Drupal users also have another way to contribute. By sharing their knowledge with others in the Support Forums, they will be able to help out other users in the forum. Using the software becomes an easier experience for many inexperienced Drupal users and for others who encounter some mishaps. Drupal users can also help by subscribing to the Support mailing list. This is the place where people who need help to get started and to run the software get their answers. Drupal support can also take place through chat via the irc.freenode.net.

Drupal users can certainly answer the many questions that are asked by other Drupal users. They can also refer others to the handbook page if the answer to their question can be found there. Or better yet, Drupal users can also contribute to the handbook page if they know something that is not yet there.

DRUPAL CONTACT WORKS WITH INVITE MODULE FOR NOW

Drupal is a software that enables people to easily publish, organize and manage the content on their Websites. But the good thing about Drupal is that it is a free software so there are already quite many people who have been utilizing this said software in their sites which ranges from discussion sites, aficionado sites and social networking sites to corporate Websites, intranet applications and resource directories.

Being an open source software, it is being maintained and developed by many developers and users in the community. Each work to report and resolve the bugs and the errors that come up in the use of the software.

Drupal is a ready to use software so one simply has to download it and he can use it right away. With all the built-in functionalities and numerous free add-on modules, one can easily have the ability to use features like blogs, content management systems, newsletters, podcasting, picture galleries, peer-to-peer networking and file uploading and downloading. With such features one can truly customize and define his needs using the software.

For those who use Drupal social networking sites or in sites wherein importing contacts is used, the Drupal Contact List Importer would be most useful. This module enables users to import their contacts from Yahoo, Gmail, AOL, MySpace, Lycos and MSN Messenger easily and conveniently. At the moment, however, this module works hand in hand with the invite module. The invite module would complete the process by sending out actual invites to the contacts. While it has to work with the other module for now, the makings of a standalone Drupal Contact importer is in the works.

DRUPAL THEMES: MAKE THE SITE LOOK NICE AND COOL

Drupal is basically a content management framework. But it is capable of doing more than just that. The Drupal software is equipped with many features that not only make it functional but also make the Websites that use it to be aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The Drupal software has features like the Drupal themes that enable the software to do just this.

Drupal themes are essentially there to alter the look and feel of the different Websites. There are several Drupal core themes as a basic feature. A Website administrator can easily choose among the supplied themes through a special menu. An additional customization tool for administrators is through a Web-browser interface which allows changing of color schemes in themes.

Aside from the core themes, there are also quite so many contributed themes. And they are there to replace the look and feel of the default themes in the software. These themes can be sourced through third party design engines. They are in standard Drupal format and most of them are basically written in PHP.

These themes are not really a part of the official Drupal release. Since they are made by third party theme authors, some of them might not work as expected. One thing to remember is that themes should match the Drupal version it is written for. Something written for Drupal 5.x will certainly not work in Drupal 6.x. And since Drupal welcome contributions from its users, these contributed Drupal themes are actually found on the Drupal Website itself.

DRUPAL GMAP MODULE: CAPABLE IN LOCATING USERS

Drupal GMap module functions by presenting spatial information on Google Maps. This is why more and more people are becoming interested to get this. However, there is a pre-requisite before anyone can obtain Drupal GMap Module—the Google Map API key. API is important because this allows other modules to contain Google Maps in their section. Nothing to worry about the cost since this is offered for free.

In addition, there is a filter and a macro generator that can contain a Google map from a macro into several nodes. There is also a module accompanied with gmap.module and location.module, which permits users to enter even their latitude or longitude information to be displayed on one map. Through this, the person using this module can identify where specifically in the world his users are coming from. In effect, all of the said information is possible to be seen on the same map by different users.

Essentially, Drupal GMap module presents the following features:

• Supplies an API to assist other displayed modules of Google Maps;

• Identifies a display plugin for the purpose of Views;

• Supplies several default pages including maps of users and nodes;

• Permits fundamental map-based input; and

• Identifies a macro language as well as gives out an interface for structuring macros. This way, users can place maps in their content.

People who are interested to have Drupal GMap module can freely browse the Web to view demos online. Demos presented online are: nodes with site information situated on the map; documentation of the macro language; and creation tool of the 5.0 macro.

WYSIWYG: WITHDRAWN SUPPORT FOR DRUPAL PLUGIN

Tim Milo announced that wysiwygPro, a browser-based HTML WYSIWYG editor online, decided to discontinue the availability of Drupal plugin to any of their Website. According to Milo, wysiwygPro had made known to the public that the Drupal plugin will no longer be available to their Download Center as an offered plugin for wysiwygPro. They also said that they had withdrawn their support to the Drupal Module for the meantime, which was made available on the Drupal.org.

Essentially, the Module of the Drupal PLUGIN script was produced and supported through the forums of Drupal.org by committed Drupal user, who they were able to know for the past few months. According to them, they have added the Drupal plugin to their plugin listing on their Download Center Website for the past few months.

However, they have known that the module is not allowed for non-GPL software to work together with Drupal, even if the module was written as GPL. This action is prohibited even though enclosed in a LGPL or GPL interface. For this reason, the module was removed from the forums of Drupal.org since the action was taken as GPL violation by the leaders of Drupal Association.

Because of this incident, wysiwygPro was shocked, saddened, and disappointed. However, they said they are respecting the leaders of Drupal Association. This is why they have preferred to remove the Module of Drupal plugin from their Website and Download Center. According to them, this decision will be effective until they were able to get the full grasp of the entire issue.

SPARING EVERY DRUPAL USER FROM NAVIGATION CONFUSION

Nick Lewis has explained the valuable assistance provided by the Drupal with the interface by saying it promotes so much convenience for Drupal users when exploring a Website. According to the article of Lewis posted in "Nick Lewis, the Blog," his own blog site, the Drupal with the interface is more advanced as compared to the Drupal defaults for several reasons.

One reason stated by Lewis is the unrivaled convenience brought by the familiarity of the Website to the user. Everyone is aware that users value the ease of Website or program navigation. Examples of easy to navigate programs are the following: MS Word, Firefox, Explorer, Photoshop, Macintosh Finder, and desktop program. The main reason why these programs are simple to use is because they utilize the so-called UI pattern. This pattern is an example of good interface design that provides easy navigation for the users.

Normally, UI pattern is applied whenever a program has a large quantity of options that can overwhelm the user when viewed at once. This pattern helps by clearing up the options without compromising accessibility. Through the use of this pattern, it is no longer necessary to lessen the numbers of options in a program; hence, sparing the function of power users from being risked. Lewis emphasized that this is the apparent problem of Drupal's menus.

If one will observe, most of the folks who attempt to learn Drupal at the very first time tend to get frustrated with the numbers of clicks. Now, by carefully and cleverly designing the interface, Drupal users can easily identify each of their clicks as their passage to where they want to be.

NEW DESIGN FOR THE DRUPAL LOGO

Mark Boulton was introduced as the person to design the new Drupal logo during the session of Drupalcon Szeged, which was held this September. The Drupal Association had chosen Boulton for the rebranding and redesigning of Drupal.org. When asked about his perception on the logo during the session, Boulton responded that it is fine enough although he showed a serious concern for the modification of the Drupal logo so it can be operated for different uses. And that stirs the interest of many.

The Drupal community is said to be "playful" in nature to their Drupal Logo otherwise known as the Drupalicon. This is why the logo itself is said to reflect the community as a whole. And because the Drupal logo is under the license of GPL software, people are free to do the design they want for the logo. This kind of freedom provided by GPL is claimed as a part of the Drupal's entirety.

Now, as the Drupal is being re-branded, the Drupal Logo is also being transformed into a new look. Of course, the new logo will serve as the public face of the new brand. And even though the proposal for the new logo is perceived to be controversial, it is deemed to be indistinctive still. Truth is the new Drupal Logo is expected to have a legal and commercial design.

So, the Drupalers must be excited to purchase Drupal T-shirt, doodads, and pins, which will have the recent design of the Drupal logo on it. And surely, everyone is expected to give out their own interpretation on the new design of the logo. Anyhow, the change of the logo will never affect the desire of the community to create a greater move in the open source world.

THE SEARCH FOR THE MOST CREATIVE DRUPAL T-SHIRT AND BANNER

The devoted people of Drupal often gather together to discuss its present condition and future. Example of this is during the event of Open Source Convention (OSCON) in Amsterdam. In this occasion, Drupal people unite their effort to achieve as much attention in the form of artistry. They ask help from willing graphical artists and inspired copywriters. One way of expressing this artistry is through Drupal T-shirt or banner for the EU OSCON.

Dedicated people of Drupal are encouraged to contribute any of the following:

- A highlight banner for Drupal.org. This is placed on its homepage and is designed like a newsletter banner since it is located at the upper left corner;

- One or more banner where people can put their own Website or

- And a hilarious text printed on a Drupal T-shirt.

Drupal people think it is great to picture artistry to depart from the conventional form of Drupal, which is the gathering of handbooks pages, code, or money as contribution. So, to those who are interested to contribute their creations can fire up their paint program or word processor to pursue the goal. Of course, the carnal rule must never be missed out: copyrighted materials are not allowed. Therefore, the included picture in Drupal T-shirt or banner must be free of copyright.

Also, Drupal T-shirt needs to be printed on one side only using only one color. Of course, the T-shirt must contain the Drupal logo. Images can use inline tags to make it look more creative. Now, to winners and runners-up, artistic Drupal T-shirt will be given as a form of recognition!

THE DRUPAL jQUERY FOR MULTIMEDIA

The capabilities of Drupal jQuery in multimedia are beyond what some users actually know. Others are not aware that Drupal jQuery multimedia can be used in video and audio configuration. The Drupal jQuery supports media-rich sites and the user can also gain power in embedding and manipulating the images, videos, and audios that are found in your Drupal sites.

Drupal jQuery can integrate multimedia in any Websites that employ Drupal. So if you creating modules for instance, you can include multimedia in your presentation to make it more comprehensive and informative. Also, the Drupal jQuery doesn't only support multimedia but it also helps in dealing with problems face by content editors, data administrators, and Web developers.

The Drupal jQuery media can be configured using basic configuration and advanced customization. In basic configuration, installation involves basic support. Basic support simply informs the users which types of nodes and plug-ins should be loaded and should have the File Fields to make it automatically operate. To make Drupal jQuery media work, other links beside File Field links can be employed, but other links should be converted first.

Another thing needed in the installation is the media player. Other specific and advanced settings are available to come up with the most updated documentation of your presentation.

For advanced customization of Drupal jQuery media, you can go out of the box and you can rely on the Drupal's Developer's Guide if you want to extend the scope of your presentation. The global defaults the jQuery media supports can be override when you do the configuration processes with the use of jQuery plug-ins. Other jQuery media links on the jQuery Media homepage on the Web and it can provide extended customization and alter settings that you want to configure in your module or presentation.

THE DRUPAL MODULE: YOUR MODULE TO DEVELOPMENT

The Drupal software is described as collaborative and a project that is community-driven. It also features tools for documentations which are employed by various users and developers internationally. And since Drupal is community-driven software, the members of the community have the power to contribute in enhancement and improvement of the software, support, and other undertakings of the Drupal development.

One of the functionalities that Drupal provides is the module. Core codes are employed so that modules can be operated. Core modules that are created are first approved by the developers and the entire community, so it is safe to say that the Drupal modules are in fact created and written by the community members as it uses the PHP programming language.

The Drupal modules are designed to achieve flexibility, continuity and adaptability so that the users or the members of the community can have the power to customize their Websites and create modifications based on their personal preferences.

For more definition, the Drupal module is in fact a set of routines that used PHP language. Once the Drupal module has been used, a module code runs just within the environment of the site. This is because all the functions and operations and even the structures of the key engine are accessible. Drupal modules also enabled when excellent design principles and a good paradigm for Drupal development are being worked out. The Drupal modules are considered as an open-source development paradigm so that when somebody is working out, there is no threat of any interference during the course of operation.

THE PRO DRUPAL DEVELOPMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

The book has been launched in the market. Pro Drupal continues to evolve and make difference in lives of people who use such kind of technology. The influence of Drupal in managing, publishing, and organizing wide-ranging content materials on Websites have reached its peak.

A large number of people, particularly organizations employ Dupral in their organizational systems to control and manipulate their Websites. Web sites that make use of Dupral technology employ the features such as: community Web portals, sites for discussion, Web sites for business/corporate enterprises, applications using intranet, blogs and other forms of personal sites, sites for aficionado, applications for e-commerce, social networking sites, and finally resource directories.

Since Drupal has been recognized as one of the most prevalent content management systems, books about it have been published to inform people about the knowledge and best practices of the Dupral technology. To reiterate some functions of Dupral, it offers features to the users that are essential in creating community-driven Web sites that consist of blogs, forums, sites styled as wikis, and other related sites.

The book entitled "Pro Dupral Development" was written and published to supply Drupal users and the readers of the book with knowledge in installation and customization. The powerful architecture of the book itself and the products and services of the Dupral technology will get you educated in creating your own modules with your own preferred themes and adopting the functions and features that are relevant in maintaining your Web site. The hidden undertakings of the Drupal technology are revealed in the book that is why core developers of Websites would be the first ones who will get benefited with the use of such a book.

MUST KNOW ABOUT DRUPAL LINKS

Content management system employs a modular framework in the form of Drupal. Drupal supports online community and Web log because of its strong capacity to publish articles on Websites in the easiest manner. Drupal has also the capacity to choose and process installation of modules to support a module library that is accessible to a large number of communities. Drupal links are mostly seen and used in community portals like blogs and forums.

If you want to know more about Drupal links you also have to know how to control link placement in Drupal environment. When we say manipulating link placement in Drupal environment it is not as easy as it is supposed to be. If you see the default link that says "read more" or "add new comment" they are the default setting that are usually seen and placed on the front page. However, more than those default alternatives, you have to command more links.

As for the link modules, or the one-step link field (by CCK providers), there are designed fields for any unauthorized users and these are the URL text field, Title text field, and the Open New Window checkbox.

In the installation process of text field links there should dropping of the entire link module on your site, enabling of the module from the module page of the administration, and then the creation of CCK content type and adding of new link.

Finally, other processes in creating Drupal links are through link configuration, data entry of URLs and the so called Theming procedure, or the process of "how to theme the output" links and other content field types.

THE DRUPAL PDF HANDBOOKS, AVAILABLE ONLINE

Even print modules now support the generation of PDF in the dissemination of the Drupal technology. In fact, there are community Websites and forums that generate the most recent version of the Drupal handbooks in the form of PDF format regularly. The Drupal handbooks that are published even in daily basis include topics like: the overview of Drupal; the processes in installation and upgrading of Drupal; the developing for Drupal; the Drupal documentation; and other topics and issues about Drupal.

The Drupal handbooks are generated consistently by the community members of the Website. In fact the handbooks that are generated are not only available in PDF format but other formats as well which include as a long HTML page and as Unix text files which all contain the same content.

The benefit that users get from the handbooks, whether it be in PDF format or other formats, is completely automatic. However, the viewing of the handbooks does not permit a very fine control over the software. Though there are bugs contained in the software, such bugs can be seen as interesting source of output. This is because some problems with the input may take place and this can result in inappropriate formatting of the PDF versions or sometimes it could end up being incomplete.

Therefore, Drupal does not only provide powerful software and services in content management systems but the community that surrounds the Drupal technology is aware of the reality that Drupal is increasingly expanding. That is why they came up with online materials like the PDF handbook to always get the users of the software updated and informed all the time.

DRUPAL.COM: ISSUES ON THE DOMAIN NAME

Drupal, the free and open-source application for content management system, has its official Website at drupal.org. Having the org domain means that the Website is not there for any commercial purpose. It is there to serve a certain group for free. Drupal is non-profit and the free availability of its application is a clear proof of that. However, there are people who get confused with another Drupal Website, the drupal.com.

Having a .com domain means that the Website is made for commercial purpose or it services a commercial company or group. But the Drupal is not a commercial group and so, they are not qualified to have the drupal.com.

But there are people who are commenting that the drupal.com should instead redirect to the drupal.org. The problem is, the drupal.com domain name is already acquired and owned.

It was just recently that the owner of the drupal.com domain name donated or gave it to the Drupal founder, Dries Buytaert. Cedric Johnson from the opendomain.org is the former owner of the drupal.com domain name and decided to give it to Dries, primarily to be used for commercial purpose. However, Dries is so far no intent of commercially using the domain name. Fortunately, Johnson agreed that the drupal.com can be used for non-commercial means.

However, Dries still do not have any idea on what to do with the domain name. That is why until these days, the drupal.com is still an empty Website.

It does not even redirect to the drupal.org Website. Anyway, many concerned people are interested to know what the drupal.org will do with its new domain name. The organization will surely use the domain name for better purpose.

ENHANCING DRUPAL COMMENTS IN DRUPAL 5

Online comments are mostly known for community Websites or open posts like blogsite or networking sites. Comments usually allow posting of plain text along with smileys. The Drupal application also allows these common comment features. Users can control the color and size of text as well as put smileys or additional elements like pasted comment posts. But of course, how the comments can be used depends highly on how the administrator set their capabilities and limitations.

In Drupal 5, there are certain permissions available, which are under the administrator's control. These are the access comments, administer comments, post comments, and post comments without approval. The access comments only permit the various users to view the posted comments.

The administer comments, on the other hand, allow different users to have the complete control over modification, editing, and deleting all the Drupal comments posted. Meanwhile, the post comments option provides capability for the users to post comments into the moderation queue of the administrator. Lastly, the post comments without approval permits users to post comments directly without the need for the administrator to approve or publish the comments.

With these limitations and settings, the administrators can certainly have control over how the Drupal comments should be displayed, used, and arranged. Usually, the setting depends on the kind of user groups that a certain site has and the ability of the administrator to handle all the posts in a given time.

There are still other features in Drupal that were specially made for the Drupal comments. One of these is its ability to provide notification to site members whenever a new comment is posted.

STEPS TO TAKE FOR DRUPAL UPDATE

Applications are continuously enhanced and developed to take away bugs or to make them more useful for consumers. Even free and open-source applications like the Drupal content management system are providing their regular updates for consumers. Drupal releases its update after every nine to 12 months. Aside from removing bugs from the former Drupal versions, these updates are also made more enhanced with better features they introduce.

The main reason for a user to do Drupal upgrade is to use the latest version of the application and take advantage of these new features. Aside from upgrading the Drupal application, Drupal sites can also be upgraded so these may use the latest features from the program.

There are four steps in order to upgrade the Drupal Website. First, the user must back up his current Website and database to make sure that any process will not affect the site's content. Second, the user should download the zip file of the Drupal upgrade. But before uploading the files to the server, it is important that the user should carefully read and review the instructions and information saved in the UPGRADE.txt file. After that, uploading the new files from Drupal to the site's server should follow. Then, the update.php script should be run. This will do the automatic update of the database.

Although it may sound so easy to upgrade the Drupal Website, some experienced users still find difficulty and frustrations from the process. Inexperienced Drupal users can simply read online tutorials and tips on how to make the Drupal update successful and less frustrating.

T HE U SEFULNESS AND OTHER F EATURES OF D RUPAL C OMMENT M ODULE

Drupal is known in the computer world to provide a free and open source application that can be utilized by a group or even an individual to easily manage different contents. With Drupal, anyone can create their own blogsites, portals, forums, Websites, social networking sites, resource directories, etc. Because Drupal is primarily made to unite people together and to create an online community, it has a feature which allows posting of comments just like the common blogsites that people use. This is possible through the Drupal comment module.

Once the Drupal comment module is enabled, the user or the administrator can create different discussion boards for each of the connected Drupal nodes. Using this, members or users can freely post their comments on a topic or a blog post. The administrator can simply permit users to post comments while the users have the option to modify their last comment as long as no other comment has been posted after that.

In Drupal, along with the comment board is the comment control panel that helps in customizing how the posts will be showed. This may provide the user the permission to control the comments in chronological order. They may also control the number of posts that can be shown on each page. Other settings available are threaded, flat, expanded, and collapsed. Threaded displays posts and group them according to the conversation. Flat shows all the posts in a chronological order without any additional features like threading. Expanded will display the title as well as the text for every comment while collapsed may display only the comment's title.

Drupal still offers more options when it comes to managing comments and just like other applications, these functionalities are enhanced over time.

THE UNIQUENESS OF EACH DRUPAL THEME

Drupal is a known free application for content management. Some sites where this application is very usable are blogs, portals, forums, intranets, social networking, and resource directories. But aside from its usefulness and features, it is also important for Drupal to provide the nice look and feel of these Websites. These can only be satisfied by a Drupal theme.

Just like the common theme found on free blogsites, Drupal themes are pre-set arrangement of a certain Web page. A theme includes color of the background, the shapes used, images utilized, arrangement of elements, and text used. With the many Drupal themes available, everyone who might use the application will surely find the one that will suit his taste and purpose.

Drupal themes can simply be downloaded from the drupal.org Website. But each of these themes only functions correctly on specific Drupal versions. For example, themes made for the Drupal 5.x may not work as expected on Drupal 6.x.

Some Drupal themes available for Drupal 5.x are the .mobi, A Block, Kexolid, A3 Atlantis, Combustion, Imagination, Console, CristalX4Drupal, Fancy, and LiteJazz. Anyway, some of these themes have versions that can be used for Drupal 6.x. Meanwhile, some themes that can be used specifically for Drupal 6.x are Mobile, NewsFlash, Genesis, Soldier, News wire, Stasis, Tapestry, Nitobe Screenshot, and NoProb.

Each of these themes has features and designs that target specific group of users. Those who are interested to download Drupal themes can simply check out the available themes at the drupal.org Website. There, each theme is described carefully, with reference to the group of people for which it was designed.