TO DRUPAL OR NOT TO DRUPAL?

Greg Farneth | Assistant Director, Information Technologies
Andrew Waegli | Senior Web Developer
Ryan Dool | Developer
Magan Alfred | Director
Takeaways

• Understand the benefits of a UA standardized Content Management System for the web
• Understand what tools are currently available for your use
• Understand the pros and cons of Drupal to help inform your website creation decisions
A Quick Note on Web Sites in General

- Content ages very quickly.
- Analytics – ya gotta!
- How are people going to find you? Consider!
Part 1: Why is Drupal?
Why is Drupal

- Why is Drupal better than WordPress
- Why is Drupal so hard to learn
- Why is Drupal used
- Why is Drupal so complicated
- Why is Drupal so slow
- Why is Drupal so popular
- Why is Drupal bad
- Why is Drupal better than Joomla
- Why is Drupal so bad
- Why is Drupal good

[Google Search] [I'm Feeling Lucky]
Why is Drupal used? Why is Drupal better than Wordpress?

- De facto standard in Higher Education
  - Estimated 32% of all Higher Ed sites are Drupal. (Drupal.org)
  - Institutional standardization of websites in regards to look and feel, accessibility, mobile responsiveness, etc. Perceived cost savings.
  - High adoption rate due to cultural as well as technical reasons.
  - A perception exists that Wordpress is less stable, less secure – whether that is fair or not.
  #drupalgeddon2014
Why is Drupal Good?

• Drupal is free!*
• It’s a Content Management System (CMS)
• Speed of Deployment – Stand up websites quickly
• You can deploy a website without writing a single line of code
• Drupal is modular
• Community Supported - with a Large Community of Developers
Why is Drupal Bad?

- Drupal is free!*
- It’s a Content Management System (CMS)!
- In a few hours you can deploy a simple site with basic functionality to the web
- You can deploy a website without writing a single line of code
- Drupal is Modular
- Community supported with large community of developers
Why is Drupal so Slow?

• Not optimized for speed out of the box
• Drupal sits on top of a normal web server software stack adding another layer of complexity
• Drupal Core (Drupal’s base install) contains extra default modules you might not ever use, but they are there anyway.
• Drupal sites don’t have to be slow, but an investment in time is required on the admin side to remedy.
• Google Page Speed Demo
Why is Drupal so Hard to Learn?

• For content editors, it’s really not

• For developers/site builders, there are too many module choices... What makes one better than another?
  • Number of installations
  • Years in development
  • Example: The ubiquitous [Views](#) module.
Page Creation Demo **Andrew Waegli**

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Why is Drupal so hard to Learn? (Continued)

- From an IT Systems Administrator perspective, it can be hard to learn. It’s easy to break a site doing very normal things that you are supposed to do.
  - Single-Site vs. Multi-Site Configuration
  - Recovering from Bad Patches
  - Module dependency conflicts
Part 2: Getting up and Running with Drupal On Campus (Andrew Waegli)

- **UA Quickstart** –
  - What is it?
  - Where do I get it? [http://brand.arizona.edu/web](http://brand.arizona.edu/web)
- **Site-In-A-Box** hosting service, aka “UA Sites.”
- **Bootstrap** (unified look, theme, creation of UA Digital), applies look and feel to Drupal but isn’t unique to Drupal
- Demo – Fresh [UA Quickstart Install](http://brand.arizona.edu/web)
Part 3: To Drupal or Not to Drupal?

Case Study 1:  
http://launchpad.arizona.edu
Case Study 2: ASUA Elections Site
Case Study 3:
http://saem-aiss.arizona.edu
Case Study 4:
https://commencement.arizona.edu