PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS OF CHOOSING THE BEST CMF

Tatiana TITUSHKINA, Facultatea de Fizica şi Inginerie

Content Management Framework (CMF) – is a framework to design content management systems (CMS), as well as web-based applications.

The majority of people are using Drupal, WordPress and Joomla as the three best Open source Content Management Systems, but more and more Commercial Open Source Content Management Systems are launched, too. So, what is the difference between all of them?

Commercial Open Source systems are build on open source technology and bundled as a software service in a service platform with a large amount of standard features embedded in the platform. They eliminate the proprietary licensing fees and lower the cost of ownership by simplifying development and support efforts. These systems also are delivering a scalable solution, which meets the demands of small and large enterprises. Commercial Open Source platforms have a strong tolerance towards service and servicing the end-user.

In my opinion, the biggest advantage of Commercial Open Source platforms is the time to market and the implementation time for your website. If you use one of the many available standard templates, implementation time for the standard modules is a matter of hours. Even more complicated modules can be configured in days and be online within a week, not weeks. There are other advantages of these systems: the friendliness for all types of users – Designers, Developers, Administrators, Content Managers or end-users, the use of standard HTML and CSS coding.

The disadvantages of such a system would be no access to the open source code, a community of designers that is growing slower then the Joomla community and that developers and designers have to rethink in terms of Business Drivers – not Code or Modules.

The other one, WordPress is very easy to use and few modifications are needed. And the biggest advantage of it is that it's excellent for blogging or sharing thoughts in a sequential.

The disadvantages of WordPress consist in that it's not friendly for developers and upgrades bring more bugs than fixes.

Joomla is very easy to use, so anyone with the knowledge could override the core of the CMS without actually modifying the original code.

The advantages of Joomla are that it is friendly for most types of users – Designers, Developers, Administrators, but not Content Managers or end-users. Its huge community assists with creation of websites and has been rapidly growing and improving itself for the past years.

The disadvantages of Joomla are that it is still not user-friendly and there are still many out there sticking to the old versions in it.

Drupal is more a developer platform than a traditional CMS. It's developer friendly and can be used to create some really powerful websites that can outstrip a majority of other sites out there. The another advantage is that you have a strong community to help distinguish the hundreds of functions and tags available.

The disadvantages of Drupal are that it is not very designer and user-friendly, themes are made by developers, not designers, and, unfortunately, to publish a Drupal website could cost you more time, and thus more money, than another one, made on otherwise CMF.

The currency of Drupal consists in that it's a free open-source CMF written in PHP. It is used for knowledge management, business collaboration and as a back-end system for at least 2,1% of all sites worldwide ranging from personal blogs to corporate, political and government sites including whitehouse.gov and data.gov.uk. The Drupal core installation can be used as a brochureware website, a single- or multi-user blog, an Internet forum or a community website providing for user-generated content. Drupal runs on any computing platform that supports both a web server capable of running PHP and a database to store content and settings. It isolates core files from contributed modules and themes, so that increases flexibility and security and allows administrators to cleanly upgrade to new releases without overwriting their site's customizations. The Drupal theming system utilizes a template engine to separate HTML/CSS from PHP. As of January 2013, there are more than 20100 free community-contributed modules, available to alter and extend Drupal's core capabilities and add new features or customize Drupal's behavior and appearance.

After analysis I can make some conclusions.

Commercial Open Source systems are enticing both the Business owner and the Web Developers alike. But they have no access to the open source code, and even so they are commercial.

WordPress is considered the underdog in the CMS war, but it is the king of blogging software, because Joomla and Drupal don't realize it efficiently.

Designers will choose Joomla because of the amazing capabilities that its engine has in making websites look so fantastic. But it is not as flexible for developers as Drupal is and it is not as user-friendly as WordPress.

Drupal is the best platform, if you enjoy tweaking the code that makes up the framework of a website. Unfortunately, being more developer friendly doesn't automatically make it more user friendly. So, the developer has to work hard to make the end-product in that way that he needs.

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