Introduction

For the first term of forth year for content management systems we had to find a client and make website for them using a content management system. The content management system we had to use is called Joomla. Joomla is quite an in-depth software that focuses on the back end of the website and is very customizable system. You are able you install templates, components and modules to make the system find you and your client needs. The installation of these unique features was part of the ca. The website works by having Joomla connected to phpMyAdmin SQL database. My client was a college student from DIT as he was from Arklow in Wicklow and wanted a community website so he could highlight the issues, create awareness for charities, touch on news and report on events in his local community of Arklow and even all of Wicklow. The website is called ‘The Arklow Community’. This website has many great components in it that meet the client’s needs.

Components/ Modules

RSpagebuilder

<https://www.rsjoomla.com/joomla-extensions/free-joomla-page-builder.html>

This is a component for joomla and an absolute life saver. Joomla’s standard layout and system takes some time to figure out and getting use to it. The way it works is you have to have already made menus then make pages with the corresponding names in RSpagebuilder. Then go back to the menus section in joomla click on a particular menu page then go to display options and choose RSpagebuilder. Now whatever you do in the pagebuilder it appears on the web page. The layout is simple and effective. It is built on click and drag n’ drop functionality to make it very easy to use. Basically you click on the green plus icon in the middle of the screen and it gives you a big selection of the different types of elements you want to use on your page. It spawns from image boxes, personal information boxes, google maps and even to more third party modules. You can put other third party modules in your joomla website if you put it through RSpagebuilder. You click on the plus green icon again and somewhere around the middle of the element box you’ll see a pinkish icon saying module, click on it then select the pre-installed modules to put on your website. RSpagebuilder has made making the website much easier for myself but much more important for when I teach my client how to use it. Now he can customize the website with my involvement anymore.

SP Image Gallery

<http://demo.joomshaper.com/extensions/others/column2/sp-easy-image-gallery>

This component is a picture Gallery that displays high quality images in a various amount of layout designs. You can display the images in a simple square design, you can also display the images in a album folder where they can be displayed on the screen instead of the single images. Since I already had RSpagebuilder implemented into my website on every page as a component I was not able to put the component part of the gallery on any page. So you have to use the custom module element in the RSpagebuilder element box. That will get the gallery to display on the web page but you can’t customize it this way. For customization you have to do this through the component menu of the gallery, this where you upload your images as well.

Minitek Wall

<https://www.minitek.gr/joomla-extensions/minitek-wall>

The Minitek Wall is a component and module used for displaying the selection page of your websites news articles. It is extremely highly customizable and very easy to use. You use it the same way as the other components when you have RSpagebuilder implemented into your website, you run the module through the page editor in the pagebuilder. Then you customize everything through the Minitek Wall component. It is very easy to use, first you make a category then you go straight into the customization. You can design the box layout, as in where they appear on the screen, you can choose all the hover options from publishing date, author, title, hover icon, hover colour background image and background colour for all the different types of news boxes. The way it works is you make a normal article through the standard joomla system, write up the article as normal then while in the article editor go to the image options and choose the front cover image and this will be the background image when you hover over the news selection box. The minitek wall component automatically takes the article made in the standard joomla system and links them to its news selection box. This makes the process very simple and easy to use and its design is very slick and smooth.

!Cagenda

<https://icagenda.joomlic.com/>

This is a fantastic event calendar component and module for joomla. As I’ve already explained previously on how to implement a module through RSpagebuilder when its already implemented I wont explain it here. You customize it through the component. You choose the date you want to make the event for then fill out all the details you wish to accompany the event and any images, you can also put an image to it as well. The event calendar will appear on your web page with the events highlighted on your calendar.

Conclusion

Through doing this joomla website ca I have learnt so much. At first trying to work the joomla interface was a bit difficult but once I did enough research on it there wasn’t too much to do it. I have also developed my interpersonal skills by going out and searching for a client by myself. I look forward to any other future assignments and I also look forward to developing my skills in the future.