

11 NOVEMBER 2019

ICT 302, WEEK 12: LEARN

WEEKLY REVIEW

WEEK 12

- ▶ Monday (Learn): attend lecture on extending content management systems
- ▶ Wednesday (Explore): explore WordPress plugins and WordPress API
- ▶ Friday (Create): continue work on CMS Guidebook
- ▶ Sunday (Submit): submit Learning Journal entries

WHY EXTEND A CMS?

EDITORS MIGHT ASSUME THAT THE EXTENSIBILITY OF THE CMS APPLIES ONLY TO DEVELOPERS, BUT IT ACTUALLY HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENTIRE TEAM.

Deane Barker, Web Content Management, p. 235

EXTENSIBILITY MODEL

THE COLLECTION OF PROCESSES,
SERVICES, TOOLS, AND APIS THAT
CAN BE USED TO EXTEND A CMS.

Deane Barker, Flying Squirrel CMS Glossary

APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACES (APIS)

THE LANGUAGE TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPERS TO COMMUNICATE WITH AND CONTROL SOFTWARE FROM CODE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE API OF A CMS USUALLY ALLOWS A DEVELOPER TO CONNECT TO THE CMS FROM THEIR OWN CODE, AND MANIPULATE CONTENT OBJECTS.

Deane Barker, Flying Squirrel CMS Glossary

A KEY PART OF THE API IS THE EVENT MODEL OFFERED TO DEVELOPERS IN WHICH TO “HOOK INTO” EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE CMS. MOST SYSTEMS WILL “RAISE” OR “FIRE” EVENTS (SOMETIMES CALLED ACTIONS OR TRIGGERS) IN RESPONSE TO INTERNAL EVENTS IN THE CODE. DEVELOPERS CAN CONFIGURE THE CMS TO EXECUTE THEIR OWN CODE (CALLED EVENT HANDLERS) AT THESE MOMENTS.

Deane Barker, [Flying Squirrel CMS Glossary](#)

**PLUGINS (OR EXTENSIONS, MODULES,
COMPONENTS, ADD-ONS...)**

AN EXTENSION TO A CMS WHICH IS PACKAGED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND INSTALLATION INTO OTHER INSTANCES OF THE CMS. THE ECOSYSTEM OF A PARTICULAR CMS OFTEN GENERATES PLUG-INS FOR THEIR SYSTEM AND MAINTAINS A COMMON REPOSITORY.

Deane Barker, [Flying Squirrel CMS Glossary](#)

QUALITY OF THE PLUGIN ECOSYSTEM

**OPEN-SOURCE
VS. COMMERCIAL**

**WIDELY-USED VS.
SUPER-OBSCURE**

PROBLEMS WITH PLUGINS

SECURITY

MAINTAINABILITY

CONSISTENCY

**YOU CAN'T AVOID
PLUGINS, BUT TRY
ANYWAY**

**VET THE PLUGINS
THAT YOU USE**

LET'S TALK ABOUT WRITTEN AGREEMENTS