

Overview of Content management system and web development

It is always about three basic things that you have to think before you choose a framework or a CMS.

1. How much time you want to spend?
2. What do you want to do and how flexible has to be this project in the future?
3. How much money (if it matters) you will take after the end of the project.

Content management system vs web development

Customization

CMS:

With a CMS you get a predefined set of features, you can choose an already styled theme for your website and you can add new features by easily installing plugins.

However, complications might arise when you need the website to adapt to your specific needs.

Framework:

With a framework, you have to build everything from scratch but you can create distinctive and unique features. Frameworks are **highly customizable** and CMS' typically have limitations. For instance, you can't really change the core functionality of a CMS or it won't update properly, but a framework has no limits.

Security

CMS:

The majority of **CMS' are open-source**, which means the code is available to anyone. At first glance, this is a good thing, but it also makes the job of hackers and anyone with a malicious purpose a little easier.

Framework:

Websites developed using frameworks will feature their own custom code that is integrated into the framework, it's much harder to find security flaws.

Furthermore, many frameworks come with built-in functions like SQL injection or Cross Site Scripting that allow for encryption and protection against the most common types of attacks.

A well-developed framework is far more secure than a generic CMS, but content management systems often have plugins and mods to strengthen their security.

Flexibility

CMS:

CMS' can be adapted to have a lot of features through the use of plugins, but they are not very flexible. If you do need an additional feature for your website that you can't find through its theme and plugin libraries, this will require custom development. That development will have to be solved in-house, or at a cost from a freelancer or agency. If this is the case, you are probably better off using a framework where your options and creativity are unlimited.

Framework:

Frameworks can be molded to your needs, while CMS' have to adapt

When it comes to flexibility, frameworks offer much more freedom than CMS' but they it comes at a high development cost.

Upgrades

CMS:

Content management systems are updated regularly. CMS' are a clear winner in this category. CMS' usually update every month, and they are installable at the click of a button. Of course, you will always want to take a backup of your site, even before installing an office update from your CMS provider. Things can go wrong and content management systems are no exception.

Framework:

A framework is rarely updated and must be maintained

Frameworks do have updates, but much less often and even then, it's often best to stay with your original framework. A website developed using a framework can stay secure and functional even without updates if it was secured properly originally and the code hasn't been tampered with. This just isn't the case with CMS', especially open source systems.

Conclusion

CMS' are easier to use if your project requirements are relatively straightforward. In many cases, all that's required is downloading and installing the software, and you're immediately up and running.

Avoid ongoing development costs

A content management system is probably the best option for people who don't have much programming knowledge and have no interest in learning. If your budget's tight, the last thing you want to do is open up a can of worms by paying a programmer to customize a framework.

Less bugs and dependable core set of features

Another advantage of CMS projects is that they don't require additional testing and bug-fixing. Customizing the design and adding features through plugins can still be tedious but the open-source nature of a CMS will make that a lot easier

Frameworks can save time on large web development projects

With projects that use frameworks, custom programming allows you to build the website exactly the way you want it. It is absolutely the right choice for building big applications with large feature-sets and unique requirements. You can even protect custom coded solutions legally to ensure it can't be copied.

Both CMS' and frameworks are discrete

In most cases, nobody will know about the tools you used to build the website. If you're concerned using a CMS will jeopardize your brand, it's highly unlikely it will have any kind of negative impact.

What really matters is the result. What is the value you are providing to your audience and the overall functionality your website offers? If you are building a relatively simple and generic website – go with a CMS, but for more complicated projects with a substantial budget a framework is better suited.
