

Learning Journal – Practical 3: WordPress CMS & Group Interviews

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Date: 3/10/2025

Topic: WordPress Site Creation and Group Formation

1. Learning Objectives

The primary objectives of this practical were:

1. To gain hands-on experience in creating and managing a WordPress site for our startup project.
 2. To understand the differences between Joomla and WordPress CMS platforms, focusing on content management, theme customization, and plugin usage.
 3. To participate in a structured group-formation exercise to develop skills in evaluating potential group members based on working style, availability, and shared expectations.
 4. To reflect on collaborative work practices and identify strategies for effective team dynamics in future projects.
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2. Activities Undertaken

WordPress CMS

- Installed and configured WordPress locally using XAMPP, replicating the content previously created in Joomla.
- Selected a suitable WordPress theme and customized it to match the startup's branding and project requirements.
- Created key pages for the website, including **Home**, **Features**, and **About**, incorporating images, headings, buttons, and layout blocks to enhance user experience.
- Experimented with WordPress blocks, reusable components, and page templates to ensure consistency across the site.
- Compared WordPress functionality to Joomla, noting advantages such as simplified block editing, plugin integration, and easier theme customization.

Group Interviews

- Conducted one-minute interviews with classmates in a round-robin format to evaluate potential team members for the upcoming major project.
- Developed a set of interview questions aimed at uncovering key attributes:
 - Availability and schedule compatibility
 - Experience with web development and CMS platforms
 - Preferred working style and communication methods
 - Approach to problem-solving and task completion
 - Attitude toward collaboration and accountability

- Took detailed notes on each candidate, including observations about their enthusiasm, clarity of communication, and alignment with the project vision.
 - Reflected on compatibility and potential challenges in forming a balanced team with complementary skills.
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3. Insights Gained

- **Technical:** WordPress offers a more intuitive content management workflow than Joomla, especially for block-based editing. Understanding template hierarchy and reusable blocks improves efficiency when building multiple pages.
 - **Collaboration:** One-minute interviews are surprisingly effective for assessing working style and soft skills quickly. Observing body language, responsiveness, and thought process provides valuable insights into potential team dynamics.
 - **Self-reflection:** I realized the importance of clear communication about availability, expectations, and responsibilities. Sharing these openly at the start of a group project reduces misunderstandings later.
 - **Professional skills:** Conducting interviews simulated a workplace scenario, highlighting the value of structured questioning, active listening, and note-taking in professional settings.
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4. Challenges and Solutions

- **Challenge:** Some classmates were nervous during short interviews, making it difficult to assess their skills accurately.
Solution: Focused on asking open-ended questions that allowed them to describe their experience and approach in their own words.
 - **Challenge:** Translating the Joomla content to WordPress required understanding differences in block structures and plugin functionality.
Solution: Tested several blocks and layouts, and referred to WordPress documentation to ensure content displayed correctly.
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5. Reflections and Future Applications

- I now feel more confident in using WordPress for content creation and site management. This skill will be valuable for future assignments and personal projects.
 - The group interview exercise reinforced the importance of evaluating not just technical skills, but also soft skills, work habits, and shared goals when forming project teams.
 - I plan to use these insights to establish clear communication channels, assign tasks effectively, and maintain accountability within my future group project.
 - These experiences also provide transferable skills for professional scenarios, such as hiring, team coordination, and client collaboration.
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6. Conclusion

This practical provided a dual learning experience: hands-on WordPress site creation and professional team formation through interviews. Both components enhanced my technical skills and my understanding of collaborative work dynamics. Documenting this process in my

learning journal helps me consolidate insights and prepares me for the upcoming major project with a clear strategy for teamwork and site management.

WordPress Site Link: [Smart Home Energy System](#)