Content Management Systems

wordpress
drupal
joombla

cms

or content management system

define

a content management system is an application that is used to manage web content, allowing multiple contributers to create, edit, and publish. Content within a CMS is typically stored in a database and displayed in a presentation based layout.

why

people and companies will turn to content management systems to provide a secure and collaborative work space for projects - those typically dealing with web content or web design.

This report will be providing a comparison of the three most popular content management systems: WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla.

Content management systems are...

pros

- easy to access from anywhere
- highly collaborative
- user-friendly for non technical and technical indivuduals
- seamless when it comes to publishing
- organized all in one place
- easy to learn from online community support
- cost efficent

Content management systems can be...

cons

- less flexible without code and programming knowledge
- difficult in regards to achieving a specific style
- timely learning how to navigate and use
- prone to required updates
- costly due to hidden pay walls to access certain features
- prone to general browser vunerabilites

WordPress

Testimonial

"Create a website in minutes" (WordPress.com).

Costs and expenses

WordPress is free. Downloading WordPress is avaliable from WordPress.com. However, WordPress provides features that are at an extra cost. One of which is a domain name, like all CMS, buying and keeping this costs around $15 a year. Another fee will come from extra designs/themes. WordPress charges betwwen $0-$250 for these.

Level of expertise

WordPress is user-friendly enough that users do not need to have previous experience with a CMS. WordPress is arguably the easiest CMS to use (Schaferhoff, 2019). Creating and designing a website is approachable, and customization features are easy to naviagte with the help of a friendly interface. Additionally, there are plenty of online resources to help the user.

Popularity

WordPress wins when it comes to popularity. In fact, WordPress is used more than 35% of the web (W3Techs.com, 2020).

Some examples of sites run on Wordpress:

- The White House

- University of Washington

- Playstation Blog

Design and customization

There are thousands of design choices you can make using WordPress. WordPress offers themes for your site, free and paid ones. There are also plugins to choose from to further enchance the features on your site. It is quick and easy to customize a website on WordPress.

When to choose Wordpress

WordPress is a great all-around option for a DIY or professional project. It seems the easiest for beginners, with thousands of designs, themes, and plugins to customize with. If you are on a budget, you can use the free options and still create a beautiful site with Wordpress (Schaferhoff, 2019).

Content Management Systems
Drupal

Testimonial

"We're the leading open-source CMS for ambitious digital experiences that reach your audience across multiple channels" (Drupal.com).

Costs and expenses

Drupal is free to download. Downloading Drupal to your desktop is avaliable from Drupal.com. However, Drupal provides features that are at an extra cost. One of which is a domain name, like all CMS, buying and keeping this costs around $15 a year. Another fee will come from extra designs/themes. Drupal charges between $0 and $100 for these.

Level of expertise

When it comes to usability, Drupal is more developer-centered. If you want to create a fully customized site on Drupal, this CMS expects the user to be somewhat comfortable with HTML and PHP (Schaferhoff, 2019). Additionally, there are plenty of online resources avaliable to help the user navigate the inner-workings of Drupal.

Popularity

Drupal is fourth popular amoung CMS. This means Drupal is used by 1.7% of websites (W3Techs.com, 2020).

Some examples of sites run on Drupal:

- NASA

- Harvard University

- Tesla

Design and customization

Drupal provides thousands of design choices for the user. The free theme options on Drupal are limited. For an advanced looking site, the user might have to pay for a good design. However, Drupal also offers plenty of modules to further enhance the website. The modules, however, are more develpor focused for advanced user management.

When to use Drupal

Drupal is your option if you are looking to create a website with lots of custom functionality and high security. Drupal is geared toward developers rather than DIY users, and must know how to program to take advantage of its flexilbilty. Druapl is best for large projects where versatility matters (Schaferhoff, 2019).

Joomla

Testimonial

"Joomla! is an award-winning content management system (CMS), which enables you to build web sites and powerful online applications" (Joomla.com).

Costs and expenses

Joomla is free to download from their wesite, Joomla.com. Joomla offers additional features at an extra cost to enahance your experience. Joomla offers paid plugins that range from $0-$70, and paid themes from $0-$200. Additionally, keeping a personal domain name will cost around $15 per year, like all CMS.

Level of expertise

Joomla has a learning curve to adjust to, considering how developer-centered the CMS is. Being comfortable with HTML will be useful in creating a fully operating website (Schaferhoff, 2019). Additionally, there are plenty of online resources avaliable to help the user navigate the inner-workings of Joomla.

Popularity

Joomla is used by 2.7% of websites. This makes Joomla second most popular CMS against Wordpress (W3Techs.com, 2020).

Some examples of sites run on Joomla:

- Roger Federers website

- United States Regional Information Centre

- itwire

Design and customization

Joomla prodives a large selection of extensions and themes to add to ones site to make for a unique design. For an advanced design, the user might have to pay extra. The extensions and add-ons on Joomla are more limited, but they offer plenty of free and paid options for those as well.

When to choose Joomla

Joomla is the right choice for small to medium projects. Overall, Joomla falls between Wordpress and Drupal. It delivers many user-friendly features, while also expecting you to code for functionality (Schaferhoff, 2019).

conclusion

Overall, each CMS may be most useful for a particular case.

WordPress will be most useful for users with little CMS experience, or users looking to create a quick DIY website with the help of many stylish themes and add-ons to choose from.

Drupal will be most useful for users with experience in programming, or users looking to take on bigger projects. If the user has coding knowledge, they will be able to take full advantage of Drupal's features and flexiblites when it comes to site customization.

Joomla will be most useful for users with programming knowledge looking to take on small to medium projects. Like Drupal, being comfortable with code will give the user many possibilities to work with.

Each of these CMS will charge a hosting fee of around $15 for a unique domain name. Additionally, each CMS provides free design options, but will cost extra for certain features.

When it comes to choosing WordPress, Drupal, or Joomla, it comes down to the type of project, level of programming experience, and desired outcome of the website.

Thank you for reading,

If you have any further questions,
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