

Delivering a Better Experience by Using the Open, Collaborative and Flexible Grav CMS

– Inside or Outside of your LMS

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🚀 Topics to Explore Today 🚀

1. What is Grav?
2. Grav Open Course Hub Project
3. Other Open-related Grav Projects
4. Next Steps

What is Grav?



BUILD FASTER WEBSITES

GRAV IS A MODERN OPEN SOURCE FLAT-FILE CMS

[GET GRAV](#)

STABLE VERSION 1.4.3 NEW! UPDATED 3 WEEKS AGO · [CHANGELOG](#)

WHY CHOOSE GRAV?

Voted "Best Open Source CMS" in 2016



Voted "Best Flat File CMS" in 2017



Fast



Extensible



Open Source

Performance is not just an afterthought, we baked it in from the start

Grav has a powerful API and sophisticated Package Manager to make it super flexible

Grav is Open Source, and all the code is available on [GitHub.com](https://github.com)

Key Aspects of Grav

- File-based
 - Fast performance (esp. smaller sites), simplicity, portability and generally more secure
 - File-based content also naturally supports version control
 - Grav can also be a front-end for any collaborative Git repository

Key Aspects of Grav

- Markdown
 - A platform-independent format perfect for writing and the 5Rs
- Modular
 - Modular content is possible, along with custom content types
- Workflow
 - Supports an efficient edit and publish workflow (esp. Git-based)
- Customization
 - Powerful Blueprints supports Admin Panel customizations

Grav's Layered Conceptual Design



Open Course Hub Project

Grav Open Course Hub

Built using Grav, Open Course Hub with Git Sync is designed to give tech-savvy educators an open, collaborative and flexible platform that they can partner with their current LMS

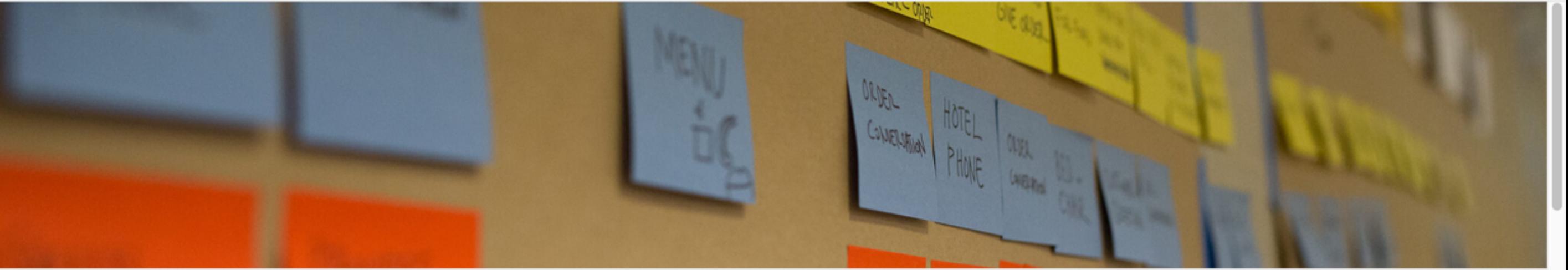
Key Aspects of Grav Open Course Hub

- Streamlined setup and configuration (incl. Git Sync)
- Supports open and collaborative content (via Git repository)
- Theme files synced to Git repository for collaborative authoring/assistance
- A ‘chromeless’ mode for embedding into other systems (i.e. Canvas LMS, Moodle, etc.)
- Example course hubs (incl. basic, intermediate. and advanced)
- Includes custom content type pages and Shortcodes (i.e. Embed.ly Web page preview cards, H5P and Swipe)
- Fully customizable Sidebar using Markdown or HTML

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demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-course-hub/

... Search



CPT-363

SCHEDULE RESOURCES UX TECHNIQUES UX NEWS SYLLABUS READ ME

Important Reminders

✓ Usability inspection peer reviews due Oct 17th



Oct 4th Class Preparations

Required Reading

[A Five-Step Process For Conducting User Research](#)

[Required Reading Quiz](#)

Course Facilitators

Some Name
somename@somewhere.edu

Office hours Mon. 4:00-5:15pm
Harbour Centre 2146

Another Name
anothername@somewhere.edu

[Canvas LMS](#)
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[Grades](#)
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Web Pick of the Week

NN NIELSEN NORMAN GROUP

When does ideation typically



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https://canvas.sfu.ca/courses/36662

Search

View Course Stream

Coming Up

View Calendar

Nothing for the next week

Oct 4th Class Preparations

Required Reading

A Five-Step Process For Conducting User Research

Required Reading Quiz

Slides to be Discussed

User Research

Did you attend this class? Share your one-minute summary before midnight, the day of class.

Important Reminders

- Usability inspection peer reviews due Oct 17th

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A Five-Step Process For Conducting User Research

Required Reading Quiz

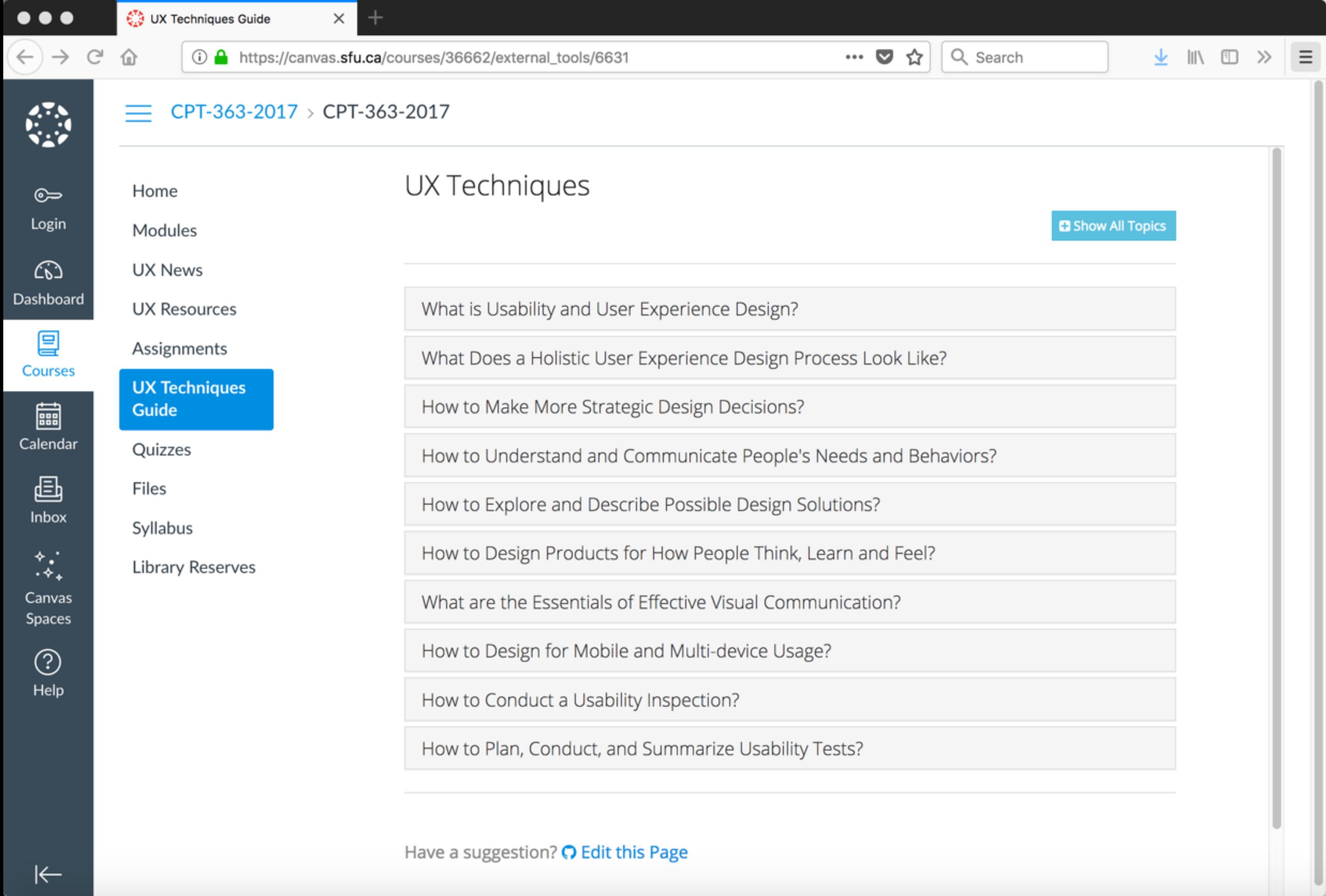
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UX Techniques

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What is Usability and User Experience Design

What Does a Holistic User Experience Design Process Look Like

How to Make More Strategic Design Decisions

How to Understand and Communicate People's Needs and Behavior

How to Explore and Describe Possible Design Solutions

How to Design Products for How People Think, Learn and Feel

What are the Essentials of Effective Visual Communication?

How to Conduct a Usability Inspection

How to Plan, Conduct, and Summarize Usability Test

Have a suggestion? [Edit this Page](#)



So, What Skills are Required?



- Intended for “Tech-savvy” educators:
 - Code editor usage (e.g. Atom or Brackets)
 - Markdown or HTML basics
 - Understanding folder hierarchies (i.e. relative links)
 - Web server access
 - GitHub working knowledge (recommended)

Grav Open Course Hub is Intended for Tech-savvy Educators who Value:

- Controllability
- Flexibility
- Portability
- Efficiency
- Openness
- Participation



Course Participants

Grav Open Course Hub, Web install.

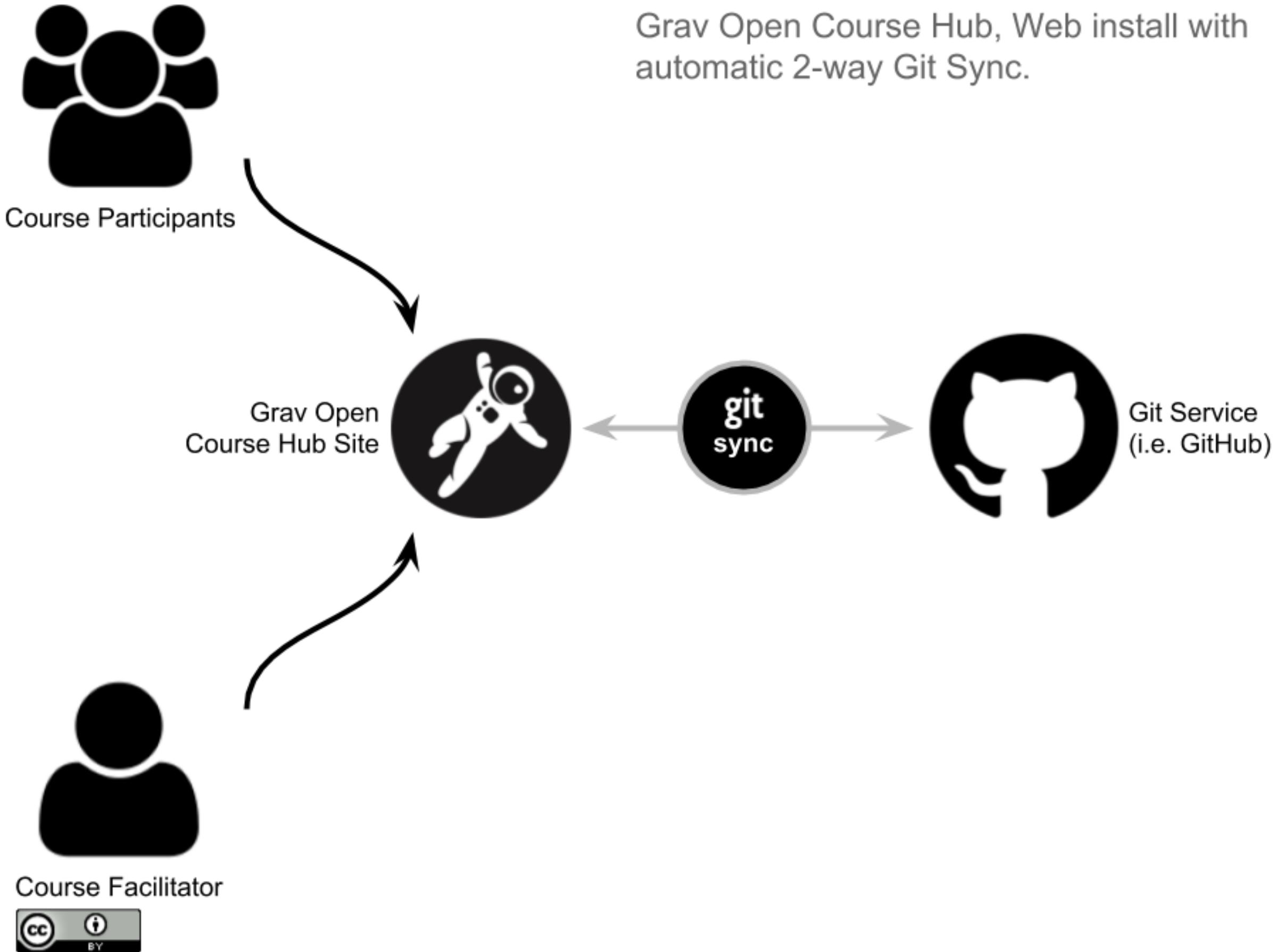


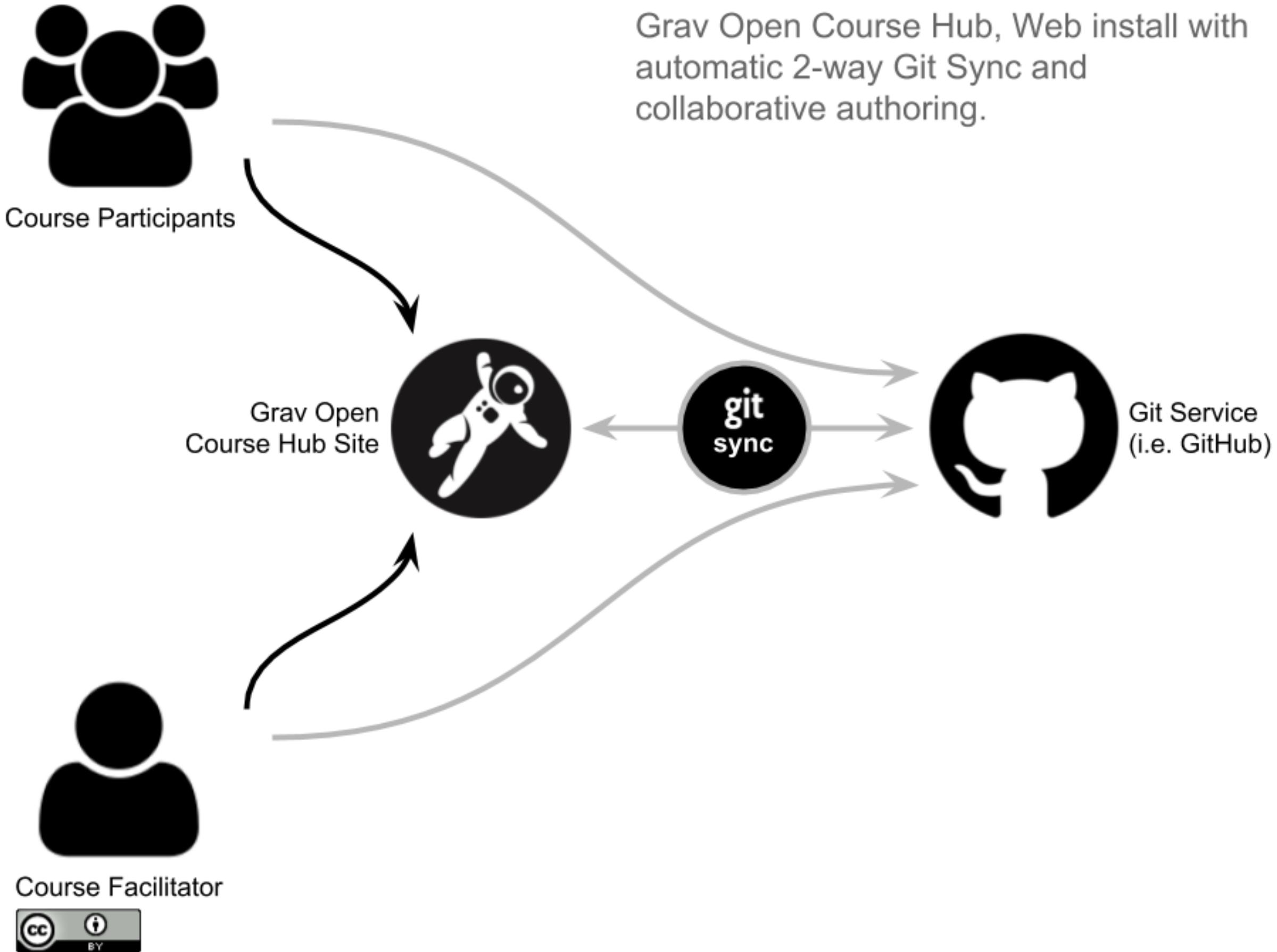
Grav Open
Course Hub Site

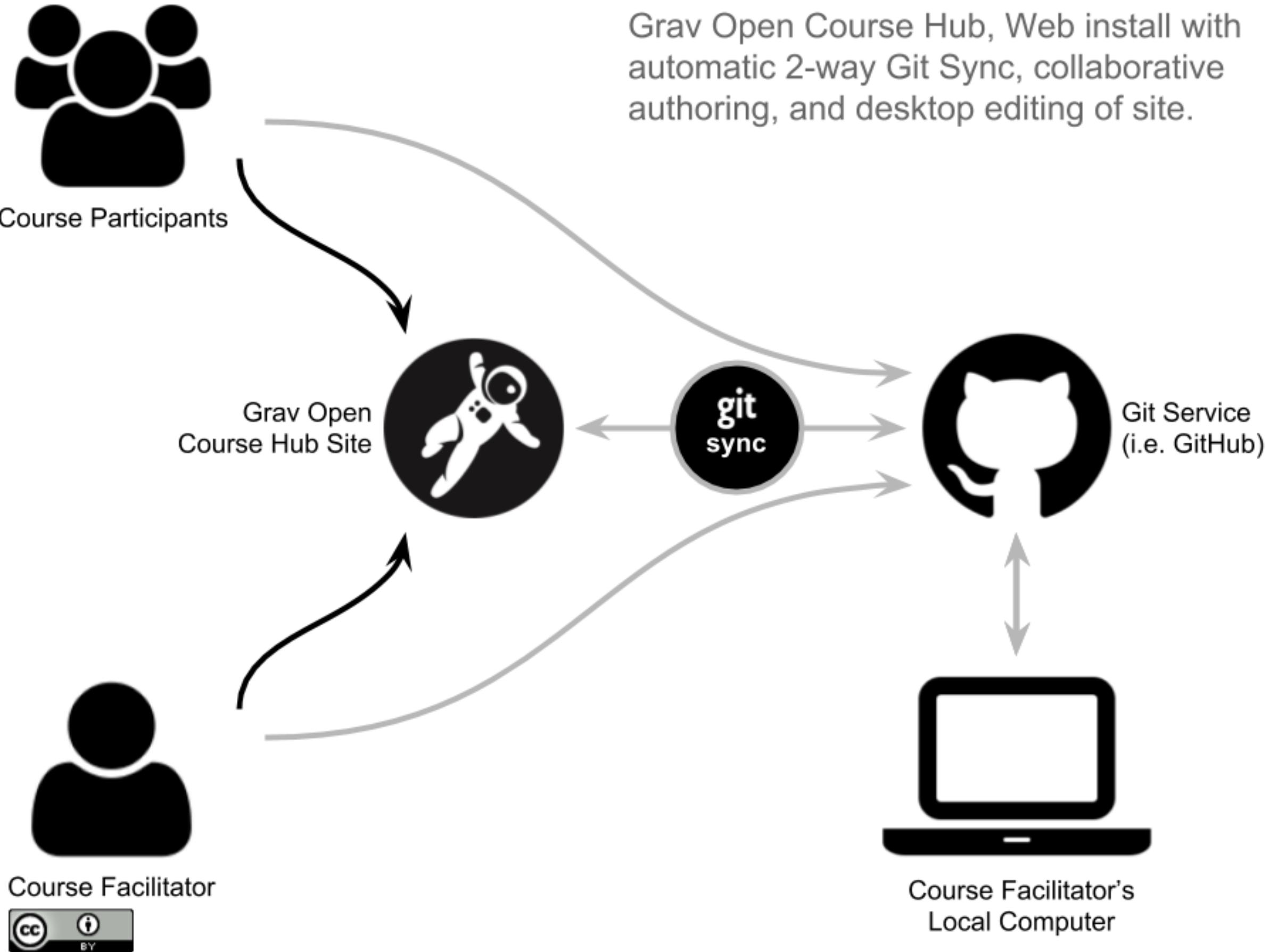


Course Facilitator









Problems That the Course Hub Strives to Address

- Pedagogical goals that are unmet by the current LMS
- Student and facilitator experiences, especially multi-device, are below expectations
- Ability to access, share and collaboratively edit course materials is lacking
- The creation and (often frequently needed) updating of online course materials is too time consuming
- Once created, online course materials are difficult to repurpose on different platforms for different contexts
- Unable to leverage existing Web authoring skills or standards on the current Learning Platform

But What are Users Saying?

“The Open Course Hub was easy to set up and get running and my students loved having a one-stop place to go to for their course content. I really love that it syncs with GitHub so easily and seamlessly. I was able to have an open, collaborative, easily updatable, fully version-controlled site up and running in little time, with fairly modest technical skills. On the student side, it is all beautiful and easy to use on any device!”

— Mark Coster (Associate Professor at Griffith University, Australia)

But What are Users Saying?

“The Open Course Hub project provides a series of excellent resources for integrating Grav with Canvas, as well as documentation and examples which make them a joy to work with. It is quick to set up, easy to use, and especially with the Git Sync plugin shows the power of a modern approach to integrated CMS-LMS solutions. The large and complex architecture of Canvas is complemented by the relative simplicity of Grav, and the Open Course Hub demonstrates this well.”

— Ole Vik (Research Assistant at the University of Bergen, Norway and Grav Plugin Developer)

Enough Talk, Demo Time!

demo.hibbittsdesign.org/cmpt-363-173/

Wait, What about *Inside* of an LMS?

canvas.sfu.ca/courses/35900

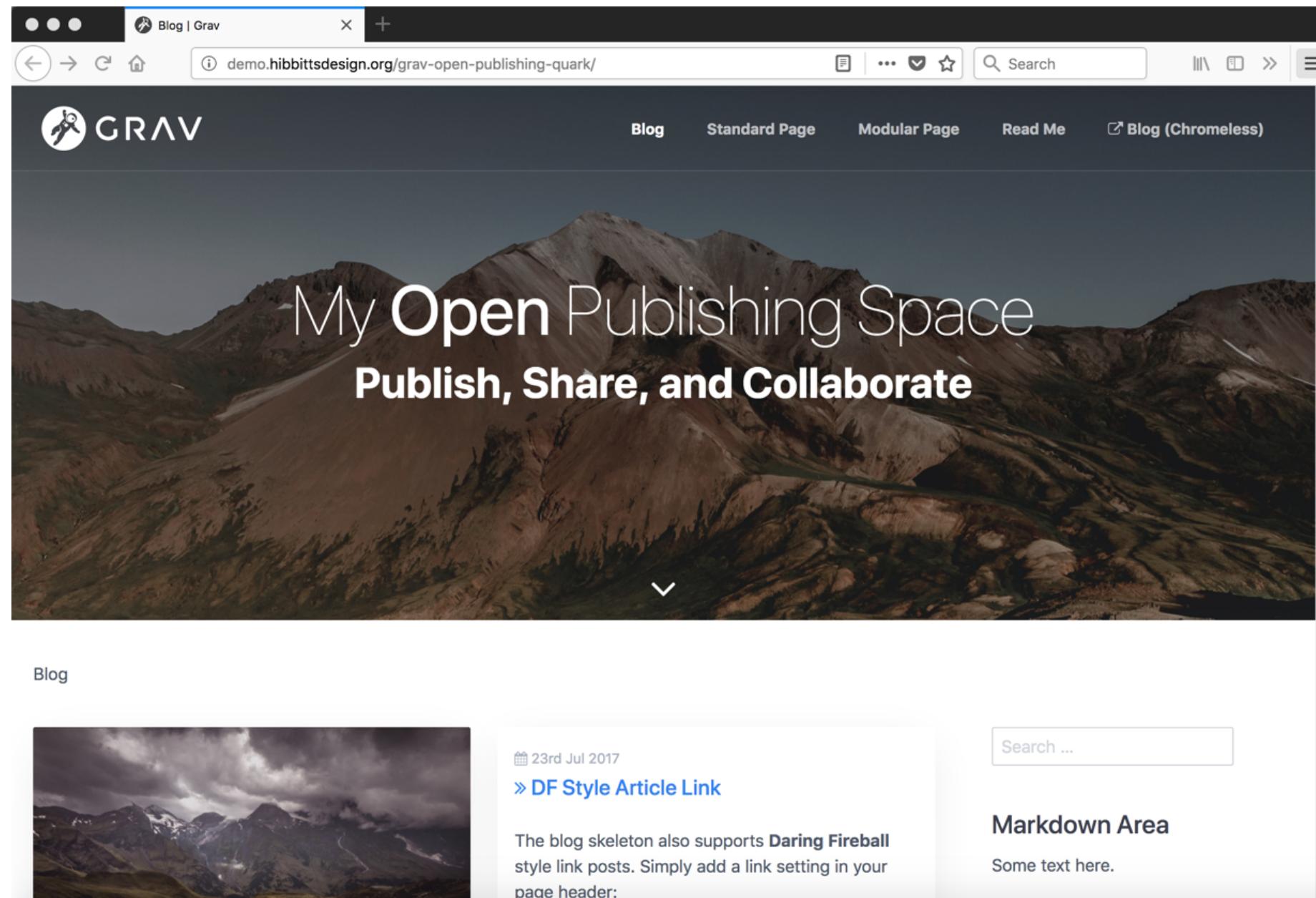
Additional Open-related Grav Projects



Additional Open-related Grav Projects

- Open Publishing Space
 - Share and collaboratively edit Markdown-based OER
- Learn2 with Git Sync
 - Share and collaboratively edit Markdown-based documentation
- H5P Shortcode
 - Display H5P.org and locally store H5P content
- Hypothesis Plugin
 - Display the Hypothesis sidebar on your Grav site

Open Publishing Space



Learn2 with Git Sync

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title bar "Overview | Learn2 with Git Sync". The address bar contains the URL "demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-learn2-git-sync/basics/overview". The main content area displays the "Overview" page for the "Basics" section. The page features a large heading "Overview" and a paragraph about the challenges of writing content for the Web. It then highlights the benefits of Markdown, listing six key points. A quote from John Gruber is included, emphasizing the readability of Markdown. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with sections like "1. Basics", "2. Intermediate", and "3. Advanced", with "1. Basics" currently selected. At the bottom of the sidebar, there are links for "Atom 1.0" and "RSS". The footer of the page states "Built with Grav - The Modern Flat File CMS".

Overview

Let's face it: Writing content for the Web is tiresome. WYSIWYG editors help alleviate this task, but they generally result in horrible code, or worse yet, ugly web pages.

Markdown is a better way to write HTML, without all the complexities and ugliness that usually accompanies it.

Some of the key benefits are:

1. Markdown is simple to learn, with minimal extra characters so it's also quicker to write content.
2. Less chance of errors when writing in markdown.
3. Produces valid XHTML output.
4. Keeps the content and the visual display separate, so you cannot mess up the look of your site.
5. Write in any text editor or Markdown application you like.
6. Markdown is a joy to use!

John Gruber, the author of Markdown, puts it like this:

The overriding design goal for Markdown's formatting syntax is to make it as readable as possible. The idea is that a Markdown-formatted document should be publishable as-is, as

H5P Shortcode

```
[h5p id="712"]  
[h5p url="https://h5p.org/h5p/embed/712"]
```

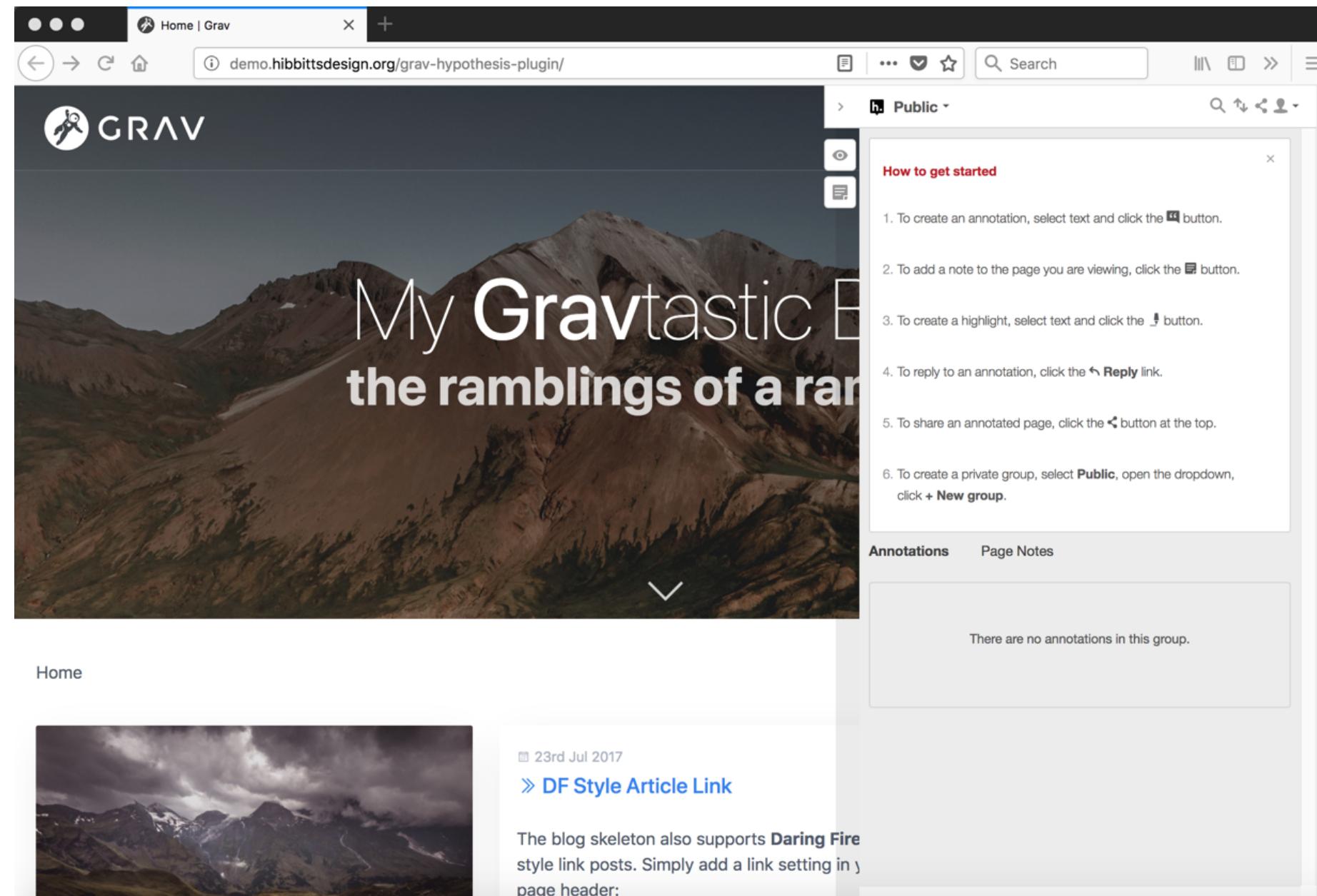


What color does the blackcurrant berry actually have?

- Black
- Blue
- Very dark purple

 Check

Hypothesis Plugin



Next Steps

🔭 Things to Explore Next 🔭

Grav CMS Official Site

getgrav.org

Markdown

[Learn the basics of Markdown in ten minutes](#)

GitHub Workflow

[Introduction - Git and GitHub for Poets](#)

[GitHub Desktop App](#)



Pop Quiz

Which of these “tech-savvy” skills concern you the most?

- Text editor usage (e.g. Atom or Brackets)
- Markdown or HTML basics
- Understanding folder hierarchies (i.e. relative links)
- Web server access
- GitHub or GitLab working knowledge
- GitHub Desktop App (not needed if using Atom)

★ Thank you. More Q&A Time! ★

Contact Info

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Grav Open Course Hub

Demo: demo.hibbittsdesign.org/coursehub

Canvas Demo: demo.hibbittsdesign.org/canvascoursehub

Moodle Demo: demo.hibbittsdesign.org/moodlecoursehub

Docs: learn.hibbittsdesign.org/coursehub