Technical Dictionary / Glossary

This document contains a mix of the key terms from the Drupal.org Glossary and some of our own definitions. This list may be useful to consult if you are unfamiliar with website development, or are new to Drupal:

- **A/B or Multivariate Testing** - Comparing two (or more) versions of a webpage or app against each other to determine which one performs better.
- **Alias** - A user-friendly name to replace the internal path that the system assigns to a URL on the site. An example of a URL alias would be if a page exists under `node/23`, but could also be accessed under `about-us`.
- **API** - a software intermediary that allows two applications to talk to each other. A commonly-used example is the Google maps API that allows developers to embed Google Maps on a webpage using a JavaScript or Flash interface. All content within Drupal is retrievable via its API.
- **BAU** - business-as-usual - generally refers to small-scale sprints
- **BE** - backend development, PHP, Drupal custom module development, Database stuff etc.
- **Block** - Content (text, images, links, etc.) that can be displayed on a page of a Drupal site.
- **Branch** - a branch of code which is normally a copy of master with any changes needed for a piece of work (bug fix, new feature) normally directly associated with a JIRA Ticket
- **Breakpoint** - Breakpoints are used to separate the height or width of browser screens into steps. A responsive site adjusts its presentation at these breakpoints to ensure an appropriate display by screen size and device.
- **Cache** - The site's cache stores the output of time-consuming calculations, such as computing output for an HTML page request, and then retrieves them instead of recalculating the next time they are needed. This temporary storage of data reduces the load time of the page.
- **CDN** (Content Delivery Network) - A distributed network of servers that helps minimize delays in loading web page content by reducing the physical distance between the server and the user.
- **CMS** (Content Management System) eg: Drupal, WordPress, Joomla
- **CRM** (Customer Relationship Management) - A CRM system provides a centralized place where businesses can store customer information and share this information internally. Popular CRM systems include Salesforce and Microsoft Dynamics.
- **Component** - Usually refers to Drupal "Paragraphs" - but can refer to https://zoocha.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WAN/pages/2659680342/WIP%2BSite%2BStudio%2BComponents#What-are-site-studio-components%3F
- **Content type** - see https://zoocha.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WAN/pages/2657288415/WIP%3A+Content+Types#What-is-a-content-type%3F
- **Cron job** - Also called a scheduled job, is a command to an operating system to be executed at a specific time. This might be (for instance) re-indexing the search, to ensure any new pieces of content display in the search results.
- **CTA** - call-to-action, basically the main button or target action on web page
- **DevOps** (Development Operations) - Deployment configuration and management, servers and hosting
- **DNS** (Domain Name System) - essentially the name of a website, i.e. zoocha.com
- **DOM** - The rendered HTML of a page, (what you see when you right click and "inspect element" on a site)
- **Entity** - An item of either content or configuration data, although in common usage, the term often refers to content entities
- **FE** - (Front-end) development namely: HTML, CSS and JS
- **Field** - 'the building blocks of Drupal'. Each field is a piece of information usually input by the content manager and is used to build up nodes
- **GitHub** - The site we use to manage code for sites
- **HTML** - site document (body), **CSS** - site styles (clothing) **JS** - behaviour - **PHP** - BE, personality
- **IaaS** - Infrastructure-as-a-Service is a pay-as-you-go 'hosting' service where a 3rd party provides you with infrastructure services, such as storage and computational resources via the cloud e.g. AWS.
- **JavaScript** - A computer programming language that is commonly used to create interactive effects within web browsers.
- **Master / Main** - The main branch where all changes eventually get merged into.
- **Module** - Software (usually PHP, JavaScript, and/or CSS) that extends site features and adds functionality
- **Node** - An item of content within Drupal (usually displayed as a page)
- **NPM (Node Package Manager)** - An open-source software library that has nearly 1m code packages. Essentially, NPM is a command-line tool that installs, updates, or uninstalls node.js packages of an application.
- **NVM** (Node Version Manager) - nvm is a version manager for node.js
- **PaaS** - Product (or Platform) as a Service, is where a 'hosting' provider has hardware and software on its own infrastructure and delivers a platform to the user as an integrated solution e.g. Acquia
- **PR** (Pull Request) - A comparison of some chunk of code (bug fix, new feature) with the main codebase, so that Developers can review the code changes
- **Repo** (GitHub Repository) - A project within GitHub
- **SaaS** - Software-as-a-service, also know as cloud application services, deliver entire applications via a web browser. Examples that Zoocha use include Google Workspace, Jira, GitHub etc.
- **SEO** (Search Engine Optimisation) - the name given to any activity that attempts to improve search engine rankings. In search results, Google displays links to pages it considers relevant and authoritative. Authority is mostly measured by analysing the number and quality of links from other web pages.
- **SSH** - (Secure Shell Protocol) - A procedure to allow different services a secure channel to communicate over an unsecured network.
- **SSL** (Secure Sockets Layer) - A certificate ensuring data is encrypted so only the user and the website know it. You can tell if a site is using SSL when a padlock is displayed next to the URL in your browser.
- **SSO** (Single Sign-On) - an authentication service that permits the user to use one set of credentials to access multiple applications
- **SoW -** (Statement of Work) - a document detailing project requirements, and/or an issue type in Jira where Xero estimates should be attached and the tickets that are included within the estimates linked
- **SysAdmin** - A person that specialises in **DevOps**
- **Template** - determines how an item of data is structured for the theme
- (Taxonomy) **Term** - see https://zoocha.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WAN/pages/2660139021/WIP+Taxonomy#What-is-taxonomy%3F
- **Theme -** a layer that exists between your Drupal content and the users of your site
- **TLS** - Transport Layer Security (TLS) is a cryptographic protocol designed to provide communications security over a computer network. The protocol is widely used in applications such as email, instant messaging, and voice over IP, but its use in securing HTTPS remains the most publicly visible.
- **URI** (Uniform Resource Identifier) - A URI is a superset of URL that identifies a resource either by URL or URN (Uniform Resource Name) or both.
- **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator) - URL is used to locate *only* web pages.
- **VM** (Virtual Machine) - these are based on computer architecture and provide the functionality of a physical computer. They allow us to have specific software or setups on our machines, without directly installing the items on our machines and are easy to build and destroy. An example here could be a VM being installed to mimic the stager/live environment of a project as closely as possible - without having to install the individual versions of modules for each project.
- (Taxonomy) **Vocabulary** - see https://zoocha.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/WAN/pages/2660139021/WIP+Taxonomy#What-is-taxonomy%3F
- **WIP** - work-in-progress
- **WYSIWYG** - Acronym for What You See is What You Get, meaning a method for editing content where what you see on the editing screen closely resembles the final product