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2010 Drupal Training Workshop Survey Results

Thu, 02/03/2011 - 10:39am — isangil [1]

All attendants filled an online survey [2] about the workshop. Here are the synthesized results, with detailed comments at the end.

For the following questions, the participants were asked to pick a number from 1 (Poor/Not so much) to 6 (Excellent/Definetely) as their answer.

The overall median for the answers falls in the top score (Excellent/Definetely).

I was able to ask questions.
Mean 6. (100% answer maximum score (definitely))

My questions were answered
Mean 5.83. One 5, the rest gave it the maximum score.

I have the tools I need to complete and launch my website
Mean 5.16 (2/6, 3/5, ¼)

The workshop met my expectations
100% maximum score

The workshop surpassed my expectations
One 5, the rest gave it the maximum score.

The workshop conductors had a solid plan
One 5, the rest gave it the maximum score

The workshop conductors did a good job
100% maximum score

I was able to contribute
4 One 5, the rest gave it the maximum score

I took home all I wanted to
65% maximum score, 35% a 5/6

I understand better "Drupal Views"
65% maximum score, 35% a 5/6

I understand now basics concepts in Drupal
One attendant gave it a 3/6, the rest maximum score.

I understand better content types
One answered with a 5/6, the rest gave it the maximum score

I understand better theming and CSS in Drupal
65% max score, the rest equally 5/6 and 3/6
I understand better Panels
65% max score, the rest equally 5/6 and 4/6

I understand better taxonomies (terms, keywords, vocabularies..)
40% max score, 20% 5/6 and 40% 4/6

I would like to assist another workshop like this within the next year
100% maximum score

I liked the format of the workshop (small, paired expertise with specific goals, need-driven)
100% maximum score

The free text paragraph was preceded by the following opening statement

Tell us what you thought about the workshop -- don't hold back!
All attendants took the time to answer, with an average submission length in words (ex blanks)
191.67

Here are the actual comments.

1) This was by far the best IM workshop I have ever attended. The group was small, the participants had very clear work-driven objectives, and there were enough people with the appropriate expertise in the mix that I was getting answers to my specific questions about 75% of the time. I am much better prepared to complete the task of launching my website than I was before the workshop. I finally understand how Views function, and I'm reasonably confident that I can recreate what we did with Panels. These were two major stumbling points for me. That said, I expect I may still have a few questions for the LNO Drupal experts down the road, but I've definitely been empowered by the workshop to feel confident that I will someday launch a content-rich Drupal website that will also serve as our metadata management system. It's pretty cool to have had the opportunity to work closely with the other IMs trying to do the same thing, and to have strengthened our commitment and ability to help each other realize our Drupal goals.

2) First of all, I was already fairly experienced in many aspect of Drupal (e.g., basic concepts, panels, taxonomies, views) which is why I gave 2's, 3's. Overall, the workshop progressed well from introductory materials to more advanced topics throughout the week. Workshop attendees constituted a large range of talents and the presence of several attendees (4-5) with specialized skillsets ensured everyone had an opportunity to learn. The "needs-driven" approach worked well because I came in with a small set of specific questions (e.g. setting up cron, theming forms) and I would have been bored by a large number of introductory Drupal-sessions. However, I do think sprinkling a few more, formal sessions would have been beneficial. The workshop organizers (Inigo and/or Marsh) could have come down with a Corinna-esque hammer a few times to keep things on track. I left with the following: - Background on virtual servers, apache configuration (virtual hosts), ssh configuration (security), db backups - Debugging (Devel module) and the construction of small php snippets (within the Rules module) to improve the end-user experience

- Better understanding of the Drupal2EML module - Confirmation that my Drupal site should use the same content type schema as other sites - How to set up cron - How to customize (theme) the user's home page via user-registration.tpl.php - Use of Markup Module to insert custom text into node add forms Intangibles: Meals and social time were a plus as I generally don't get a chance to informally discuss new avenues/options for IM through Drupal. Hotel, Albuquerque and LNO staff were pluses as well. Finally, I would like thank to the LTER IM Committee for funding this workshop. As a non-LTER IM, I really appreciate the support of my attendance as well as my inclusion in other LTER IM activities which have been infinitely beneficial. If you ever need these sentiments packaged into a formal record just let me know.

3) I definitely learned a lot more about Drupal during this workshop than before I arrived. I feel comfortable in installing a Drupal instance along with the enabling of various modules. I learned more about cron and updating the database I learned how to import content, csv files and EndNote bibliography (after many tries and failures, but we learn best after making mistakes!) I became more familiar with taxonomy and set up some example vocabularies with terms for allowing searches. I created a Google map in Research Site and was able to import a csv file of various categorized research sampling site locations with latitude and longitude so that locations could be displayed in a map by categories of research sites. I followed along fairly well when the Views and Panels examples were demonstrated but could not participate fully since I had no content on my Drupal site to experiment with. I plan to try shortly while it is still fresh in my mind (I finally have a a variety of content imported so I can try implementing various views. Inigo, Marshall and the rest of the LNO staff that helped with the workshop were extremely helpful. The hands on learning/doing was extremely beneficial as was the small number of participants. For hands on learning and doing it is critical that the group be small. The workshop agenda was flexible enough to allow the participants to proceed at varying speeds dependent upon the expertise of the participants. Suggestion for a future Drupal training session. Create as many Drupal instances as there are participants and populate the instances with some example LTER content that could then be used during the demonstration part of the workings of various modules. All participants would then be using the same module set up and content and could follow the examples more clearly which would help to more clearly demonstrate a generic concept of how to create a view or use panels etc. Participants at this workshop used their own content and often questions were specific to their own Drupal instance/content which was extremely helpful to that participant but not as leveragable for other participants. Much of this is to be expected when there are different levels of participant expertise so the above is not a criticism just a training suggestion. Thanks, lets do it again!

4) Really we accomplished much more than I expected. I learned much more than I expected. Some of the topics did go over my head or were not relevant to the areas of my focus but I think other participants got a lot out of those discussions and hands-on activities. Personally I would have been more efficient if we had had more breaks. We should have taken the lunch hour on the last day to go for a long walk and talk -- to reflect and sort through the previous days' experiences. I think that would really have solidified the experience. The social and networking aspects of these face-to-face events cannot be underestimated. Despite working with computers so much we are all human and relate best to other humans. It is invaluable to put a name to a face. I greatly appreciate the Network which is willing to go to the expense of training and supporting travel for its workers. Overall, a great workshop that was productive and enjoyable.

5) The workshops brings together goal, and hands on working on each site webpage, which is very good way of practice. Thanks Organizer!

6) This has been the best workshop that I have attended. The hands-on structure of it, doing while learning was the most effective. Also, having 15 - 30 minutes session of discussing the

needs of the attendants and then having hands-on sessions afterwards to meet those needs was what made it perfect. This is perfect for people at all levels of knowledge, since it adapts to their level of expertise. Thanks to Ignigo for organizing this.

Reports [3]

Source URL: http://im.lternet.edu/node/786

Links:
[1] http://im.lternet.edu/user/6
[2] http://intranet.lternet.edu/im/node/736
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