IM VTC - 2009-10-05

1. http://marsh2.lternet.edu
2. Started as metadata editor - then went further
   a. aim - providing better data access
   b. want no "dead ends"
   c. Marsh and Inigo
   d. Approach is more important than implementation
3. had a bunch of separate databases - but wanted to link them together
   a. had
      i. data
      ii. personnel
      iii. bibliographic
      iv. locations
   b. in Drupal, can set up content types
      i. lets you do related information of other types
      ii. can also handle photos and videos
4. features
   a. helps people find data
   b. took about 1 week to put together
   c. can create queries and views as well - Drupal VIEWS system allows using visual editor
      i. can also have feeds for export
      ii. now working on "generate EML"
      iii. can add fields to views
      iv. relatively easy to do in Drupal
   d. PERL program generates EML from rudimentary data editor
   e. really easy and fast to work with
      i. don't need to be a programmer or database expert
5. don't want to reinvent
   a. Views module
      i. can cut and paste view code
      ii. ditto for content types
      iii. makes it easy to copy and modify
   b. relatively stable platform with API
6. questions
   a. some of the features are useful.....
      i. is drupal modular enough that I can "mix and match" with existing resources
         1. yes... we re-modeled the SEV tables into our system
            a. some modules allow you to subscribe to feeds.... let you load in from an XML database or a web service
            b. creates a copy... but with Vmanager, may be able to pull in from external database
            c. but still need to manage other copy outside drupal
      ii. drupal is nice - includes form validation etc.

1. have not seen XFORMS or XML editor.... - really a content management system
2. can create web services for host web site or use JASON - many forms
3. lots of things built in for google maps etc.
4. also can ingest well-documented taxonomys
5. will be nice to be able to share across sites - modularity
iii. not sure about how well drupal in general integrates with other things at site
iv. e.g., I want to generate eml while processing the data
v. we need you to provide vision - focus is not on using Drupal
vi. Drupal is just an integration tool - you can also do it with matlab
vii. what is your proposal? have us adopt Drupal? share modules with us?
viii. have vision of having a more unified approach in general
ix. over last year and half have learned a lot - we want to share
x. we have taken it as far as the two of us can.... getting prototype going
xi. so now we are asking - where should we go next
xii. did take a while to learn it....
1. there is a learning curve
2. can still screw it up using Drupal
xiii. could do in training or as implementation in your site
xiv. what would you like?
xv. need to make decision that LTER IM would pursue modules
1. web service
2. something like drupal
xvi. would require some training
xvii. drupal has lots of modules
xviii. many sites are run by Drupal - e.g. recovery.gov
xix. do we want to try to adopt a more modular approach?
xx. issue is not particular to software
xxi. want a more uniform product?
xxii. I'd like to see training session - help develop competance in approach - Drupal training might be a good session
xxiii. I would like to see a list of use cases for this particular technology
xxiv. how to pull in feed
xxv. use for managing eml
xxvi. want cases that show how this integrates with other features at sites
xxvii. people will want to pick and choose
xxviii. SEV, LUQ using Drupal - PIE is interested
xxix. like having everything as content
xxx. excited about going new direction
xxxi. want to help have others contribute content to the web site
xxxii. we probably need someone in IMEXEC or broader communtity work on organizing IM portal - would be good to get broader involvement
xxxiii. Training is a possibility....
xxxiv. Drupal was used for ASM web site

       xxxv.   Tasks - learn drupal
      xxxvi.   and write scripts to export the data
               1.   we did CSV export for these web sites
     xxxvii.   can you and Marsh write scripts for live movements?
               1.   might be done as web service
               2.   but have not worked with those
               3.   e.g., calendar feed from Google Calendar
    xxxviii.   can drupal deal with heterogeneous data sources with links intact?
     xxxix.   yes.... can handle most things
        xl.   have not done GIS yet...

7. can import from EML
8. need to have it so we can break the problems down and get solutions from multiple places