

## Open Source CMS Selection - A Mystery

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### Abstract:

At present there are many almost over 50 open source content management system are in the market. As open source content management systems are used for easy site maintenance so that non technical person can easily handle the site. Content management system comes in many size and shapes so to select a CMS (content management system) is really tough task to do. Here we have shown working of CMS and we have selected top 3 CMS on the base of market survey out of many to show you that there are no fix criteria to select right CMS. Here we have shown characteristics and comparison of Joomla, Drupal and WordPress CMS. We want to show you some points to consider in the selection process.

**Key Words:** CMS, Open, Source, Joomla, Drupal, WordPress.

### I. INTRODUCTION:

**Content Management System:** There are almost as many definitions of "Content Management System" as there are Web CMS vendors and analysts. But one universal definition of Content Management System:

"A system that lets you apply management principles to content." [1]

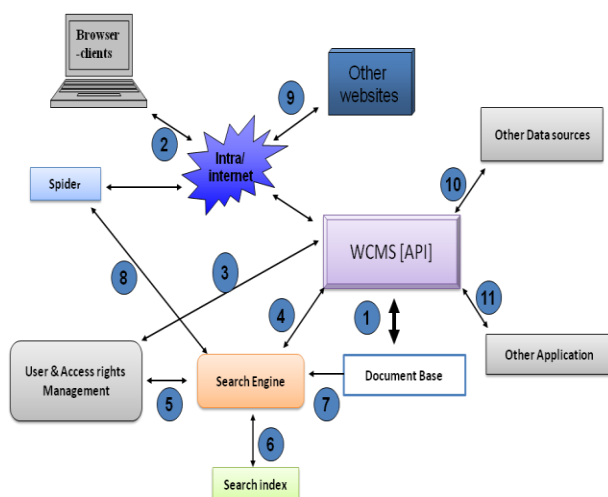


Fig.1 Working Diagram of WEB CMS[3]

The above diagram shows the core components of a web content management system (WCMS). Take a look at how a (normal) WCMS works:

The WCMS will put all its documents in its documentary database. Users access WCMS through web browser. Access rights are usually given "per-object basis in the document base. User search certain keywords in the repository. It should not just look HTML files, but most of the existing Office formats (doc, ppt, pdf, xls, ps, etc.). The search engine has to keep track of users' access rights: It should only give the results a user is allowed to see. The search engine is usually its own index. It is very useful when the search index updates directly. A web spider used to support indexing of external websites. Users can also retrieve documents from Internet. Other data sources such as SQL databases can be integrated through a standard embedded SQL, JDBC, or proprietary DB interface. [3]

### A. Types of CMS

As there are lots of CMS available in the market but I have put CMS in 4 major categories.

1. Homegrown / Custom
2. Open source
3. Commercial
4. Software as a Service [2]

## II. OPEN SOURCE

There are lots of advantages of Open Source CMS but main three are Cost, Customization and Support. We want focus on most efficient 3 open source web CMS from the market survey and on the base of popularity and that is Joomla, Drupal and Wordpress.

### A. Joomla

Joomla! is one of the most powerful Open Source Content Management Systems. It is a free open source and content publishing system designed for creating highly interactive multi-language Web sites in short time like online communities, media, portals, blogs and E-commerce applications. Joomla is a universal free open source content management system. Universality means you can customize it as you wish. In many cases Bloggers used WordPress blogging platform. This is a natural choice, but you can also blog with Joomla.. You can set page by selecting appropriate template. You can choose from thousands of free templates or select paid one for professional design. You can add additional functionality using add-ons

There are lots of extensions available at Joomla for free and for some you have to pay. And if for any reason you cannot find appropriate you can build it from scratch according to your requirements. As Joomla is open source you can also change code of the page layout according to your need by hiring web developer and enjoy the freedom. [4]

#### 1. Features

1. User Management
2. Media Manager
3. Language Manager
4. Banner Management
5. Contact Management
6. Polls
7. Search
8. Web Link Management
9. Content Management

10. Syndication and Newsfeed Management
11. Menu Manager
12. Template Management
13. Integrated Help System
14. System Features
15. Web Services
16. Powerful Extensibility[5]

Apart from above Joomla has nice Community. The most active members provides you faster response to your queries. You can ask anything about your problem and be sure that you will get an answer in short time. The community is strong and helpful.

Developers: ALL developers that worked to make Joomla better and better every time. Always ready to find out the problem and it's solutions.

Addons: You can find lots of free addons, components, modules, templates on the new developers site on Joomla.org. you can also find commercial or ask for custom addons, modules, components or templates.

Simply and powerful: Joomla is very easy to use and update. Even a novice can work with Joomla. It's simple to use, but has a lots of features if you need. Installing Joomla is on single click. You can configure in a few minutes.

#### Popular Joomla Extensions Available

Shopping Carts, Forums, Calendars & Events, Ad serving tools, Search, Google Maps, Business & People, Directories, Classified Ads, Community Portal Tools, Reservations, Automated Backup, Newsletters, Polls Quizzes, Blogs & News, Image Galleries & Portfolio Tools, Project Management & Groupware & Many Many More. [6]

### B. Drupal

Drupal is an open source platform for building robust, flexible websites. It is used by

all over the world here are some of the reasons why it is best:

Drupal is a Content Management System (CMS) which allows user to update their web pages without technical knowledge and ensure that it fits your organization's workflow.

Unlike printed materials, web site should be dynamic. Drupal is a dynamic platform that will grow as your need expands. By adding features like advanced search, auto-tagging, and internationalization, you'll allow users to explore your web content in different ways.

Drupal can be installed in multiple languages, allowing both administrators and users to view a site in their own language.

You can customize Drupal according to your content, user and features of organization that make shine in front of others.

You do not have to relying on vendors, Drupal have large developer community which provides support, security, testing, documentation for your web site.

Whenever you hear about next big enhancement in web design, Drupal is always there. Drupal community member makes Drupal better and better. [7]

#### *1 Features:*

1. Comments
2. User profiles
3. Blogs
4. Image galleries
5. Forms
6. Multimedia
7. Document management
8. Discussion forums
9. Advanced searching
10. Games
11. Social networking
12. Content tagging

13. E-commerce shopping carts and many more...[8]

#### *C. WordPress*

WordPress is Initially designed as a blogging platform, in the last several years WordPress has changed itself as a useful content management system. One of the main advantages of WordPress is the large number of plugins released by independent developers. In fact, every aspect of web site regarding the creation, organization and search engine optimization can be now handled with the use of WordPress plugins. Actually, these plugins are add-ons and improve the functionality of the user interface.

With lots of WordPress plugins available it becomes popular in the public. Lots of people confused in selecting plugin to simplify a particular task. For them, there is a large WordPress community ready to advice how to use them with WordPress content management system.[9]

#### *1 Key Features*

1. Full standards compliance
2. No rebuilding
3. WordPress Pages
4. WordPress Links
5. WordPress
6. Cross-blog communication tools
7. Comments
8. Spam protection
9. Full user registration
10. Password Protected Posts
11. Easy installation and upgrades
12. Easy Importing
13. XML-RPC interface
14. Workflow
15. Typographical niceties
16. Intelligent text formatting
17. Multiple authors
18. Bookmarks
19. Ping away [10]

### III. COMPARISON

A CMS will generally come with the ability to help the user in different ways. It manages content of the web site and overall system. A CMS is essential for the easy running of large, content rich sites.

Drupal is a highly sophisticated programming interface for web developers. This CMS will work on any platform that has a web server able to run PHP and a database, it needs these so that it can store the website's content and settings. There are many themes that can customize the way a website looks and feels, all an administrator needs to do is choose the required theme from a menu. Drupal is a very powerful tool that is best suited to advanced PHP developers, it is often accused of making sites that are not very pretty though anyone with a good understanding of it's templates system will not have a problem with this.

Joomla is another popular CMS. This CMS is also written in PHP, it stores all necessary data in a MySQL database and also includes features such as RSS feeds, page caching, blogs, news flashes, and so on. It can be uploaded onto any web server that supports applications for PHP. There are many different hosting sites that provide a control panel that allows the deployment of a Joomla web site. Joomla is not as complicated to use as Drupal, but if a site needs to go beyond the standard setup it might prove too much for the novice programmer.

WordPress is often used as a blog publishing application that can be powered or operated by PHP and MySQL. This has many different features that include a plug in design and a framework for templates. Three hundred of the worlds biggest websites use WordPress as their CMS. This is the most popular blog software used today.

It has features such as templates and widgets that can be positioned without needing to know any PHP or any form of HTML code. It also features links that use

integrated link management, a helpful search engine and supports the posting of non-blog articles hence its use as a CMS. WordPress allows users and developers alike to go beyond the features that come pre-installed by adding many more features via freely available plugins. It is the ideal solution for anyone who wants a feature rich site that is easy to setup.[11]

### IV CONCLUSION

We have seen all the three most efficient CMS, their advantages and the area in which they are best. Like Joomla is best for simple layout and for novice developer who doesn't have more requirements, Drupal is best for web developers to perform critical task and provide most facilities in rich web site and WordPress is best for blogging platform. From the above description you cannot said that which one is best, it is highly depends upon:

1. Your web site requirement.
2. Your future need.
3. Your user's technical knowledge.

So after checking every aspect in comparison we conclude that no CMS is best in every condition but their performance can be making difference by taking proper decision in selection of CMS as per your requirements in various conditions.

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