A Tale of Three Content Management Systems (CMSs)

Donald L. Schrupp
A request to help co-develop a website for the 8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands

Estes Park, Colorado
September 7-12, 2014
This lead to a review of ... Three Open Source Content Management Systems.

**Drupal**
( v. 7.2.1 )

**Joomla!**
( v. 3.1.5 )

**WordPress**
( v. 3.6 )
Underlying Software – in Common to These Content Management Systems

Linux
Apache
MySQL
PHP

(and some JavaScript & XML)
Database (MySQL) Observations ...

- Drupal 7: 71 Tables
- Joomla!: 65 Tables
- WordPress: 11 Tables
Common Installation Steps

1. Download CMS Code (.zip) & Extract
2. Make a Web Root Folder; Move Code
3. Make Copy of Config File; Do Edits
4. Create a MySQL Database
5. GRANT Permissions to New Database
6. Browse to CMS Web Root URL and Initiate Installation Code/Script
7. Provide Information for Site Name, Administrator Info with Passwords
With Open Source Software … Community Is the Advantage

Drupal:
https://drupal.org/community

Joomla!:
http://community.joomla.org/

WordPress:
http://wordpress.org/support/
Drupal, Joomla! and WordPress All Have Robust Websites Offering Free Downloads of the Core Software, Extensions, Modules, Plugins & Themes, Documentation, & Support via Forums, Blogs & Community Feeds
Third Party Books – for Guidance

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Common Design of the CMSs

Public **Front End** to the Website
Can have multiple levels of user access

Administrative **Back End** to the Website
Can be multiple roles to administrators
Admin, Author, Contributor, Public
Provisions for System Administration
Functions for Adding, Editing Content
Drupal – Public View

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Joomla! – Public View
Content Management System(s) – Back Ends - 'Admin' Login Required ...
Drupal - Dashboard
Joomla! - Control Panel
WordPress - Dashboard
### Dashboard(s) – Main Menu Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drupal</th>
<th>Joomla!</th>
<th>WordPress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Home</td>
<td>Dashboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dashboard</td>
<td>Dashboard</td>
<td>Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>System</td>
<td>Updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Users</td>
<td>Posts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td>Menus</td>
<td>Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>Content</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modules</td>
<td>Extensions</td>
<td>Appearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Configuration</td>
<td>Help</td>
<td>Plugins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>Logout</td>
<td>Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logout</td>
<td></td>
<td>Settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Logout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dashboard(s) – Main Menus

Drupal

Joomla!

WordPress

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Dashboard(s) – Main Menu Items

Drupal
- Home
- Dashboard
- Content
- Structure
- Appearance
- People
- Modules
- Configuration
- Reports
- Help
- Logout

Joomla!
- Home
- System
- Users
- Content
- Menus
- Extensions
- Help
- Logout

WordPress
- Dashboard
- Home
- Updates
- Posts
- Media
- Comments
- Appearance
- Plugins
- Users
- Tools
- Settings
- Help
- Logout

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Each CMS Had Strengths & Advantages

**Drupal**: Modules - Blocks, Blogs, Breadcrumbs, Comments, Contacts, Links, Dashboard, Data Fields, Files, Help, Images, Menus, Overlays, Paths, Feeds, Search, Statistics, Taxonomy, Text, Themes, Toolbars, Updates & Users

**Joomla**: Breadcrumbs, Logins, Media, Menus, Modules, Plugins, Components (Banners, Contacts, Messages, Newsfeeds, Searches, etc), Templates (Themes), Updates, Users

**WordPress**: Content, Menus, Media, Plugins, Themes, Users & Widgets
Strengths - Drupal

Capability of Custom Content Types for Articles and Pages by Adding Data Fields to the Standard Article and Page Types
Strengths - Drupal

Use of 'Overlays' to Provide Enhanced Context to Design Work
Strengths - Drupal

Use of 'Overlays' to Provide Enhanced Context to Design Work

Overlay Example - Part II

Describe this content type. The text will be displayed on the Add new content page.

- Title field label
  - Title

- Preview before submitting
  - Disabled
  - Optional
  - Required

- Explanation or submission guidelines
Strengths - Drupal
Theme Management
Adding New Themes and Configuring Them
Strengths - Drupal

Theme Management
Adding New Themes and Configuring Them

Themes can be 'reviewed' from the main Drupal website …

and once downloaded and installed, may be 'Enabled' to offer 'previews' of what a site would look like with that Theme 'active'
Strengths - Joomla!

'Built-In' Media Manager with FTP Upload Capabilities and Configuration Options for Media Types & Sizes

FTP Login Details

To upload, change and delete media files, Joomla! will most likely need your FTP account details. Please enter them in the form fields below.

User Name

Password

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Strengths - Joomla!

A 'Built-In' Media Manager with FTP Upload Capabilities and Configuration Options for Media Types & Sizes
Strengths - Joomla!

User and Group Management Capabilities Besides 'Super User'
Allows for Content Contribution and Management by Privileged Users
Strengths - Joomla!

Joomla! Has Built-in Components Providing Support for Banners, Contacts, Updates, Messaging, Newsfeeds, Searches, Tags and Weblinks

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Strengths - WordPress

WordPress Has a Very Intuitive Interface
Plugins Integrate in to It Nicely, Also
Strengths - WordPress

Theme Management

Current Theme

Twenty Eleven

By the WordPress team | Version 1.5

The 2011 theme for WordPress is sophisticated, lightweight, and adaptable. Make it yours with a custom menu, header image, and background — then go further with available theme options for light or dark color scheme, custom link colors, and three layout choices. Twenty Eleven comes equipped with a Showcase page template that transforms your front page into a showcase to show off your best content, widget support galore (sidebar, three footer areas, and a Showcase page widget area), and a custom “Ephemera” widget to display your Aside, Link, Quote, or Status posts. Included are styles for print and for the admin editor, support for featured images (as custom header images on posts and pages and as large images on featured “sticky” posts), and special styles for six different post formats.

Customize OPTIONS:

Widgets | Menus | Theme Options | Header | Background

Available Themes

Search Installed Themes
Strengths - WordPress

Media Management – The Library
Strengths - WordPress

Widgets and Theme Placement

Widgets provide for different styles of content and can be placed into any of a themes content areas (eg sidebars) using drag-n-drop functionality.

Additional widgets can be added to WordPress by retrieving them from the WordPress website and installing them.
Strengths - WordPress
Menu Creation

The Interface for creating menus is intuitive. Content that has been created (Pages) are shown to the left and can be 'checked' and then added to the Menu.

Once content is added to the Menu it can be dragged to new locations to re-order the Menu, and dragged to the right of an item, to make it a 'sub-menu' item to the item above it.
And Now … “The Rest of the Story …”

So, with all of the preceding 'research' in mind, you may ask … “What direction have they gone, in creating a development website for 'The 8th International Wildlife Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands: Livestock, Tourism, Spirit'?”

(You may recall, this was the driving motivation in looking in to what Content Management Systems (CMS) might offer for development of a website for the event.)
Our Current Direction

We are using WordPress (v. 3.6)

We are using the 'Conference' theme, a 'child theme developed by Robin McGee of the Warner College of Natural Resources – Colorado State University, based on the initial 'Responsive' theme developed by 'CyberChimps'

We are using the 'Meta-Slider (Lite)' plugin for animated digital slide shows.
A Preview – with Comments

8th International Congress for Wildlife and Livelihoods on Private and Communal Lands

September 7-12, 2014
Location: YMCA of the Rockies Estes Park, Colorado, USA

Our Congress emphasizes practical knowledge, skills and attitudes with action outcomes to assist private and communal sectors internationally, in North America, and in Colorado before, during and after the event. Sessions and workshops are planned with invited speakers of quality and substance, related papers from around the world, and field trips to Blue Valley Ranch, McGregor Ranch and Rocky Mountain National Park.

“Home Page”

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“Home Page” (scrolling down the page)
The business of wildlife and nature conservation for state and national economies and workforce

Quick Links:
TWS | YMCA of the Rockies | Land Help | WCNR | CSU

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“Home Page” (scrolling down the page)
A Page Visited – Via the Main Menu
African Indaba brings cutting-edge news on African wildlife and incentive-driven conservation on the continent. In addition to the regular bi-monthly newsletter, the Conservation Hunting link on this webpage features a continuously growing list of key topics.
A 'Discussion Topic' Page – a Link to an External Blog
The Main Administration (Dashboard) Interface
The Administration Page for 'Posts' (News Articles)
A Visit to the Media Library (Images, Video, Audio)
The Administration Page for 'Pages' (Static Content)
The Appearance/Theme Management Interface
The Appearance/Widget Interface
The Appearance/Widget Interface – Sidebar/Widget Areas
The Appearance/Menus Management Interface
The Appearance/Header Management Interface
An Example Plugin (Akismet – for SPAM Protection)
The User Management Interface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Username</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>admin</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:robin.mcgee@colostate.edu">robin.mcgee@colostate.edu</a></td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>delben</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Delwin.Benson@ColoState.EDU">Delwin.Benson@ColoState.EDU</a></td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hqwis</td>
<td>Don Schrupp</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hqwis@lamar.colostate.edu">hqwis@lamar.colostate.edu</a></td>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mcgee</td>
<td>Robin McGee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Robin.McGee@ColoState.EDU">Robin.McGee@ColoState.EDU</a></td>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for creating with WordPress. Version 3.6
The Tools Management Interface

**Tools**

**Press This**

Press This is a bookmarklet: a little app that runs in your browser and lets you grab bits of the web.

Use Press This to clip text, images and videos from any web page. Then edit and add more straight from Press This before you save or publish it in a post on your site.

*Drag-and-drop the following link to your bookmarks bar or right click it and add it to your favorites for a posting shortcut.*

**Categories and Tags Converter**

If you want to convert your categories to tags (or vice versa), use the [Categories and Tags Converter](#) available from the Import screen.

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#).
### The General Setting (Site Configuration) Management Interface

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Title</td>
<td>International Wildlife Management Congress, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagline</td>
<td>2014 Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robin.mcghee@colostate.edu">robin.mcghee@colostate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timezone</td>
<td>UTC-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Format</td>
<td>September 20, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Format</td>
<td>11:28 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**
- The address is used for admin purposes. If you change this, you will be sent an email at your new address to confirm. The new address will not become active until confirmed.
- Choose a city in the same timezone as you.
- Documentation on date and time formatting.
The 'Meta-Slider (Lite) Plugin Interface
Acknowledgements

Dr. Delwin Benson
- Wildlife Extension Specialist, Conservation, Fisheries & Wildlife Biology Department, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University

(for the opportunity to get involved)

Robin McGee
- IT Manager, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University

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QUESTIONS?

http://events.WarnerCNR.ColoState.EDU/iwmc-2014/