

# Drupalcon SF

Notes, lessons, ideas, and why you  
should come to CPH2010 / CHI2011

# Andrew Berry

- Andrew Berry Development
- <http://www.abdevelopment.ca/>

# A Broader Community

- More than just coders and designers
- Many, many project managers, sales managers, CxOs, and first-time users (!)
- How does this change Drupalcon and the Drupal community?

# Khalid Baheyeldin

- 2bits.com, Inc. Waterloo, Ontario
  - <http://2btis.com>

# Size and scale

- HUGE, BIG
- 3,000+ registered users
- 110 people affected by volcanic ash
- Moscone Center can take it
- Wireless worked

# WhiteHouse.gov

- Keynote speaker, advisor to the White House CIO
- List of modules used published publicly
  - Including one from Waterloo! (Nagios)
- About 1,000,000 page views per day
- Contributed back 4 modules to the community

# Everything for everyone

- For some, 7 full days of Drupaling
- Core sprint on Saturday (for core people)
  - 120 people attended
- Pre conference code sprint and unconference
- DrupalCon (3 days)
- Post conference code sprint
- Retreat day for the Drupal Association
  - 20 people attended
  - A few more virtually (volcano, ...etc.)
  - 8:30 am to 6:30 pm

# New way of running DrupalCons

- Past
  - Cities and volunteer groups proposed DrupalCons
  - The Drupal Association seeded the money to the group
  - The group ran the conference independently
- Future
  - Drupal Association "owns" the conferences
  - Via DrupalCon Inc, a US company
  - Planned years ahead
    - First time we announce
      - the next one (Copenhagen)
      - and the one after (Chicago)



# Eva Grabinski

- Project Manager
- University of Waterloo

# Project Management Sessions

- Valuable tips - Approaches to Drupal PM
- Lessons learned - PM of mid-to-large Drupal projects
- Comments on [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov) project
- Way forward - Drupal PM maturity and enterprise readiness

# Valuable tips - Approaches to Drupal PM

- Standard PM approach
- Agile PM approach
- Mixed PM approach

# Standard PM approach

- Large number of Drupal projects are actually 'standard' web design projects (no novel functionality) -- important to recognize when this is the case
- Requirements for the web design project are well defined
- Have personnel with solid Drupal expertise to create standard website in Drupal

# Agile PM approach

- A quick iterative approach that lends itself well to creating custom functionality in Drupal
- Requirements for the web functionality are not well or thoroughly defined
- Gets and keeps the client of the project involved to gather and understand requirements
- Have personnel who have time truly allocated to the project to develop the Drupal functionality

# Mixed PM approach

- Works best for mid-to-large Drupal implementation projects
- Most of these projects involve standard web design and some custom functionality
- Following standard PM processes often required for large organizations (e.g. project approval)
- Application of standard PM approach to the larger picture (scope, schedule, cost, resources ...)
- Agile approach to rapid prototyping and custom functionality development

# Lessons learned - PM of mid-to-large Drupal projects

- More than just technical
- Project management activities
- Tools for the job

# More than just technical

- Remember to address the non-technical aspects of Drupal projects (PM, communications)
- Respect that Drupal is hard to grasp for many stakeholders (when new to Drupal or not)
- Teach stakeholders Drupal terminology upfront (make this part of project kick-off meeting)
- Explain what open source is - lots of stakeholders/clients don't know
- Assemble a project team with various skills, including soft and hard skills (one lead developer)



# Project management activities

- Understand what formal PM documentation is required by your stakeholders/clients
- Recognize that really good scope and requirements definition is a must
- Be firm on scope but flexible on how to implement functionality (many ways to implement)
- Manage stakeholders' expectations about timelines (standard vs. custom functionality)
- Work on custom functionality earlier on in the project to help keep the project on schedule
- Communicate regularly with project stakeholders (this is key - status updates, online workspace)

# Tools for the job

- Gauge stakeholders' Drupal knowledge and manage expectations (e.g. module hype)
- Be firm on scope but flexible on how to implement functionality (many ways to implement)
- Make sure that Drupal is actually the tool to meet the stakeholders' needs (e.g. Drupal hype)

# Comments on whitehouse.gov project

- A hefty proposal - standard PM process and certain organizational requirements must be met
- Demands large web team - team management and project communications important

# Way forward - Drupal PM maturity and enterprise readiness

- Drupalcon highlighted that Drupal PM is a mixed bag of experience, knowledge, approaches
- Understand what sort of Drupal project it is when considering PM approach
- Understand the client of the Drupal project when considering PM approach (client involvement)
- Understand the organizational requirements for PM demanded by the client-organization
- Understand what Drupal expertise is required and available for your project
- Think about what sort of PM experience you need (web design, software development, PMP)

# Beginners Guide to Theming in Drupal

- Web design != Drupal theming
- Tools of the trade
- Changes in Drupal 7
- Lullabot recommended and recommendations

# Web design != Drupal theming

- Focus on those who are new to theming (come from a web design background)
- Web design - X/HTML and CSS
- Drupal theming - X/HTML, CSS, **PHP** (basic understanding)
- Static -> Dynamic (thinking about web pages differently)

# Tools of the trade

- **Firebug** (Firefox plugin): pinpoint and edit CSS, HTML, JavaScript
- **Theme Developer** (Drupal module): pinpoint templates, theme functions and variables associated with web-page elements
- **Devel** (Drupal Module): generates dummy users, nodes, and taxonomy terms
- **Administration Menu** (Drupal module): theme-independent Drupal administration interface at top of website
- **CCK** (Drupal module): create custom content types and add fields to existing content types
- **Views** (Drupal module): a smart query builder that can build the query, execute it, and display the results
- **Zen** (Drupal theme): heavily commented Drupal theme

# Changes in Drupal 7

- CCK becomes Fields and is part of Drupal core
- Better default themes (cleaner starting points)
- primary links / secondary links -> main menu / secondary menu
- left sidebar / right sidebar -> first sidebar / second sidebar (multilingual support)
- Easier to create regions (& more default regions)
- Blocks for things like \$search-box, \$mission, etc.
- \$content is now a block
- jQuery UI in core
- .html.tpl.php now exists
- RDFa support (Resource Description Framework attributes)
- More accessibility compliant (W3C, 508)
- And more!



# Lullabot recommended and recommendations

- Lullabot training DVDs and services highly recommended
- Watch Lullabot training videos first (e.g. basic theming and advanced theming)
- Do some actual theming to develop knowledge and experience in theming
- Get Lullabot consulting after watching videos and gaining basic experience

# Sean Yo

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# Drupal Scalability and Performance

- Taught by Drupal Rockstars
  - Matt Westgate, Josh K, Narayan Newton, Dave Strauss, Robert Douglass
  - Lullabot, Chapter Three, Four Kitchens, Acquia Drupal.Org
- Optimize the Stack
  - OS, MySQL, PHP, Apache, Browser
  - The last thing to tune is Drupal
- Pressflow: API compatible tuned fork of Drupal
- APC: PHP opcode caching
- MySQL tuning: InnoDB, [bit.ly/mysqltune](http://bit.ly/mysqltune)
- Cache, Cache, Cache: Memcache, Boost, Varnish
- Use Solr Search - local or Acquia Service
- xdebug + webgrind = see execution times
- Take the worst 5% and refactor with custom code/module

# The DrupalCon Experience

- Introduced to Drupal by Walkah at FSOSS
  - D4...but D5 is about to come out :)
- First DrupalCon
- Amazing Community
  - Genuine, Approachable, Generous, Fun
  - Contrib is the research lab for Core
  - Drupal Roadmap is Strategic and Collaborative
- DrupalCon Inspired and Energized me
- Committed my first patch before the DrupalCon was over
- Drank the Koolaid == Learning PHP
- Working on CPH2010 & CHI2011

# Blaine Lange

- Nextide, Inc, Mississauga, Ontario
  - <http://www.nextide.ca>

# First Drupalcon Experience

- Relatively new to Drupal and wanted to get a feeling for the community
- Wanted to better understand the business side of Drupal
- Excellent conference and best suited for new members or experienced members with their own network.
- Found it at times too busy and hard to find users of similar interests.
- Attended several sessions and BOF on how to contribute
- Favorite Sessions ..
- Drupal Distributions
- Post Drupalcon

Blaine Lang