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Drupal Adoption and Collaboration in the CSU

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Drupal's motto: "Come for the software, **stay for the community**"

The Drupal community is huge and welcomes new participants

The CSU system has a growing Drupal community

Both of these ecosystems have resources to help you



The vast Drupal community at DrupalCon Chicago 2011

Community

What is Drupal exactly?

Drupal is a free, open-source, and widely-used Content Management System and Framework

Both professional and community support is available

It's used for

High-profile sites: whitehouse.gov

Heavy-traffic sites: examiner.com

Community portals: opensource.com

School portals: inside.sfsu.edu, my.csumb.edu

It's battle-tested and people enjoy working with it

The Key Takeaway:

Find the support and community that will help you succeed with Drupal

Community Resources:

drupal.org/documentation - Help Docs
api.drupal.org - Code docs (make a copy)
#drupal IRC chat on freenode
groups.drupal.org/highered
uwebd - university web developers list
2bits.com/contents/articles - Performance
drupal.stackexchange.com - Q & A
Twitter (it really is good)

CSU Resources:

groups.drupal.org/california-highered - Group only open to CA edu community
drupalcalifornia.com - showcase site for Drupal usage in CA highered
<https://wcmdemo.sfsu.edu/campus/drupal/> - Training materials
various mailing lists (CSUN is sponsoring a system-wide mailing list coming soon)

Professional Resources:

Lynda.com - Training videos
Lullabot.com - Training classes and materials
Safari Books Online (many campuses have access) - Books
Acquia.com - Professionally hosted/managed Drupal
drupalgardens.com - Free Drupal hosting (like wordpress.com)

But my campus doesn't have a community...Then start one!

Getting people on board and together requires work and persistence

But if you work hard and succeed you can be a superstar



Change is hard

- The first site is the hardest. Get people on board by creating a working demo site first, then get permission later
- Some will still want to stick with other technologies, get them on board by taking work on that they don't want



Tips for successful hosting

- No one wants to manage their own server, **no one** so if you are central IT, offer hosting
- If you are a department, consider Drupal Gardens or Amazon's EC2 (Pre-built AMIs) or Linode (pre-made stacks) or ask your Central IT! (And tell them ask us if need help)
- Oversize your hardware if you can. Developer time > hardware costs in the long run
- Create your own university theme and re-usable install
 - Use Drupal 7!

Tips for successful coding

- Use existing code - <http://drupal.org/project/modules>
- Use others' resources (e.g., <https://github.com/sfstate>)
- Open-source your work (many eyes = better site)
- Under-promise and plan for long deployments
- Version control - Subversion or Git
- Test, test, test! - (SimpleTest, PHPUnit, Selenium...)
- Create pre-config installation CDs or VMs for developers
- Use the coder module <http://drupal.org/project/coder>

Some recommended modules

- Views - For easily sorting content in many ways
- Panels - For easy layouts
- Admin menu - For easy administrating
- CKEditor - 508 compliant (see http://ckeditor.com/blog/CKEditor_3.2_released)
- Shibboleth, CAS, or LDAP - For single-sign on
- Diff - For easily seeing highlighted changes
- Revisioning - For easily managing changes and revisions
- Rules - For creating custom workflows
- Realname - Because names are nicer than e-mails or ID numbers
- Use Drush - If you are a serious admin, for why, see my answer here: <http://drupal.stackexchange.com/questions/50/what-can-drush-do-that-the-web-interface-cant/197#197>

Remember your audience



- Students - Care that it works
- Faculty - Care that they can have their own site
- Content Creators - Care that it is easy to use
- Developers - Care that they can get help with debugging code
- Managers - Care that it is cost-effective and reliable

But if it the website is down, they will only care that they can't do what they want to do.
Top goal: Reliability

Again, remember your audience

Drupal is not the solution for everything, or at least not yet

E-learning - Moodle/iLearn

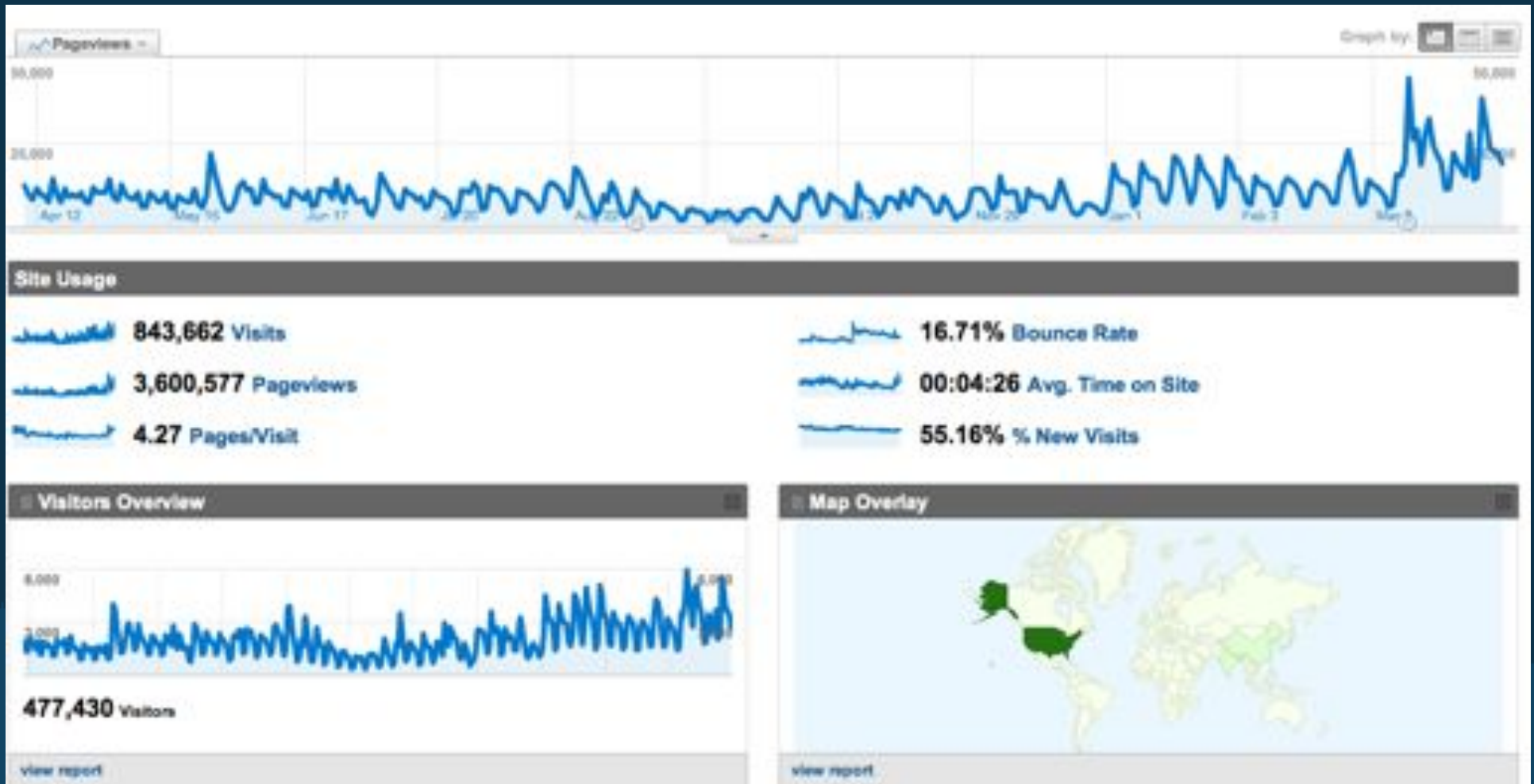
Blogging (and only blogging) - Wordpress

Document Management - Sharepoint / Google Docs

All these things can be done in Drupal, but they are not what Drupal excels at which is managing content and providing much needed apps (voting, events, news, calendars, etc.)

Success!

Many CSUs have had success at deploying Drupal.
SF State has been running its Portal on Drupal for over a year
It's been very smooth with only a few hiccups



Forward the future

SF State is centrally providing department sites on Drupal

It hopes to then provide faculty sites

And then campus community sites (e.g., student groups)

The sky is the limit

The way we can do this is by providing a full Drupal site that we host, but no PHP, and only approved modules/themes

And we use Quickbuild (free for open-source) pmease.com

Want to learn how to do that? Want to do it better? Join the Drupal California Higher Ed group so we can discuss how!

Working Together

If we work together we can:

- Avoid reinventing the wheel
- Show the administration we are serious about Drupal
- Seek CSU wide contracts w/ companies (e.g., Acquia)
- Help each other solve problems & share code



If you only remember one thing

Use your resources!

- Got a question? Go to drupal.stackexchange.com
- Need it answered *now*? #drupal on IRC freenode
- Need ideas and discussion? groups.drupal.org/california-higher-ed And use your students! They are often your audience, and so they can make great recommendations and contributions to your work.



Expect that there will be problems, use humor to overcome them :D

Questions?



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Joseph Karr O'Connor - CSUN

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