

Part 1 - What is Drupal?

An introduction to Drupal and its core principals



Drupal in a nutshell

- Open source
- **CMS** (*Content Management System*), some say CMF (*Content Management Framework*)
- Works with:
 - **PHP**
 - **MySQL/PgSQL**, support for Oracle and DB2 are coming
 - Apache, IIS, Lighttpd
- Version 5.7 and 6.1 stable, version 7 planned for 2008
- Integrates Ajax (jQuery), theming, caching, modules...

What makes it better?

- Extremely flexible
- Active community
- Highly scalable
- Good performances
- Strong architecture
- Good documentation
- Built-in good practices such as SEO friendly URLs

The only real drawback: a slow learning curve



What is a Node

- Node is the basic unit of the Drupal world
 - A piece of content
 - An object
- Why node?
 - Simple, easy to organize
 - Unique id (nid) and revision id (vid)
 - Title and body
 - Flexible, easy to customize
 - Can be extended into very complex data/content models

Node Flexibility

Basic Node

- ID
- Title
- Body

Extended Node: Restaurant

- ID
- Title (Name)
- Location
- Rating
- Menu
- ...

Nodes and Friends

- Not everything is a node. Exclusives and reasons:
 - Users
 - Comments
 - Blocks



What is Taxonomy

- Taxonomy categorizes the content
- **Terms** are the actual tag
 - Abstraction level
- **Vocabularies**
 - A Vocabulary is a collection of terms
 - Required Vocabularies
 - Controlled Vocabularies
 - Free Tagging
 - Single vs. Multiple Terms
 - Related Terms

Magic of Taxonomy

Location

Provinces

DC

Hebei Shanxi Shanghai Beijing

Food

Taste

Genre

Price

Good OK Bad Chuan Lu Yue Jing 0-100 100-1k

Houwei Guan

Description

One of my favorite Sichuan Restaurants. It's hard to get a table there in peak hours though.

Taxonomy

Shanghai

Good Taste

Chuan

Why Taxonomy

- The best way of organizing content
 - Tag system
 - Multi-hierarchical system
 - Combination of advantages of free-tag and normal hierarchical structure
- Easy to build and easy to use
 - Can be built through either admin panel or coding
 - Seperate table, can be used everywhere

What have we seen, what haven't we?

- 2 mains concepts of Drupal:
 - Nodes handle content
 - Taxonomy handle categorization
- What's next?
 - CCK & Views, 2 major modules
 - Theming
- What we won't cover today:
 - Users
 - Databases
 - Form API
 - ...

A few figures

- Who use it?
 - Warner Bros (<http://warnerbrosrecords.com>)
 - Spread Firefox (<http://spreadfirefox.com>)
 - Tripgarden.com (<http://www.tripgarden.com>)
- Growth:
 - Community exploding;
 - 600+ core developers
 - 800+ contributions developers
 - 600+ modules
 - 250+ themes
 - 40 languages
 - Activity roughly double every new version

Resources

Drupal.org

- Download: <http://drupal.org/project>
- Documentation: <http://drupal.org/handbooks>
- Forums: <http://drupal.org/forum>

Groups.Drupal.org

- <http://groups.drupal.org/shanghai>

DrupalChina.org

- <http://drupalchina.org/forum/42>

Raincitystudios.com

- <http://raincitystudios.com/blog>