CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CMS) - AN INTRODUCTION

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DEFINITION OF CMS

Plone.org:-

A content management system, or CMS, is a web application designed to make it easy for non-technical users to add, edit and manage a website.

Not only do content management systems help website users with content editing, they also take care of a lot of "behind the scenes" work such as:

• Automatically generate navigation elements

• Making content searchable and indexable

• Keeping track of users, their permissions and security settings.

Comentum.com

• Managing content refers to creating, editing, archiving, and publishing, collaborating on, reporting, distributing website content, data and information.

Webopedia

- A content management system, also called a Web management system is software or a group or suite of applications and tools that enable an organization to seamlessly create, edit, review and publish electronic text. Many content management systems offer a Web-based GUI, enabling publishers to access the CMS online using only a Web browser. Also, a CMS designed for Web publishing will provide options and features to index and search documents and also specify keywords and other metadata for search engine crawlers.

INTRODUCTION

In the last years, the Internet has evolved greatly, monopolizing an increasingly large part of our daily life. The new technologies have created a dynamic Web that evolves continuously and adapt themselves on users' everyday life. The new types of web application reshape the models of online communication and collaboration, as well as the way in which the information is created, published and transferred. Moreover, an increasing number of people have changed their perception about using the Internet, and have started to actively participate in the new communities, using them as means of communication and collaboration, or as business platform that enables the promotion and expansion of new business models. Due to the user's interaction with new forms of technology and the websites characteristic of capturing their

feedback, resulted a set of new concepts. All these new forms of technology: blogs, sites like Wikipedia, social networking, along with the free circulation of information through communication programs in real time, e-mails, RSS, are designed to put in touch people from different locations regarding their common interests. Lately, more and more companies focus on developing applications that allow users to socialize, to exchange opinions, views, share information, comment, and receive feedback from other members of the community.

Tim Berners-Lee, considered the inventor of the Internet, said in his book , that the web is more a social creation than a technical one. He also put emphasis on the fact that he developed the Internet in order to help people work together in a collaborative way. A collaborative system is a system in which several users are engaged in a common activity, interacting and putting their efforts into pursuing a common objective. In order to aid the development of a society that is based on knowledge, a collaborative system must be oriented towards the user, providing a medium that permits efficient interaction and collaboration, without taking into consideration the location and the domain of the activity. According to Brna, collaboration comprises a great number of characteristics, such as an agreement regarding reciprocal collaboration, the adoption of a common aim, the existence of a mutual understanding of the problem and finally, the issue of the progress and maintenance of the

conviction that the common objective can be achieved.

TYPES

There are many types of CMS available and they are listed below

Apache Roller

Apache Roller is a Java-based Open Source "full-featured, Multi-blog, Multi-user, and group-blog server suitable for blog sites large and small". Roller was originally written by Dave Johnson in 2002 for a magazine article on open source development tools, but became popular at FreeRoller.net (now JRoller.com) and was later chosen to drive the employee blogs at Sun Microsystems, Inc. and IBM developer Works blogs.

OpenCms

OpenCms is an open source content management system written in Java. It is distributed by Alkacon Software under the LGPL license. OpenCms requires a JSP Servlet container such as Apache Tomcat.

It is a CMS application with a browser-based work environment, asset management, user management, workflow management, a WYSIWYG editor, internationalization support, content versioning, and many more features including proxying of requests to another endpoint.

OpenCms was launched in 1999, based on its closed-source predecessor MhtCms. The first open source version was released in 2000.

Joomla

Joomla is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) for publishing web content. It is built on a model–view–controller web application framework that can be used independently of the CMS.

Joomla is written in PHP, uses object-oriented programming (OOP) techniques (since version 1.5) and software design patterns, stores data in a MySQL, MS SQL (since version 2.5), or PostgreSQL (since version 3.0) database, and includes features such as page caching, RSS feeds, printable versions of pages, news flashes, blogs, search, and support for language internationalization.

Drupal

Drupal is a free and open-source content-management framework written in PHP and distributed under the GNU General Public License. It is used as a back-end framework for at least 2.1% of all Web sites worldwide ranging from personal blogs to corporate, political, and government sites. It is also used for knowledge management and business collaboration. The standard release of Drupal, known as Drupal core, contains basic features common to content management systems. These include user account registration and maintenance, menu management, RSS feeds, taxonomy, page layout customization, and system administration. The Drupal core installation can serve as a simple Web site, a single- or multi-user blog, an Internet forum, or a

community Web site providing for user-generated content.

Wordpress

WordPress is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) based on PHP and MySQL. WordPress is installed on a web server, which either is part of an Internet hosting service or is a network host itself; the first case may be on a service like WordPress.com, for example, and the second case is a computer running the software package WordPress.org. An example of the second case is a local computer configured to act as its own web server hosting Wordpress for single-user testing or learning purposes. Features include a plugin architecture and a template system. WordPress was used by more than 23.3% of the top 10 million websites as of January 2015. WordPress is the most popular blogging system in use on the Web, at more than 60 million websites. It was released on May 27, 2003, by its founders, Matt Mullenweg and Mike Little, as a fork of b2/cafelog. The license under which WordPress software is released is the GPLv2 (or later) from the Free Software Foundation.

ADVANTAGES OF CMS:

•Ability to add or edit pages on your website yourself.

It is nice to have control over your investment; the feeling of empowerment to control your website is a good one. In particular for an organisation or business that is dynamic and needs things to happen fast.

•Not have to pay your developer monthly maintenance or hourly rate for changes

Why pay someone to do something you can do yourself right? (but can you?)

•Useful in organisations, with many content contributors, that perhaps need to audit additions and changes to content being made

Many CMSs offer the ability to delegate roles and cascade these throughout the organisation with some people writing content and others giving the OK. A CMS can be ideal for this type of workflow.

DISADVANTAGES OF CMS

•Potential to break your websites look and feel if not used properly.

So many things can go wrong, formatting errors, incorrect preparation of images, no image compression, inconsistent resizing resulting in out of proportion photographs, breaking away from the 'style guide' of your website that you may have paid a designer a lot of money to create for you, thereby effecting the consistency of your brand. Most of this can be mitigated by proper training or indeed good advice on which CMS to use and as they say time heals all things. After some initial teething trouble most of these issues can be ironed out eventually.

•You may not have the resource to update website regularly

(By resource I mean the trained, motivated staff with time in the day, on top of all their other

duties, Note: do you plan to pay them more to take on this extra responsibility or if you plan to do it yourself are you aware of the time involved to do it properly) , there is no point paying for a CMS to be implemented, that you don't intend to use very often and more importantly one that you don't have the resources; time, staff and skills to use effectively.

•Using a CSM effectively can require certain computer skills that you or your staff may not have

Training will cost money so think about offsetting this against a retainer on your developer. Both options are well worth consideration.

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