



Meeting the Online Needs of University Communities with Drupal

In an effort to promote collaboration within its academic community and provide dynamic websites, the department of Online Learning Services at Kennesaw State University has initiated pilot projects that utilize the Drupal content management system.

In implementing the software on campus, the department has found that demand for social and community software extends beyond traditional e-learning and into departments, university administration, and the student body. Faculty, staff, and students are looking for new ways to connect the disparate elements of the university through online communities, which translates into a need for software that is not necessarily bound to the classroom.

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What is Drupal?

An open source content management system. One can think of it as a website building application which comes packaged with the collaborative tools needed to support information sharing for online communities. Drupal can provide an easy to use web interface for managing content that allows content experts to focus on content over HTML skills.

Why CMS?

Webmasters - stay focused on site structure and design
 Contributors - maintain and create new content without dreamweaver
 Viewers - access to current and more accurate information
 University - unified look and feel with online branding

Why Drupal? (Besides the fact that it's free)

- Scalable, customizable and extensible - Allows WYSIWYG
- Collective Authoring - Forums and comments
- Blogs (per user or collective) - Built-in RSS feeds
- File-attachment on posts - Works with LDAP
- Taxonomy (categories) - Role-based permissions
- Multi-language support - Allows new content types
- Mature, rock-solid code base - Seven years open-source
- Active development community with over 1500 add-on modules

Disclaimer

Drupal is a highly flexible and powerful tool and as such should be used by those with knowledge of HTML, CSS, web applications and at least a vague notion of how databases (such as MySQL) function. While you don't have to actually know PHP and SQL to make it function, a working knowledge of LAMP tools and utilities is helpful for using Drupal. Drupal is powerful, but it is also complex. For administrators/developers, there can be a steep learning curve.

Drupal University Uses

Departmental Sites - Easy development, brochure-ware sites

<http://www.math.ohio-state.edu>

<http://cs.byu.edu>

<http://www.egr.msu.edu/decs>

Groups and Organizations - Informal, social websites for faculty, staff, students, or alumni

<http://csaa.byu.edu/>

<http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~soapbox>

Educational Communities - common spaces for interdisciplinary learning

<http://gaming.psu.edu/>

Media Sites - media rich sites for hosting audio, video, and provide podcasting capabilities

Integration with existing technologies -

Drupal and Moodle

http://docs.moodle.org/en/Integrations#Drupal_Moodle

Drupal and Elgg

<http://www.funnymonkey.com/together-at-last>

Drupal and Alfresco

<http://ecmarchitect.com/archives/2008/05/23/827>

Multi-User Blogging

KSU Sites

Online <http://online.kennesaw.edu>

Elearn <http://elearn.kennesaw.edu>

Financial Services <http://financialservices.kennesaw.edu>

Universities developing with Drupal

Harvard Science <http://harvardscience.harvard.edu/>

Stanford Law <http://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/>

Slane College of Bradley <http://slane.bradley.edu/web/>

University of Calgary <http://www.ucalgary.ca/>

The University of Arizona has multiple uses at http://drupal.arizona.edu/drupal_sites/

Learn more about Drupal for Universities

Educause http://connect.educause.edu/term_view/drupal?time=1221850732

Drupal <http://groups.drupal.org/node/3282>

How to get a closer look at Drupal

Oct. 23, 2008 See KSU Sites at our 3:00 PM presentation at Rock Eagle 2008

Oct. 23, 2008 KSU provided drupal playground at <http://drupal.kennesaw.edu/rockeagle>

Anytime Drupal can be downloaded at <http://drupal.org>

Anytime A live sandbox from Opensourcecms

<http://opensourcecms.com/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=132>