Drupal For NonGeek

If you will never write a line of PHP code but need to understand how Drupal works, this session is for you. We'll focus on a high-level, conceptual understanding of the Drupal framework.

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DrupalCamp Stanford 2012

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My next tattoo

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My next tattoo

The wrong solution is implemented when the right questions were never asked.

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The idea for this session arose when . . .

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I was working on a proposal with our new (wonderful) client manager and realized that there are rarely any sessions *for her*. She needs to talk solution architecture but will never write any code.

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Common roles

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Common roles

- Client manager

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- Client manager
- Scrum master / project manager

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- Product owner

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Common roles

- Client manager
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- Product owner
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- The money

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Is this session for you?

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Agenda

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- Understand how Drupal works - meta level

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- Understand how Drupal structures content

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- Computer science for people who aren’t computer scientists but need to think like one

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- Understand how Drupal works - meta level
- Understand how Drupal structures content
- Computer science for people who aren’t computer scientists but need to think like one
- Sometimes
- Answer questions that haven’t been answered

In the olden days . . .

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- yoursite.com/anotherpage.html

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- <p id=”headline”>

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- Drupal is a CMS

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- Query strings: ?q=
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- The content of the page is in the “spreadsheet” with the ID 1234

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- but the URL is still really yoursite.com/node/1234

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- Drupal is a framework that does CMSy stuff
- Here's where it gets confusing and ingenious

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- This is an oversimplification
- It is called bootstrapping

The process

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- Where are you? Select language.
- Which page? Serve up the page.

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- So can themes (where the XHTML and CSS goes)

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- It’s all about organizing the hooks and the files correctly

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Do I care about the “framework” distinction?

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- Mostly, no

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Do I care about the “framework” distinction?

- Mostly, no
- Except . . .

Do I care about the “framework” distinction?

- Mostly, no
- Except . . .
- Understanding this helps you make sense of why some things are easy and some things are hard

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The truth is . . . almost every conversation you are ever having about Drupal development is really about hooks

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- Your tasks can’t run on page load, a special process has to be written

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- Add a custom form

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- Menus
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- Taxonomy
- Views
- And the users who view and create them (which is you too)

Nodes and Content Types

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- They are still nodes

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- Nodes can be associated with menu items to give the site structure

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- Nodes with the content type Book Review can be associated (when they are created) with the Book Reviews menu item
- The URL to your review would be yoursite.com/books/book-reviews/why-be-happy-when-you-can-be-normal (aka node/1234)

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- Regions are defined in the theme. For example, “sidebar” or “footer”
- Blocks can contain all kinds of content: menus, content from nodes, text with markup and links, custom output (yup, there are hooks to create blocks)
- It is common to confuse node content with block content or to want a block where there is no region

Taxonomy

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Fruit
- Apples
- Pears

Veggies
- Carrots
- Spinach

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- Views can be created administratively
- We could do a whole session just on Views

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Views

- Views is a module that enables content to be organized and presented
- For example, “all Book Reviews posted in the last three months”
- It can also display content using the associations
- For example, “all nodes with the taxonomy term Apples AND Spinach, sorted alphabetically”
- Views can be created administratively
- We could do a whole session just on Views
- and still not know everything about creating them

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Users and permissions

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- user/1234

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- See the user ID?

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Users and permissions

- user/1234
- See the user ID?
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- Users can be assigned roles, like Editor or Student
- Roles are given permissions, like Edit Book Reviews or Delete Own Content
- Anonymous users have the ID 0

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PHEW!

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Any Questions?

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Thank You!

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