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Using WordPress as a Content Management System

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Wordpress as a CMS

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In the beginning…

The task of redesigning our website seemed monolithic.

Someone suggested Wordpress

Reaction:

Wordpress?

Proof of Concept

Designer created a beta website for us using a free Wordpress template:

Proof of Concept – cont'd

Final website:

http://slim.emporia.edu/

Another example; same template:

http://www.rflib.org/

This template is somewhat unique in that it is free *and* the author provides EXTENSIVE support via his website. That type of support is usually reserved for premium themes, *so choose your theme carefully*!

Result: New Website - Pros

- Looks nice and current

- Development was quick & changes could be made "on the fly" when meeting to review the website

- Updating content is easy

Results New Website - Cons

- To customize the template to your needs, you'll have to edit the PhP and CSS (good documentation & support helps).

- Not robust in managing access for multiple website editors

- Certain parts are "clunky" to update (e.g., front page items)

On the other hand...

- Versioning is robust and allows you to go back to earlier versions.

- You can establish protocols such as requiring changes to be saved as drafts until approval.

- You have a new, functional, and good-looking website in a minimum amount of time!!!

Using Wordpress as a CMS – the song

Want to build a website
That isn't a mess
I know lots of Php
So simple isn't best
But I don't want to build it myself
Why look past what is already there?
Give me a framework please
I'll finish tonight

(Chorus)
Using Wordpress as a CMS
Is everything that I could want
When it doesn't there's a plugin for it
And if there's not I can make my own
I've never seen such thought-out system
With an API to help the task
The plugins, widgets, and theming helping
There's nothing you could not build

By Scott Kingsley Clark, scottkclark.com
The full song:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11oGVvGJMe8

His PPT presentation at WordCamp Dallas:
http://www.scottkclark.com/wp-assets/2009/06/WordCamp-Dallas-2009-WordPress-As-A-CMS.pptx

Useful Links about Wordpress as a CMS

- [Things to Consider When Using Wordpress as a CMS](#) (Excellent article & followup comments are especially interesting!)
- [WordPressing Dissected: NMC Pachyderm Services](#) (despite the strange name, it has lots of GREAT info, especially if you want to really get under the hood)
- [Good Examples of Wordpress used as a CMS](#)
- [Collection of articles on Wordpress as CMS](#) [(Link 1)](#) [(Link 2)](#) (2008 & earlier, but still some useful info)
- [Interesting Plugin for CMS called "Role Scoper"](#) (content-specific role assignments)
- [First in a four-part series on techniques for using Wordpress as CMS](#) (Parts 1 and 2 are available, but parts 3 and 4 are yet to come, so subcribe to the RSS feed!)
- [Wordpress Up to the Challenge](#) (This is an AMAZING example, but looks like it was really time consuming to set up. Be sure to click the image to see "live" version)
- [Install Wordpress Securely](#) (not DIRECTLY related, but very important if you need to convince your IT Department—and yourself—that your system is secure)
- [Premium Resources for Wordpress MU](#) (if you want to go with MU, this is an amazing resource with great support—it's not free, but even a one month's subscription can give you a great head start and lots of sophisticated customized plugins & themes)