Academic Websites in Plone

Sally Kleinfeldt Plone Symposium Midwest 5 June 2013



Why Plone? Fundamentals

- Secure
- Accessible (Section 508)
- Scalable (users, pages)
- User friendly editing
- Flexible, granular permission system (global and local roles)
- LDAP/Active Directory integration

Why Plone? Theming

- Give the site a custom look and feel
- Plone 4.3: TTW Diazo theming
- HTML/CSS development only
- No Python required

Why Plone? Custom Types

- Give the site custom behavior
- Plone 4.3: TTW Dexterity content types
- Add plone.app.workflowmanager for business process automation
- Also uwosh.northstar, uwosh.pfg.d2c

Why Plone? Subsites

- Manage many sites (departments, schools) together
- Lineage (collective.lineage) see Notre
 Dame presentation tomorrow
- Also ftw.subsite, or a lightweight site customization

Why Plone? Fundraising, CRM

- Salesforce.com integration suite
- collective.salesforce.fundraising see Nonprofit Fundraising presentation tomorrow
- Work is beginning on a new message queue based Salesforce integration come to the BOF!

Why Plone? Calendaring

- Lots of calendaring tools are available
 - Built in events, calendar
 - Solegma.fullcalendar
 - uwosh.timeslot
 - SignupSheet

Why Plone? LIMS

- Laboratory Information Management System
- Roles and workflows tailored for labs
- Bika LIMS

Why Plone? Online Exhibits

- Multi-section exhibits from Plone content
- collective.exhibit

Why Plone? 2 Venerable Add-ons

- Faculty/Staff Directory
- CMF Bibliography AT

- Personnel directories tailored for educational institutions
- Integrates with Plone users and groups (Membrane)
- Created in 2007, current version 3.1.3
- Widely used, actively maintained

- Tightly coupled to an academic organizational model
 - Classification (Staff/Faculty/Student)
 - Department
 - Committee
- All are AT content types

- Honed for use in educational institutions
- Inflexible, difficult to adapt to other membership situations
- People cannot have different roles within a group (committee chair, member)

- Work is beginning on a new membership add-on, provisional name Roster
- Keeps membership separate from committee, department, etc. objects
- Captures metadata about the user's membership in a group
- David Glick can tell you more!

- What is the future of FSD?
- Feature complete for the niche it occupies
- Tweaks, bug fixes yes
- Dexterity rewrite? not likely...

- Create and manage bibliographic references
- Provides 16 different types of references as AT content types
- Schema follows BibTeX LaTeX's reference management system
- Supports numerous import and export formats and easy to add new ones

- Widely used, invaluable on academic sites
- Created in 2005, current version 1.1.2
- Has not changed in 2 years
- Big, complicated code base includes a CMF layer

- Cautionary notes when importing large numbers of references:
 - Many keywords (tags) will make editing impossible due to bug in keyword widget
 - Many references in one bibliography folder will clobber the nav portlet - hide them from nav

- What is the future of CMFBibliography?
- Feature complete for the niche it occupies
- Tweaks, bug fixes yes
- Dexterity rewrite? not likely...
- If the CMF layer is removed, many academic sites will be prevented from upgrading...

Discussion?