

ΣΥΝΟΠΤΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΓΡΑΦΗ

Open Source Web Content Management Systems Case Study on WordPress

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Abstract

The present thesis concerns the Open Source Web Content Management Systems, where we focus on a case study with WordPress. For the assistance of the Department of Business Administration, we designed a website at <http://de.daidalos.teipir.gr/>, in order to organize and improve the Secretariat's functionality and modernize the interaction system and information of the students. The Theoretical part refers to basic concepts related to Content Management Systems, and analyzes the features of the WordPress platform and its management.

1. Introduction

A Content Management System is a system used to create and administrate a website. The WordPress platform is one such CMS, and is arguably the most popular in terms of functionality, ease of use and having the largest community among the open source Web CMS available worldwide. The fact that many international media enterprises (e.g. the New York Times, Sony Music, the Time Magazine, CNN etc.) make use of the WordPress platform as a website design tool, proves the effect it has on the modern day's Internet.

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2. Overview

The main purpose of this thesis is to define and analyze the main terms used in Content Management. Therefore, we highlight what is content (in our case study by content we mean Web content such as media , text, etc.), the ways it can be managed and distributed and the processes concerning these tasks.

A basic aspect of this paper is the use of open source software. We discussed the definitions of Open Source code, the criteria to open source distribution, and the licensing upon which WordPress is based. Furthermore, we studied the features of Content Management Systems, their evolution through time, and the most commonly used today (such as Drupal and Joomla), ending up to WordPress as the best choice to fit our needs.

The way to import content into our website with WordPress is through Pages and Posts, which we also discuss in an effort to make the end user understand these characteristics and be able to use them at will. Some other features of WordPress included in this research are multimedia management, Categories and hierarchy into the website structure, and we also mention the User roles as they are defined by WordPress and the permissions for each one.

Moreover, this thesis focuses on the usage of Themes and Plugins as crucial parts of the WordPress environment, and we provided detailed guides on WordPress installation, maintenance, customization and administration.

3. Experimental Results

During the design of our website (de.daidalos.teipir.gr), we reviewed the theoretical aspects of the study we made on the WordPress platform and put them into effect. Thus, we had the opportunity to experiment and learn the basic features of WordPress as a web design tool, and comprehend the advantages of using it as a CMS to store, manage, and publish content on the web.

4. Conclusions

Due to its usability, functionality and high potential to be used in a wide range of website types, WordPress has proven itself as a powerful Web CMS tool. With its user friendly environment, vast selection of plugins and themes, and constantly evolving community and support, it can be the main choice for any web developer in order to create a modern site with outstanding design, given the least effort and without advanced programming skills necessary.

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