

WHITEPAPER

WHY ARE SO MANY US GOVERNMENT SITES ON DRUPAL?

A comprehensive analysis on why so many government agencies are adopting the open source CMS platform.

BY DRUPAL PARTNERS



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Executive Summary

CMS POWERING MORE THAN
1 MILLION WEBSITES



Drupal is one of the top content management systems (CMS) powering more than one million websites, ranging from personal blogs to diverse industries. But what brought Drupal to the limelight was when it was adopted to host WhiteHouse.gov in 2009. This is because President Obama's administration wanted a content management system that truly reflects their commitment to establish a transparent system and encourage public participation and engagement.

Drupal Rules Government

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24%
Of All Gov Sites
Use Drupal

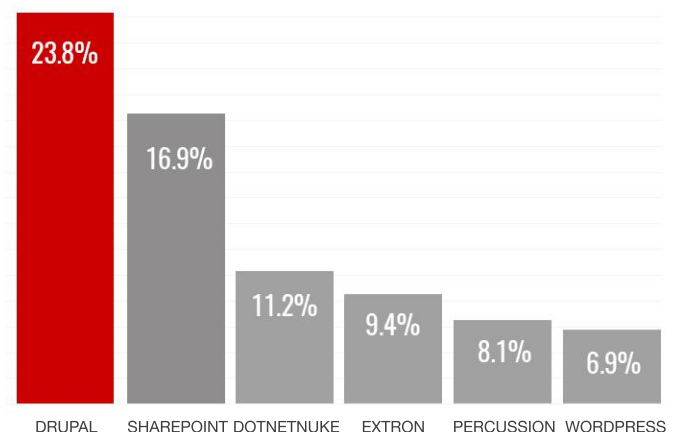


Key Drupal Usage Statistics

24% OF ALL GOVERNMENT SITES
IN THE US RUN ON DRUPAL.

Some of the major competitors of Drupal are WordPress, Joomla and Magento. As of October 2016, Drupal has a market share of 4.9%. In the CMS world, the first position belongs to WordPress, which has a market share of 58.9%.

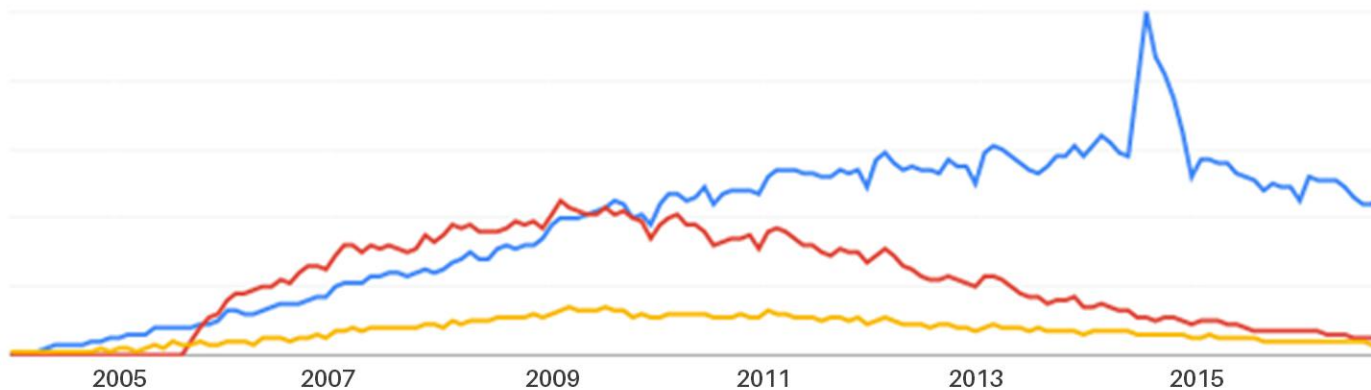
Yet, despite this and the heavy competition, 24% of all government sites in the US run on Drupal. This is mainly because Drupal is extremely secure and incredibly scalable. Other federal sites on Drupal include Energy.gov, House of Representatives, FEMA, NASA, NY.gov, Boston.gov, Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), departments like Health, Agriculture, Defense, Education, Commerce and many more. Drupal has also beaten out SharePoint, due to cost and ease of setup and use.



Drupal Usage Statistics

Interest over time. Web Search. Worldwide, 2004 - present.

• wordpress • joomla • drupal



View full report in [Google Trends](#)

What Qualifies Drupal To Host The Majority Of Government Sites?

DRUPAL IS DESIGNED AND
BEST SUITED FOR ENTERPRISES
AND LARGE MULTISITES

Although WordPress has the most CMS market share, it doesn't make it any better than Drupal. Drupal is designed and best suited for enterprises and large multisites – WordPress is great at managing micro blogs.

For example:

The department of energy was running on an outdated CMS that resulted in increased bounce rates, complex navigations and an extremely non user-friendly user interface. They wanted a CMS that could quickly adapt to their requirements, scale with multiple integrations (Like social media and content) and advance digitally. After using Drupal, they found that it was easier to share content and was a more stable, secure platform, increasing their operational efficiencies and helping them easily manage their digital presence.

Handling complex sites requires several outstanding features. Drupal is highly scalable and robust. Combined with its cost efficient factors, it has become a primary choice for building government sites. In this whitepaper, we will discuss the various aspects of Drupal that qualifies it to host the majority of federal websites.

A. Security

DRUPAL HAS A BUILT-IN SECURITY SYSTEM

Security is key in building government websites. With Drupal being an open source content management system, security concerns were quite prevalent. But the WhiteHouse's adoption of Drupal only boosted Drupal's security features and credentials.

Tim O'Reilly put an end to all critics on choosing an open source system for a huge project like WhiteHouse.gov. He stated that, "More than just security, though, the White House saw the opportunity to increase their flexibility. Drupal has a huge library of user-contributed modules that will provide functionality that the White House can use to expand its social media capabilities, with everything from super-scalable live chats to multi-lingual support. In many ways, this is the complement to the Government as Platform mantra I've been chanting in Washington."

Drupal has a built-in security system. Each Drupal release focuses on tight security measures that include two-factor authentication, protection against brute-force password hacks, automated CSRF token protection, clickjacking protection, database encryption system that has to pass strict privacy laws like PCI, HIPAA and others. Drupal also has a dedicated security team that keeps security issues confidential and fixes them meticulously.



Nearly **16,000**
WordPress sites were
hacked this year
alone.

Daniel Cid, Security Researcher

Most Popular CMS

When it comes to security, the most popular CMS, WordPress, has failed numerous times to prove its strength. According to Daniel Cid, security researcher, nearly 16,000 WordPress sites were hacked this year alone.

B. Easy Integration

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES REQUIRE A COMPATIBLE CMS

Government websites require a compatible CMS that can integrate with various kinds of third party systems, like content, payment, newsfeeds and other service portals. Through Symfony 2, the framework has become a universal plug-in that works on REST based systems and provides easy integrations to existing or legacy websites.

Examples Of Drupal Accessibility Features:

- Search engine form and presentation
- Drag and drop functionality
- Color contrast and intensity
- Adding skip navigation to core themes
- Image handling
- Form labeling
- Removing duplicate or null tags

C. Accessibility

A DIVERSE POPULATION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES

Government websites are accessed by a diverse population for various purposes. Hence, it is necessary for government websites to be easily accessible and flexible to serve the public better. Providing high web accessibility is not an easy task as millions of people rely on assistive technologies to access the web. It involves measuring various barriers that can hamper user experience.

Keeping this in mind, Drupal has focused on its accessibility features to easily access web assisting technologies. This is supported by Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA) that have eventually improved the look and feel of the websites. Moreover, Drupal's customization features allow it to meet Section 508 and WCAG accessibility requirements.



D. Multisite

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES REQUIRE A COMPATIBLE CMS

A single federal or state government site may hold several other agency sites to support different workflows, languages, locations and demographic. This requires an extremely modular CMS like Drupal.

By Choosing Drupal, government websites have the benefits of running multisites from a single Drupal admin panel. It reduces the burden of managing different codes in different websites.

For example, the State of Georgia has over 60 sites. The state wanted to shift to a flexible CMS that would reduce micro managing each site, while, at the same, increasing efficiencies, is cost efficient, secure and user-friendly for its non-technical users. After thorough research, they chose Drupal as it provided them more than they thought they need and saved them \$14 million. With Drupal, Georgia.gov became the first state portal to use to Drupal, fully capitalizing on its amazing responsive web design abilities.



E. Intranet

INTRANETS HELP EMPLOYEES TO CONTINUOUSLY EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Usability is a key feature that government IT departments look for. The better the usability, the more its employees will be productive and efficient.

Intranets help employees to continuously exchange information, stay updated and build a smart working atmosphere from a secure and managed portal. Drupal integrates with employee account management systems to create a rich collaboration platform for government organizations. Due to Drupal's modular and flexible network, it is easier to integrate with other user management and collaboration tools like Apache Solr. Internal wiki pages and document management can be setup in Drupal easily. Thus, it is a strong choice for government websites to be powered on Drupal.

Conclusion

IT ACTS AS A BACKBONE FOR MANY CRITICAL WEBSITES,
IS SECURE AND SCALABLE.

We have discussed the major reasons why government websites choose Drupal over other popular content management systems, including WordPress and even SharePoint. The decision over choosing a platform that requires high security, as well as meeting the current digital demands, goes through a strict research by technology experts. Drupal is highly community driven, creating a huge support from the team in all aspects of the framework. The community support, forums, chats, events and meet ups helps users to deal with all their Drupal queries and concerns easily.

Drupal is more than just a CMS. It acts as a backbone for many critical websites, is secure and scalable. This is why experts know that it is the best choice for government sites and, thus, choose Drupal as their content management system.





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