



ADVANCED WEB SITES

Content Management Systems

Content Management Systems are "Web site in a box" solutions to creating your own Web sites.

Most Content Management Systems are free, although there are commercial systems and components.

They generally require that you have a MySQL database and PHP language processor on your hosting server (very common, these days).

Installation is generally fairly simple, and most of the site administration is done by logging in as an authenticated user, and configuring the site through a Web-based control panel.

Content Management Systems allow you to have "dynamic content" on a Web site without the need for a dedicated Web designer. Fairly non-technical people can do almost everything on the site without having to know or write any code.

You can add code modules to implement almost any kind of functionality (for example, calendars or meeting search). You can also add themes to radically modify the way the Web site appears and/or behaves.

We will discuss the 3 most popular Content Management Systems:

WordPress: <http://wordpress.org>

Joomla!: <http://joomla.org>

Drupal: <http://drupal.org>

However, there are a number of other systems (These are just a few):

TextPattern: <http://textpattern.com>

EZ Publish: <http://ez.no>

CMS Made Simple: <http://cmsmadesimple.org>

And you can have specialized ones, for things like discussion forums:

Simple Machines Forum: <http://simplemachines.org>

phpBB: <http://phpbb.com>

Vanilla Forums: <http://vanillaforums.org>