



CMS

Content Management Systems

What is a Content Management System?

- A **Content Management System** (CMS) is software that keeps track of every piece of content on your Web site, much like your local public library keeps track of books and stores them. Content can be simple text, photos, music, video, documents, or just about anything you can think of. A major advantage of using a CMS is that it requires almost no technical skill or knowledge to manage. Since the CMS manages all your content, you don't have to.
- With a CMS you don't need to be the single point of contact to get information posted to your website. You can create accounts for other members of your chapter to help manage the content of your site, and even customize the settings to control which categories they may access.

Which one to Choose?



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Shovel
CREATIVE | WE DIG DEEP





What is WordPress?

WordPress is a free and open source blogging tool and a content management system (CMS) based on **PHP** and **MySQL**, which runs on a web hosting service. Features include a plugin architecture and a template system.

WordPress is used by more than 22.0% of the top 10 million websites as of August 2013. WordPress is the most popular blogging system in use on the Web, at more than 60 million websites.

WordPress started as just a blogging system, but has evolved to be used as full content management system and so much more through the thousands of plugins and widgets and themes, WordPress is limited only by your imagination.



WordPress Themes

WordPress users may install and switch between **Themes**. Themes allow users to change the look and functionality of a WordPress website or installation without altering the information content or structure of the site. Themes may be installed using the WordPress "Appearance" administration tool or Theme folders may be uploaded via FTP.

The PHP, HTML & CSS code found in Themes can be added or edited for providing advanced features.

Thousands of WordPress Themes exist, some free, and some premium (paid for) templates. WordPress users may also create and develop their own custom Themes if they have the knowledge and skill to do so.



WordPress Plugins

One very popular feature of WordPress is its plugin architecture which allows users and developers to extend its abilities beyond the core installation. WordPress has a database of over 30,000 Plugins, each of which offers custom functions and features enabling users to tailor their sites to their specific needs. These customizations range from SEO (Search Engine Optimization) enhancers, to client portals used to display private information to logged in users, to content displaying features, such as the addition of widgets and navigation bars.

Many people find WordPress the easiest to use of the three major CMS players (WordPress, Joomla and Drupal). However, with ease comes a trade-off in flexibility and features. But for most chapter websites it is a good solution, and will give you a great looking site without needing a lot of technical skills.

For more information, visit the WordPress site at wordpress.org



What is Drupal?

Drupal is a free and open-source content management framework written in PHP and distributed under the GNU General Public License. It is used as a back-end framework for at least 2.1% of all websites worldwide ranging from personal blogs to corporate, political, and government sites including whitehouse.gov and data.gov.uk. It is also used for knowledge management and business collaboration.

The standard release of Drupal, known as Drupal core, contains basic features common to content management systems. These include user account registration and maintenance, menu management, RSS feeds, taxonomy, page layout customization, and system administration. The Drupal core installation can be used as a simple website, a single- or multi-user blog, an Internet forum, or a community website providing for user-generated content.



What is Drupal?

As of February 2014, there are more than 30,000 free community-contributed addons, known as contributed modules, available to alter and extend Drupal's core capabilities and add new features or customize Drupal's behavior and appearance. Also Drupal has 31,000 Developers (As of February 2014).

Because of this plug-in extensibility and modular design, "The Drupal Overview" on Drupal's website describes it as a content management framework. Drupal is also described as a web application framework, as it meets the generally accepted feature requirements for such frameworks.

Although Drupal offers a sophisticated programming interface for developers, no programming skills are required for basic website installation and administration.



What is Drupal?

Drupal runs on any computing platform that supports both a web server capable of running PHP (including Apache, IIS, Lighttpd, Hiawatha, Cherokee or Nginx) and a database (such as MySQL, MongoDB, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQLite, or Microsoft SQL Server) to store content and settings.

Of the three major CMS players (WordPress, Joomla and Drupal), Drupal has the highest learning curve. That being said, it may not be the best choice for chapter websites, unless you have a number of members who are skilled at web development.

For more information, visit the Drupal site at drupal.org



What is Groupanizer?

Groupanizer was founded by barbershop chorus director Tom Metzger who, in 2008, decided it was time to make the dream of a better way to organize his chorus a reality. A commercial product, Groupanizer will provide you with online tools that help choruses manage and organize members, music and more.

As of last count, there are around 145 chapters using Groupanizer in one form or another. Some just use it for their "members only" area, while others are using it for their public website as well.



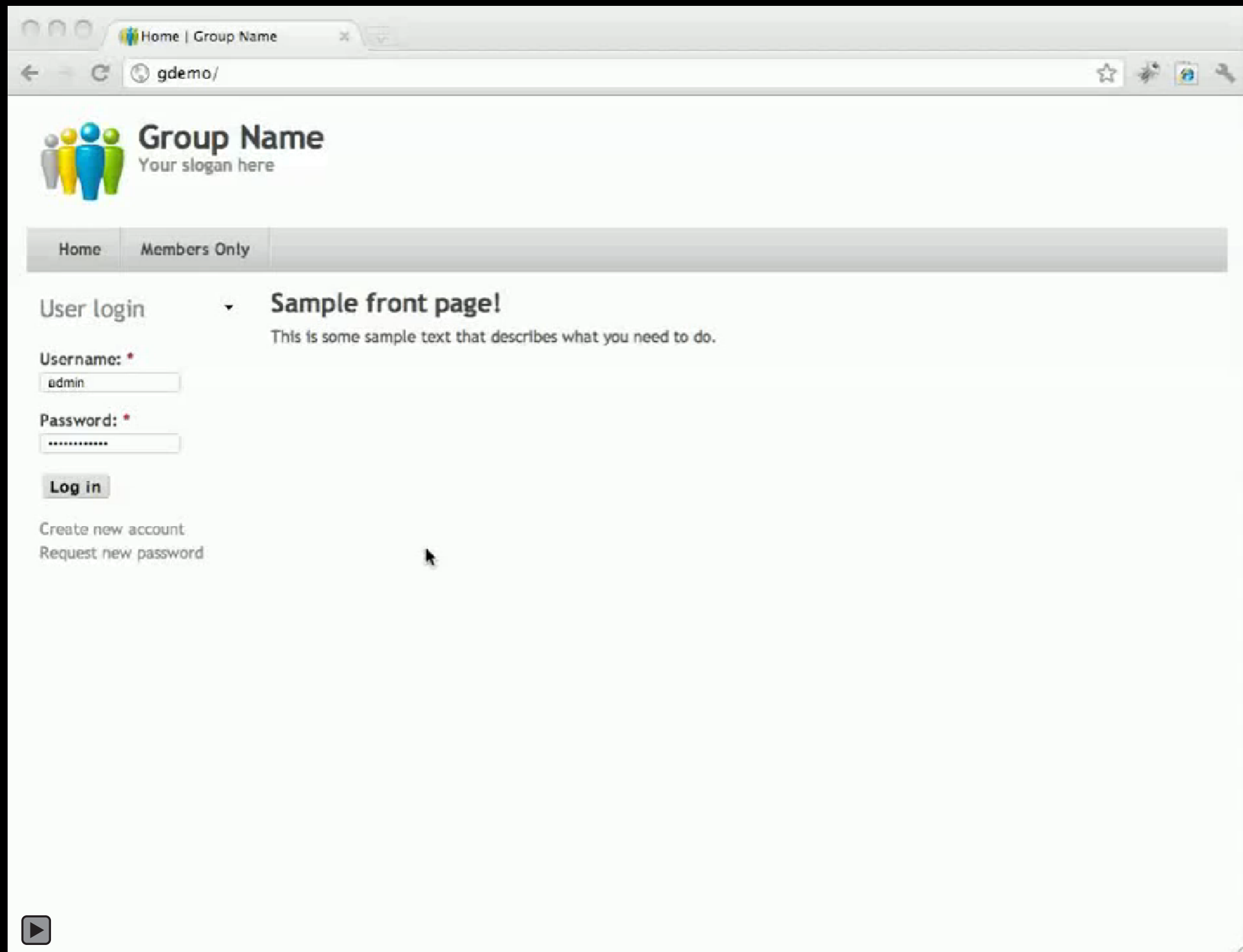
What is Groupanizer?

Some of the back-end features include Attendance plans and recording, online repertoire, song status, rehearsal planning, and riser placement charts. On the front end it offers components for featuring ensembles (quartets, VLQs, etc.), multimedia posting, and even an online store for selling chow tickets and CDs.

The Society has partnered with Groupanizer allowing chapters to received discounted pricing. Information on that is available at barbershop.org/resources/website-tools

For more information on Groupanizer, visit their website at groupanizer.com

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What is Joomla?

Joomla is an award-winning content management system (CMS), which enables you to build Web sites and powerful online applications. Many aspects, including its ease-of-use and extensibility, have made Joomla the most popular Web site software available. Best of all, Joomla is an open source solution that is freely available to everyone.

Joomla is written in PHP, uses object-oriented programming (OOP) techniques (since version 1.5) and software design patterns, stores data in a MySQL, MS SQL (since version 2.5), or PostgreSQL (since version 3.0) database, and includes features such as page caching, RSS feeds, printable versions of pages, news flashes, blogs, polls, search, and support for language internationalization.



What is Joomla?

As of February 2014, Joomla has been downloaded over 50 million times. Over 7,700 free and commercial extensions are available from the official Joomla! Extension Directory, and more are available from other sources. It is estimated to be the second most used content management system (CMS) on the Internet after WordPress.

In most cases, it is not necessary to know PHP or SQL to implement a Joomla site, unless you need to do some custom applications. More often than not you will be able to find extensions that will meet those needs.

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Joomla Templates

Joomla uses templates. While the CMS itself manages the content, a template manages the look and feel of the content elements and the overall design of a Joomla driven website. The content and design of a Joomla template is separate and can be edited, changed and deleted separately.

The template is where the design of the main layout for a Joomla site is set. This includes where users place different elements (components, modules, and plug-ins), which are responsible for the different types of content. If the template is designed to allow user customization, the user can change the content placement on the site, e. g., putting the main menu on the right or left side of the screen, or spread across the top of the page or beneath the banner.



Joomla Templates

There are literally thousands of free and commercial Joomla templates available. Look for one that has the basic layout that you like. You can later customize the colors and images. There are also some programs you can purchase that are specifically designed to create custom templates for you. Finally, you can create your own template from scratch, but that requires some programming knowledge.

Most web hosts offer an automated installation for Joomla and MySQL, making it very easy to set up. Once installed, you can customize your site by installing your template(s) of choice and whatever extensions you need to get started.

The Far Western District uses Joomla for all of its websites, including the divisions and other subdomains.

For more information, visit the Joomla site at joomla.org



Joomla Extensions

Plugins, Modules and Components



Joomla Plugins

Plugins provide a simple way of doing things that would otherwise be very difficult or impossible. Plugins can be used for such things as adding a CAPTCHA to a form, or automatically generating a link from a URL entered into an article, or generating JavaScript to protect an email address entered into an article from SPAM bots.

Some plugins allow you to enter special "tags" in your content, and when displayed it will go out to the database and insert the data into your article. Others use tags to display media like slideshows or video clips. Plugins are thus very powerful tools that can be easily used to produce the content you need.



Joomla Modules

In Joomla, modules are simple extensions that render on a page typically as small "boxes" that show around the main content of a page.

Examples of this would be the "Featured News" and "Upcoming Events" that appear on the FWD website.

Modules are also used to display menus. When adding a module to your site, you tell Joomla where you would like to have it placed on the page, and on which pages it should appear.



Joomla Components

Generally speaking, components are the central focus of the page. Some components are used to display articles, either singly or in "blog" fashion. Other components can display information such as an events calendar, or an RSS feed, or a contact list, or a shopping cart.

Still other components are used for site development and administration, for example there are a number of different editors and tools you can install to make the development of your content much easier.



Joomla Extensions

Plugins, Modules and Components

Joomla has literally thousands of extensions available.
You can find them at extensions.joomla.org



JCE Editor for Joomla

JCE is the best editor for Joomla

Joomla comes pre-installed with an editor called TinyMCE. It is a very basic editor, and easy to use, but it lacks many features that make simple things like inserting a picture very difficult.

That's the bad news. The good news is that there are a number of good editors available in the Joomla extensions directory, and after checking out most of them, the best one by far, and most popular amongst Joomla users, is a Component called JCE.



JCE Editor for Joomla

JCE makes editing your content as easy as using Office products, and even has buttons that will be familiar to you. It is completely customizable, and you can even create a number of profiles, for example, you can give your more advanced authors all of the bells and whistles, whereas your "technically challenged" authors can have a watered down version with just the basic features; moreover, you could create a mobile profile with minimal features for those times when need to make a quick change using your mobile device.

Even better news, JCE is free.

JCE also comes with a number of add-ons. One that I recommend is the JCE Media Box.

You can get the main JCE component at the Joomla Extensions Directory, and from there you will see a link to the other add-ons that are available.



Joomla Practice

Install the JCE Editor