
The MSU Web Team's Content Management System Project

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MSU Web Team

- Joint University Relations/ACNS team
- Manages www.msu.edu and related sites and services
- Nancy French, UR and Jim Green, ACNS co-chairs
- Reports to Heather Shupp, Assistant VP for University Relations, and David Gift, Vice Provost for Libraries, Computing, and Technology

Project goals

- Study the feasibility of implementing a centrally-supported content management system at MSU.
 - CMS to be used as the platform for MSU's main web site
 - CMS to be offered to colleges, departments, and units on an opt-in basis
 - CMS to be administered and supported by ACNS as a centrally-funded service under the auspices of the MSU Web Team

Project goals, continued

- RFI – to learn more about available solutions and price ranges, including open source freeware
- Outreach to colleges, departments, units -- to gauge interest and recruit people to help in the selection and implementation processes
- Review of RFI responses and our own research into open source solutions
- Detailed specification
- RFP
- System implementation and support plans

Why?

- Charge from Heather Shupp and Dave Gift
 - Heather's positive experience at Ball State
- Case studies and reports from the literature
- Make it easier to create and modify web sites
- Facilitate web accessibility (?)
- Facilitate standards compliance
- Make it easier to establish consistency institution-wide

What's been done so far:

- Survey of large institutions
- Draft RFI document
- Purchasing enlisted
- RFI to be issued soon
- Webmasters presentation

Summary of survey results

- 36 institutions surveyed
- 20 responded
- Central CMS for main site only: 0
- Central CMS for main site and units: 1
- Central CMS for units: 6
- No central CMS: 13
- CMS evaluation projects underway: 6

Solutions mentioned in the study

- Stellent
- Red Dot
- MS CMS/SharePoint
- Drupal
- PSU-modified Plone
- Ektron
- Estrada
- Rhythmyx
- Serena
- Hannon Hill

RFI Highlights

- Accessibility – facilitates accessible design
- Syndication
- Ease of use
- Content re-use
- URLs and naming
- Standards compliance
- Enterprise data integration
- APIs and customization

How you can help

- If your unit uses a CMS, share your experiences.
- Would your unit be interested in adopting a centrally supported CMS, why or why not?
- Would you be willing to help evaluate candidate solutions?
- Would your unit be willing to participate in a beta?
- Would you volunteer to participate in an advisory committee?

Questions?

- Contact:

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