Introduction to Drupal Cloud



Drupal as a Service @ MIT



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What is Drupal Cloud?

- Self-service offering that provides a simple, secure and flexible way for members of the MIT community to create and manage websites.
- Leverages the Drupal CMS as the platform



Why Drupal?

- It's Developer friendly!
- Flexible and Powerful
- The community
- Security
- Consistent Improvement



Goals of Drupal Cloud

- Give the community a relatively quick way to get a website up and running at no cost.
- Stop ourselves from repeatedly paying for the same things.
- Allow the user to focus on what's important to them: The Content



What the service offers

- Quick sign up/site registration
- Hosting on our infrastructure
- Security and Maintenance updates
- Access to MIT Adaptive a customized Drupal distribution



What about the self-service part?

- Not offered: Developer resources for site building
- Not offered: Help Desk level support or Training
- Offered: An open ear to the community
- Offered: A community website and Documentation
- Offered: The ability to leverage 3rd party services



MIT Adaptive distribution

- Special selection of contributed modules
- Custom themes
- Custom modules
- Preconfigured site settings



Contributed Modules

(Modules provided to us by the Drupal community)

- Identify
- Integrate
- Configure



Themes

(We only have one 😊)

- MIT Adaptive theme flexible and responsive
- More themes on the way!
- Ask about our "Deal of the Century"



Custom Modules

(We have lots of these ©)

- MIT Events
- Cloudhelper
- Shibboleth
- CSS Injector Images/Fonts



What can't users do!?

- Install their own themes
- Install their own modules
- Have OS/code level access



Let's Compromise!

- Do: Administer modules! (Wait...)
- Do: Administer permissions and roles! (What?!)
- Do: Upload media resources and create your own CSS!



Administer Modules

- This is definitely a security vulnerability in the wrong hands
- Potential to break site: HIGH
- Can't people with this ability install modules through the UI?

:: Enter Module Assign ::



Permissions and Roles

- Gives a user all the power they need to perform administrator mutiny. (Yarrr... ⊗)
- Ability to take over user 1 root user
- Enable permissions not originally given or intended for them to have.

:: Enter User One, Roles Enable and Permission Assign ::



What does this all mean?

- We're giving users a very open and flexible experience.
- We've reached a good compromise. The community thus far is pleased with the amount of power at their finger tips..
- If we receive feedback about functionality that isn't on our radar, we will be open to have a conversation about implementing it.



Drupal Cloud Roadmap

- Launch new Community Site
- Create an advisory committee
- Fully Automated
- Custom Modules scheduled for deployment
- Custom modules scheduled for development
- Integration with MIT News Office
- UI changes, alterations and updates.



Fun Facts

- Alpha Phase: October 2012 20 active sites
- Pilot/Beta Phase: January 2013 85 active sites
- Launch: June 2013
- We are working closely with our pilots: School of Engineering, CSAIL, etc.
- Interested in the infrastructure? Ask at the end, we're happy to discuss!



Demo and Examples!