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From Technologies to Solutions

Building Websites with TYPO3

A practical guide to getting your TYPO3 website up and running fast

Michael Peacock

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I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this book possible, in particular Douglas Paterson for introducing me to the world of TYPO3, Patricia Weir, and Abhijeet Deobhakta for keeping me on track, Ved Jha, Ajay S, and Nikhil Bangera for helping me improve and refine this book, Ingo Renner the technical reviewer for ensuring everything was as accurate as possible and of course everybody in the Packt team.

I would also like to thank you, the reader, I hope you enjoy this book – so that all of my efforts have paid off.

I'd like to dedicate this book to my girlfriend Emma, for being there for me and supporting me during the writing of this book.

About the Reviewer

Ingo Renner lives near Frankfurt and started using TYPO3 in 2003. Since then, he has published several TYPO3 extensions and among them TIMTAB is probably his best known. Other than that, he is a member of TYPO3's content rendering group, maintainer of `tt_address`, and kickstarter and co-developer of `tt_news`. Since February 2007, he has also been a core developer. Ingo Renner does freelance work and can be contacted through www.ingo-renner.com.

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Preface

Free, open-source, flexible, and scalable, TYPO3 is one of the most powerful PHP content management systems. This book is a fast-paced tutorial to creating a website using TYPO3. If you have never used TYPO3, or even any web content management system before, then you need not look further than this book as it walks you through each step to create your own TYPO3 site. From installation, to initial set up and content entry, and on to customization and adding plug-ins, this book will get you a stable and working TYPO3-based website fast.

What This Book Covers

Chapter 1 introduces content management systems and TYPO3, along with an overview of the TYPO3 community. You will also learn about the sample site that will be developed during the course of this book.

Chapter 2 covers setup and installation of TYPO3. We look at the installers bundled with TYPO3, and tweak the settings of TYPO3 using the install tool.

In *Chapter 3* we explore the many features within the TYPO3 back end. We learn how to create and manage pages and their content, how to use the Rich Text Editor, and why we need templates to make our pages work. Additionally, you will understand the features of the Task Center by using the TYPO3 Extension Manager.

In *Chapter 4* we apply our knowledge of the TYPO3 administration features to create our website. This chapter shows you how pages fit together, how to display content, and how to customize the design. By the end of this chapter you will know how to manage different versions of your website content.

Chapter 5 explores the features available in the TYPO3 front end, in particular the front-end editing features. You will see how these features work, what they do, and how you can edit and create content for our website directly from the website, without needing to navigate through the back end.

In *Chapter 6* we explore TYPO3's user management features. You will set up specific user groups and create users to work on your site's content.

Chapter 7 takes a look at the types of tasks that you must perform regularly to manage your TYPO3 site. It walks you through backing up your site and restoring it whenever needed. We also cover the powerful Workflow and Workspace features and learn how they can be useful to us for collaboration.

In *Chapter 8* we look at the TYPO3 extension manager, and install four extensions, set them up, and link them to our site. We extend our site by adding extensions to rate pages on our site, and one that allows the administrator to look up the hit statistics of his or her site. The message board and shop system extensions let you monetize your TYPO3 site by adding in ecommerce functionalities.

What You Need for This Book

You will need to have a system with a modern CPU running at at least 1 GHz, and at least 256 MB of RAM (although more is recommended). You will need a web server application such as Apache or IIS, a database such as MySQL (there are many different databases supported by TYPO3's Database Abstraction Layer, but MySQL is natively supported and is the most stable), and PHP version 4 or above.

Also, you will need ImageMagick (or GraphicsMagick) and GDLib / FreeType, to utilize TYPO3's image manipulation capabilities, and the zlib compression library.

Conventions

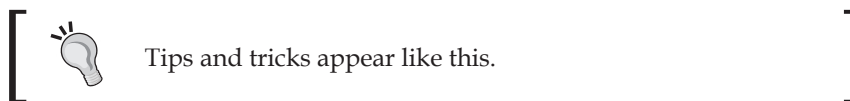
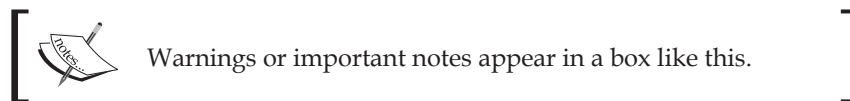
In this book, you will find a number of styles of text that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles, and an explanation of their meaning.

There are two styles for code. Code words in text are shown as follows: "If we click on the `publish_dir` setting, a variable dialog appears with the correct structure for the setting."

Any command-line input and output is written as follows:

```
cd /home/michaelp/public_html/
```

New terms and **important words** are introduced in a bold-type font. Words that you see on the screen, in menus or dialog boxes for example, appear in our text like this: "clicking the **Next** button moves you to the next screen".



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1

Introduction

Welcome to *Building Websites with TYPO3!* In the course of this book we are going to take a look at TYPO3 and use it to build and manage a website. We will install the software, get an overview of its back-end features, set up our website, look at the front-end features, manage our website and its users, and also expand our website and its features with extensions.

In this chapter we will learn:

- What a CMS is
- What TYPO3 is
- What TYPO3 can do for us
- What some of its features are
- What other resources are available to TYPO3 users

What is a CMS?

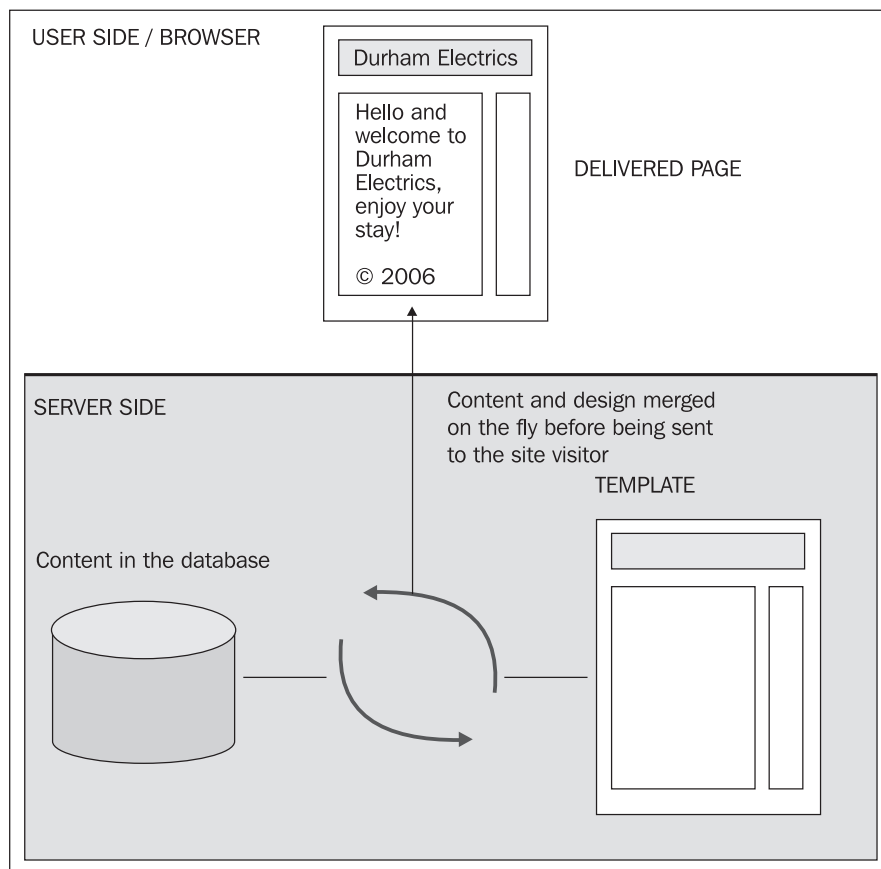
A Content Management System (CMS) is a system that allows users to collaborate to create and manage content for their website. These systems can range from applications installed on your computer – which link into your website to allow you to manage it – to web-based applications, which run on your web server and allow all aspects of the website to be managed directly from the website.

Content management systems are one of the common methods for creating and managing content on the Internet and on intranets, especially in environments where there is more than one person working on the content, or where there is a lot of content involved.

These systems generally give users the ability to:

- Create content
- Manage content
- Manage, provide, and restrict access to content and also the editing of content
- Modify a design layer independent of the site's content
- Collaborate effectively
- Manage versions of content

With a CMS, content and design are kept separate, which means that the design of a website can completely change and it will have no impact on the content of the website. This is quite an important feature as it means that the design need only be changed once, and not across each page of the website. This makes it easy for websites of any size to easily and quickly change their design. Also, it protects the design, as content editors do not need to integrate design into their content, which could cause problems, for instance if the content editors do not know HTML.



What is TYPO3?

TYPO3 is a free, open-source, enterprise-level content management system originally created by Kasper Skårhøj (a developer from Denmark) in 2000. It is a web-based application that we can run on a web server of our choice. The features that make up TYPO3 are modularized, separating all of the main sections and functions.

TYPO3's License

TYPO3 is released under the GNU (General Public License). This means that:

- We are free to modify the source code of TYPO3 for whatever purpose we need.
- We save money on software, and so we can focus on customization.
- It is open source, so security vulnerabilities are more likely to be spotted and quickly patched.

The down side to the license is that the software comes with no warranty. Full details on the license can be found here: <http://www.fsf.org/licenses/licenses/gpl.html>.

What can TYPO3 Do for Us?

With TYPO3 we can quickly and easily create and manage our website's content. New sections can be quickly added and changed easily. Different people can have permissions to edit different sections thereby improving productivity and enhancing collaboration in an easy-to-use web-based environment.

We can control what other back-end users can and cannot access, so that content editors only get access to the content editing tools, and they can use these tools only on the content sections they are allowed to edit. Content changes are versioned, so we can see what changes have been made, and revert to a previous version if necessary.

We can have draft versions of pages, so we could work on improving a page or amending details, and have the content ready for when it needs to be live on the website (when it can be snapped in to replace the existing content at the click of a button). In addition to different versions of content, TYPO3 also allows us to manage different translations of content, providing our visitors with a seamless multilingual site (provided we have editors who can translate our content of course!).

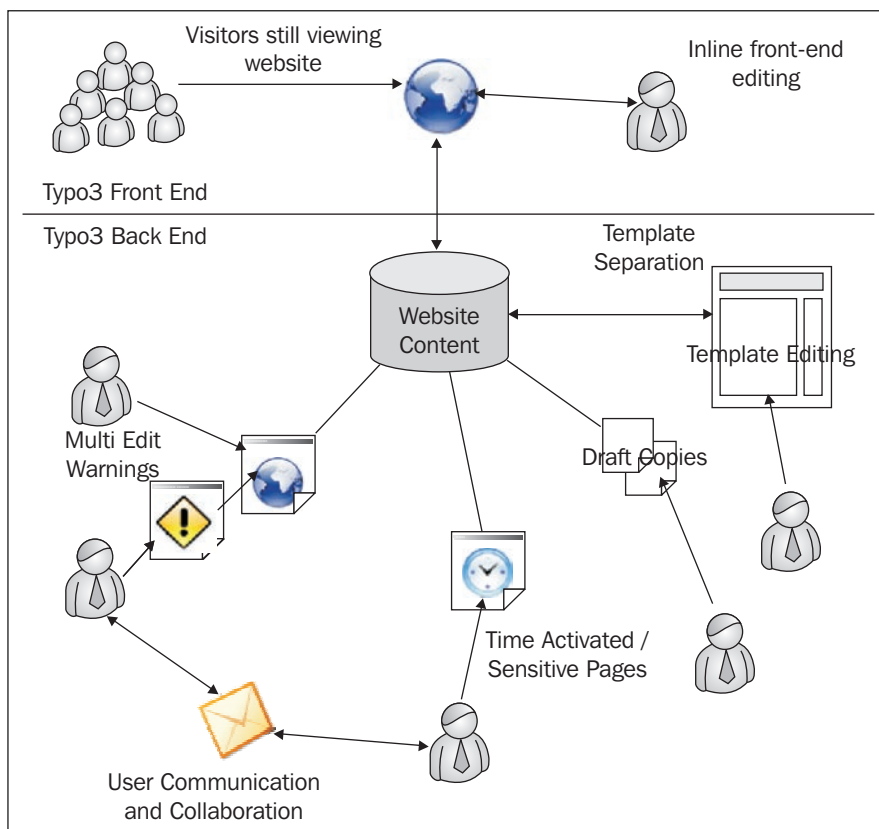
*TYPO3 can let us quickly add whole new features to our website using extensions through an interface known as the **extension manager**. This allows us to add features such as guest books, support forums, or voting polls at the click of a button, without needing to install and manage another software application.*

Content can be managed easily through familiar-looking rich-text editors and TYPO3's intuitive user interface.

We can even manage multiple websites and domains through the same TYPO3 installation. This is very useful if we have a small business site with different domains for different products or services.

If we are trying to edit the same section or content that someone else is editing, TYPO3 warns us of this and prevents us overriding content that has not yet been submitted.

All of this can be going on while visitors are still viewing the website!



Overview of TYPO3 Features

TYPO3 has a huge list of features – too many to fully list here; the full list can be found on the TYPO3 website http://typo3.com/Feature_list.1243.0.html.