

Drupal Accessibility

Getting Drupal 7 Ready for Everyone

Improving Accessibility & Building Community

May 14, 2009



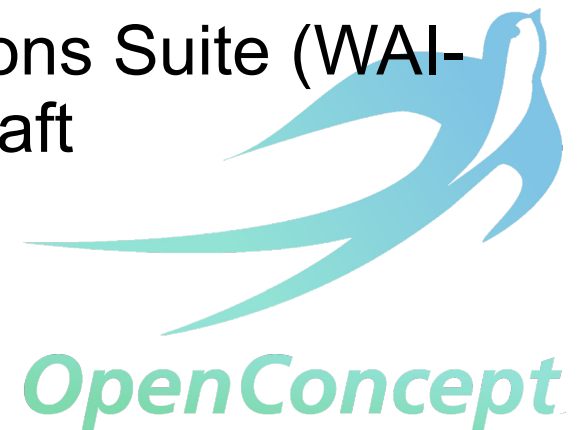
Drupal Is Accessible Right?

- Core code generally validates against W3C's Standards
- Modules & themes are not consistent
- Accessibility is much more than validation
- System is very flexible & extendable
- Validation is a great start, particularly for viewers
- Interacting with a website is more difficult than reading it



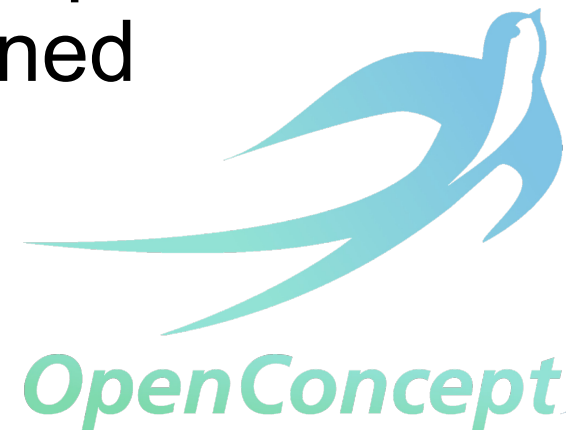
Standards are Changing

- As with browsers & websites, these are moving targets
- AJAX interfaces are presenting a new challenge
- Screen Readers are not standardized & are expensive
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 - Dec 2008
- Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines (ATAG) 2.0 Draft
- Accessible Rich Internet Applications Suite (WAI-ARIA) Draft



Drupal 6 Approaches

- D6 will be the most popular version into 2011
- Much can be done through use of hooks
- A module is being developed to resolve known problems
- Maintainers are being informed
- Themable functions provides a flexibility for output
- Core shouldn't be hacked, but could be if careful patches are maintained



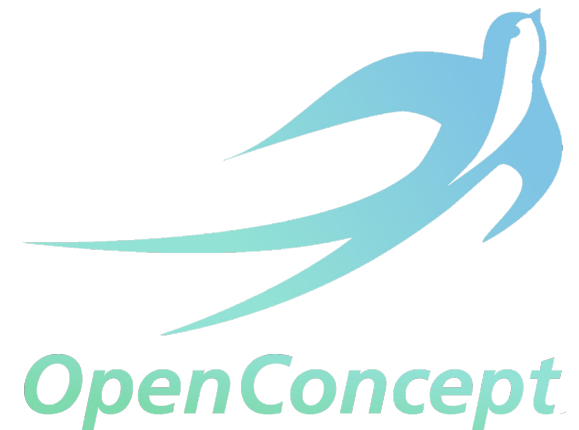
Why Focus on Drupal 7

- It is still being formed & it is a priority for some developers
- Several patches have already been accepted
- It will improve everyone's site by default
- Some patches have been back-ported
- It is a space to educate developers about these issues
- The keepers are working there



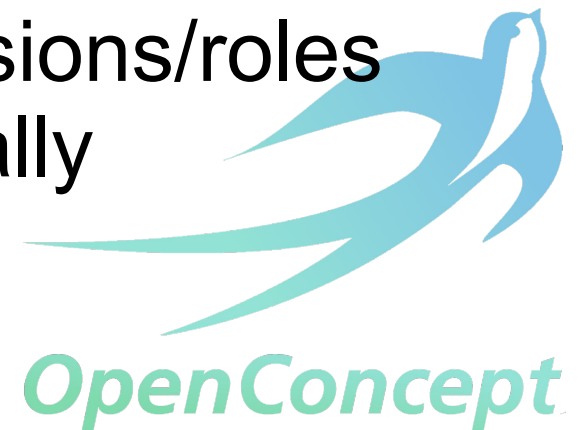
Theme Level Challenges

- Headings for all list items
- Order of content matters
- Skip Navigation
- Redundant or blank tags often make pages less accessible
- Only one H1 per page
- Introduce display logic that respects how screen readers work – CSS `display:none;` is taken literally



Form Level Challenges

- Select boxes need to have labels with appropriate titles
- Drag/Drop functionality isn't accessible
- Autocomplete doesn't display for screen readers
- Order matters for a screen reader, description needs to be before form field
- Large form tables problematic – user permissions/roles especially



Content Creation

- Educating content creators of the implications
- Do you look to force policies about content technically (alt tags)
- Reducing number of links and making sure they are descriptive
- Plain Language isn't easy to write
- Complex tables, flash & images require more descriptions of the content



Testing, Testing, Testing

- There are so many types of accessibility issues to test
- Many of the tools to record bugs aren't accessible
- There are very few solutions that everyone agrees on
- Drupal is a global tool and so must work with RTL as well as LTR languages
- This isn't being done in a vacuum & there are other best practices to work from



Additional Links

- Groups - <http://groups.drupal.org/accessibility>
- D7 Issues - <http://drupal.org/node/364629>
- Documentation - <http://drupal.org/node/394094>

- OpenConcept - <http://openconcept.ca/>
- Sandbox - <http://drupal7.dev.openconcept.ca/>

