

Joomla or Drupal?

CMS's are generally used to manage and control a large, dynamic collection of Web material (HTML documents and their associated images). And yes, they can take the web maintenance person out of the picture, as clients can update their own content, as and when required

There are numerous Web CMS (Content Management Systems), and each one can either fall into Open Source or proprietary. The ones that tend to stand out from the crowd, or should I say those that are more commonly used by small website design agencies are Word Press, Joomla and Drupal.



So which one do you choose as a customer, or do you leave this to your web developer?

Generally speaking, Joomla has a cleaner and smoother user interface; on the other hand Drupal is more flexible. Drupal and Joomla developers could argue all day,, so I'm going to go in as a bipartisan developer.

- For starters both are easy to install and deploy, and many hosting companies have a one click install for these.
- Both have plenty of modules and extensions you can use.
- Joomla has a lighter learning curve than Drupal.
- Joomla support SSL logins and SSL pages. Drupal not known to support it.
- Server resources utilization is more compared to drupal

Summary of Joomla & Drupal Features




- Limited technical knowledge need to get started.
- Short learning curve
- Cannot integrate other scripts etc. to your site
- Generally you cannot create high-end sites, without additional investment of time.
- No SEO out of the box, URLs are not search engine friendly.
- Only one site per installation
- No Single Log-in to several sites
- No User groups & permissions
- More intuitive administration user interface
- Not all Modules are free



- Reliable as well as a high quality platform
- Real multi-site-feature (only one installation for several sites)
- Any Kind of user groups & user permissions
- Powerful template system. Any XHTML or CSS template can be easily converted to Drupal.
- Drupal needs a little time investment to realize all the huge possibilities of Drupal
- Clear, high quality code and API (easy to integrate with other solutions)
- Many high profile sites use Drupal (e.g.: MTV UK, BBC, the Onion, Nasa, Greenpeace UK.)



[Joomla vs Drupal - Website Content Management Systems]

		
Content Management	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>Very sophisticated. It allows unlimited category levels, tagging and categorization. You can also create multiple types of content, each with different features</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Weak. There are only three levels of content - Section >> Category >> Content is available. That's it. No cross-categorization. Content Construction Kit extensions are needed to get flexibility.</p>
WYSIWYG Editors	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Probably the most common complaint about Drupal - it has no default editor.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>TinyMCE comes by default.</p>
Template / Themes	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Very few commercial developers and off-the-shelf choices are very poor. Most designs are custom-made.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>Perhaps Joomla's biggest strength. Joomla has a wide selection of free and commercial designs.</p>
Community Features	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>By default it offers the ability to expand user profiles easily and Organic Groups allows for powerful community-building.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>Non-existent by default but there are two powerful community extensions. Community Builder is free. Jomsocial is commercial but a powerful social application.</p>
User Permissions	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>You can create unlimited user levels and customize them.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Three user levels (Public, Registered and Special) without installing a cumbersome Access Control Level extension.</p>
User Subscriptions	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>The only real option is Ubercart, a shopping cart which allows recurring billing.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Multiple options via extensions. CB Subs and Expiration</p>
Shopping Cart	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Ubercart. It's a powerful, fully-featured ecommerce platform but may be overkill for small stores.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Joomla has only one major shopping cart: Virtuemart.</p>
SEO	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>The out-of-the-box URLs work well and can be improved with one easy addon: Pathauto. The code is generally lightweight and well-optimized.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>Reasonable out of the box, but lacks the ability to really control URLs or metadata. Various SEO extensions are needed for those who really care about SEO.</p>
Forums	<p style="text-align: center;">✔</p> <p>A native and very smooth forum, but lacking in the high end features of the best modern forums.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✘</p> <p>The choice is between Agora and Kunena (native to Joomla but short on features) versus RokBrige (a bridge to phpBB3) and JFusion.</p>

[Joomla vs Drupal - Website Content Management Systems]

Multimedia	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Several multimedia modules for video and podcasting modules need to be installed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes, the default WYSIWYG editor allows video and there are plenty of podcast and video extensions.</p>
Photo Galleries	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Decent galleries require several modules to be combined.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes. there's over a dozen excellent galleries.</p>
Event Calendars	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Available but not as functionally rich as modules in Joomla</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes, multiple native and high-quality calendar extensions.</p>
Document Management	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Would need to be constructed from other modules.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>DocMan and Rokdownloads are both reliable document managers.</p>
Blogs	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Good default capabilities, although not a natural blog in the manner of Wordpress.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Some out-of-the-box capability. Good native blogging extensions plus a port of Wordpress are available.</p>
Internationalization	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes, Excellent.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Not by default. Joom!Fish allows for sites in multiple languages but isn't as powerful as the commercial Nooku.</p>
Standards Compliance	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes. Excellent out-of-the-box.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Not great. The Beez template does provide clean output but most Joomla installations still use a good number of tables. One company has produced a full set of table-less overrides.</p>
Multisite Management	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Yes, out-of-the-box.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Weak. There are some multisite options but they're either unstable or very expensive.</p>
Commercial Community	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Drupal's commercial talent pool is very high-quality but also very shallow. Most commercial developers work with large-to-medium size business and charge accordingly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Very strong. Perhaps the best in the Open Source CMS world with a wealth of developers, designers and consultants.</p>
General Community	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Good community. Often more non-profit than business driven. Excellent forum support at Drupal.org.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>The community as a whole has a tendency to argue and fragment but its also highly dynamic with 1000s of companies offering support and services.</p>
Ease-of-use	<p style="text-align: center;">✗</p> <p>Definitely a weakness. Terms are confusing and overly-geeky. The admin interface is text-driven and often overwhelming to beginners.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>Joomla has a very good graphical interface but still retains quite a few quirks and oddities.</p>

[JOOMLA VS DRUPAL - WEBSITE CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS]

Documentation	Not too bad.  (Click here for documentation and here for an API reference guide)	Pretty good. The  main Joomla wiki has a lot of highly-detailed pages but also some with very little information.
Learning Curve	Steeper than Joomla. Drupal's strength is in its flexibility and power, not its ease-of-use.	Shallow. One of the easiest CMS systems to learn and customize.
Current Situation	Clear development path. Currently working on Drupal 7.	Joomla 1.5 is the current version with the possibility of two new versions (1.6 and 1.7) due next year. Roadmap is not always clear.
Overall	Drupal is flexible and developer-friendly. It also benefits from a coherent and stable community led by several large and reputable companies.	Joomla 1.6 will focus on improving two crucial areas: Joomla's inflexible systems for managing users and content. It may become a little more complicated as a result, but it will remain relatively easy to produce a good-looking site with plenty of functionality using Joomla.

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