Implementation at URI

Lisa Chen
University Computing Systems
June 2012
What We’ll Cover

- New Web Server Environment
- About WordPress
- URI Approach
- Demo of Pilot Sites
- ITS Migration Plan
New Web Server Environment

- Dedicated secure web servers for:
  - WordPress system
  - PHP-based web applications
- PHP 5+ and MySQL 5+
- SSL certificate for WordPress administration
WordPress – What Is It?

- WordPress is an open source blog tool and publishing platform.
- WordPress allows users to quickly and easily create interactive, collaborative and rich media websites for a variety of purposes.
WordPress – Who Uses It?

- CNN || Boing Boing || Dow Jones || Time || UPS || NBC Sports
- Univ. of Maine
- Univ. of Arkansas
- Univ. of Mary Washington
- Univ. of Calgary
- John Carroll University
- Wheaton College …

http://vip.wordpress.com/
http://wordpress.org/showcase/tag/college/

Source: http://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/content_management/all
How Does WordPress Work?

You
In the Dashboard
Create Content
Dashboard (Back-End)
Content
Front-End (Websites)
Content
Wordpress software
Produces a Web Page
Plugins
Theme
Enhancements
Options
Database

Your Reader
In Their Browser

Source: www.techliminal.com

PHP, HTML, CSS and JavaScript code
MySQL
ITS provides a centrally supported WordPress system to URI colleges, departments and officially-recognized groups for use in .uri.edu web space.

ITS framework matches the University’s current look-and-feel (set by Communications & Marketing) for official department websites.

ITS maintains WordPress servers, databases and backend application codes.

Site owners (working with Communications and Marketing) are responsible for content contribution and updates.
Why WordPress?

- Full W3C standards compliance
- Simple user interface in content authoring
- Web-based authoring environment
- Server-based branding engine
- Timed content publishing
- Content re-use
- Built-in search feature
- Same source content for web and mobile display
- Plugin architecture
- World-wide user and developer community
Saving Cost and Resources

- Saving costs for licensing proprietary software
  - Education edition of Dreamweaver CS5: $199 per user.
  - Education edition of Contribute CS5: $99 per user.

- Less reliance on technical staff for content updates, freeing IT support resources for more complex projects.
Security and Integration

Enhanced security
- Centrally managed CMS system for content publishing
- No custom PHP scripts needed from departments

Optimized performance
Integration with other systems
- Capability of parsing/importing data from other sources via RSS feed or XML
URI Approach – Responsive Web Design

Flexible grid system
Flexible media
Flexible layout through media queries
Responsive Images Test Page

In supported browsers, the following image will load either small or large version depending on screen resolution, making a single 1kb request before requesting the appropriate size.
On a wider screen, the left and right sidebar content fit nicely to the side. For thinner screens, we move this content below for better usability.
Welcome to e-Campus

News and Logins specific to

- Students
- Faculty and Staff
- Financial Administration

are found on their own pages. Links to those pages are on the left column of all pages and posts.
Welcome to e-Campus

News and Logins specific to
Students
Faculty and Staff
Financial Administration

are found on their own pages. Links to those pages are on
the left column of all pages and posts.
CSS Media Queries for Device Targeting

@media only screen and (max-width: 980px) {
    /*Styles for <=980px screen resolution */
}
@media screen and (max-width: 768px) {
    /*Styles for iPad 1 and iPad 2 – 1024 x 768 */
}
@media screen and (max-width:640) {
    /*Styles for iPhone 4 – 960 x 640 */
}
@media screen and (max-width:480) {
    /*Styles for iPhone – 480 x 320 */
    /*Styles for Droid X – 854 x 480 */
    /*Styles for Google Nexus One – 800 x 480 */
}
@media screen and (max-width:320) {
    /* Styles for Blackberry and Android SDK – 320 x 240 */
}

No need to re-develop a site for mobile display. Site adapts automatically to the environment that is being viewed in.
ITS Framework

- Provides NETWORK-wide announcement capability to broadcast alert and/or weather related messages on all sites and pages in the WordPress system.

- Provides SITE-specific announcement capability to broadcast messages and information on all pages in a site.
Provides site administrators many customization options and the ability to turn on or off optional features.

Provides content contributors a core set of user friendly functionalities.
Provides pre-defined layouts for page and content area and allows users to specify different layouts on any page.
Other Features

- Integration with LDAP authentication
- Custom domain mapping
- Custom forms creation via WYSIWYG interface
- Broken link checking capability
- Print–friendly feature.
- WordPress project site: http://wordpress.uri.edu
Migrate static HTML–based web sites from www.uri.edu to WordPress system.

Migrate dynamic PHP–based web applications to the new application server.

Timeline: 18–24 months
Pilot Sites

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES

eCampus

ITS
Questions?