

Drupal's Dries Buytaert on Building the Next Drupal

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Created *18/01/2010 - 6:08pm*

Submitted by srlinuxx on Monday 18th of January 2010 06:08:31 PM Filed under [Interviews](#) [1] [Drupal](#) [2]

Among the many open source projects on the upswing is Drupal, a content management system written in PHP; Drupal has attracted a lot of attention from developers and mindshare among end users. This week, when Drupal 7 was about to go into Alpha test, I spoke with Dries Buytaert, creator of Drupal and also the founder of the Drupal services company, Acquia. We discussed several topics, from community building to Drupal's role in e-government to lessons that other open source communities can learn from Drupal's success.

This first blog post highlights our conversation about Drupal and the decisions in creating software; the blog post to follow will share Buytaert's views on community building. (Sign up for my blog's RSS feed or follow me on Twitter, so you can learn when it's published.)

First, a short definition is in order for those who aren't familiar with content management systems (CMSs). As the term implies, these web-based software systems let people manage all sorts of online content, from articles to video to calendars. (The word "content" is only slightly less specific than "stuff," because it's meant to encompass anything you might slap up on a website.)

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