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The Definitive Guide To Drupal 7
The Definitive Guide to Drupal 7 is the most comprehensive book for getting sites done using the powerful and extensible Drupal content management system. Written by a panel of expert authors, the book covers every aspect of Drupal, from planning a successful project all the way up to making a living from designing Drupal sites and to contributing to the Drupal community yourself. With this book you will: Follow practical approaches to solving many online communication needs with Drupal with real examples. Learn how to keep learning about Drupal: administration, development, theming, design, and architecture. Go beyond the code to engage with the Drupal community as a contributing member and to do Drupal sustainably as a business. The Definitive Guide to Drupal 7 was written by the following team of expert Drupal authors: Benjamin Melançon, Jacine Luisi, Ka’roly Ne’gyesi, Greg Anderson, Bojhan Somers, Ste’phane Corlosquet, Stefan Freudenberg, Michelle Lauer, Ed Carlevale, Florian Lore’tan, Dani Nordin, Ryan Szrama, Susan Stewart, Jake Strawn, Brian Travis, Dan Hakimzadeh, Amye Scavarda, Albert Albala, Allie Micka, Robert Douglass, Robin Monks, Roy Scholten, Peter Wolanin, Kay VanValkenburgh, Greg Stout, Kasey Qynn Dolin, Mike Gifford, Claudina Sarahe, Sam Boyer, and Forest Mars, with contributions from George Cassie, Mike Ryan, Nathaniel Catchpole, and Dmitri Gaskin. What you’ll learn Launch a community-ready site in fifteen minutes. Talk to stakeholders and architect a site’s structure and functionality around the goals it must achieve to successfully launch major enterprise sites. Find, evaluate, and configure modules to extend Drupal’s functionality. Theme inspired designs into functional, future-proof templates. Build modules when you need to extend what Drupal can do beyond the thousands of solutions already coded by others. Work with Drupal sustainably as a professional and as a participant in the Drupal community. Who this book is for Anyone who has heard of Drupal and has a personal or professional reason to learn more: from Drupal administrators, themers, and developers to moonlighters and intense hobbyists. People considering a solo or collaborative career making websites will find this book their complete stop for Drupal.

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This book is THE guide to Drupal 7, I have read 3 other books on Drupal 7 and as far as I'm concerned this book includes the same information and often a LOT more, particularly in custom theming from scratch. Before this book came out there was virtually nothing out there on creating and implementing a new region in the .tpl files. This book dedicates a sub-section to the topic in chapter 15 which covers Default Regions, Hidden Regions, Module-Specific Regions, when to use regions vs. hard-coding variables, and then walks you through 2 distinct examples of implementing a new region (p.291-292). The book does a great job of explaining template overrides, theme functions, theme hook suggestions, and the render api's alter hook, showing you the syntax, and then walking you through an exercise. Even for a newbie it does a decent enough job of demonstrating the php code strings so I could copy and paste with some confidence, though I would probably be lost if I had to troubleshoot and I am limited by the applicability of the examples in the book, whatever that may be (I know I have to read a php book if I'm serious about theming in drupal). My only issue with the books theming chapters is that it doesn't have a dedicated section that concludes its fantastic coverage of the individual theming techniques by providing an
all-inclusive comparative analysis or custom site build demonstration that reveals the logic of using one theming technique over another in different areas of the site build process. As a newbie, I just quickly became overwhelmed by all my options. It does a great job of explaining the differences in Drupals various strategies for implementing CSS styling and then demonstrating each of them in an all inclusive set of exercises for efficiently managing CSS in Drupal.

I love this book. I must have 600 pounds of instruction books. Many of them were useful; some not at all. A few have been exceptionally good, but this is the first time I’ve been this excited about such a book. It’s huge and comprehensive. For that vast majority of people it’s probably the only Drupal 7 book they’ll ever need. I’d urge anyone serious about Drupal to get a copy immediately. The only people I wouldn’t recommend this book to are those whose interests in Drupal are very limited. Those seeking a bare minimum working knowledge of Drupal; perhaps to do something very simple in Drupal Gardens; and aren’t interested in learning beyond that very basic level could do much better in a very basic introductory book. For everyone else, Definitive Guide to Drupal 7 is a great book. I didn’t think I was going to like this book at first. The multiple authorship rubbed me the wrong way until I realized how brilliant the effect was. Most books like this are sort of like being back in school stuck in the same classroom with the same slightly interesting underpaid grad student instructor. Definitive Guide to Drupal 7 is more like being swarmed by a battalion of friendly geeks all trying to help me with my latest project. These people are quite obviously expert and well connected in the Drupal community but perhaps more importantly their enthusiasm for Drupal; their excitement about that community comes through and it’s infectious. Also, the different perspectives of each author make chapters I would have skipped over well worth reading. This is a huge book and it seems like it’s taken me forever to work my way through it but I can’t begin to express how much I’ve learned.

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