The Prairie Initiative:
Making Drupal.org an Effective Place to Collaborate
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Project goals

1. Improve the collaboration tools on Drupal.org so that we can do more and better work together and make Drupal better, faster.

2. Grow the pool of contributors by making Drupal.org a better and easier place to become a contributor - to make it less intimidating to people who want to get started contributing.

History

The initiative was started by Leisa Reichelt at DrupalCon Chicago 2011.
http://disambiguity.com
http://drupal.org/user/362600

It was then taken up by dww, yoroy, bojhan, tvn, tsvenson, webchick, rfay, and many others.

Where is the Prairie Initiative?

http://groups.drupal.org/prairie-initiative

http://drupal.org/project/issues/search?issue_tags=prairie

#drupal-usability on IRC (freenode.net)

Some Key Accomplishments

1. Issue Following: You can now follow issues on Drupal.org without commenting on them.

http://drupal.org/node/1306444

2. Issue Summaries: Everyone can edit the main body of issues on Drupal.org to provide a meaningful and current summary of the issue. Now you can understand it without reading all the comments.

http://drupal.org/node/1036132

3. API Change Records: Instead of a huge unwieldy page for documenting API changes, there's a new node type to document changes in a more structured and automated way.

http://drupal.org/node/648218

Current and Future plans

Initiative Pages

http://drupal.org/node/1300972

We want to build a mechanism to organize initiatives. These are what you might think of as "projects" in the Getting Things Done sense. Historically these have been hacked together using a variety of spread-out tools (groups.drupal.org groups, community initiative wiki pages, meta issues, etc). The goals are to make it easy for initiative maintainers to organize the work and track overall progress, and for both new and existing contributors to discover initiatives and to meaningfully get involved.

Topic Pages

http://groups.drupal.org/node/144584

We want to provide a way to aggregate activity across all of the *.Drupal.org sites relevant to specific topics. The goal is to make it easier for new contributors to find activity and other users involved in the kinds of work they care about (accessibility, responsive design, performance, security, HTML5, web services, etc).

Redesign Issue Pages

http://groups.drupal.org/node/144574
http://drupal.org/node/1080494

Although issue summaries and removing the need for "subscribe" comments have helped a lot, issues on Drupal.org can still be overwhelming and confusing. We want to make it simple to understand what's happening, make it easier for newer members of the community to contribute, to make sure the right people are involved in the discussion at the right time, and to help everyone efficiently resolve the issue.

Redesign User Profile Pages

http://groups.drupal.org/node/144594

Let's make it easier for users to indicate their interests, areas of expertise, and to more explicitly record and display their reputations and contributions.