

TYPO3 – eGovernment - O.S.I.R.I.S

Open Source-based Integrated Regional Information System for Virtual Town Halls

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Abstract

eGovernment is IN. Many Communities try to get their wide range of services online. Most of them invest huge sums in expensive unextended (by free) systems instead of using an approved open source enterprise CMS. TYPO3 offers its users not only a complete e Government system but also an excellent training and support community. As TYPO3 and its e Government Extension “civserv” are Open source, no costs will be caused by the software itself.

Since the 90’s CivServ has been developed by Muenster University. Since 2004 it has been developed by citeq.

Missing software support for egovernment services often causes problems installing virtual town. With OSIRIS you can also integrate services of Counties and Provinces into local virtual town halls.

Also the coordination of information in a recent visual context causes problems. Using OSIRIS, Communities will be able to manage their information and design by themselves.

OSIRIS will be delivered with a complete CSS-design and can run in a single or multi-client setting. This means more than one community can run on the same OSIRIS System and still each community can have their own layout.

As TYPO3 and MySQL support UTF8 it is full suitable for Asian languages. To

This paper will introduce CivServ which is a synonym for O.S.I.R.I.S. and show its potential be used also in Asian Community Settings. It can run as a “standalone” installation or be combined with one of 4000 other TYPO3 Extensions available under the GNU Licence.



1. TYPO3 – A short Introduction

TYPO3 is an Enterprise Content Management System which predestines itself for the use in public institutions and smaller and

large Enterprises. It is Open Source with a GNU Licence and developed by thousands of developers which have been mainly located in European Countries. Meanwhile big TYPO3 Enterprises have been established in India, China, Brazil and the US. LisAndi Co. Ltd. located in Phuket promotes TYPO3 in Thailand and offers various services and packages.

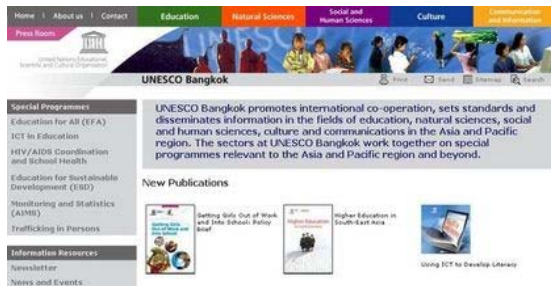


Illustration 1: UNESCO Bangkok TYPO3 Website

More and more companies and NGO Organisations as well as private people use TYPO3 to present themselves online.

TYPO3 has more than 10.000 registered users worldwide and reaches TOP3 ECMS. Kasper Skårhøj from Denmark developed the first core and released TYPO3 under GNU License at the beginning of this millennium.

The biggest advantage of TYPO3 is its graphical and multilingual abilities and the strict separation from structure, design and content. Its huge worldwide community helps to support beginners and advanced users. A TYPO3 User Group for South-East Asia named ThaiPo3 has been established by UNESCO Bangkok and Andreas Becker in 2005. ThaiPo3 is having several workshops and seminars throughout the year, mostly held in Bangkok or Phuket.

2. eGovernment with TYPO3

TYPO3 is used in many Communities around the world¹.

¹ Germany: <http://www.t3gov.de/1191.0.html>

We found an open-source content management system called Typo3, which is an enterprise CMS that rivals commercial products costing \$60,000. A local firm in Colorado with experience on the LAMP platform customized it for Typo3.
(Kent Morrison - Steamboat Springs)

Steamboat Springs in US-Colorado based their community site on TYPO3².

TYPO3 gives communities independence from regular and cost intensive updates circles of commercial products. Developed and published extensions are under GNU licence and therefore easily to be integrated into all other TYPO3 websites without any follow up costs for I.e. updates. Finally it is the big community worldwide which makes TYPO3 so unique and wonderful.

Meanwhile complete TYPO3 package solutions like those from Web Empowered Church^{3,4} (developed in USA) or T3Pack.org⁵ (developed by LisAndi Co.Ltd./Thailand and Kultur und Familienwerkstatt/Germany in cooperation with UNESCO Bangkok) help beginners and advanced users to deploy TYPO3 websites instantly.

Both are using the futuristic TYPO3 TemplaVoila Templating Machine accompanied with already installed and configured common extensions like News, Blog, Forum, iCalendar, Staff Directory, Guest book, Gallery, GoogleMaps and more.

² Rocky Mountain high for open source by Ingrid Marson 2006.

³ http://news.zdnet.com/2100-9593_22-6043049.html

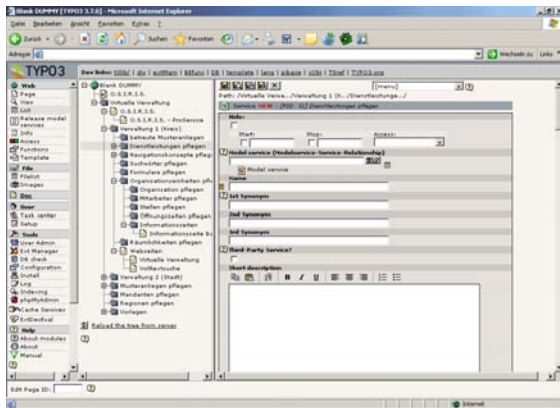
⁴ <http://www.webempoweredchurch.org>

⁵

<http://www.webempoweredchurch.com/examples/>

<http://www.t3pack.org> – TYPO3 for ALL

Those packages are a great start for any TYPO3 website. “Civserv” a TYPO3 e government extension can be integrated easily. Communities could have their complete Website and their e Government systems running within the same base system. No extra training will be necessary for the editors and administrators.



TYPO3 offers a decided User Management System and Versioning, Work flow and Workspaces. The access to each site and content element can be restricted to its specific needs by persons and by tasks. Intranet and Worldwide web applications can be managed in the same site. TYPO3 is capable to integrate other existing databases (i.e. Oracle, Postgres, ...) using the dbal or adodb interface.

Institutions won't need additional software. All editing can be done with the integrated wysiwyg editor like you where working in a common Word processor Application. Word and Office Documents can also be imported directly into TYPO3. If necessary a clustered TYPO3 System using different servers will increase security and uptime availabilities.

The basic system requirements:

- Apache Server
- PHP5.2 – starting (Feb.2008)
- MySQL4 / 5
- ImageMagick or GraphicsMagick

In times where huge financial resources aren't available anymore, Open Source prod-

ucts get more and more in focus of enterprises and communities. Most communities are already standing with the back to the wall and have empty pockets. On the other hand there is a need for them to present their communities and offer services online. An informative Touristik site can attract people from all around the world and local people will enjoy the easiness and availability of e Government 24/7 services. TYPO3 can offer you both.

Websites need to be maintained as nobody will visit websites which provide no updated data. Without any additional software TYPO3 can be edited from anywhere as long as an internet access is available. Communities with a slow internet connection could also use a local TYPO3 System which regularly synchronizes its data with an Online TYPO3 System i.e. during night time automatically.

The system itself needs to qualify with the following characteristics:

- It should be able to manage a large amount of text and multimedia content.
- It needs other functionalities like news, calendar, event-management, gallery, ...
- Citizens need to be able to find the right partner to communicate with. I.e. A staff register could help
- Formula should be available online for reading and editing.
- In western countries like US and Germany Websites also need to fulfill certain criteria for Accessibility. Since 2006 all Community Websites in Germany need to be accessible also for people with disabilities.
- The design of a website “opens the eyes” of the clients and interests them. Therefore the system should offer easy templating and CSS designing. I

All content will be managed in the TYPO3 backend. Storage folders for different purposes enable a highly logical structure like a page/folder tree and standard Windows, Mac or Linux systems.

Since 2004 the project website shows and demonstrates the newest developments⁸.

4. Adaptation and Translation

O.S.I.R.I.S is developed in German Language, but as TYPO3 offers very good multi language features civserv has already been translated into Danish and Brazilian Portuguese.

TYPO3 in Version 4.2 is optimized for PHP 5.2 and up and supports utf8. In combination with a package solution like described above (i.e. T3Pack) “civserv” will be able to show its full power and glance. The T3Pack Package contains all necessary extensions and can be enhanced with even more features. It will be supported here in Asia (LisAndi Co. Ltd. Phuket), the ultimate TYPO3 User group in Southeast Asia “ThaiPo3” and also by Workshops (i.e. given at UNESCO Bangkok).

As the Packages from Web Empowered Church and T3pack are well coordinated templates and extensions can be shared and modified easily. Some Hope Churches in Thailand started to use TYPO3 as a base and also the schools website “Rajaprajanguroh.com” is based on T3pack. The TYPO3 Core parts are already available in Thai and many other Asian Languages. Extensions can be translated with an integrated translation tool (t3pack). As T3Pack is developed also for purposes of UNESCO Bangkok its extensions and templates get optimized for

⁸ Electronic Government in Organisationen der Kommunalverwaltungen des Münsterlandes: <http://www.regiokomm.de>

Asian needs which integrates the use of RTL (Arabic, Hebrew, ...) and LTR support. It is fully utf-8 and can display any Asian language.

Communities in Tourist Regions will be able to maintain multilingual sites. Together with LisAndi Co. Ltd. a translation service will be formed to help communities, churches and commercial business owners to build and organise multilingual TYPO3 sites.

5. Vision

Combined with its good SEO features and a well organised multi domain site structure TYPO3 can help communities to receive better search engine ranking and therefore more people looking at their sites resulting in more customers hopefully.

Communities will be able to build complex Community websites using only one System for all. This will reduce time for training officers and employers immense as well as costs for updates (0), administration and future developments.

Using TYPO3 for websites will enable communities to bundle all their efforts to one. Community Services, Governmental Services as well as touristic serves, a job board, several online market places, shops and communicational tools like a Forum can be managed in one system.

Extensions which have been developed for one TYPO3 site could be integrated and customized in other TYPO3 sites. The global community of developers and users is fast growing. It makes community and TYPO3 users more independent. Upgrades and bugs will be resolved much faster – normally there is no need for awaiting a new release like in most high cost software products. Support is available all around the globe. TYPO3 is gaining more and more attention in Asia.