

Please leave comments all over the place. We're just building ideas right now. -Daniel Bachhuber 9/27/08 5:53 PM

The vision

CoPress is a holistic, non-profit, and community-driven initiative to provide student news organizations with the technical ecosystem they need to thrive as information gathering and distribution goes digital. At the moment, it includes these parts:

- the software - CoPress will support popular CMS options with continuing development, plugins, tuning to better fit our sector, and optional hosting/management
- the community - CoPress will connect student newspaper online editors, etc. with their peers via a social network backend? and a yearly conference?
- the knowledge - CoPress will provide student news organizations with the intellectual resources (tutorials, documentation, videos, podcasts, webinars, etc.) to anyone interested. Members will be able to edit, contribute and improve the resources.

The tenets of CoPress

Everything we do is open source under the GPL. We're in non-competing markets, so the things we can do to help each other will be critical to ensure the

We're distributed. You can get support from anyone within the CoPress community, and there are "core" CoPress contributors who have gone through a certification process to make them "certified support"

Student-driven development. We're building the next generation of web journalism innovators.

Inclusive. If you want to follow along, or get involved, please do!

The goals of CoPress

To be distributed such that university students can manage and contribute to the team in a part-time fashion.

Components of an evolving CoPress

September 2008 Survey - Judges the state of the ecosystem thus far

- Follow up with the respondents
- Forecast completion: 15 October 2008
- Subsequent step: Follow up October 2008 Survey

October 2008 Survey -

- Goals
 - Better understand the ability of student news organizations to cope with shift to a new platform
 - Better understand business and distribution strategies for student new
- Launch:
- Forecast completion: 10 November 2008?

Technology

Draft of the "Ideal CMS Outline"

- Purpose: to identify the features we think we need in a CMS, and to have a list with which to compare the available options of CMSes; the outline will have a combination of both required features and
- Steps?
- Questions
 - Should we break this down into core components?
- Forecast completion:

CMS Option Audit - understanding the pro's and con's of what's out there

- Goals - Use the "Ideal CMS Outline" to:
 - Understand the relationship between various CMS options (Drupal, WordPress, and Django) and how they map to our needs
 - Understand how each option can expand
- Forecast completion: 5 November 2008
- Subsequent step: voting on which CMS to work on

Social network for Online Editors that is accessible through the dashboard of the CMS

- Features: XMPP hack so that when you're logged into the CMS, there's a continuous chat
- The CMS reports what you're working on, so that you can seek the help of others and they can seek the help of you
- Forecast completion: ???
- Subsequent step:

Advertising solution that is either integrated, or easy to implement

- Purpose:
- Features:

Resources

Current and up to date directory of Online Editors and developers across the nation

- Accessible by all CoPress members so that they can connect to who they need to connect to
- Tracks projects that the Online Editors are working on, so that you can be automatically alerted if someone is working on something similar to you
- Forecast completion:

Fee-for-service support

- There is a core group of CoPress developers

CoPress Timeline

I think the timeline is where I need most help (taking the ideas and mapping them to a plan of action) -Daniel Bachhuber 9/27/08 6:14 PM

10 October 2008, 5 PM PST - First survey is closed, start compiling results;

11 October 2008 - We email all of the respondents of the first survey and ask them if they have feedback; Ideal CMS outline is synthesized and ready for review;

15 October 2008 - First survey report is complete; second survey is announced; we email all of the respondents of the first survey to say thanks and that you should take our second

28 October 2008 - Application to the KNC08 competition is submitted

31 October 2008 - Second survey is closed

5 November 2008 - CMS audit is complete, comparison begins

November 2008 - Core CMS components identified based on survey results and group input. Work begins on finding a CMS and plugins that match the outline.

10 November 2008 - Initial launch organizations request databases

December 2008 - alpha version of the software solution is ready for testing; initial partner organizations work on porting databases and developing how-to guides; CoPress.org site has... To hit this target date, must get organizations to commit to porting their CMS over so soon. Requires faith. -Schwank 9/27/08 9:37 PM Partner organizations are key, key, key-- not only for the CMS, but for hosting, advertising, etc. -Adam Hemphill 9/27/08 10:31 PM I feel like we'll be asking a lot to have -Drew Geraets 10/5/08 5:04 PM Drew, can you clarify? -Daniel Bachhuber 10/6/08 9:12 PM

Mid-January 2009 - First news organizations are running the CoPress-supported CMS

Funding

Potential sources of funding:

- Fee for service: core CoPress developers offer technical support (database porting, site theming, temporary support if you don't have an online editor for a term, etc.) for affordable rates
- Flat rate fee for basic hosting, management, and support
- Grants and donation drives; foundation support?
- Using [The Point](#) for raising money for plugins/add'l functionality
 - Vote on the functionality we think we need with money
 - A percentage goes to the developer, and a percentage goes to CoPress for overhead

Potential uses for funding:

- Reimburse the man hours and administration of the organization
- Pay for hosting
- Pay developers to build plugins based on a community agreed upon pay scale

Organizational structure

Questions yet to answer:

- Do we support one platform (CMS), or multiple?
- What are the CMS options we are considering?
- How will CoPress membership work?
- How do we value contributions to this project that don't have monetary value (i.e. everyone getting around the phone on Sunday nights)? Should we have a credit system? (i.e. you get 2 credits for making the meeting, 1 credit for setting up the podcast, etc.) What would the credits be redeemable for?
- We need a really good way to make sure tasks don't get dropped through the cracks. For instance, if someone can't do something, the task should be

automatically delegated to the next person in line (or whomever has time available at the moment)

- How much money should we ask for from the KNC so that we pretend like we're legit?