



IW:LEARN Who?



In 1997 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiated the International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) as a knowledge management project to enhance the delivery of results by GEF IW projects.



Current KM-oriented activities in IWLEARN3
[http://iwlearn.net/abt iwlearn](http://iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn)

Why open source software?

*“**Control** over the use of one's ideas really constitutes control over other people's lives; and it is usually used to make their lives more difficult.”*



Richard Matthew Stallman

American software freedom activist and computer programmer; launched the GNU Project and pioneered *copyleft*



Cost (free to download and install)



Avoids dependence on vendors (vendor lock-in) for support and services



Avoid costly upgrades and dropping of support of older software versions

Why open source software? cont.



Adoption of open standards (avoid non-standard formats and compatibility issues in proprietary software)



Software can be readily customized (source code can be viewed and edited by anyone)



Distribution to stakeholders is not restricted



Any translation possible – investment may be too great for proprietary software developer



“Open source is not just about sharing one’s knowledge, it’s also about embedding qualities of kindness, helpfulness and an open mind-set within you. It’s about being open to thoughts and ideas and most of all giving a chance to your own knowledge to reach higher dimensions.”

IW:LEARN Main KM Platform



IW Resource Centre –

<http://iwlearn.net>

Project and partner websites

<http://iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit/users>

PLONE

<http://plone.org>



GEF IW Community Platform –

<http://iwlearn.net/community>

<http://community.iwlearn.net>

KARL

<http://karlproject.org>



IW:LEARN Planning and Issue Tracker

<http://plans.iwlearn.org>

Other useful tools



Online trainings: www.gotomeeting.com www.fuzemeeting.com

Design projects: www.conceptshare.com

**Google tools (maps, docs..) and tons of other Open Source,
free tools available!**





IW:LEARN as a service unit

GEF IW Projects



GEF IW Projects,
partner organization,
stakeholder groups



Limited or no allocated resources



Always on-the-go










Limited life span



Why a content management system (CMS)?

A CMS is software that allows users to manage content on their own website.

-  **Content – refers to any online material including text, images, files, folders etc.**
-  **Allows non-technical staff to create, edit and manage content**
Capable of centralized and decentralized control.
-  **Design consistency. Enables the design to be automatically applied throughout**
-  **Allow users to modify content through their web browser**
-  **Organizations are increasingly moving to adopting CMS**
-  **Good built-in SEO - friendly URLs for marketing and SEO placement**
-  **Content is stored in a database**

The IW:LEARN Website Toolkit



The Website Toolkit is a user-friendly website template that offers GEF IW projects and partners a fully-functional dynamic and sophisticated website that is customizable, simple and easy to use.



It is based on [Plone open source software](#) which is a powerful content management system.



It can function as an extranet and intranet server, document publishing system, and as a groupware tool for online collaboration between users.



IWLEARN provides customizable themes and add-on products while a vast variety of options are also freely provided by Plone theme developers.

Types of CMS



**Free and open source software, commercial
(can cost up to several thousand USD)**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_content_management_systems

- free/open source**
- proprietary software**

Comparison of various CMS

<http://www.cmsmatrix.org/>

Useful links

IW Website Guidelines

<http://iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit/website-guidelines>

Website Toolkit

<http://iwlearn.net/websitetoolkit>



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