



Red Hat Enterprise Content Management System Overview

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Abstract

The Red Hat Enterprise Content Management System (CMS) is an open source product that provides a full set of out-of-the-box content management capabilities. In addition, CMS provides a comprehensive set of APIs that enable developers to extend and configure the system to meet their specific business needs. This whitepaper gives an overview of the features and capabilities of Red Hat Enterprise Content Management System.

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What is the Red Hat Enterprise CMS?

Red Hat Enterprise CMS is an open source application that manages the content creation and delivery processes of a web site. With CMS, an unlimited number of people can easily create content for a website, have the content be approved by an editor, and published live on the web site.

CMS also has built-in support for templating, content lifecycle management, permissioning, versioning, categorization, and user-defined content types. It is the most full-featured open source CMS available in the market today.

Built on top of the Red Hat Web Application Framework and J2EE technology, CMS has a robust domain layer that enables developers to extend and configure the system to meet their exact business needs, providing maximum flexibility and control. CMS has been proven in many demanding environments, including Dunkin' Donuts, Deutsche Post, and Carrefour.

Why Content Management?

Content management systems enable an organization to scale their creation and maintenance processes. By empowering every individual to be a content creator and maintainer, a large web site can have up-to-date content in every area, since the individual who is closest to that content has the ability to update and modify that content, without incurring additional human costs.

In addition, centralized content management can improve an organization's capability for knowledge sharing and communication. By making content readily available to the right people in the right format (HTML, PDF, email, RSS), content management systems can improve people's efficiency in finding knowledge while simultaneously reducing barriers to communicating relevant information.

Red Hat Enterprise CMS Benefits

Each organization has unique and specific content management needs, with different business processes, different types of content that need to be managed, different organization hierarchies -- all of which affects the configuration and deployment of the content management system. Red Hat Enterprise CMS offers full content management capability in a flexible, extensible architecture that recognizes that nearly all CMS deployments need to be tailored to fit an organization's specific business needs.

Features

Red Hat Enterprise CMS provides rich out-of-the-box functionality, including:

- **Unified Access Control:** A single access control system allows administrators to specify which users and/or groups can perform what types of actions, including delegating specific administrative privileges to other users and groups.
- **Categorization:** Content can be categorized using a configurable categorization scheme e.g., Dublin Core. Content is then browsable and searchable by category.
- **Lifecycle management:** CMS has a highly flexible publishing model for managing content lifecycles, enabling users to schedule publishing and unpublishing for arbitrary durations and dates.
- **Workflow process:** Content moves through a series of steps in the process of creation, and each step can be assigned to a different role or user.
- **User, group, and role management:** CMS can manage unlimited numbers of users, groups, and roles in a simple, coherent way that is fully integrated with the access control system.
- **Templating:** Content is separated from presentation via the standards-based CMS templating system. The templating system uses either XSLT or JSP templates to consistently style content and has been used with both developers and graphic designers.
- **Versioning:** A powerful versioning system that recognizes the differences between content enables versioning of associated content items and assets. In addition, developers can utilize this metadata to build conflict resolution and branching capability.
- **Native multilingual support:** CMS has native support for managing and syncing content in an unlimited number of languages. In addition, all static strings in the CMS are globalized, enabling easy localization.
- **Proven scalability and performance:** CMS has been deployed on heavily trafficked sites with tens of thousands of content contributors and millions of content viewers. CMS has built in support for HTTP cache headers and publish to filesystem to maximize the performance of serving published content.

Flexibility and Control

CMS is deployed using an n-tier architecture relying on a servlet container (e.g., Tomcat 4, WebSphere 4.x), a standard RDBMS, and any operating system with support for Java 1.3.x. This enables CMS to leverage and coexist with existing enterprise systems infrastructure, giving customers the flexibility and control over how the CMS is deployed.

In addition, the standard software architecture of the Red Hat Enterprise CMS allows customers to extend and configure the system. CMS has stable, documented, and open domain APIs that enable a developer to extend the system to meet his/her specific business needs. Developers typically take advantage of CMS APIs to write their own authoring kits and content types specific to their organization. The extensive use of commonly used open source tools such as Log4j, Ant, Xalan, Xerces, Lucene, and Junit also enable a developer to rapidly learn the system.

Community

Red Hat is committed to the open source community model of development. Red Hat Enterprise CMS is open source, which gives developers maximum flexibility in understanding and extending the technology. The community around Enterprise Applications enables future versions of the Web Application Framework to leverage the lessons and code built by other developers for other projects. The Red Hat Enterprise Applications engineering team continuously merges code contributed by community members, code developed for Red Hat professional services engagements, and our customers.

Summary

Red Hat Enterprise Content Management System is a robust content management system that provides significant out of the box capabilities without sacrificing the flexibility to extend the system to match a specific organization's business processes and needs. With proven scalability, standards-based system architecture, and an open source development model, the Red Hat Enterprise CMS is the best system to meet an organization's content management needs.

For more information about Red Hat Enterprise CMS or any of the open source enterprise applications available from Red Hat, please see our web site at <http://www.redhat.com/software/rhea> or contact us at +1 866-273-3428 x41005.