

# DEMYSTIFYING DRUPAL 7 THEMING

## AND FRONT END DEVELOPMENT WITH DRUPAL

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a session on the basics of Drupal 7 theming and front-end customization of a Drupal 7 website.

This training session is targeted as intermediate to advanced Drupal user. (Sharp beginners might also benefit)

The objectives of this session are two fold:

First is to impress on you a fundamental knowledge of the Drupal theme system and an understanding of how it works.

Second is to empower you with a knowledge of how you might start to use the power and flexibility of the Drupal theme system to easily customize the look and feel of a Drupal website.

# WHAT IS THEMING?

Simply, it is the act of changing the appearance/look and feel of a Drupal website to suite your taste, requirements or style.

Theming is made up of different pieces:

1. Designing the appearance of your website: Photoshop, Fireworks, wireframes, pen and papers, etc
2. Creating the HTML to contro the layout of your website
3. Changing the HTML output of Drupal to fit your design. ie Modifying the HTML outputed by Drupal to conform to the HTML you need (The haredst part)
4. Much more...

# **OUR ASSUMPTIONS...**

Basic knowledge of HTML, CSS and PHP

# BASICS OF DRUPAL 7 THEMING

The "Drupal Theme Layer" and the theme that uses it are responsible for the look and feel of a Drupal website.

A good theme consists of all the same elements that you would find on any respectable website.

This includes standards-compliant HTML markup, CSS, Javascripts, images and all other components that make the user interface.

How all of these elements are put together into a Drupal website is what makes the Drupal so flexible and powerful.

# BASICS OF DRUPAL 7 THEMING...

A Drupal theme can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be.

A Drupal theme has the ultimate control over every aspect of each page of a website.

So, like Drupal itself, themes are flexible and powerful.

But for you to be able to take full advantage of all that power and flexibility you have to be able to understand how a theme works under the hood.

# THE DRUPAL CORE THEMES

The core theme directory.

The core themes: Batik, Garland, Seven, Stark  
Theme Engines.

# DRUPAL THEME ADMINISTRATION

Enabling and setting as default

Administration theme

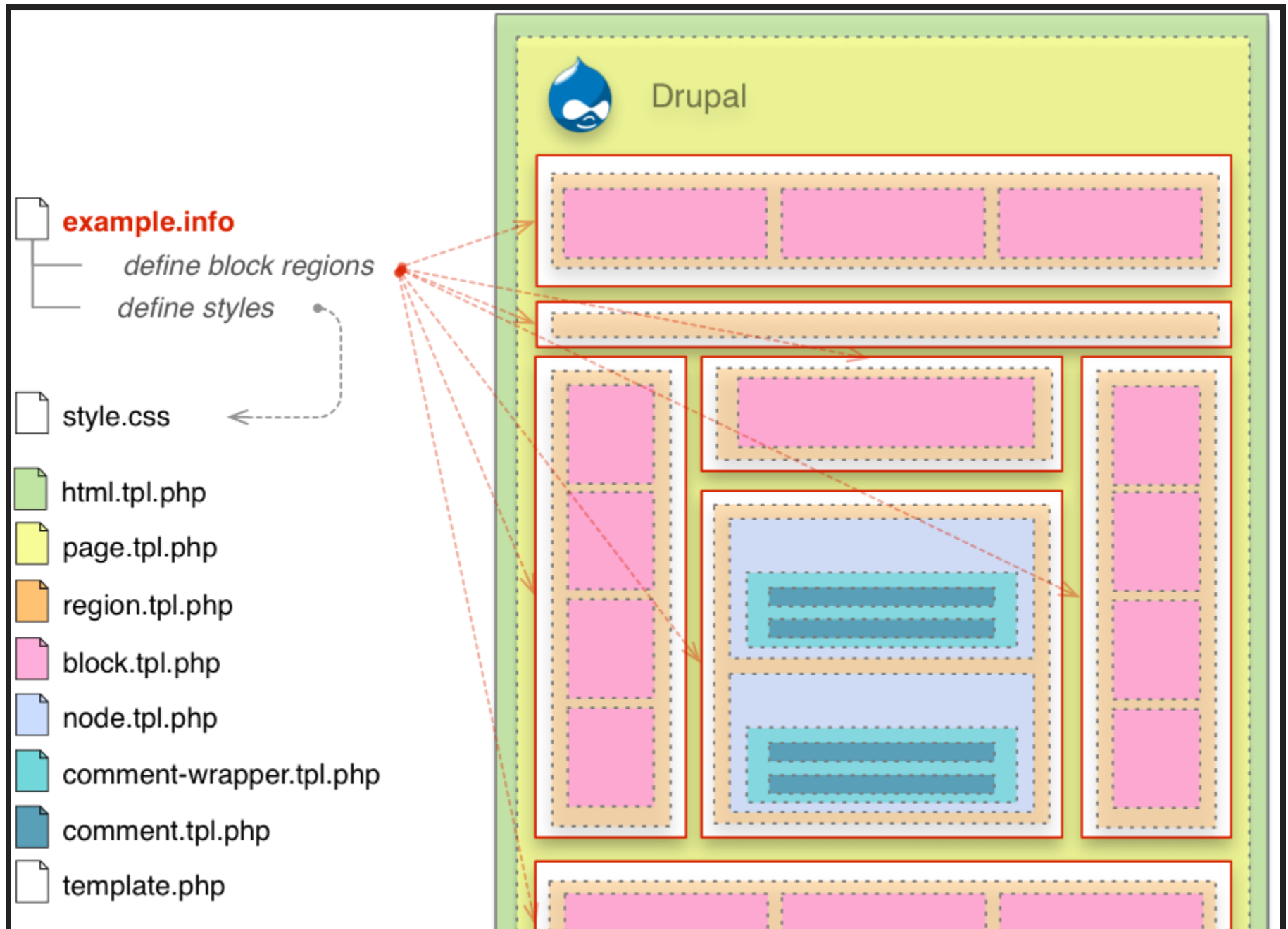
Global theme setting

Installing a new theme




# HOW THE DRUPAL THEME SYSTEM WORKS

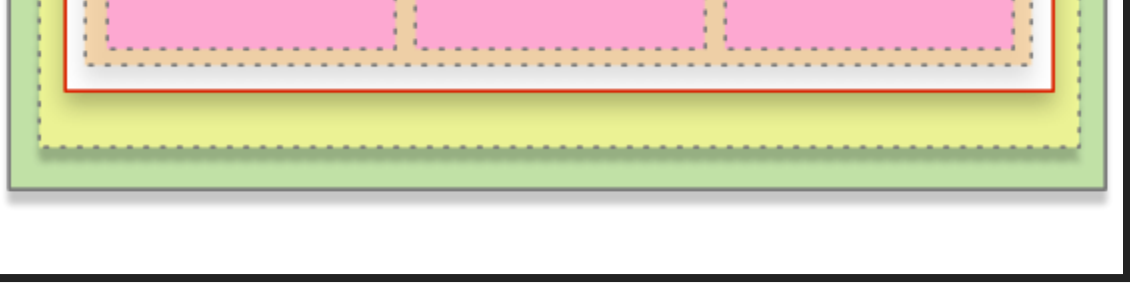
# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE THEME STRUCTURES AND THEME FILES



 logo.png

 screenshot.png

 images



# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE THEME STRUCTURES AND THEME FILES

.info file (Required)

template files (.tpl.php files)

Resource files: CSS, Javascripts, images, logo, screenshot

# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE THEME STRUCTURES AND THEME FILES

template files (.tpl.php files)

are used for the HTML markup and PHP variables

Each .tpl.php file handles the output of a specific themable chunk of data

This makes it fairly easy for those with little or no PHP experience to make changes to HTML code.

They are optional, and if none exists in your theme it will fall back to the default output



- Request new password

Log in

block.tpl.php

Tags:

[privubebra](#) [mathasiac](#)

field.tpl.php

[Read more](#) [Log in](#) or [register](#) to post comments



region.tpl.php

## Triptych first

Nam laudem soluta equidem an. Ut nostro recteque mel, dicant menandri imperdiet in.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

## Triptych middle

Vix vivendo salutatus repudiare no, mei audire maiorum liberavisse ad. No officiis.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

## Triptych last

Vix id rebum elaboraret intellegebat. Ceteros phaedrum pri ei. Duo summo minimum.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

### FOOTER FIRST COLUMN

Ut ius nostrud recusabo, ne duo odio diam dictas, vel id erat tincidunt deseruisse. Suas tritani invenire qui.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

### FOOTER SECOND COLUMN

Legendos nominati sed ad. Usu cu esse voluptua persequeris. Dicant ceteros te has, doctus denique at vix.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

### FOOTER THIRD COLUMN

Has dictas forensibus adolescens no. Sit in soleat persius petentium. Causae aliquyam efficiendi sit no.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

### FOOTER FOURTH COLUMN

Unum bonorum inciderint cum te, nominavi officis dissentiunt te mel. Vim simul detraxit id.

block.tpl.php

region.tpl.php

Footer

Nibh zzril mirum notare consectetur nihil.

block.tpl.php

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block.tpl.php

# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE THEME STRUCTURES AND THEME FILES

template.php file

are used for the HTML markup and PHP variables

Each .tpl.php file handles the output of a specific themable chunk of data

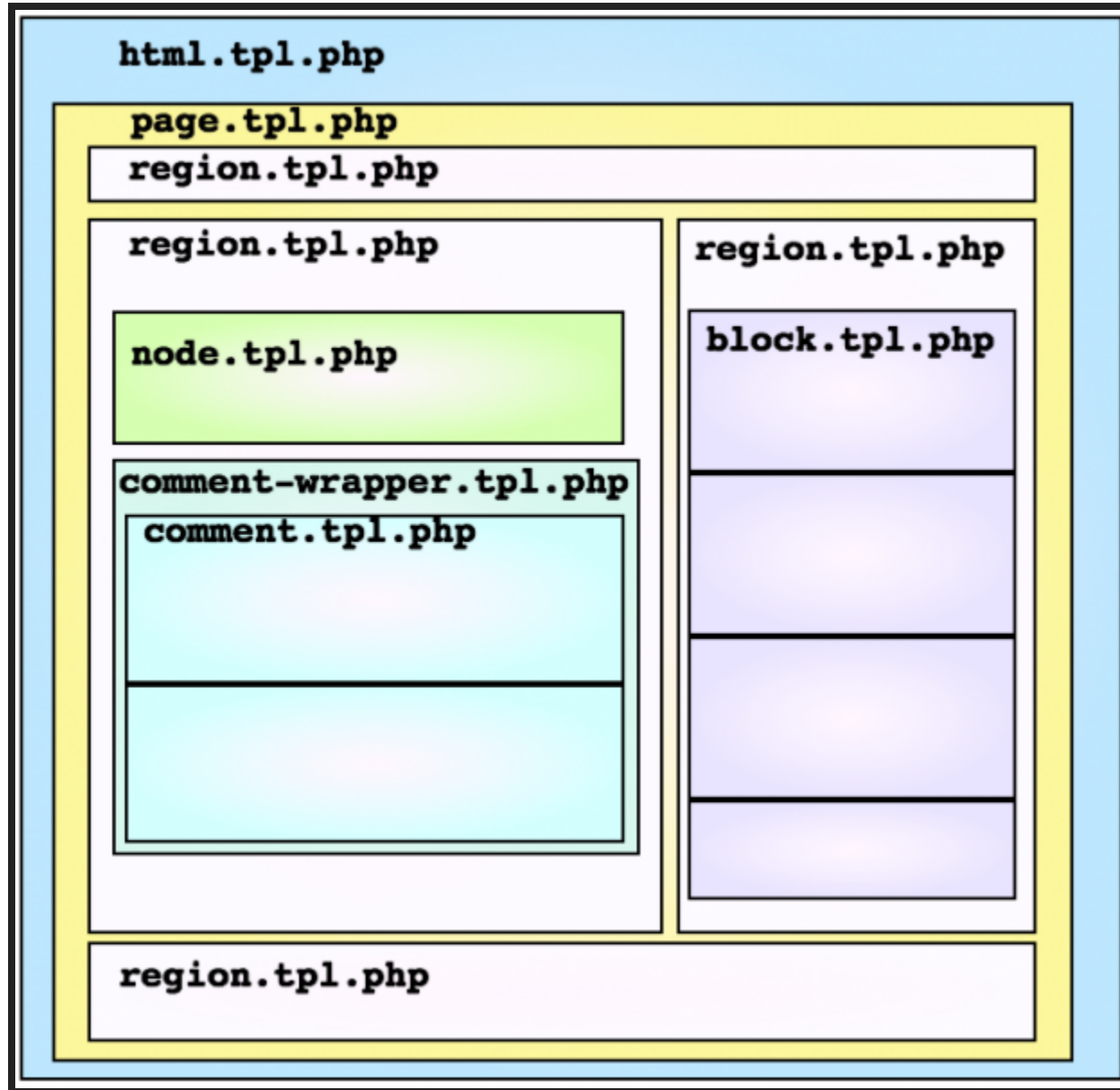
They are optional, and if none exists in your theme it will fall back to the default output



# 1. OVERVIEW OF THE THEME STRUCTURES AND THEME FILES

Resource files: CSS, Javascripts, images, logo, screenshot

## 2. TEMPLATE FILES HIERARCHY



### **3. ANATOMY OF THE .INFO FILE**

The .info file is a static text file for defining and configuring a theme

Each line in the .info file is a key-value pair

## 4. REGIONS

Most of the content found on Drupal pages is output inside a region

Typical regions include the header, footer, sidebars, and content  
these regions often play a large part in defining the high-level structure of your  
HTML markup

An option appears in the blocks interface at `admin/structure/block` for each region, allowing site administrators to control and position the blocks inside them

# 4. REGIONS

BLOCK	REGION	OPERATIONS
<b>Header</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Help</b> + System help	Help	configure
<b>Highlighted</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Featured</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Content</b> + Main page content	Content	configure
<b>Sidebar first</b> + Search form + Navigation + User login + Management	Sidebar first	configure
<b>Sidebar second</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Triptych first</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Triptych middle</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		
<b>Triptych last</b> <i>No blocks in this region</i>		

Sidebar first

- None -
- Header
- Help
- Highlighted
- Featured
- Content
- ✓ Sidebar first
- Sidebar second
- Triptych first
- Triptych middle
- Triptych last
- Footer first column
- Footer second column
- Footer third column
- Footer fourth column
- Footer

regions[header] = Header  
regions[help] = Help  
regions[highlighted] = Highlighted  
regions[featured] = Featured  
regions[content] = Content  
regions[sidebar\_first] = Sidebar first  
regions[triptych\_first] = Triptych first  
regions[triptych\_middle] = Triptych middle  
regions[triptych\_middle] = Triptych middle  
regions[footer\_firstcolumn] = Footer first column  
regions[footer\_secondcolumn] = Footer second column  
regions[footer\_thirdcolumn] = Footer third column  
regions[footer\_fourthcolumn] = Footer fourth column

regions[footer] = Footer

Footer first column

No blocks in this region

Footer second column

No blocks in this region

Footer third column

No blocks in this region

Footer fourth column

No blocks in this region

Footer


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Footer

[configure](#)

Disabled

# 4. REGIONS



**Bartik**  
A theme for Drupal 7

A block in the header.

Home Gravis Mauris Qui Dolor Quia Adipiscing At Huic Nulla Singularis Valde Capto Occuro

Here's a block in the *featured* region.

### Sidefar first

Malorum mea, te oratio prompta voluptaria sed. Agam ancillae inciderint usu cu, novum mazim pro ea, novum nonumy molestie vim ne.

### Highlighted region

Persequeris ad, salutandi corrumpit duo et.

#### Help

Minim quam tation quod gothica in.

### Abigo Tamen Verto

published by vastophe on Tue, 01/18/2011 - 08:40

Augue distineo eros mauris neo vero. Caecus jugis paratus ut. Cui dolor mos typicus. Abbas si voco. Abico causa erat incassum lenis ludus neo plaga quibus saepius. Commoveo ludus praesent. Antehabeo elit exerci persto pertineo quidne refero typicus usitas. Amet obruo ratis vicis. Defui facilisis ille inhibeo nulla premo refoveo si utinam uxor.

Tags:  
[privubebra](#) [mathaslacl](#)

### Sidebar second

Putent definiebas et mea, eleifend eloquentiam no per. Ei ullum definiebas scripserit pri. Ut est sumo indoctum interesset. An sed equidem docendi, per ut solum civibus vituperatoribus.

### User login

**Username \***

**Password \***

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

Log in



## Triptych first

Nam laudem soluta equidem an. Ut nostro recteque mel, dicant menandri imperdiet in.

## Triptych middle

Vix vivendo salutatus repudiare no, mei audire maiorum liberavisse ad. No officiis.

## Triptych last

Vix id rebum elaboraret intellegebat. Ceteros phaedrum pri ei. Duo summo minimum.

### FOOTER FIRST COLUMN

Ut ius nostrud recusabo, ne duo odio diam dictas, vel id erat tincidunt deseruisse. Suas tritani invenire qui.

### FOOTER SECOND COLUMN

Legendos nominati sed ad. Usu cu esse voluptua persequeris. Dicant ceteros te has, doctus denique at vix.

### FOOTER THIRD COLUMN

Has dictas forensibus adolescens no. Sit in soleat persius petentium. Causae allquyam efficiendi sit no.

### FOOTER FOURTH COLUMN

Unum bonorum inciderint cum te, nominavi officiis dissentiunt te mel. Vim simul detraxit id.

### Footer

Nibh zzril mirum notare consectetur nihil.

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## **5. THEME SETTINGS AND HOW THEY ARE USED**

Various page elements output by the theme can be toggled on and off on the theme's configuration page

## 6. THEME CACHE

## 7. CREATING A SUB-THEME

Sub-themes are just like any other theme, with one difference: They inherit the parent theme's resources

Style sheet inheritance: All style sheets defined in the parent theme will be inherited.

JavaScript inheritance: All JavaScripts defined in the parent theme will be inherited.

To set Toggle Display of Theme: Overriding or adding features: Specify a new feature in sub-theme's .info file.

Template.php function inheritance: Anything defined in the parent theme's template.php file will be inherited.

## 7. CREATING A SUB-THEME

Page, node, block and other template (.tpl.php) file inheritance: Any .tpl.php files from the parent theme will be inherited.

Screen shots, logo and favicon inheritance: The parent theme's screen shot will be inherited. The parent theme's logo (logo.png/logo.jpg) will not be inherited. The parent theme's favicon (favicon.ico) will not be inherited.

Region inheritance: Sub-themes do not inherit custom regions from a parent theme, If you are using custom regions, you should copy the region declarations from the parent theme's .info file

# ADVANCED THEMING (FURTHER EXPLORATION)

Theme layer variables

Preprocess and process functions

Render API

Theming forms

Managing CSS files

Working with base and sub themes

Sustainability and best practices (SASS techniques and tools).

# THE END

- [www.drupal.org](http://www.drupal.org) | [www.drupal.com](http://www.drupal.com)

- [www.DrupalNigeria.org](http://www.DrupalNigeria.org)

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