What is XOOPS?

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This document gives you an overview about what **XOOPS** is.

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Chapter 1. XOOPS, the software

XOOPS is an open source set of scripts that, when installed on an Internet host with a PHP-capable web server (e.g., Apache) and a database (e.g., MySQL), allows administrators to easily create dynamic, complex and content-rich websites. It is an ideal tool for developing small to large community websites, intranets, corporate portals, weblogs and much more.

A shorter definition would be this: **XOOPS** is an object-oriented open source content management system that handles the creation and management of dynamic websites.

XOOPS is the acronym of e*X*tensible *O*bject *O*riented *P*ortal *S*ystem. The standard pronunciation of **XOOPS** should follow English rules, so you should say the name to sound like 'zoo' [zoops].

In legal terms, **XOOPS** is released under the terms of the "GNU General Public License" (GPL) and is free to use and modify. It is free to redistribute as long as you abide by the distribution terms of the GPL.

Chapter 2. What can you do with XOOPS?

Though born as a portal system, **XOOPS** is in fact evolving to become a full-fledged Content Management System. In fact it can serve as a web framework for use by small, medium and large sites. In addition, one of the reasons thousands of users all over the world prefer **XOOPS** is because it's a safe, easy to use, flexible, powerful and friendly option to manage your content, your users and your sites.

- You can use **XOOPS** to easily create a personal weblog or journal. For this purpose, you can do a standard install, and then use its News module only. Or a core focused module, such as the WeBLog module.

- For a medium site, you can use modules like News, Forum, Download, Web Links, etc., and create a sophisticated community to interact with your members and visitors.

- For a large site, as an enterprise portal, you can also develop modules of your own, such as eShop, and use XOOPS' uniform user management system to seamlessly integrate your modules with the whole system.

Chapter 3. Key features of XOOPS

- *Database-driven*: **XOOPS** uses a relational database manager (currently MySQL) to store and retrieve the data required to run a dynamically generated website.

- *Fully Modularized*: Modules can be installed/uninstalled/activated/deactivated with a click using the **XOOPS** module manager.

- *Personalization*: If the site manager wants it so, registered users can edit their profiles, select site themes, upload custom avatars, and much more!

- *User Management*: A site's manager has the ability to search for users by various criteria, and also to send email and private messages to users through a template-based messaging system.

- *World-wide support*: **XOOPS** was created and is maintained by a team of several hard-working volunteers operating from all over the world. The **XOOPS** community has more than a dozen official support sites around the world that freely offer support to non-English speaking users.

- *Multi-byte Language Support*: **XOOPS** fully supports multi-byte languages, including Japanese, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Korean, etc.

- *Versatile Group Permissions System*: **XOOPS** has a powerful and user-friendly permissions system which enables administrators to set permissions by group.

- *Theme-based skinnable interface*: **XOOPS** is driven by a sophisticated but easily managed theme system. Both admins and users can change the look of the entire web site with just a click of the mouse. There are also dozens of themes available for download!

Chapter 4. XOOPS, the network

Of course, there's more to **XOOPS** than just the software we all like to use. **XOOPS** is also a web of Internet sites focused on providing you with the tools needed to give you the best experience as a **XOOPS** user, whether novice or experienced. Some of these sites are completely open to you, while some others are working areas for our core teams. As of this writing, the **XOOPS** Net is comprised of:

- *http://www.xoops.org* The Mother of All the **XOOPS** Sites, the original one, the place where it all began, this is the largest and most visited community site.

- *http://modules.xoops.org* This will be the official repository of **XOOPS** modules and the home of the **XOOPS Modules Registry**.

- *http://themes.xoops.org* This will be the official repository of **XOOPS** themes and the home of the **XOOPS Themes Registry**.

- *http://wiki.xoops.org* This is another community space to contribute our knowledge and experience to the rest of the **XOOPS** users.

- *http://devs.xoops.org* This is a closed site, where **XOOPS** developers thread their magic to give you the best core and the best add-ons.

- *http://docs.xoops.org* This is a closed site, where the **XOOPS Documentation Team** works to create the documentation of your favorite CMS.

Chapter 5. XOOPS, the community

And of course, there's also **YOU**, the **XOOPS** user, perhaps the most important part of the **XOOPS** Universe. It's because of you that we work; it's because of you that we keep moving ahead; it's because of you that we're striving to give you the best open source content management system there is, period.

It's also you who can help us improve both the software and the **XOOPS** sites. So raise your voice and tell us your needs, your wants, your dreams. We'll look for a way to make things happen, and in the process we'll all have a good time.

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