BCNET

Shared IT Services for Higher Education & Research

Conference 2017

Leveraging a Modern Flat-file CMS as an Open and Collaborative Partner for Your LMS

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Our Topics for This Afternoon

- Well, Hello Grav!

- Grav's Key Benefits

- The Git Sync Plugin

- 3 Grav-based Open Source Projects:
  - Open Course Hub
  - OER Content Space
  - ePortfolio Blog

Google Docs Version of These Slides

- bit.ly/2pieMX6
- Your comments/feedback are welcome!

BUILD FASTER WEBSITES

GRAV IS A MODERN OPEN SOURCE FLAT-FILE CMS

GET GRAV

STABLE VERSION **1.1.17** **NEW!** UPDATED **1 MONTH AGO** • **CHANGELOG**
RELEASE CANDIDATE VERSION **1.2.0-RC.3** UPDATED **7 DAYS AGO**

WHY CHOOSE GRAV?

Grav is an award winning CMS platform

Voted "Best Open Source CMS" in 2016

Fast

Performance is not just an afterthought, we baked it in from the start

Extensible

Grav has a powerful API and sophisticated Package Manager to make it super flexible

Open Source

Grav is Open Source, and all the code is available on GitHub.com

Key Benefits: System Admin (IT)

- Minimal hosting requirements, ≥ PHP 5.5.9

- No database, so no SQL injection attacks etc.

- Simple and quick to install, backup and move

- Skeleton packages (pre-configured Grav sites)

- Built-in Command Line Interface (CLI)

Key Benefits: Grav Developers

- Local/production setup with Git deployment
- Uses modern, best-in-class technologies (e.g. Markdown, Twig, and YAML)
- Layered and extensible architecture
- Admin-plugin is easily customized
- Clean and simple plug-in development

Key Benefits: Site Authors

- Delivers fast, mobile-friendly Websites
- Optimized for small to moderate-sized sites
- Content is accessible independent of CMS
- Supports modular and custom content types
- Content, and even themes, can be Git synced

Who Might be Site Authors?

Moderately "tech-savvy" faculty and/or students

Grav Full Install (<1 min.)
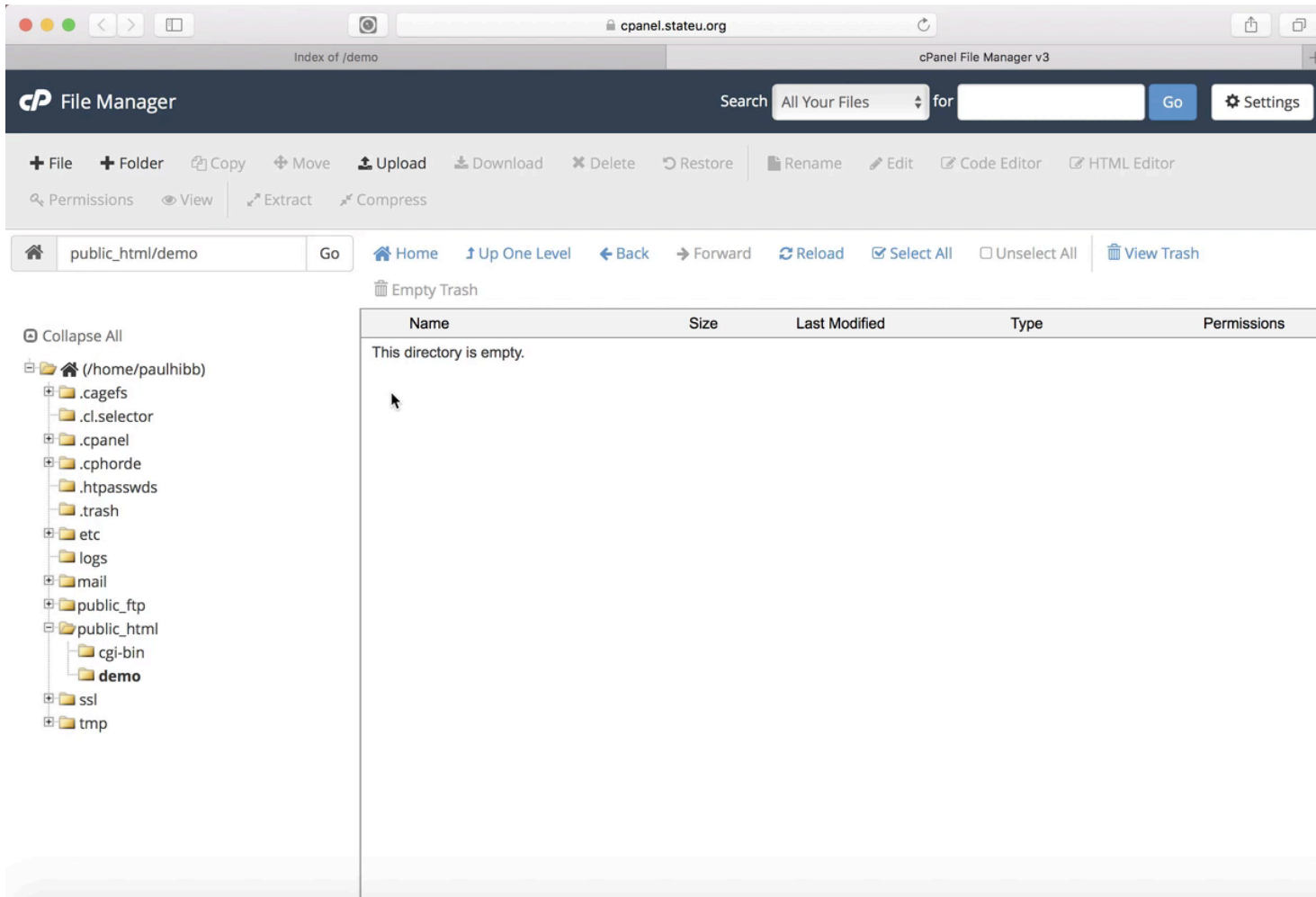
Git Sync Plugin for Grav

- Brings "set-and-forget" Git syncing to Grav
- Works with any Git repo supporting WebHooks (i.e. GitHub, GitLab incl. local instance, etc.)
- Step-by-step setup Wizard
- Additional Command Line Interface (CLI) features planned

Site Audience

Grav Site

git sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Site Administrator(s)
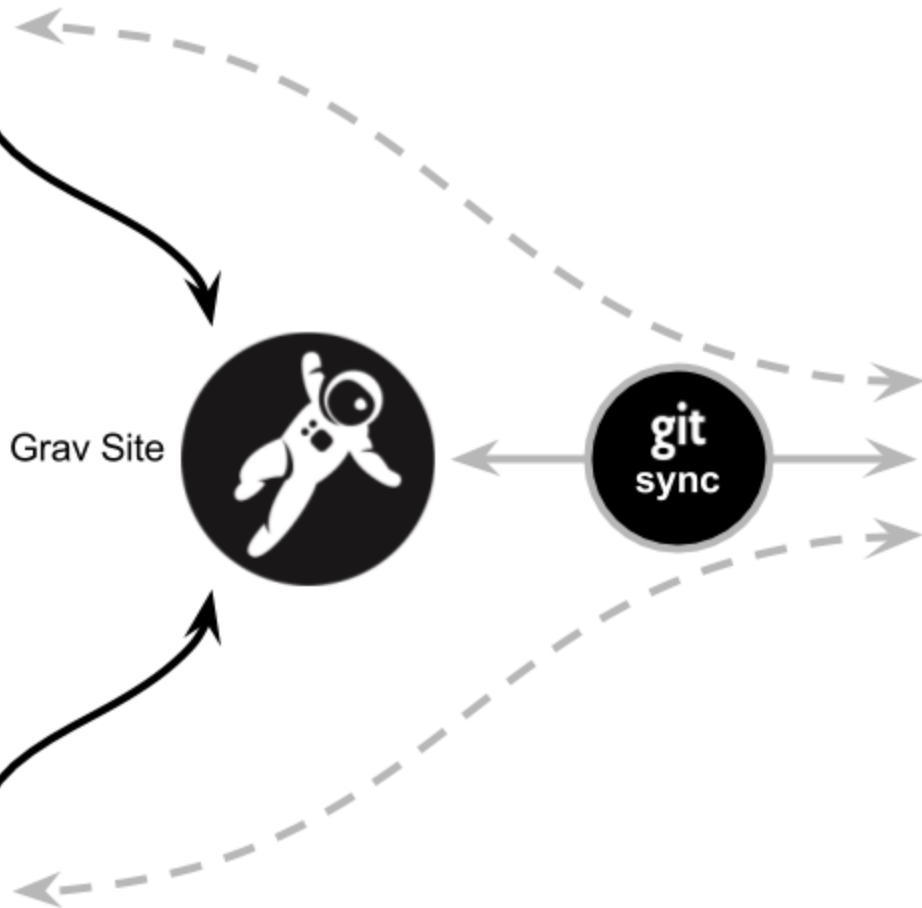
Benefits of Git Sync

- Automatic versioned backups of Grav pages

- Open and collaborative workflow using industry standard Git services

- All Grav website content is accessible in the open in a platform-agnostic format via Git repo

Grav's Layered Conceptual Design

Core
(Engine)

Config
(YAML)

Plugins
(PHP/YAML)

Themes
(Twig/YAML)

Content
(Markdown/YAML)

Three Grav in Education Projects

- Open Course Hub
- OER Content Space
- ePortfolio Blog

Open Course Hub with Git Sync is designed to give tech-savvy instructors an open, collaborative and flexible platform that they can partner with their current LMS

… in other words, "Flip" the LMS with an open, collaborative, and flexible alternative front-end (i.e. Course Hub)

Why Flip the LMS?

- To support pedagogical goals unmet by the current LMS

- To deliver a better student (and facilitator) experience

- To increase capability of access, sharing and collaboration

Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site

Course Facilitator(s)

Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site

git sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Course Facilitator(s)

Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site

git sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Course Facilitator(s)

Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site

git sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Course Facilitator(s)

Institutional LMS

Course Participants

Other Contributors

Grav Course Hub Site

git sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Course Facilitator(s)

Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site

Course Facilitator(s)

git sync

Other Contributors

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Institutional LMS

Open Course Hub

Less Collaborative

Less Optimal Workflow

Web install, working with pages only
[minimal ~1 minute setup]
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, without any syncing to a Git (i.e. GitHub, GitLab, etc.) repository

Web install with Git Sync, working with pages only
[basic ~2 minute setup]
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository

Local Git repository copy (i.e. clone), using GitHub Desktop
[intermediate ~3 minute setup]
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository and a local clone of pages for desktop editing

Web install with Git Sync, working with pages and themes
[advanced ~3 minute setup]
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository

Local Git repository copy (i.e. clone), using GitHub Desktop and MAMP to locally preview site [developer ~5 minute setup]
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository and a local clone of pages and themes for desktop development
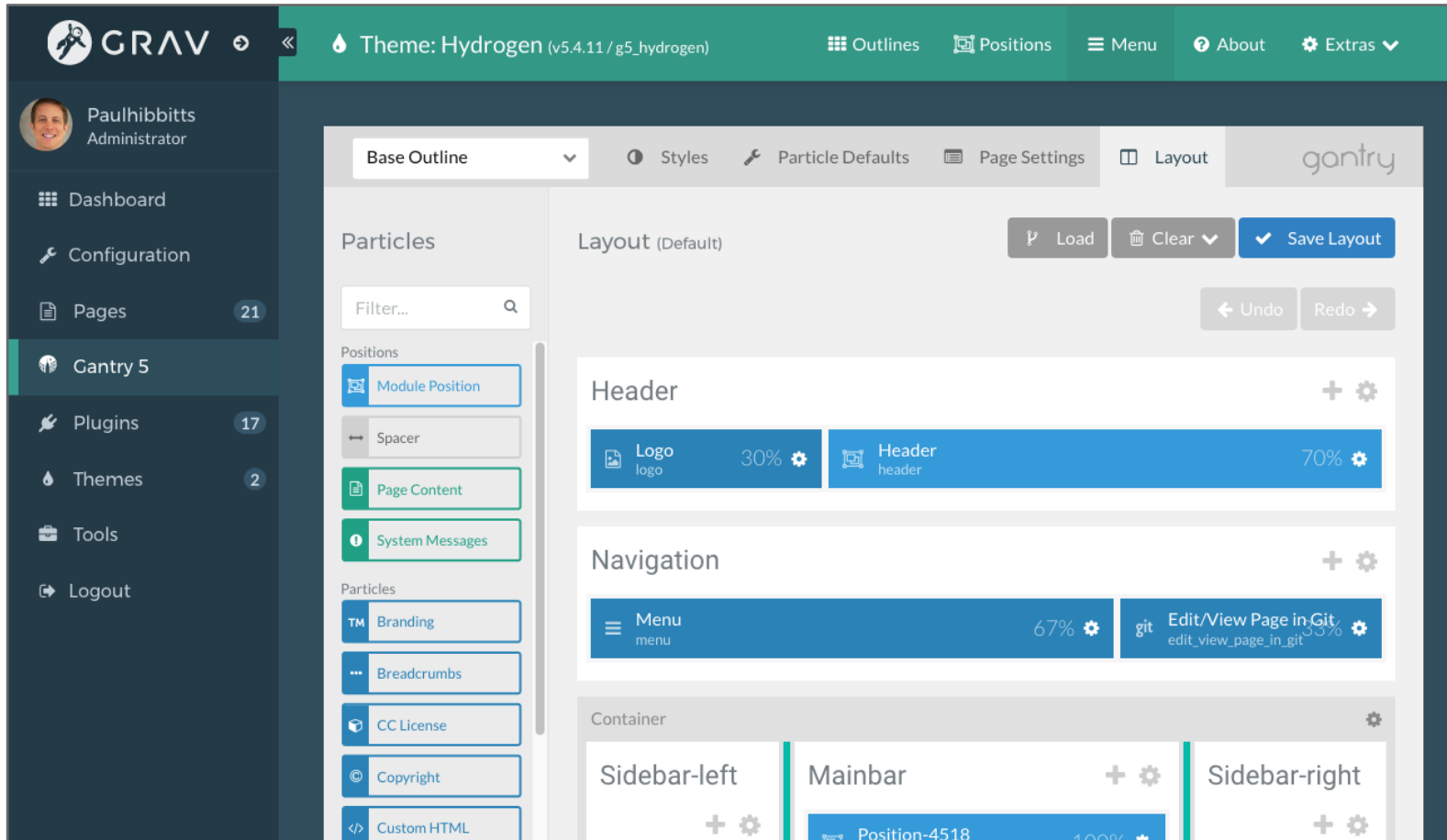
More Collaborative
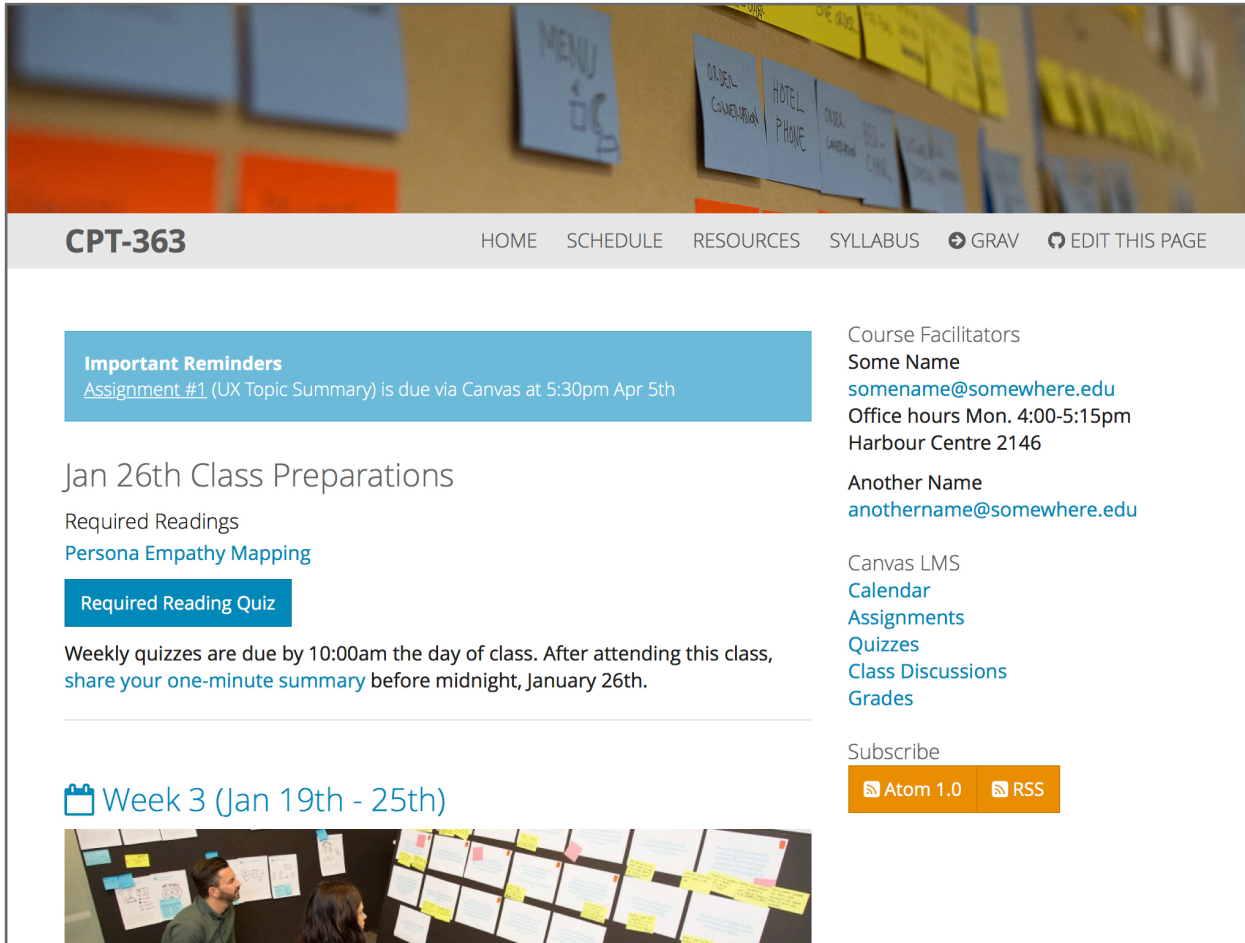
More Optimal Workflow

Course Hub Full Setup (<2 min.)

Open Course Hub Demo

demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-course-hub/

OER Content Space with Git Sync is designed to help tech-savvy authors share and collaboratively edit Markdown-based Open Educational Resources

OER Audience

Grav (getgrav.org)
OER Content Space

git
sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Site Administrator(s)

OER Contributors
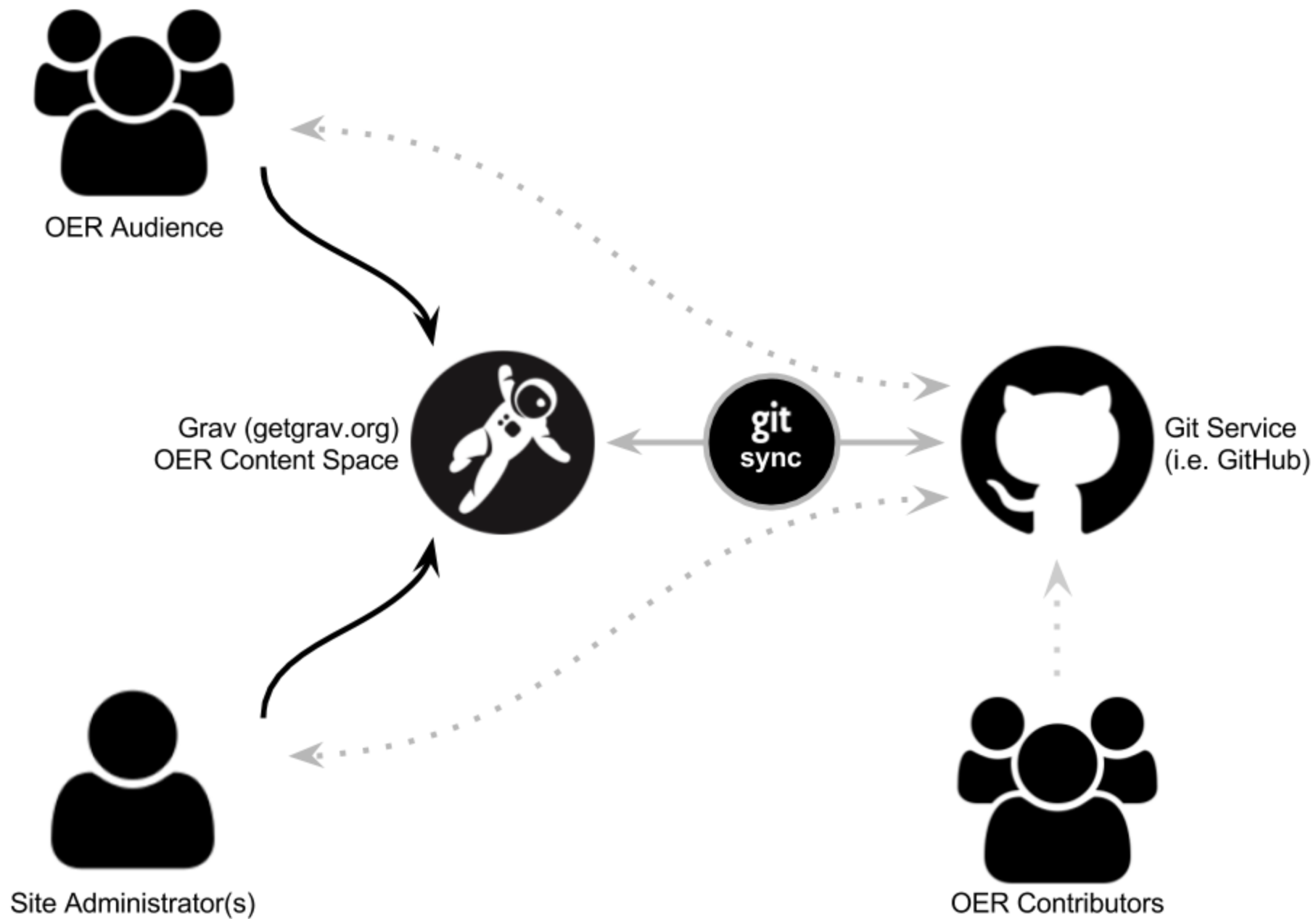
OER Content Space

Less Collaborative

More Collaborative

Less Optimal Workflow

More Optimal Workflow

Web install
[minimal ~1 minute setup]
OER Content Space installed on Web server, without any syncing to a Git (i.e. GitHub, GitLab, etc.) repository

Web install with Git Sync
[basic ~2 minute setup]
OER Content Space installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository

Local Git repository copy (i.e. clone), using GitHub Desktop
[intermediate ~3 minute setup]
OER Content Space installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository and a local clone of pages for desktop editing

Gantry 5 Theme Builder Included

gantry.org

OER Content Space Demo

demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-oer-content-space/

ePortfolio Blog with Git Sync is designed to give DIY/tech-savvy students control of their content and publishing workflow using modern open Web services

Site Audience

Grav (getgrav.org)
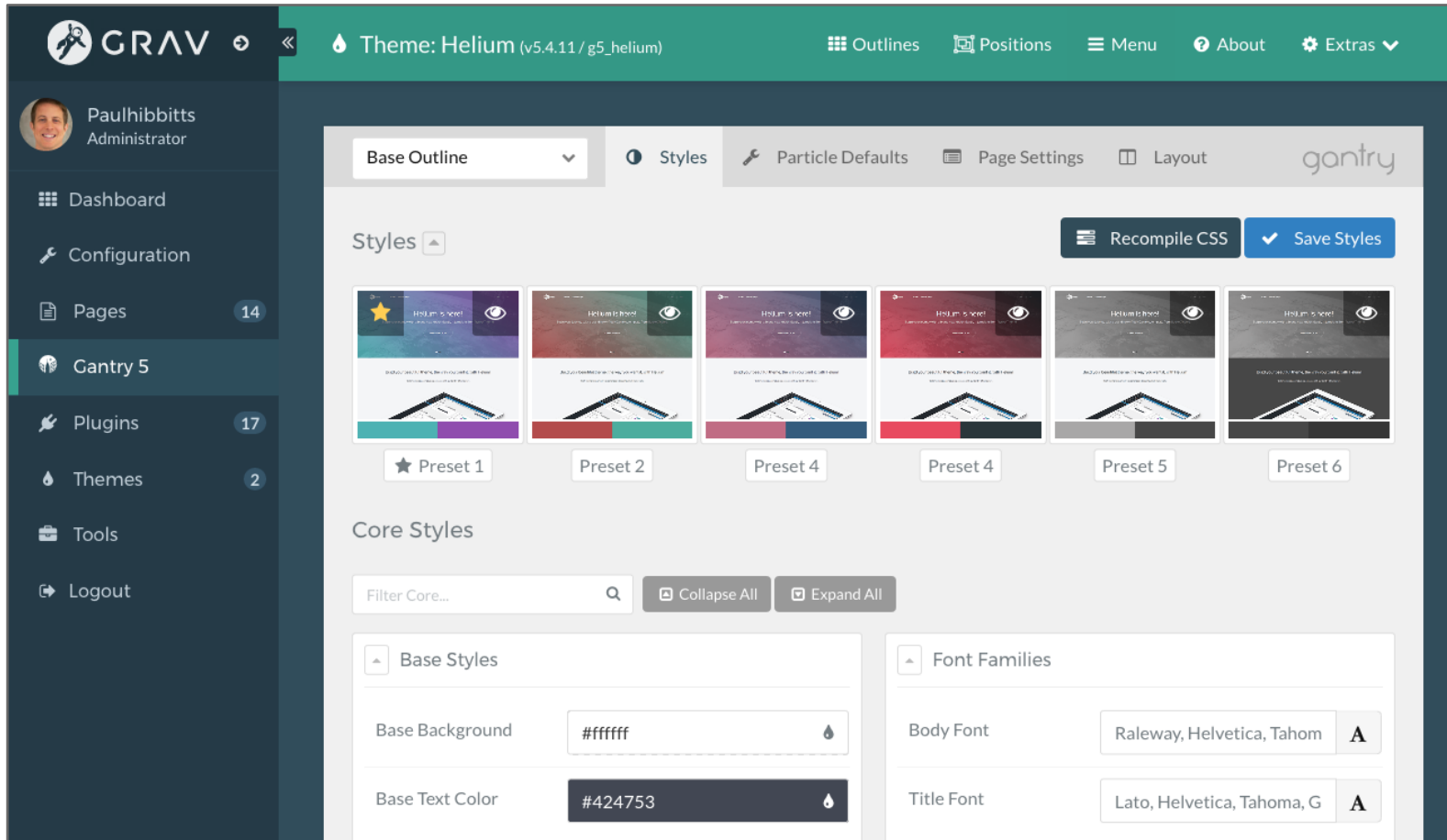ePortfolio Blog

git
sync

Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)

Site Author(s)

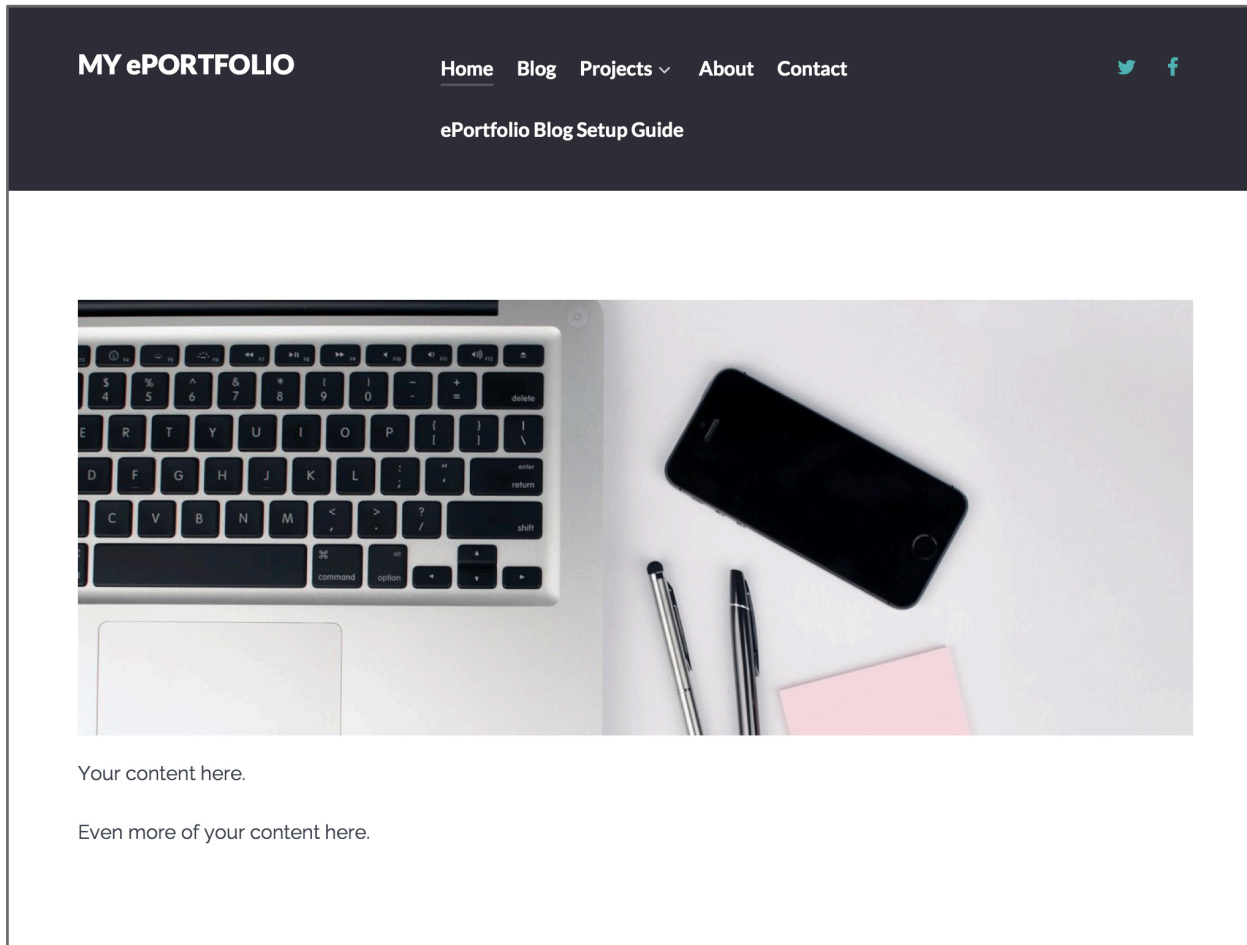Content
(i.e. Markdown and Images)

Gantry 5 Theme Builder Included

gantry.org

ePortfolio Blog Demo

demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-eportfolio-blog/

BONUS
Learn2 theme with Git Sync!

A customized version of the Grav Learn2 theme, Learn2 with Git Sync is designed to help tech-savvy authors more easily share and collaboratively edit Markdown-based documentation

Learn2 Git Sync

demo.hibbittsdesign.org/grav-learn2-git-sync/

Summary

- Well, Hello Grav!

- Grav's Key Benefits

- The Git Sync Plugin

- 3 Grav-based Open Source Projects:
  - Open Course Hub
  - OER Content Space
  - ePortfolio Blog

- BONUS: Learn2 with Git Sync

Thank you. Q&A Time!

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Grav CMS
- Website: getgrav.org
- Twitter: @getgrav

Projects Shown Today
- Docs and downloads: learn.hibbittsdesign.org
- GitHub repos: github.com/hibbitts-design/