



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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 @hibbittsdesign

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!



[TOUR](#) [FEATURES](#) [BLOG](#) [FORUM](#) [DOWNLOADS](#) [ABOUT](#) [LEARN](#)

   
4,148 6,446 586

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](https://github.com)

Key Benefits: System Admin (IT)

- Minimal hosting requirements, \geq 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

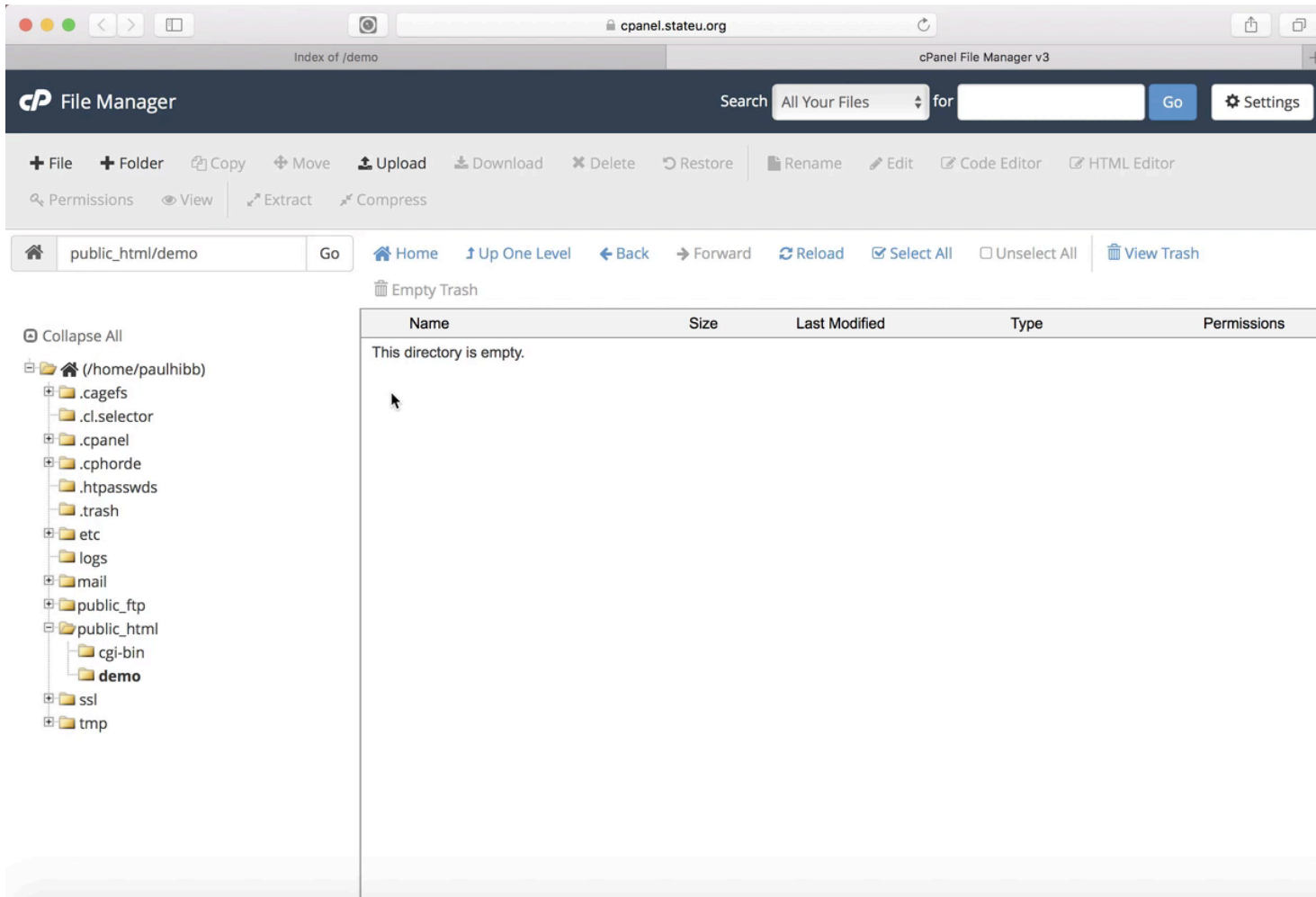
Key Benefits: Site Authors

- 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



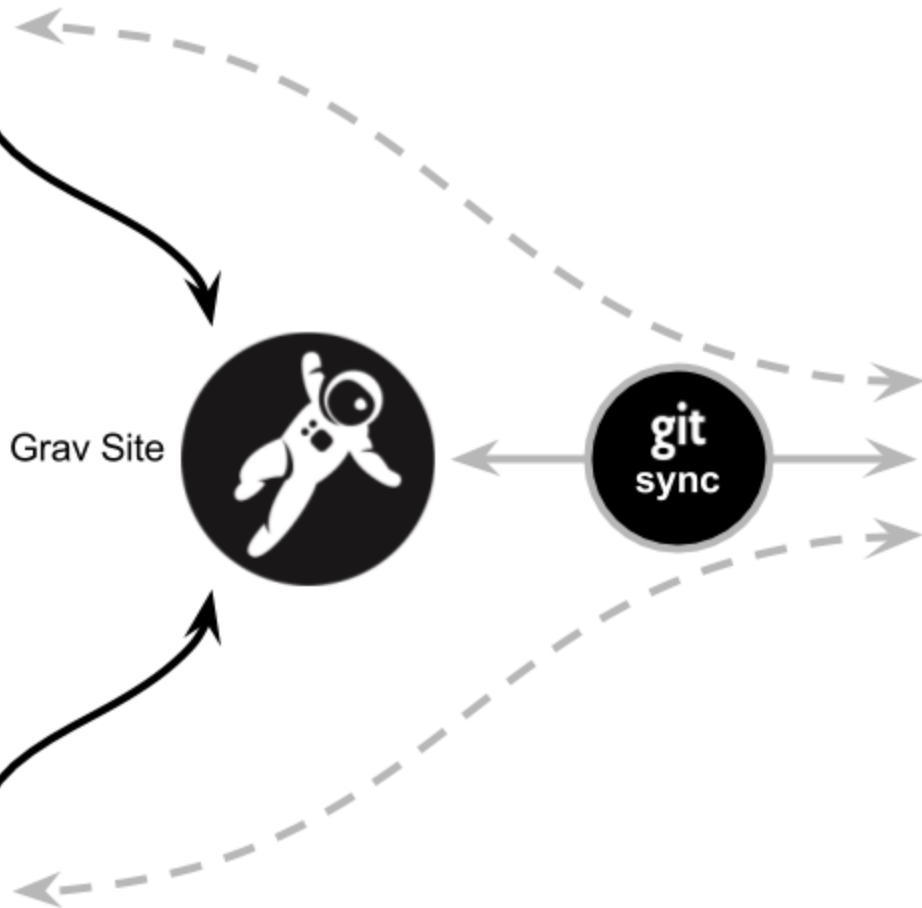
Grav Site



Git 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



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 Service
(i.e. GitHub)



Course Facilitator(s)



Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site



Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)



Course Facilitator(s)



Course Participants

Grav Course Hub Site



Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)



Course Facilitator(s)



Institutional LMS



Course Participants



Other Contributors

Grav Course Hub Site



Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)



Course Facilitator(s)



Course Participants



Other Contributors

Grav Course Hub Site



Git Service
(i.e. GitHub)



Course Facilitator(s)



Institutional LMS

Open Course Hub

Less
Collaborative



More
Collaborative

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]

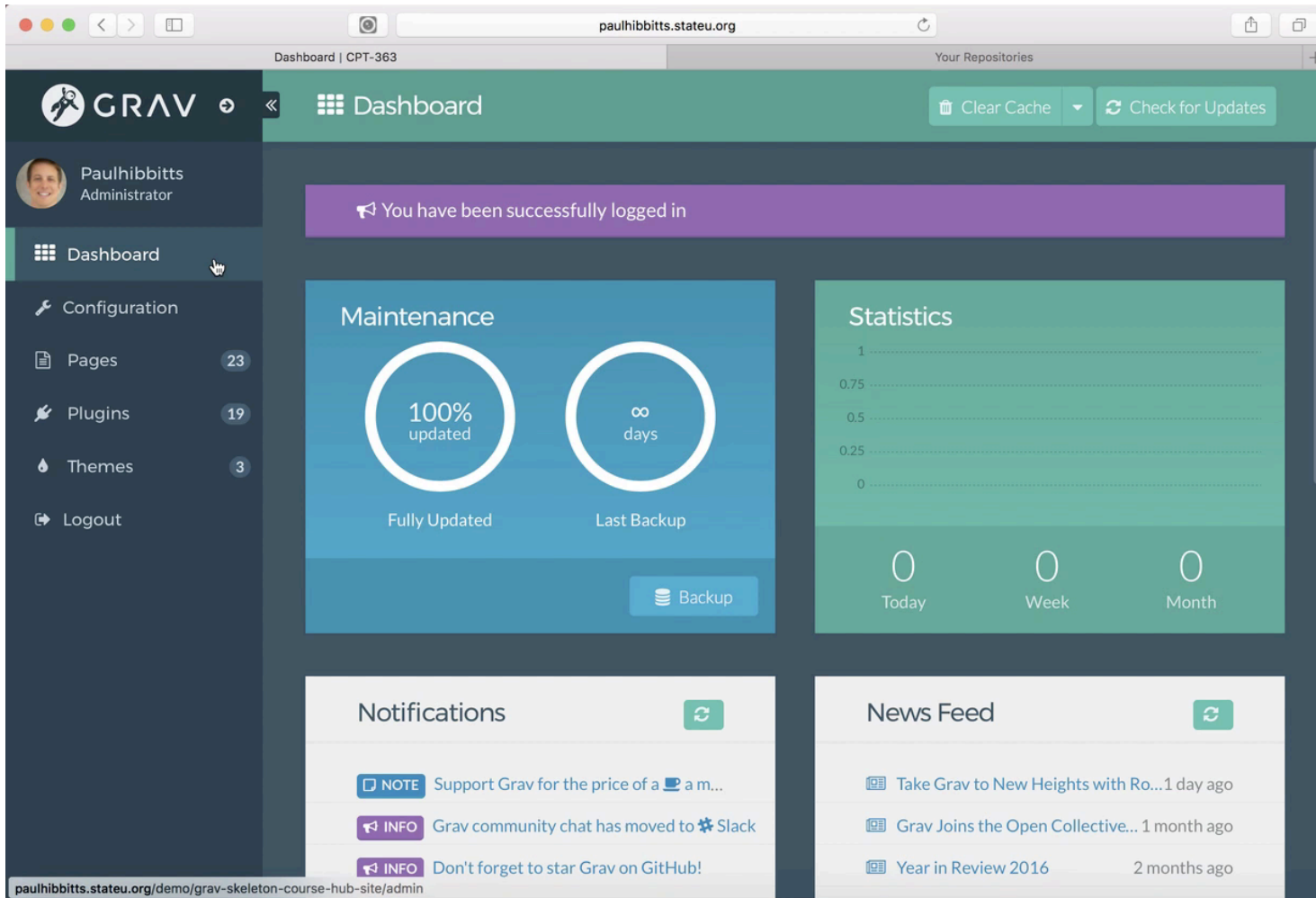
Grav Course Hub installed on Web server, with automatic syncing to a Git repository and a local clone of pages and themes for desktop development

Less Optimal
Workflow

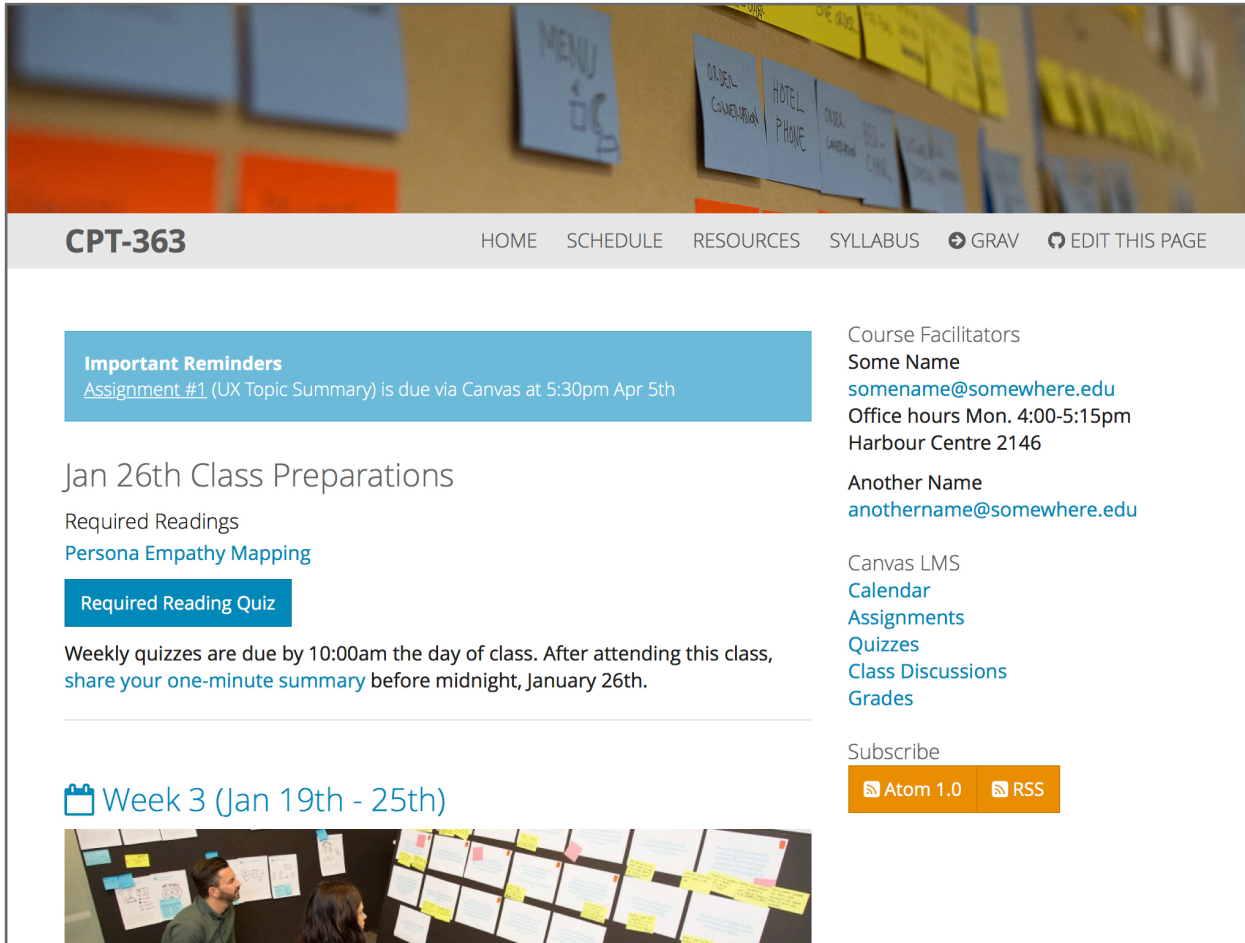


More Optimal
Workflow

Course Hub Full Setup (<2 min.)



Open Course Hub Demo



The screenshot displays the Open Course Hub interface for a course titled "CPT-363". The header features a navigation bar with links: HOME, SCHEDULE, RESOURCES, SYLLABUS, GRAV, and EDIT THIS PAGE. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a blue box labeled "Important Reminders" containing a link to "Assignment #1 (UX Topic Summary)" due via Canvas at 5:30pm on April 5th. Below this, the section "Jan 26th Class Preparations" lists "Required Readings" as "Persona Empathy Mapping" and a "Required Reading Quiz". A note states that weekly quizzes are due by 10:00am the day of class, and users are encouraged to share their one-minute summary before midnight on January 26th. A calendar icon indicates "Week 3 (Jan 19th - 25th)". On the right, the "Course Facilitators" section lists "Some Name" with email "somename@somewhere.edu" and office hours Mon. 4:00-5:15pm at Harbour Centre 2146, and "Another Name" with email "anothername@somewhere.edu". Below this, the "Canvas LMS" section lists links for Calendar, Assignments, Quizzes, Class Discussions, and Grades. At the bottom right, a "Subscribe" section offers Atom 1.0 and RSS feeds. The interface is decorated with a background image of a corkboard with various sticky notes.

CPT-363 HOME SCHEDULE RESOURCES SYLLABUS GRAV EDIT THIS PAGE


Important Reminders
[Assignment #1](#) (UX Topic Summary) is due via Canvas at 5:30pm Apr 5th

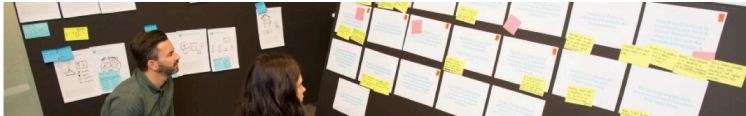
Jan 26th Class Preparations

Required Readings
[Persona Empathy Mapping](#)

Required Reading Quiz

Weekly quizzes are due by 10:00am the day of class. After attending this class, [share your one-minute summary](#) before midnight, January 26th.

 [Week 3 \(Jan 19th - 25th\)](#)



Course Facilitators



Some Name
somename@somewhere.edu
Office hours Mon. 4:00-5:15pm
Harbour Centre 2146

Another Name
anothername@somewhere.edu

Canvas LMS

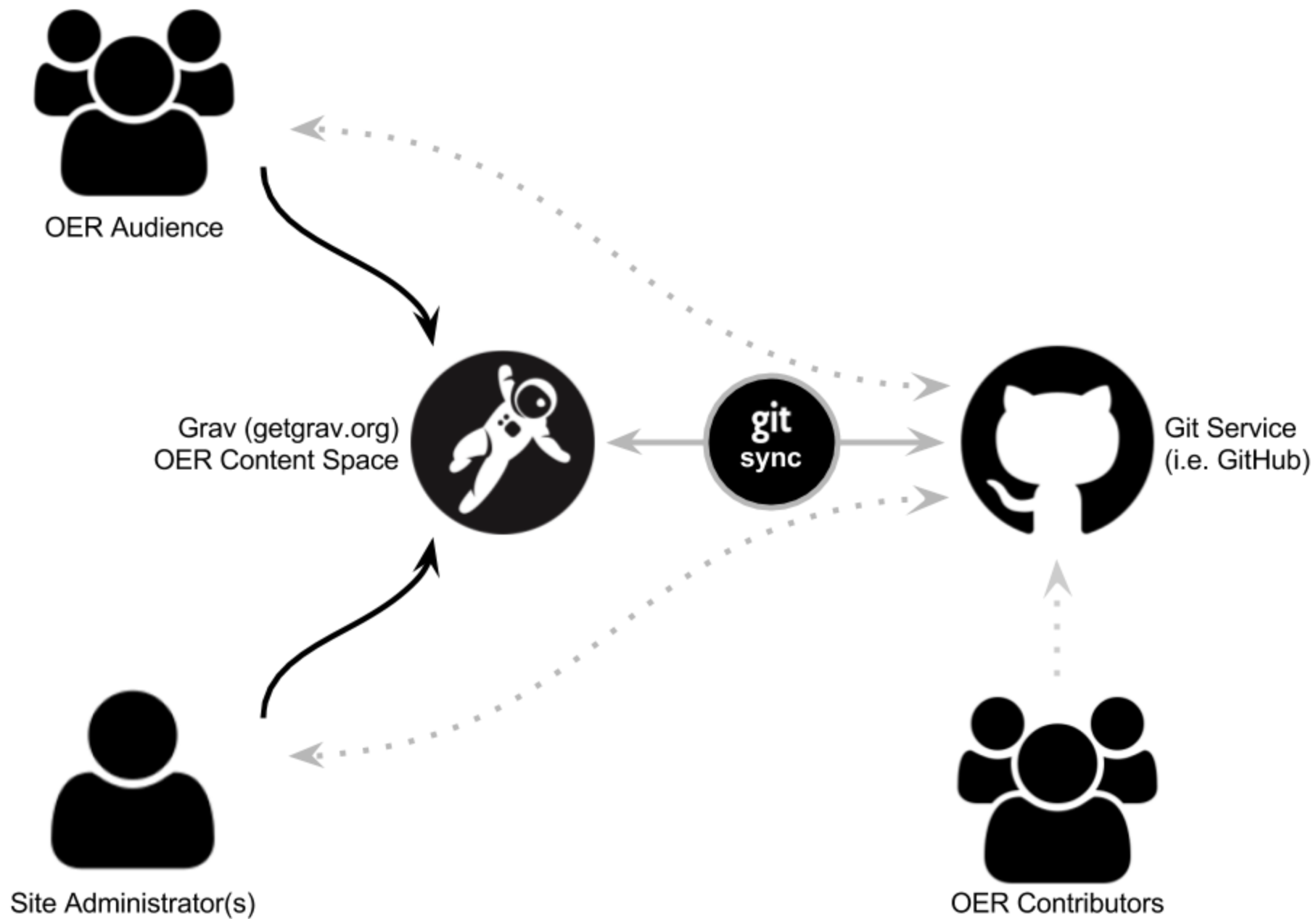
[Calendar](#)
[Assignments](#)
[Quizzes](#)
[Class Discussions](#)
[Grades](#)

Subscribe

 Atom 1.0  RSS

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 Content Space

Less
Collaborative



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

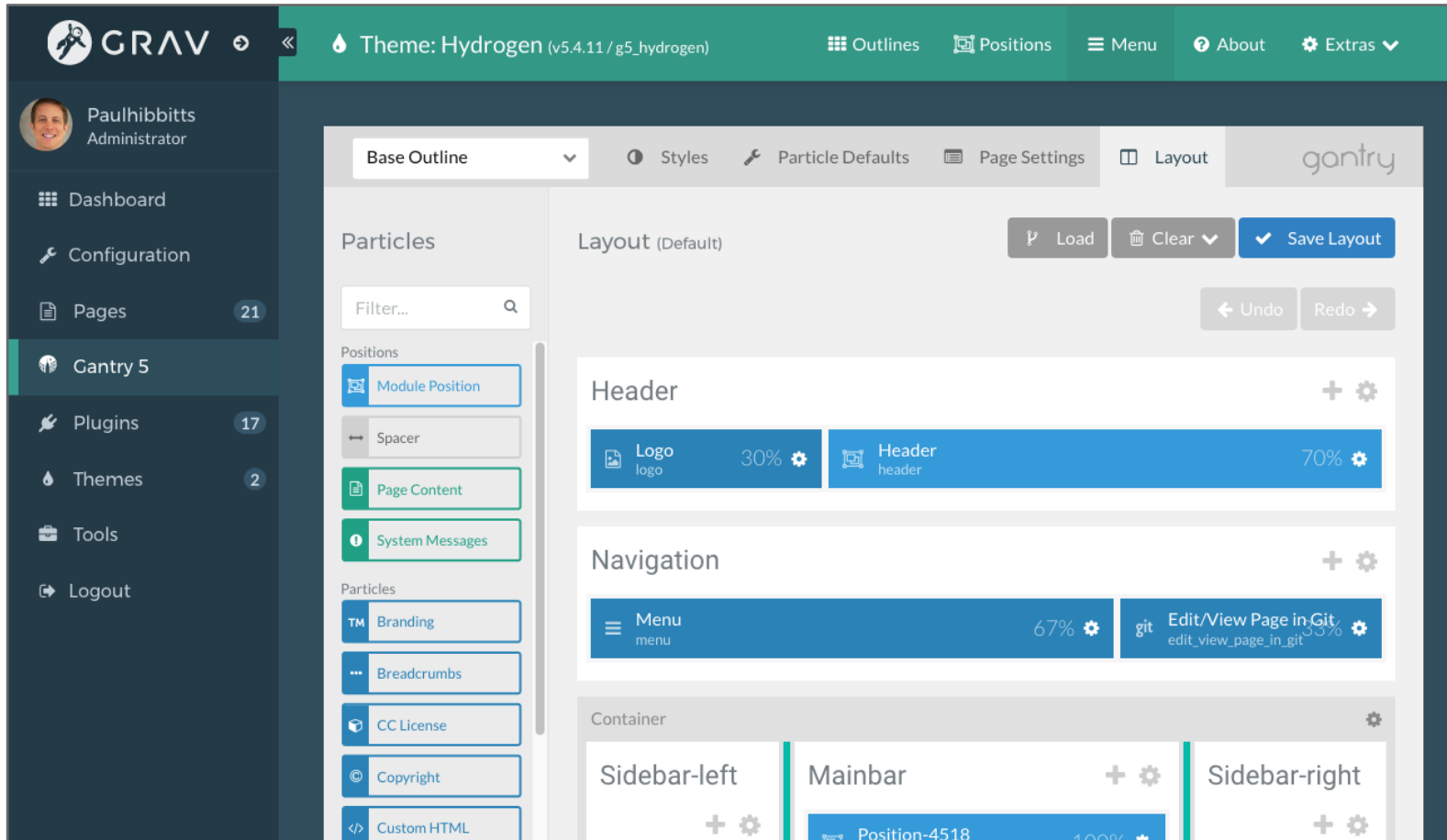
More
Collaborative

Less Optimal
Workflow



More Optimal
Workflow

Gantry 5 Theme Builder Included







gantry.org

OER Content Space Demo

OER Content Space

[Home](#)[Standard Page](#)[Blog Page](#)[Modular Page](#)[Setup Guide](#)[Setup Git Sync Plugin \(Step 1 of 2\)](#)

Open Educational Resources (OER)



What is OER?

Open educational resources (OER) are free and openly licensed educational materials that can be used for teaching, learning, research, and other purposes.

Open Education "...is the simple and powerful idea that the world's knowledge is a public good and that technology in general and the Web in particular provide an extraordinary opportunity for everyone to share, use, and reuse knowledge." — [The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#)

OER Definitions

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 Service
(i.e. GitHub)



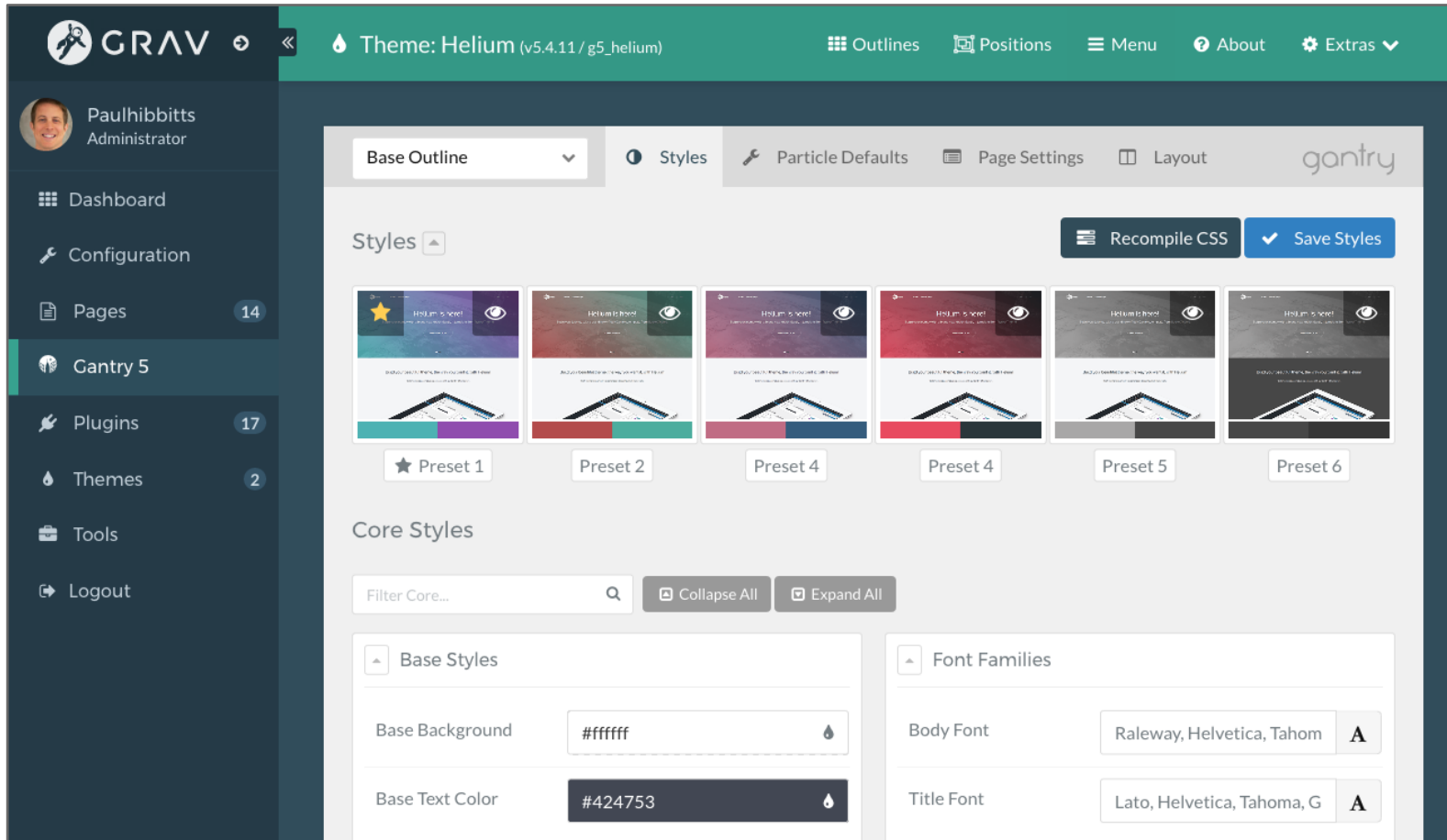
Site Author(s)



Content
(i.e. Markdown and Images)

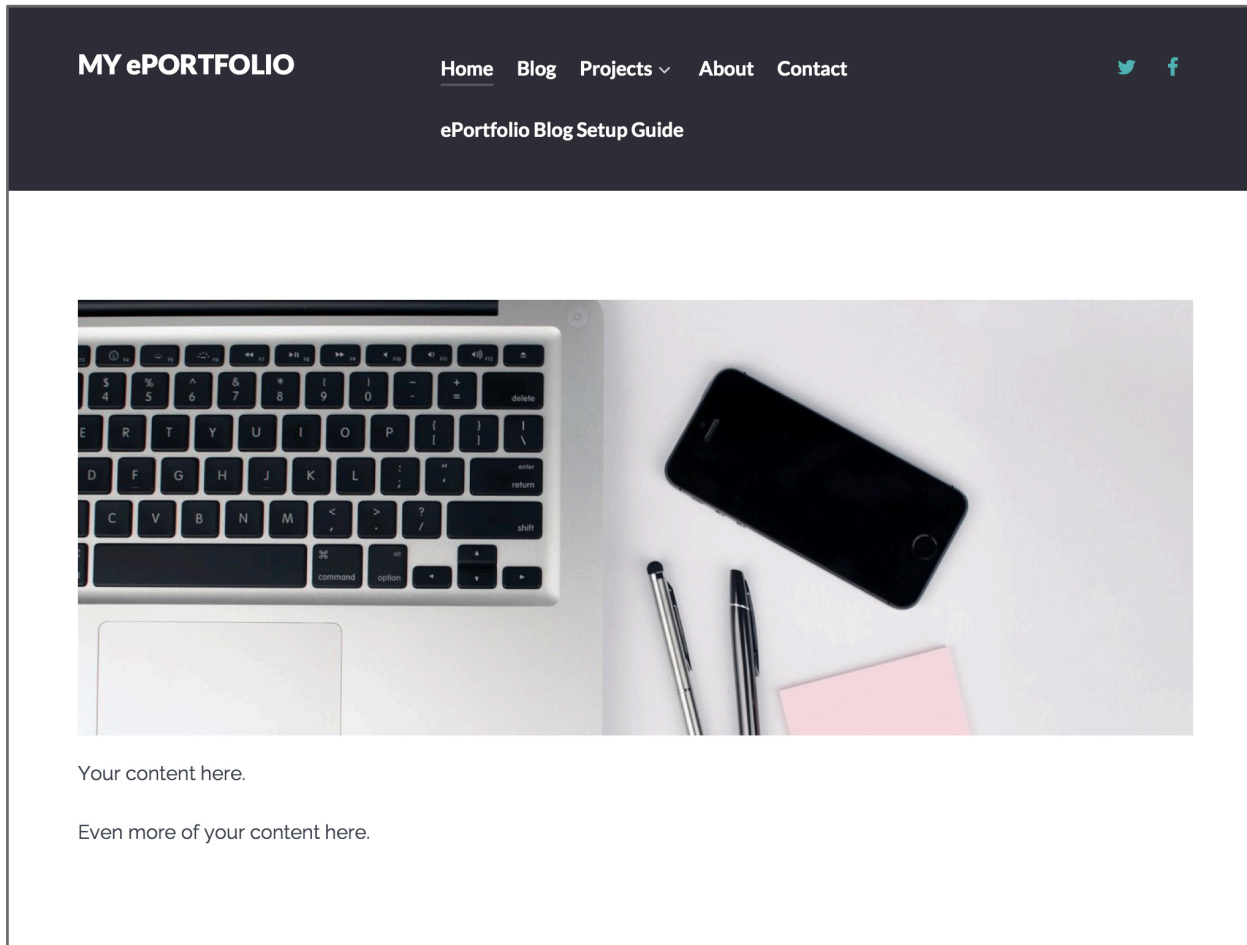


Gantry 5 Theme Builder Included



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

Learn2 with Git Sync Site

Search Documentation

1. Basics ✓

Overview ✓

Requirements

Sub-Topic

Sub-Sub-Topic

Installation

2. Intermediate

3. Advanced

Clear History

Built with Grav - The Modern Flat File CMS

Basics > Overview

Setup Git Sync Plugin (Step 1 of 2)

Overview

Let's face it: Writing content for the Web is tiresome. WYSIWYG editors help alleviate this task, but they generally result in horrible code, or worse yet, ugly web pages.

Markdown is a better way to write HTML, without all the complexities and ugliness that usually accompanies it.

Some of the key benefits are:

1. Markdown is simple to learn, with minimal extra characters so it's also quicker to write content.
2. Less chance of errors when writing in markdown.
3. Produces valid XHTML output.
4. Keeps the content and the visual display separate, so you cannot mess up the look of your site.
5. Write in any text editor or Markdown application you like.
6. Markdown is a joy to use!

John Gruber, the author of Markdown, puts it like this:

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!

Contact Info

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- Twitter: [@hibbittsdesign](https://twitter.com/hibbittsdesign)
- Email: paul@hibbittsdesign.org

Grav CMS

- Website: getgrav.org
- Twitter: [@getgrav](https://twitter.com/getgrav)

Projects Shown Today

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