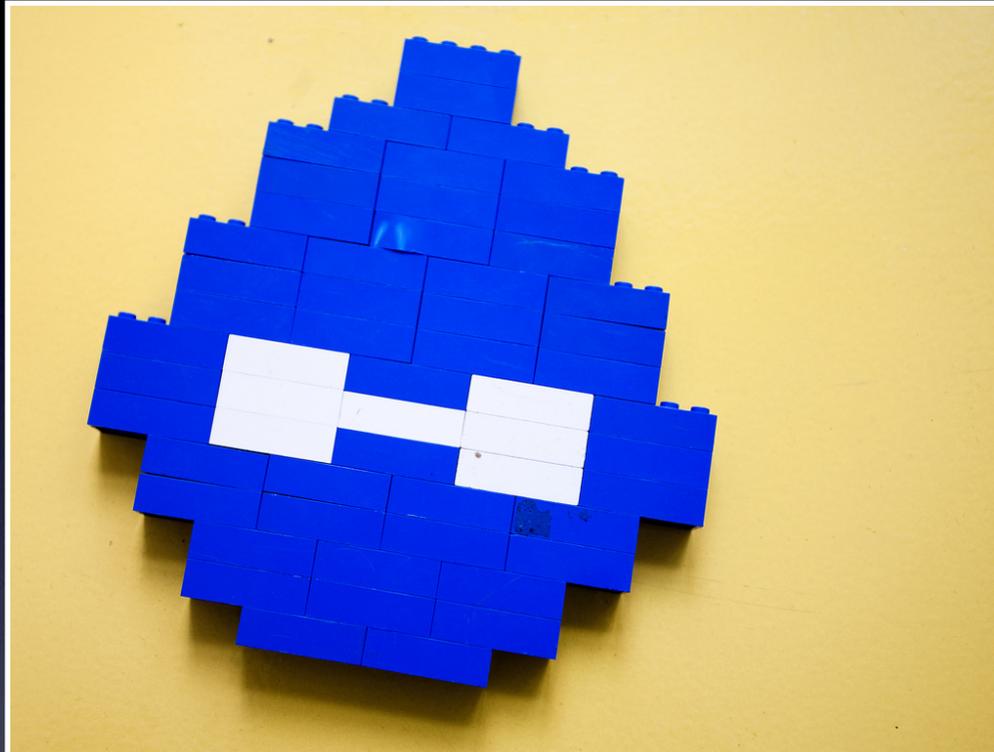


# Drupal Camp @ Stanford

## Saturday, 6 April 2013



by nidhug

## Modules 101:

Introduction, installing/enabling, and removing, or, the  
What, When, Where, Why, and especially How

Drupal training, tutoring & consulting  
for Stanford end users & site builders

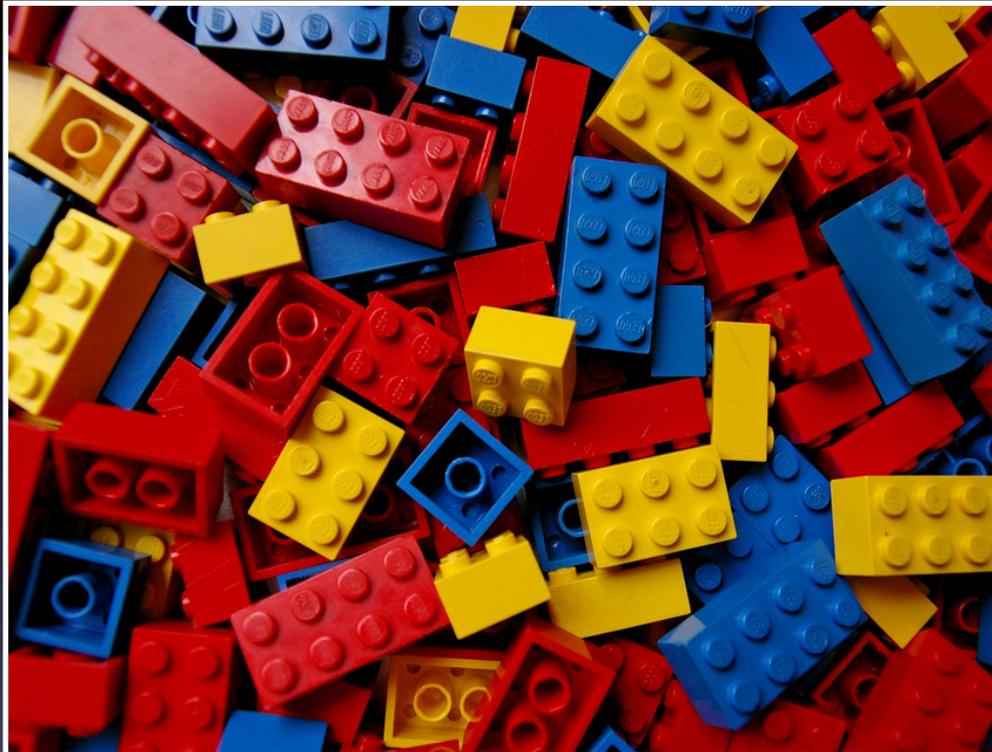


<http://people.stanford.edu/skrossa>

- What are modules?
- When should you use contributed modules?
- Where can you find contributed modules?
- Why should you choose one module over another?
- How do you install or enable modules (step-by-step)?
- How do you uninstall or disable modules (step-by-step)?

# What

Drupal is designed to be modular. Instead of always having every possible tool or feature in every site's code, you can just have those you're actually going to use.



by monohex

# Drupal is Lego™

Drupal core — what you get when you install Drupal — is like a very basic box of Lego™ :

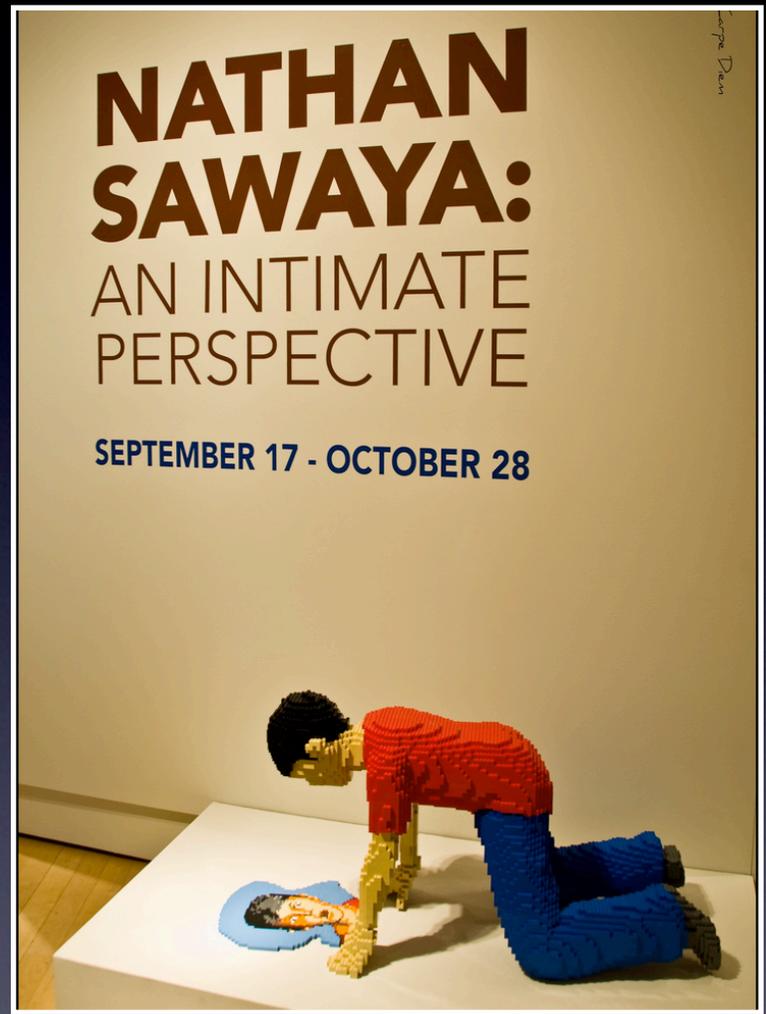


by jspad

# Drupal Core

A platform and some basic bricks (modules) to get you started.

You can do  
a lot ...



Sculpture by [Nathan Sawaya](#); Photo by [Tony the Misfit](#)



You can do a lot

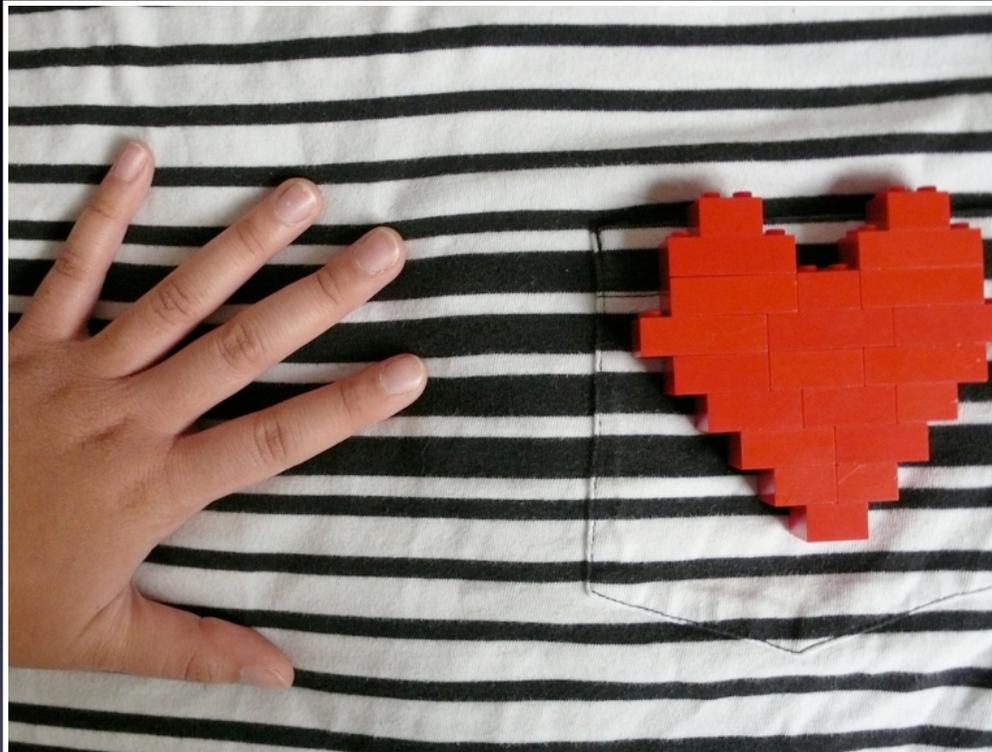
... with just  
basic bricks



Sculpture by [Nathan Sawaya](#); Photo by [Tony the Misfit](#)

*Carpe Diem*

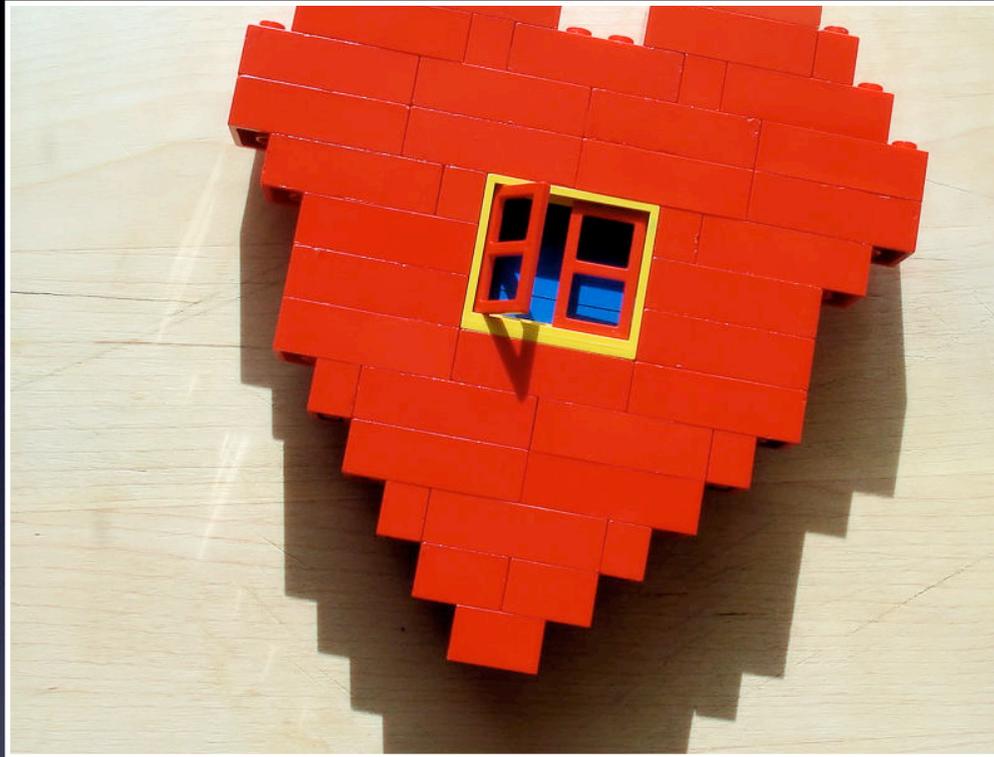
with just those basics,



by shannon abigail simbulan

But sometimes ...

but



by Bob.Fornal

... they aren't enough.

Usually you'll want more.



by Eva\_theWeaver

# Contributed modules

That's where contributed modules come in.



by Jameson42

# Contributed modules

Contributed modules are packages of code that extend or enhance Drupal core to add additional (or alternate) functionality and features.



by nhusein

# Contributed modules

These modules have been "contributed" back to the Drupal community by their authors.

# When

"[The Drupal Way](#)" can be summed up as both "Don't re-invent the wheel" and "Share and share alike". Although you may be perfectly capable of writing your own custom module to add some feature/functionality to your Drupal site, you should always first check to see if there is an existing module that does (or nearly does) what you want.

Using contributed modules not only saves initial coding time, it also makes it significantly easier for you and, especially, others to maintain the site in the future. Contributed modules also benefit from multiple eyes and multiple users to find problems and improve code.



by jpmacmillan

# Obligatory Kitty Slide

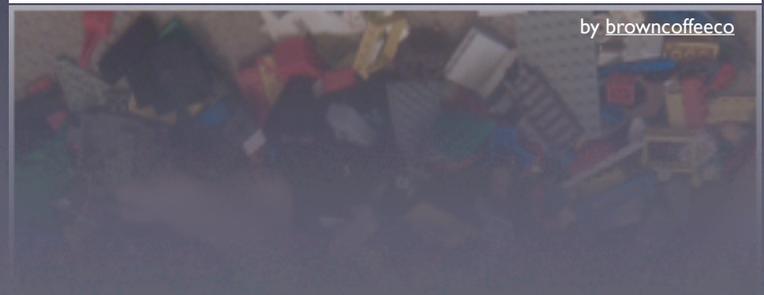
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In those cases where there is a contributed module that comes close but doesn't quite do what you want, it is usually still a good idea to make use of the contributed module, if you can, and only custom code those elements not provided by the contributed module. Even better, contribute your enhancements back to the module. (The more we share, the less time we all spend re-inventing wheels.)

Don't go  
overboard!



by browncoffeeco



But don't go overboard with modules!



by Dunechaser

Use as many as you need...

Use as many as you need

... *but no more!*



by tantek

but no more!

# Where

Contributed modules live on Drupal.org, specifically, at <http://drupal.org/project/modules>. You can search the module list and filter it by category, Drupal version, and status. You can also sort based on most installed, title, author, last release date, etc.



[drupalfeatures.stanford.edu](https://drupalfeatures.stanford.edu)  
[sites.stanford.edu/modules](http://sites.stanford.edu/modules)  
[techcommons.stanford.edu](https://techcommons.stanford.edu)

<https://drupalfeatures.stanford.edu>

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# Why

Choosing which contributed modules to use is an art. There isn't a simple list of objective criteria to be checked off. There are, however, various factors that should be weighed when evaluating modules (in no particular order):

- Usage statistics ([http://drupal.org/project/usage/\[module\\_name\]](http://drupal.org/project/usage/[module_name]))
- Author & maintainers
- Release status
- Development activity
- Issue queue (not just outstanding issues, but response time)
- Suitability for your purpose
- Recommendations by experienced Drupallers

# How

For both Drupal 6.x and Drupal 7.x, there are just four major steps to adding a contributed module to a Drupal site:

1. **Upload** the module code
2. **Enable** the module
3. Set **permissions** for the module
4. **Configure** the module

Remember four steps  
put, turn on, permit, config  
Drupal expanded