MAKING A USEFUL ADMIN INTERFACE

Marek Sotak
Administration section

- Who is it for?
  - Client (Content manager)
  - Site administrator

- What functionality is available
To separate or keep it within the site

- Separate vs “in-line” administration

- Most CMS have separated administration → people are used to it

- “In-line” administration should be used when the site is not too complex or user doesn't have access to too many things
Separated administration

- Drupal allows to have different theme for admin section and/or node/add – edit pages
- Keep user within the administration section
- Provide a clear link to switch back to the site
Content management

- Navigation has to be understandable
- admin/content/node won't work for everyone
- use views to create simple content specific overview pages
- remove functionality they won't use (forms,...)
Content management

• people like icons and it works if used properly
• Keep administrators informed what's happening on theirs site (notification, dashboard)
• Let's learn from others
Modules to improve usability

- Administration Menu
  http://drupal.org/project/admin_menu
- Vertical Tabs
  http://drupal.org/project/vertical_tabs
- Teleport
  http://drupal.org/project/teleport
- Views
  http://drupal.org/project/views
- Notifications
  http://drupal.org/project/notifications
Benefits

- Less calls from lost users/clients
- Less work with writing a manual
RootCandy admin theme

- Started in January 2008
- http://drupal.org/project/rootcandy
- http://sotak.co.uk/drupal-admin-theme
RootCandy future

- Provide an easily configurable admin sections
- Role based settings
- Dashboard
- Standardised layout
- Guidelines

- Shared tasks documentation