



ATOMIC ANT LIMITED  
WWW.ATOMICANT.CO.UK

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](http://drupal.org/project/admin_menu)
- Vertical Tabs  
[http://drupal.org/project/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
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- Shared tasks documentation