The ATLAS Public Website
Evolution to Drupal 8

Presented at LHCP 2021 conference on behalf of the ATLAS Collaboration

The “Old” Site

http://atlas.cern
• replaced HTML site in 2016
• implemented in Drupal 7
• maintained by ATLAS Communication Team

Public access to
• description of experiment
• educational resources
• updates
• news, briefings, blog, etc.

5 million views in 5 years

Why change?

The Motivation
• Open-Source Content Management System
• Version 7 phased out (support, security)
• Version 8 more responsive, more features
• CERN provides support for sites using its theme

The Challenge
• Re-code content types, views, blocks, etc.
• Port 550 updates, 1000 job descriptions, 130 authors, 400 virtual visits
• Maintain ATLAS identity using CERN's theme

The New Site (Examples)

Who wanted what?

Collaboration Poll
• come for material and news
• want more educational items

Public Poll
• identify as general public, university students, scientists
• want news and to learn more about ATLAS & particle physics

Some Lessons

Migration
• able to use new theme thanks to help from CERN team
• ported 2000 nodes, but still recovering some lost data

Drupal
• works for database developers
• terrible for high-level design

On the Evolution of Websites

Home Page (top)
→ intro video or splash page for announcements

Home Page (bottom)
→ access to latest news and experiment info

About (timeline)
→ intro to experiment and its history

Resources
→ educational resources sorted by audience

Visits
→ descriptions, booking for visits, virtual visits

Spikes correspond to publications, events

Steady growth for 5 years (now 10k sessions/week)
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