

# The Boca Raton DotNetNuke Meetup Group

Meet other local users of DotNetNuke open source portal applications. Our focus is on module development, skinning and any related topic to having or using DNN.

Discuss DNN, learn new tricks and tips along with being in a like minded social networking environment and have a place to share your ideas as well as your challenges.



**Thursday, Apr 5, 2007, 7:00 PM**

## ***Home Sweet Home - Building our new website***

Home Sweet Home, our first project.

So it's time to get our first real project going, we'll be setting up our own website.

We are going to try to cover what we will need to set up and who is interested in helping out. This should be fun project and a great resume builder if you don't have too many projects online.

We are going to setup a DNN site from scratch and will need people to help out on all areas of the site from graphics to project management.

## **Considerations...**

As with any project, we will have goals and expectations for our deliverable. We will have resources that have different talents and may have strong areas as well as not as strong ones.

We have a poll on our meetup.com website asking what you'd like to see in our new website. From shopping carts, to CRM capabilities and other modules/features you'd like to see, we will need to define what we are going to have as modules in our new website and whether or not build vs. buy. At the bottom is a section called 3<sup>rd</sup> party software, we'll discuss in more detail with the group and post up more info the meetup.com website.

We will need some or all of these skills ...

- ✓ **Graphics & Design** - for our website look and feel, buttons, logo, dreamweaver, flash etc.
- ✓ **Code and programming** - to help create new modules. VB.net or c# is fine.
- ✓ **SQL Programming** - could be the same group as above, we are using MS SQL Server 2005 Express for this project.
- ✓ **Project Management** - anyone that can help to do any of the administrative tasks.
- ✓ **Testing / Q&A** - very important, but mostly overlooked in many of today's companies. This could include doing some unit tests or whatever the group as a whole decides.
- ✓ **So much more, let's add some ...**

## So how then are we going to do this?

We'll take a simple 3 phase approach, **design**, **develop** and **deliver**. Usually if this was a client project, there would be a 4<sup>th</sup> step called distribute. This could also be called promote. This would be the marketing efforts and would likely be running parallel to any or all of our first 3 steps. We'll touch on this subject briefly if we can, but we'll have a later session once we are done on how we can promote our site including topics such as Search Engine Optimization for our Portal etc.

- ✓ **Design** - The DESIGN of a site is a collaborative effort. We'll discuss what we need, or take a scan of what people are using and make our list of what we need to get ours done.
- ✓ **Develop** - In the second phase we DEVELOP and assemble the site. There will be stages of this of course, but we'll create an outline with all the steps we need so you will have a best practices document for yourself when we are done.
- ✓ **Deliver** - Once we've approved the final structure of the site, its time for us to DELIVER--to go live -- time to tell the whole world we're ready for them.

## What do we need?

We need to get a domain name/hosting, find out who is interested in getting this project built and then decide on a meeting place.

- ✓ **Domain Name/Hosting** - we could consider a name such as [www.bocaratondnn.org](http://www.bocaratondnn.org) or a similar name. Also, where do we host it and what considerations do we have with this?
- ✓ **Who's Interested** - Once we have an idea of who would like to be involved we'll be sure to make this as project simulate a real client project so anyone involved can get some excellent first hand experience on what's involved with doing consultant work, or working as a team member.
- ✓ **Meeting Place** - There are several options for us, and we'll have to determine the frequency of our meetings as well. We could meet periodically at Barnes and Noble. They have nice facilities for us to some work. An office and Starbucks are options as well. We can also have some of our meetings online and do design sessions.

## Demo Session(s)?

Everyone has a different skill level. We all bring some unique talents to the group. Some of us have done a bit or a lot of development before, but might not have done it with DNN. We might consider having a simple demo/overview session showing tips, tricks etc of a working portal before we jump into our design session. We'll have to discuss this.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Software, Vendor and all that. Should we consider?

One thing that is always important when you are doing any project is whether you should look for any plug-ins or 3<sup>rd</sup> party components to use. With DNN, there is a pretty large inventory of modules; skins etc out there and some are very nice.

When you are going to develop an application, you might spend up to 40% of the total project time on that component that you could have purchased for \$250.00 and can re-use as well. When you are done if you develop your own, it might not be ready for code re-use without re-factoring as well, which is often the case so it could then take more time away once the project is complete or in its next phase. We'll discuss pros, cons of custom development and what is already available as open source or commercial applications as well.