

Enterprise-Ready

10 *How scalable is Plone?*

Plone is appropriate for very small websites and very large ones. Plone has powerful built-in caching features that can be configured to optimize site performance. In addition, Plone site administrators often use web accelerators such as Squid and Varnish to boost site speed. Thanks to its use of Zope, Plone has outstanding clustering capabilities, which allows a website to be split over multiple servers to handle high traffic.

11 *Is Plone secure?*

Plone offers superior security without sacrificing power or extensibility. As an open source product, a large number of developers frequently scrutinize the code for any potential security issues. This proactive approach is better than the wait-and-see approach in proprietary software that relies on keeping security issues a secret instead of resolving them outright.

Plone has demonstrated that this approach works. The only security issues discovered in Plone in the last 4 years were discovered by internal audits and patches made available to resolve the issues before they were ever known to the public. Built on Python and Zope, which are highly secure platforms, Plone has a technological edge that has helped it attain the best security track record of any major CMS (Source: CVE).

Because of its object-oriented backend, Plone isn't vulnerable to SQL Injection attacks, which are one of the most common security problems that affect PHP/MySQL-based systems. Plone's flexible ACL system for user permissions also helps ensure that users only see the content that they're supposed to. In fact, security is a major reason why many CMS users are switching to Plone.



Integration

12 *Does Plone integrate with Salesforce?*

Plone's large presence in non-profits and education meant developing a strong integration with Salesforce was essential. A variety of integrations are available, as well as many add-on to help your Plone content become better citizens with your Salesforce back-end systems. We have connectors directly into the Salesforce API, the ability to use Salesforce to authenticate users in Plone so you don't have to maintain two user directories, form connectors, event registration systems, Paypal connectivity - even a tool to run advocacy campaigns from your Plone site using Salesforce for petitions and letter generation.

13 *What databases does Plone integrate with?*

Plone comes with a reliable, secure, easy-to-administer object database backend known as the ZODB (Zope Object Database). In addition, Plone can easily connect to data stored in Active Directory, LDAP, Salesforce.com, SQL databases, and more. A free Plone add-on, RelStorage, also allows enterprises with investments in Oracle, MySQL and PostgreSQL to store the data driving their Plone site in their existing infrastructure to be able to make use of familiar tools, clustering and failover solutions.

14 *Does Plone have an Open API?*

Absolutely. All you have to do is go to plone.org to access full documentation, tutorials and the source code of Plone to find out for yourself.

Moving to Plone

15 *How much does Plone cost?*

Plone is open source software distributed under the GNU General Public License (GPL) and is free to download, use, customize and share. With no licensing fees, Plone lets users spend their resources on customizing the software to meet their specific needs, creating content, site branding and maintenance. Even after factoring in the cost of engaging consultants, the total cost of ownership for implementing a Plone solution will often be significantly less than propriety solutions such as Sharepoint or Vignette, which carry steep licensing fees. For organisations which do not have the in-house resources to deploy Plone, professional assistance and commercial support are available from over 300 Plone consulting firms located around the world. Many are listed at plone.org.

16 *How does Plone work with my existing infrastructure?*

Plone integrates with most authentication systems - including LDAP, Active Directory and many others. Its strong presence in education and government has resulted in many integrations, including third-party enterprise search engines such as Solr and Google Appliance. Plone functions seamlessly in diverse computing environments instead of expecting everything else to switch to its protocols. Since Plone is completely open source, it puts up no barriers when it comes to interfacing with other systems.

17 *What do I need to host my Plone site?*

Plone can run on Linux, Windows, Mac OS X, FreeBSD and Solaris. It offers a straightforward installation process to get a website up and running in no time. For organizations who would rather have someone host their website or manage their servers, over 150 hosting providers are listed at plone.org.

Competitive

18 *How does Plone compare with Sharepoint, Drupal, Alfresco and Joomla?*

Plone is a true CMS with built-in publication workflow and document management features, unlike other systems such as Sharepoint or Alfresco, which are primarily document management systems with limited web functionality. This makes Plone ideal for intranets and extranets. Plone can be customized and extended to meet the specific needs of an organization in terms of site structure, content types, workflow rules, etc. Not all CMSes offer the same level of flexibility. Because it is built on top of Python and Zope, Plone is very secure, which is a reason why many switch from Joomla and Drupal to Plone. Plone is 100% open source, so released, stable versions can be downloaded for free. There is no need to purchase a per-server or per-user license to get commercial support, as is the case with Alfresco or Sharepoint.

19 *How does Plone compare to other frameworks like Django?*

The Django framework is more comparable to the application server Zope that powers Plone. Both Django and Zope are Python-based, and offer a development environment and tools to build web applications like content management systems. In comparison, Plone is a full-blown CMS out-of-the-box that can be extended to match business requirements.

Professional Help

20 *Is professional support and maintenance available?*

Plone is supported by a global network of over 300 solution providers in more than 50 countries offering development, integration, consulting, hosting, training, support and maintenance services. A list of Plone providers and consultants can be found at plone.org/providers.