



Innovation via Collaboration

in the development of
the University of Edinburgh CMS

Stratos Filalithis

- Head (Acting) of Website & Communications
 - Information Services, The University of Edinburgh
- Joined University in 2013
- Previously, owned his own web development company in Greece
- Motor racing fan



Tim J. Gray

- Senior Project and Programme Manager
- Joined University in 2008
- Previously, 10 years with Volkswagen AG
- Occasional photographer
 - www.timjgray.co.uk
 - @TartanZonePhoto



Overview

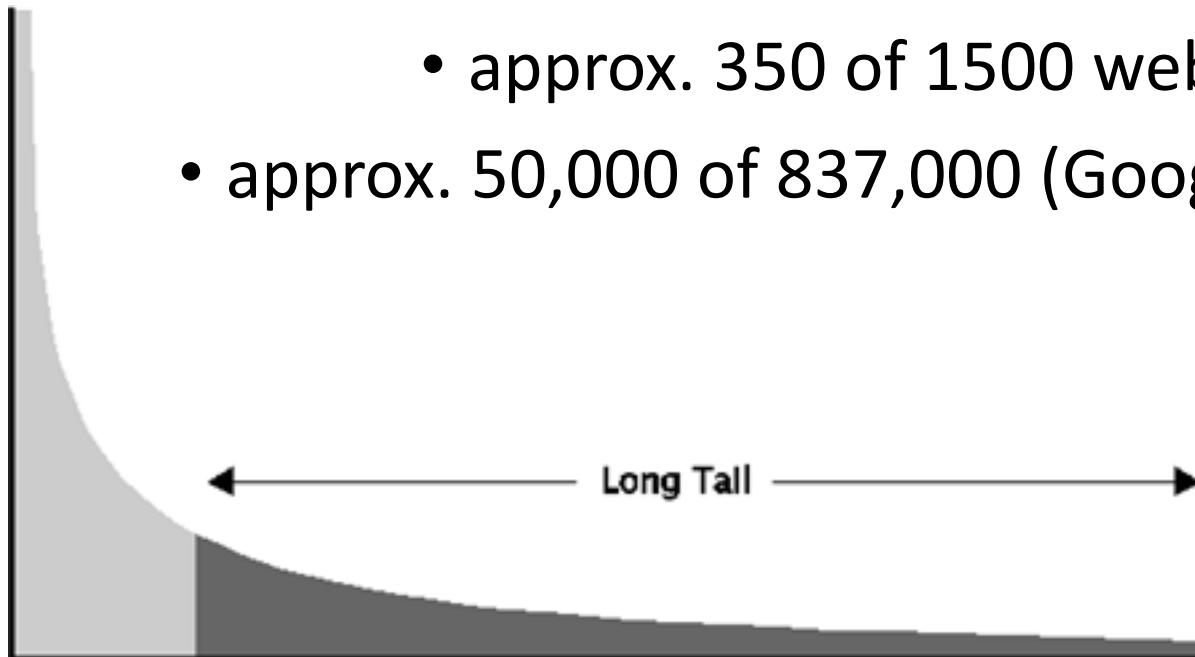
- Our environment
- What we offer
- Challenges
- Collaboration initiatives
- Achievements (to date)
- What's next?

University Bingo

1583	35,575	1996
3+3	1500	837,000
300	62	2015

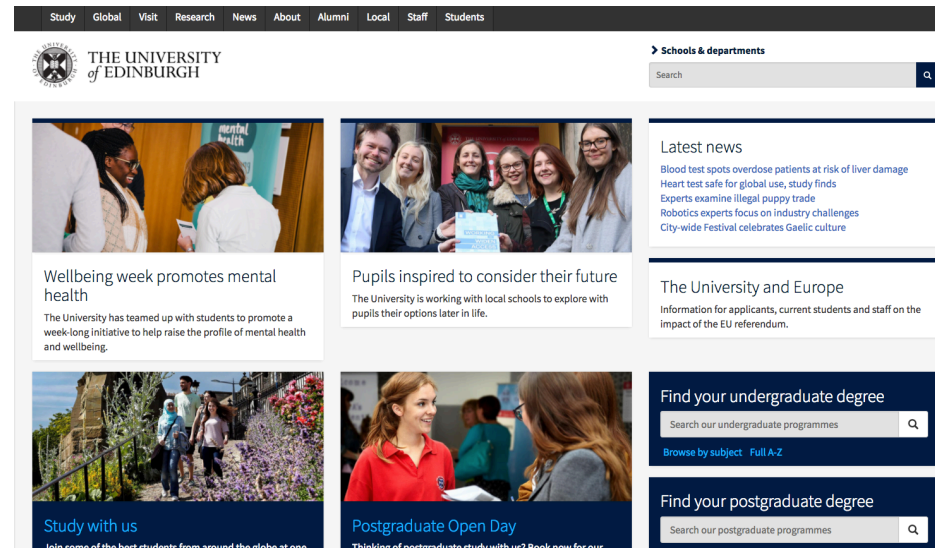
Corporate CMS (EdWeb) coverage

- 75% of Business Units
- approx. 350 of 1500 websites (23.33%)
- approx. 50,000 of 837,000 (Google scan) pages (6.9%)

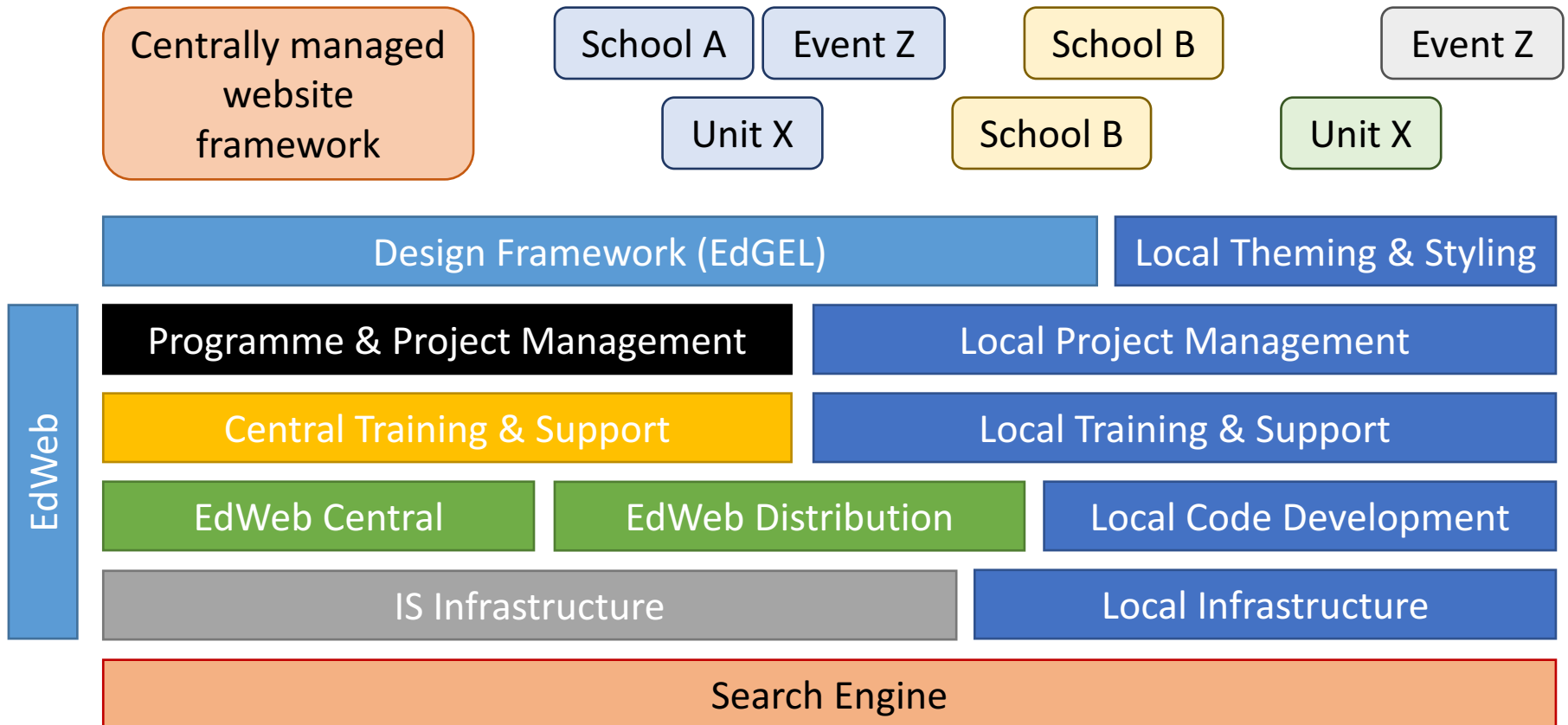


What is EdWeb?

- Corporate University Website (<https://www.ed.ac.uk>)
- Back-end Web CMS
 - Powered by Drupal 7
- Training & support delivery
- Continuously enhancing
- It's Free!

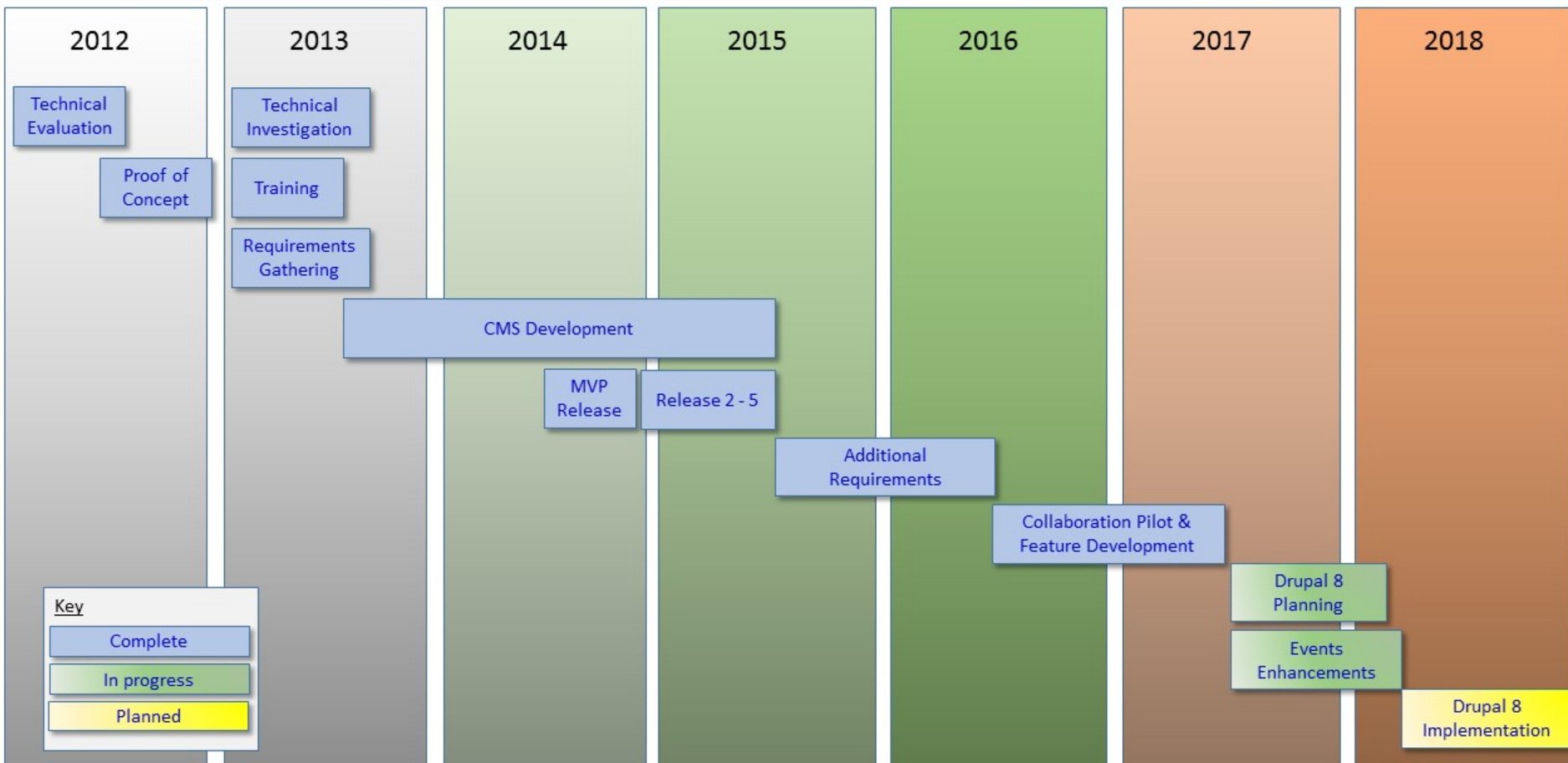


The University Web Landscape



From concept to community...

The Drupal Journey so far . . .





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Challenges in our environment

- **Not clear** web governance route
 - To be re-launched in 2018, alongside new strategy
- A **lot** of devolved sites
- **More than needed** committee-type decision making
- **Culture** of collaboration

WE SPENT \$500K ON
SHAREPOINT AND PEOPLE
STILL AREN'T
COLLABORATING

Dilbert characters Scott Adams Inc.

I COLLABORATED FIVE
TIMES THIS WEEK,
TWICE BEFORE COMING
TO THIS MEETING

Write your own at <http://dilbert.com>

WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT
HE EVEN UNDERSTANDS WHAT
COLLABORATION MEANS?

ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THE
POSSIBILITY YOU KNOW
WHAT SHAREPOINT IS...



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is



Collaboration Initiatives

- Communities of practice
- Allow stakeholders to have a say in development
- Share our code & enable contributions
- Technical guidance & support
- Change processes to make collaboration easier

Communities of practice

- Audience-tailored events
- Not just broadcasting
- Provide a “focus” and follow up by open questions/discussion
- Lot of attendees are our users
- Training & Support

Community-driven road map

- EdWeb Steering Group
- User Surveys
- We are practitioners, we feel the pain!
- Horizon scanning

University community code sprint

A day to come together

- 4 code sprints
- 12 – 15 participants

To work on our CMS

- 40+ issues resolved

Live and breathe code!



Process adaptation

Manage change

- Formal process, using ITIL

Evolve

- Continuous development model

Use lots of common sense

- Communicate early, be responsive

Achievements (to date)

- Having an open discussion about EdWeb development direction
 - Alignment with other high-level web projects
- Stakeholder investment
- Foster and support a University-wide open source community
 - Code submissions into EdWeb's code
- Steady transition to a true continuous development model



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Review. Improve. Test.

- Wider collaboration, exploit opportunities
- Open up more to other similar minded organisations
 - Not only Higher Education
- Formalise continuous development model
 - Aligning with the new web strategy & governance

Thank you!

- Get in touch:
 - Stratos: stratos.filalithis@ed.ac.uk, @stratosf1
 - Tim: tim.gray@ed.ac.uk, @TartanZonePhoto
- We'll be at the social gathering later!
- Collaboration/Drupal posts in our blogs:
<http://edin.ac/edweb-collaboration>
<http://edin.ac/SwDevBlog-Drupal>