

What is TYPO3 and what does it have to do with Wordpress?

First, what is Wordpress?

Let's start by talking about Wordpress. Most people who use Wordpress are not really aware what Wordpress is exactly, just that it runs their website.

Wordpress is a piece of software called a **Content Management System** or CMS.

Today, Wordpress is the most popular CMS, powering up to 55% of the most 1 million visited websites but Wordpress is far from being the only CMS in the market.

After all, Wordpress 1.0 was only released in 2004, or 3 years after version 3.0 of TYPO3.

Furthermore, Wordpress was launched initially only to serve as a blogging software. It only became a CMS years later when bloggers needed more and more features common in other CMS software such as full content management and e-commerce capabilities.

According to some experts, Wordpress became a dominant CMS only around 2010, when version 3.0 was released, in June 2010 (Version 4, the current major version was released in September 2014).

So, What is TYPO3?

TYPO3 is a content management system initially created in 1997-1998, or roughly 6 years before Wordpress.

Unlike Wordpress however, TYPO3 was a content management system from the start, from its first creation instead of a specialised tool made for a single purpose.

This isn't necessarily a benefit in itself, but it meant that being a general tool, TYPO3 had one of the first remote extension repositories, back in 2003.

TYPO3 however, is and always was more of an enterprise level CMS while Wordpress was more of a customer level CMS.

Our senior developer captured this difference in 2014, at the TYPO3 Conference in Québec city with a now famous quote:

Wordpress makes you faster, TYPO3 takes you further

Back in 2014, that quote was 100% true: **TYPO3 allowed to make much more powerful and secure websites than Wordpress 3.x could ever dream of.**

This is why most Universities chose TYPO3 for their CMS. This is also why the Government of Québec mandated to use TYPO3 exclusively as its CMS.

This is why many major non-governmental organisations still use TYPO3 today, despite Wordpress' dominance in the end-user market.

Why is TYPO3 considered more secure and powerful than Wordpress?

Right from the beginning, TYPO3 was much more secure than Wordpress and even today, a blank TYPO3 site is considered by default to be secure, while a brand new Wordpress installation is to be considered a major security risk.

The reasons are simple:

1. The TYPO3 development guidelines are the strictest of all CMS on the market, forcing developers to write secure codes
2. The TYPO3 base API¹ incorporate basic security features to prevent malicious code execution
3. The TYPO3 security system distinguishes 2 types of users instead of a single one: Front-End website users and Back-End users. This means that a user registered on a TYPO3 website cannot even hope of gaining elevated access to the administration area.

TYPO3 also offers a more feature-rich development API than Wordpress 3.x offered, allowing to build powerful extensions for a fraction of the time it used to take to build a Wordpress plug-in.

Finally, TYPO3 has a better series of database management tools than Wordpress offers, helping webmasters in managing their data.

If TYPO3 is to powerful and secure, why even consider using Wordpress?

If you remember the quote at the TYPO3 conference, it highlighted not only that TYPO3 could take you further, but also that Wordpress made you faster.

That's not an understatement. We have launched Wordpress blogs with a custom theme in about an hour of work, compared to about a full day of work for a TYPO3 blog.

It also makes you faster in administrating your blog: **most users are able to administer a Wordpress site almost instinctively** thanks to a simple interface filled with relevant instructions, while TYPO3's administration panel, despite numerous improvements, seems complex and intimidating without any introductions.

To help our new TYPO3 users we offer 1 hour of free training on how to manage their website, or the same time it takes to launch a Wordpress site

Our main objection to Wordpress was the lack of features compared to TYPO3's vast capabilities, but we always dreamed of bringing Wordpress' simplicity and ease of deployment into TYPO3 itself.

¹ An API is an Application Program Interface. It is a piece of code, in Wordpress or TYPO3 in this document, which a developer can use to connect the work he is doing with the software he is using to make his work.

In fact, the Virtual TT_news project that we presented at the TYPO3 conference in Québec city and which was then met with excitement by the TYPO3 community was specifically to bring Wordpress' easy of use to TYPO3.

It failed. Not because it wasn't impressive, but because Wordpress 4.0 changed the nature of the game with new functionalities which TYPO3 had no clear hopes of matching easily.

This is why today, we now also build websites using Wordpress 4.x.

Why is TYPO3 development experience even relevant to Wordpress development?

TYPO3 and Wordpress are both CMS, and while they both have different APIs, common philosophies are shared in how to build plug-ins and extensions.

Both CMS use PHP as a programming language and MySQL as a database management software. Both systems runs on Apache and are open source.

Both CMS have a front-end where the website is visited, and a back-end where it is managed.

*It takes years to learn to program.
It then takes weeks to learn to program with a specific API*

With a few good books and plenty of practice, any experienced TYPO3 developer can become a Wordpress developer, and almost vice-versa.

The requirement isn't so much on how to program in Wordpress or TYPO3, but **to learn how to build effective, powerful and secure code**, which **can** be learned in any CMS, but which **has** to be learned when coding for TYPO3.

The reason is that main difference, apart from API functions names, is that TYPO3 uses most stricter guidelines to ensure security, **most of which can be directly applied to Wordpress development**.

Building a Wordpress plug-in with TYPO3 guidelines with make your plug-ins:

- **Easier to maintain** (that is, easier to debug and to update in the future)
- **Simpler to code** (Wordpress plug-ins tends to lack structure and focus)
- **Faster to execute** (TYPO3 has strict output policies which make plug-ins faster)

Getting a TYPO3 expert with over 15 years of TYPO3 development experience with 2 years of Wordpress experience is like hiring an architect to design a doghouse!



Martin-Pierre Frenette
CEO and Senior Developer, Cablan.net
martin-pierre.frenette@cablan.net
1-877-990-7760