

## General Comparison of some popular Open Source Content Management Systems And where EdWeb 2.0 can fit in best

**Disclaimer:** I am biased towards using EdWeb where it fits in well. And I am not an expert in these other applications – I’ve looked at them, I’ve tried to get them to do what I wanted them to do, and these are my opinions on the outcome. I am not an expert in any of these other applications.

A noticeable missing app in this comparison is Wordpress. And I just listened to a podcast by [TheTightwadtech guys](#) this week about it combined with Buddypress. They like it. I don’t know how it compares in this comparison. I have minimal knowledge of Wordpress, tried Wordpress MU, but that trial didn’t go well, but the Tightwad Tech guys are good – so listen to what they have to say, and give it a try if you can.

If you find anything in this comparison to be off, let me know – I’ll add in a comments section after it in some way if there are any.

Supports	Plone	Drupal	Joomla	SIS portal	Inhouse web site	Moodle	EdWeb 2.0
<b>Intranet</b>	Excellent	Good	Supports	Depends on SIS	Supports	n/a	Minimal
<b>District web site</b>	Good	Good	Okay for small district	n/a	Good	n/a	n/a
<b>School sites</b>	Supports with good understanding	Difficult without new site for each	Would require new site for each	n/a	Provide FTP access – requires knowledge at school	n/a	Basic support via EdWeb Site Builder – best for small schools
<b>Group sites</b>	Supports with good understanding	Supports with good understanding Navigation menus can be tricky	Best to do new site for each group	n/a	FTP access – requires webmaster for site	Supports, but not designed for groups other than at the teacher level	Basic support via EdWeb Site Builder
<b>Special project sites</b>	Supports with good understanding	Supports with good understanding Navigation menus can be tricky	Good support if using individual setup for each	n/a	FTP access – requires webmaster for site	Supports, but not designed for groups other than at the teacher level	Basic support via EdWeb Site Builder
<b>Teacher sites</b>	May be difficult without considerable upfront work	Possibly, but may be difficult without considerable upfront development work	Only possible with individual sites for teachers – not realistic for 1000+ teachers	Focused on student info, not teacher web sites	Difficult to manage for large number of teachers. Requires teachers to become webmasters, or district webmaster to do much development work	Better referred to as ‘Classroom sites’ in Moodle probably. Normally closed to outsiders, and more about course mangement	Excellent – each teacher gets an individual site, can change theme, provides most all a teacher needs for a web site
<b>Grades/ Attendance</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	Excellent for left-brain info – facts and figures, test scores, etc...	n/a	Unknown at current time	n/a

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<b>Learning curve</b>	Can be high for Admin and users	Can be high for Admin and users	Medium	Depends on SIS	Depends on complexity of site and CMS features wanted	Medium – techie teachers will catch on quick; non-techie teachers may not catch on so quick	Low to medium for teachers  Server setup learning curve medium to high for Open EdWeb, low for hosted setup of EdWeb 2.0
<b>Security granularity</b>	Excellent	Granular, but may be hard to manage 1000+ teacher logins	Not granular enough to distribute to many – requires new sites for them instead	Depends on SIS, but generally very good	Depends on complexity of site and CMS features wanted – generally not very granular but rather very task-specific	Excellent	Designed to make it easy to manage 1000+ individual teacher web sites
<b>Student logins/portal</b>	Unknown if this is feasible	Unknown if this is feasible	n/a	Good	Not feasible	Good	Supports, but functionality is somewhat limited
<b>Student/group messaging</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	Generally n/a	n/a	Supports	Basic support for group messaging, no one-to-one messaging for students – only group messaging – not based on email/SMTP
<b>Blogs</b>	Supports at the site level, not feasible down to the teacher level	Supports at the site level, not feasible down to the teacher level	n/a	n/a	Not feasible without setup of another app such as Wordpress	If possible, only available to class students	Supports single primary blog, and multiple topic blogs for each teacher
<b>Themes</b>	Site level theme generally used	Site level theme generally used	Site level theme generally used	n/a	Custom design per district	n/a	Individual theme per teacher, can upload own theme, use another teacher's theme, or a predefined EdWeb theme
<b>Platform</b>	Windows/ *nix – prefers Apache as a frontend, can also use Squid proxy as a frontend, based on Zope app server	Windows/ *nix – PHP/mysql or PostgreSQL	Windows/ *nix – PHP/mysql	Depends on SIS	No limitations	Windows /*nix – PHP/mysql	Windows ASP.NET 2.0, IIS, Microsoft SQL Server
<b>Open source</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Depends on SIS	Yes	Yes	Yes

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<b>Free</b>	Yes unless hosted	Yes unless hosted	Yes unless hosted	Usually not, and can be quite expensive	Yes – time and effort are the cost if hosted inhouse	Yes unless hosted	Yes unless hosted
<b># of Developers working to improve</b>	Many	Many	Many	Depends on SIS company	Generally a solo effort, but can be more depending on district	Many	1 currently, looking to build community that includes others