

Introduction:-

In the open source universe, in the content management system galaxy, XOOPS is a discrete star that little by little has been consolidating as a very attractive option. It's a nice, versatile, amazing, resilient, smart system that gets into your bones, because, although it might sound as a very lame cliché, XOOPS is a lot more than just a piece of software.

XOOPS is a dynamic web content management system written in PHP for the MySQL database. Its object orientation makes it an ideal tool for developing small or large community websites, intra company and corporate portals, weblogs and much more.

XOOPS is a program that allows administrators to easily create dynamic websites with great content and many outstanding features. It is an ideal tool for developing small to large dynamic community websites, intra company portals, corporate portals, weblogs and much more. It can be installed on an Internet host with a PHP-capable web server (e.g., Apache) and a database (e.g., MySQL).

What XOOPS stands for?

XOOPS is an acronym of eXtensible Object Oriented Portal System. Though started as a portal system, XOOPS is in fact striving steadily on the track of Content Management System. It can serve as a web framework for use by small, medium and large sites.

What is XOOPS?

XOOPS is a powerful, flexible and easy to use Content Management System (CMS) based on the scripting language PHP. When installed on a web server with MySQL, it allows administrators to manage dynamic websites, build online communities, handle users, modify at will a site's layout, and feed content through a simple interface. XOOPS handles 'the hard stuff' leaving you free to focus on the content of your website.

XOOPS stands for: eXtensible Object Oriented Portal System. For you, this means it's a tool built with long-term tools, that can be scaled to suit your needs. XOOPS is released under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL), which means it's free to use and modify. You can tweak and twist the program as much as you want or need, as long as you abide by the distribution terms of the GPL.

KEY FEATURES OF XOOPS:-

1. Easy Installation:

Installation of **XOOPS** is straightforward and easy to follow. The installation wizard walks through every step of the process. With proper server permissions and configurations, only a database username and password are needed to start using **XOOPS**.

To install **XOOPS** for the first time, you'll need to have the minimum following server software pre-installed:

- HTTP Server (Apache or IIS)

XOOPS only officially supports Apache

- PHP 4.1.0 and higher (4.1.1 or higher recommended)
- MySQL Database 3.23.XX

2. Database-driven:-

XOOPS uses a relational database to store content, manage data and maintain a dynamic website. **XOOPS** works best with MySQL, an open-source relational database available in many web hosting companies.

3. Modular, Object-Oriented Design:-

The power of **XOOPS** lies in the modular implementation of its features - it is written in an object-oriented manner. This allows for better scalability, extensibility and customization.

XOOPS consists of:

- the 'core' **XOOPS** program, which provides the basic operating and administrative framework
- a series of official modules that serve the basic needs of a dynamic site
- as many optional modules as you might want to provide additional functionality.

New functions can be added through a simple module installation process. This modular approach makes **XOOPS** highly customizable. You only need to install those modules you find useful and you can remove them at any time - there is no need to burden your site with unnecessary code and your site can be configured to have just what you need.

4. Layout and Theme Management System:-

The layout of a **XOOPS** website is controlled through a system of blocks, columns, and themes. Modules come with a set of pre-defined blocks to display their output on screen. The column (horizontal placement) and vertical position of each block can be set through the administrative interface:

- Horizontal placement is set by assigning blocks to a particular column (**XOOPS** supports up to five columns in a layout).
- Vertical order is set by assigning each block a 'weight' (order) from 1-99
- Page layout can be set independently for each module, and is handled outside of the code, in a template set.

The administrative interface also allows for the creation of custom blocks, which can be PHP code or even HTML.

5. Smarty Template Engine:-

Smarty is a template engine for PHP that has been incorporated to the core of **XOOPS** since version 2.0. This allows site administrators to design their sites with very minimal knowledge of PHP. Using basic HTML, Cascading Style Sheets and Smarty tags, site designers can customize themes and templates within minutes. Smarty tags allow website programmers to develop short scripts to use site and user data (e.g. site name, site slogan, site url, username, and user id) inside their HTML theme and template files. Smarty also implements a caching system that stores themes and templates for quick retrieval. This greatly speeds up the loading of any **XOOPS** site.

6. Group-based Permission and Access:-

XOOPS incorporates a member registration system – you can optionally require people to sign up to your site in order to have access to certain areas or functions. For example, most sites require people to join before they are allowed to contribute news or post messages in the forums

Access and administration rights to a **XOOPS** website are set through a flexible permission system based on 'user groups'. The default groups include anonymous users, registered members and webmasters, but of course you can define as many groups as you need to manage your site. Each group can be given a unique set of access rights governing:

- Which blocks can be seen
- Which modules can be accessed
- Which modules can be administered
- Which aspects of system administration can be modified

Custom groups can also be created through the groups administration page.

7. Great Search Function:-

The **XOOPS** search engine sorts search results by module --so the nature of each result is clearly identified as, for example, a news story, download, event or other item.

8. User Management:-

XOOPS provides built in tools for easy user management. These include the ability to search for users by various criteria, send email and private messages to users through a template-based messaging system. In your site, users have the rights that pertain to the group they're assigned to.

9. Multi-byte Language Support:-

XOOPS can support multi-byte character sets 'out of the box'. The language of the user interface can be changed by installing additional language packs. Currently available packs include Dutch, French, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese (both simplified and traditional).

The language files are easily located and modified due to the modular nature of **XOOPS**. Creating additional language packs for modules is as simple as copying a language folder and translating the text strings.

10. Built in Image Manager:-

Images can be categorized and uploaded directly into the images manager through a browser. The image manager opens in a separate window with one click of a button, enabling easy insertion of images into news articles and other content. There is an extensive permission system controlling image dimensions, file size and access of user groups to different categories.

11. Friendly, Supportive Community:-

XOOPS is backed by a friendly and supportive user community through the XOOPS main website as well as through the complementary sites for modules and themes. If you need assistance or advice you can consult other users through the community forums – there are a lot of helpful people there. There are also more than a dozen official support sites around the world for support of non-English speaking users.

12. Organized Development Process:-

XOOPS is very much a 'live' product. **XOOPS** is being actively developed and extended through an organized process that includes public consultation with members of the **XOOPS** community.

13. Personalization:

Registered users can edit their profiles, select site themes, upload custom avatars, and much more!

14. User Management:-

The ability to search for users by various criteria, send email and private messages to users through a template-based messaging system.

15. Supported World-wide:-

XOOPS was created and is maintained by a team of several hard-working volunteers working from all over the world. The XOOPS community has more than dozen official support sites around the world for support of non-English speaking users.

16. Versatile Group Permissions System:-

Powerful and user-friendly permissions system which enables administrators to set permissions by group.