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How to use Drupal WxT and when not to



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HELLO!

I am Mathew Winstone

CEO / Co-Founder Coldfront Labs Inc.

President Ottawa Drupal Association

Avid BBQist / Onewheel Aficionado

our office



MAPS

1.

What is WxT / WET-BOEW

Bit of
background



WHAT IS WET-BOEW

Open source code library for building innovative websites that are accessible, usable, interoperable, mobile-friendly and multilingual. This collaborative open source project is led by the Government of Canada.

Web Experience Toolkit

Collaborative open source project led by the Government of Canada

Implement WET ▾

Contribute to WET ▾

Web Experience Toolkit (WET)

What is the Web Experience Toolkit?

The Web Experience Toolkit (WET) is a front-end framework for building websites that are [accessible](#), [usable](#), [interoperable](#), [mobile friendly](#) and [multilingual](#). It includes [themeable templates and reusable components](#) and is an [open source project led by the Government of Canada](#).

WET-BOEW is a plugin, including

[Documentation](#)

Technical documentation and plugins configuration specification.

[Downloads](#)

Binaries and release notes of WET-BOEW and Canada.ca theme

WET-BOEW implementation specification

[WET-BOEW project on github](#)

Source code and issue tracker for all wet-boew projects and specials projects dashboard

[Style guide](#)

Style, Writing, Design, and Accessibility Guide for Web Experience Toolkit (WET)

WET-BOEW is a [subset of object](#)

WET-BOEW is a [subset of object](#)

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Projects in the WET-BOEW family

- [Web Control Library .NET](#)
- [Drupal WxT variant](#)
- [CDTS - Centralized template services](#)
- [WCAG 2.1 Level AA review](#)

[\(All projects\)](#)

Resources about the WET-BOEW project management



WHAT IS WxT

[A Drupal] distribution [which] is production proven that includes re-usable tools and components for building and maintaining innovative enterprise websites that are multilingual and accessible [...].

DrupalWxT 10 is here!

[Open Source](#)

100% Open Source

Built in collaboration with the Government of Canada

WxT distribution has been tailored for organizations that need to comply for accessibility and bilingualism, and integrates extensively with the WET-BOEW jQuery Framework.

[See core features](#)

Organizations using DrupalWxT



(Distribution)

you started.

Drupal Facts

A few notable facts about Drupal

The **Largest** Open Source project **in the World**.



PRIMARY ADVANTAGES

Accessible

Following the spec means you have a base which is designed to meet GoC Accessibility standards

Branding

Variations of the library allow the use of various GoC branded pages by default.

Multilingual

Functionality and configuration which is designed for multilingual workflows.



MAIN DISADVANTAGES

Dated Front-End Framework

Based on Bootstrap 3 and jQuery which neither is really well supported (if at all) anymore.

Complex Interdependencies

Using a given feature means turning on a lot more features...



WHEN SHOULD I **USE WxT/WET**

You are a member of the GoC

Have same branding, multilingual and accessibility (a11y) requirements of the federal government.

You are a NGO or funded in part by the GoC

Likely have similar a11y and multilingual requirements (or funding tied to those reqs). Branding may vary.



OTHER REASONS TO USE WxT/WET

Staff or devs familiar with WET

Usually a result of hiring someone who used to work for the GoC

Agency with focus on GoC

Can save time on validation / testing.
Allows reuse of custom components from other GoC clients.



REASONS TO NOT USE WxT/WET

Client/site has no affiliation with GoC

There are modern frameworks for building accessible sites beyond WET.

No branding, a11y, i18n and/or tech reqs

Once again there's better ways to build Drupal sites. Extra technical debt for no reason.



LIVE DEMO

Bring on the chaos.

nd

Do you wish to enable a deprecated module?

Modules that may be removed from the next major release of this project. Use at your own risk.

CKEditor Abbreviation, CKEditor 4 (contrib), CKEditor4 CodeMirror, CKEditor CodeMirror, CKEditor 5, CKEditor Accordion -
s, TOC API, TOC Filter, Media Image, Responsive Image, Media Image, WxT Extend Media, Media Library, Entity Browser,
WxT Extend Editor.

[Deprecated. \(more information\)](#)

TURN ON FEATURES

Enable CKEditor

nd

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WxT Extend Editor.

[Deprecated. \(more information\)](#)

TURN ON FEATURES

Enable Workflow



BUILD UP

Instead of tearing down



UPGRADING **WxT**

- ▶ Use version pinning
- ▶ WxT releases include months of changes at times
- ▶ One step at a time

- ▶ composer require drupalwxt/wxt:5.2.3
- ▶ drush cr; drush updb
- ▶ drush cr; drush update:wxt
- ▶ (optionally) drush cex -y



UPGRADING **WxT**

- ▶ Sometimes you're just stuck with older versions
- ▶ Wait for a release or contribute a pull request
- ▶ You “can” upgrade modules but then you're responsible



QUICK NOTE ABOUT RECIPES + WxT

- ▶ May make adopting features easier to do
- ▶ May make things more shareable / upgradable
- ▶ Not aware of any plans for using recipes (but that doesn't mean they don't exist)



WHAT ABOUT **WxT BOOTSTRAP**

- ▶ Main theme for WxT Distro
- ▶ Installable separate from Drupal WxT
- ▶ Brings most of the main advantages with it



ADVANTAGES THEME ONLY

Custom Features

Responsible for
your own content
types, workflows,
etc.

Easier Upgrades

You manage
Drupal updates
like any other
site.

Performance

With fewer
modules / deps
means lighter
page loads *



DISADVANTAGES **THEME ONLY**

Fewer Features

Responsible for your own content types, workflows, etc.

Still stuck with old front-end

Your front-end frameworks are still out of date.

Bug fixes may be your responsibility

If a bug comes up with your unique implementation, you may not get an upstream fix.

“

It's a lot easier to **make frequent, smaller changes** than to wait and make a whole quarter(s) or years worth of changes at once.

– Me



LIVE DEMO

Here we go again.



UPGRADING **WxT BOOTSTRAP**

- ▶ Track as normal dependency (no pinning needed)
- ▶ WxT Library / Bootstrap should be kept in step
- ▶ Port any changes to your subtheme

- ▶ composer update drupal/wxt*
- ▶ drush deploy



Search website tsb.gc.ca

- The TSB
- Air
- Marine
- Pipeline
- Rail
- Watchlist
- Media
- Contact

News release

Concerned about Canada's marine emergency preparedness, the TSB is conducting an investigation into a fire aboard container vessel *ZIM Kingston*.

More



The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) is an independent agency that advances transportation safety by investigating occurrences in the air, marine, pipeline and rail modes of transportation.

News

EXAMPLE WXT
BOOTSTRAP
TSB



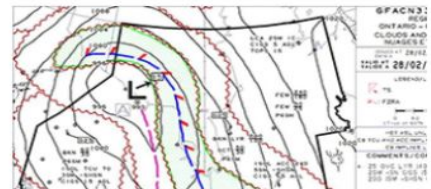
Concerned about Canada's marine emergency preparedness

22 July 2024



Investigation report: Collision with terrain involving a float-

11 July 2024



Loss of control led to 2023 fatal plane crash



**BEYOND
EXISTING WxT
CODE**





MENU

[Canada.ca](#)

Open Government

ccess information that is disclosed as part of the federal government’s commitment to enhance accountability and transparency.

and open data and information

EXAMPLE CUSTOM WET-BOEW

Open Government



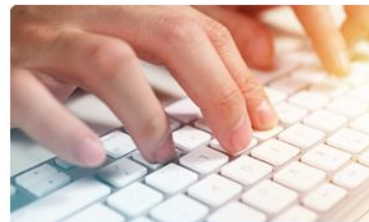
Open data and information

resources and



Find government spending and operations

Mandatory reporting on



Request information

Completed access to information request



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES FOR A11Y/I18N DRUPAL

Accessible Menu

<https://accessible-menu.dev/>

W3C Patterns

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/ARIA/apg/patterns/>

Axe Devtools

<https://www.deque.com/axe/browser-extensions/>

Drupal Localization Client / Suite

https://www.drupal.org/project/i10n_client

String Overrides

<https://www.drupal.org/project/stringoverrides>

Drupal Multilingual Guide

<https://www.drupal.org/docs/administering-a-drupal-site/multilingual-guide>



THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at @mathewwinstone &
mwinstone@coldfrontlabs.ca





CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- ▶ [Simple line icons](#) by Mirko Monti
- ▶ [E-commerce icons](#) by Virgil Pana
- ▶ [Streamline iconset](#) by Webalys
- ▶ Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- ▶ Photographs by [Death to the Stock Photo](#) ([license](#))



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