

# A Quick Trip Through Panopoly

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# What is a Drupal Distribution?

- A Drupal distribution is Drupal Core with a collection of modules, themes, content, setups, or other items meant to produce a fuller Out of the Box experience
- This can be useful to meet a use case, make it easier to build new sites, or even to make it easier to build other distributions
- These can be very helpful, but in other cases can set up a lot of rules and configurations that you might later have to battle with to get what you want

# Why can distributions be problematic?

- One common example is the Conference Organizing Distribution. It gets used to help build Drupalcons – but I've tried to use it for a couple camps and it was painful.
- Often distributions are way too ambitious.
- Panopoly is an example of a nice distro that I think does **JUST ENOUGH** and mostly doesn't get in your way. The modularity is fairly clean and lets you disable things you will not use without breaking everything else.

# What is Panopoly?

- It's mostly a whole lot of Drupal modules, along with some upgraded views and example content.
- It provides a lot of functionality out of the box including
  - Panels, Panelizer, and a lot of *panels magic*
  - A nicely functional WYSIWYG configuration that just works (TinyMCE based currently)
  - Lots of help with responsive design, particularly for panels and images
  - Lots of in-place page building tools

# What else is Panopoly?

- Some really nice admin improvements using the power of panels and views – all working when you turn it on.
- Lots of responsive panels layouts you can use
- Some apps from the Panopoly App Server
- A number of custom modules that act more or less as glue between many contrib modules.

# Why would I want Panopoly?

- It provides a really nice head start on building a site – particularly if it fits well within the things it does for you.
- It's a great base for building your own distribution – just add in the modules, features, etc. you need and away you go.
- It can save you a lot of hours of pointing and clicking, downloading modules, configuring WYSIWYG and other things that suck up all your time at the start of building a site.

# Panopoly Features

- Panels
- WYSIWYG
- Reusability of items
- Responsive Everything
- In-Page layout (using Panels IPE)
- Pre-set-up Media system
- Lots of nice integration between all of the above

# Things to Understand

- If you don't like Panels, you probably will not like Panopoly – though strictly speaking you don't need to use panels.
- It's currently heavily tied to TinyMCE
- Get used to using Features or you will find upgrades painful
- Some of it could be better documented – which is partly why I am doing this talk
- It's only one possible strategy and may not fit everything
- You need to weigh whether the pile of great features you get out of the box is worth the small amount of fighting with it you may do.



# Upgrades

- You need to be a little careful about upgrades
- Be sure to use `features_override` to override any of the features in Panopoly (or derivatives) that you've modified, particularly views, etc.
- Don't try to upgrade individual modules in the distribution unless you really know what you're doing – Panopoly gets updated pretty quickly for security issues, etc.
- It's more or less like a normal Drupal version upgrade, but when you're done you'll revert all your features (perhaps with `drush fra`) – so if you've modified things in the features make sure they're overridden or you will lose them.

# Other Distributions – Open Atrium

- Open Atrium is the biggest of the Panopoly-based distributions
- Intended to allow Portal-like sites, with many different spaces (based on Organic Groups) and lots of nice features for running a public or private portal site
- Discussions, documents, events, workflow, notifications, activity streams, etc. all built in.
- Can be used either as an intranet or extranet site

## Others -

- Open Academy – for schools
- Open Church – for churches
- Restaurant – for building restaurant sites
- Web Experience Toolkit – integrates Panopoly with a lot of the features of the Spark project, including in-place editing, etc.
- Try them out at [simplytest.me](http://simplytest.me) if you like

# A simple example site

- We're working on re-branding our hosting as cms-farm.com
- We'll be looking at some sample content and other things to demonstrate some Panopoly features.