MY DISABILITY matters
THE SOCIAL NETWORK FOR THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY, BUILT ON WORDPRESS
MYDISABILITYMATTERS.CLUB
1. The My Disability Matters Club
2. Accessibility
3. Using WordPress to Create a Community
4. Our Hosting Experience
5. Key Plugins for a Community
MY DISABILITY MATTERS

• My Disability Matters (MDM) Club is a place for the disability community to meet new friends, discuss issues and find peer support

• Members are people with disability, their families and carers, and people working in the industry

• Overcoming loneliness and isolation is a key purpose

• We focus on tackling harassment, bullying and trolling

• Members are from Australia, UK, USA and many more countries
ACCESSIBILITY

• Even when the core is accessible, must consider the accessibility of each plugin and add-on feature
• There are often issues with contact forms, date pickers and knowledgebases
• Avoid captchas on sign up, or use invisible captchas if possible
• Accessibility is more than technical coding – it involves the design of a clear interface and UX
• Hashtag: #a11y and #accessibility
No community solution has all the features you want or need – add plugins, custom code, integrations

Moved to PeepSo for moderation and custom features

Moving back to BuddyPress to improve performance and stability
COMMUNITY: PERFORMANCE ISSUES

- Approaching 5000 members caused serious performance and stability issues with PeepSo, despite premium hosting (Kinsta)

- Analysis showed: large number of database calls, slow PHP functions, large number of custom ajax calls on each page load

- PeepSo uses custom Ajax code instead of WP in-built, and not able to cache many components
COMMUNITY: BACK TO BUDDYPRESS

• Moving back in November
• No migration plugin… Anyone here able to develop one?!
• Moderation tools now available for BuddyPress
• RT Media now much more powerful
• Will use external SaaS chat solution
• BuddyPress has geo location search (unlike PeepSo)
• **ElasticPress** being developed for BuddyPress
• Planning to develop mobile/tablet apps using AppPresser
COMMUNITY: FEATURES TO CONSIDER

- Do you need forums, groups or both?
- User submitted posts to a public Members’ Blog
- Hashtags in community activity (PeepSo ✓ - BuddyPress X)
- Member onboarding – need email capacity through Sendgrid or soon to be released Offload SES plugin
- Will you create an app for the community?
- Image optimisation is crucial with so much user content – we recommend WPMUDEV Smush Pro
YOUR COMMUNITY & GDPR

• Members must have access to data held and managed by third party tools and services

• Plugin to integrate many external tools with WP built in GDPR tools - https://privacywp.com/

• All third party data and other plugins must comply – eg. Email provider, ecommerce, membership plugin etc

• PeepSo: fully integrated GDPR compliance – members can download, inspect and erase community data

• BuddyPress: relies on in-built WP GDPR tools, less automated
OUR HOSTING EXPERIENCE

• We had experience with variety of hosting options
• Shared hosting will not work for a community website
• Must have a quality managed and secure WP host
• Managed VPS hosting with Pagely or Kinsta has worked best
• Backups are very important, and must be more frequent than daily for a community
• Kinsta offer hourly backups
OUR HOSTING EXPERIENCE

• Difficult to cache with a community due to all users being logged in
• WP places a heavy load on your server without caching
• Must utilise caching with your hosting – server caching (e.g. Varnish), object caching (e.g. Redis or Memcached) and others
• Hosting uploads with S3 using WP Offload Media
• For code editing we use WP Buffs maintenance services - https://mydisabilitymatters.com/go/sitecare
KEY PLUGIN CONSIDERATIONS

When choosing plugins, themes and custom work:

- Performance, stability, optimisation of code and database usage are paramount – more important than extra features
- Choose plugins from as few different developers as possible
- Use plugins which are well maintained and supported
- A theme with visual page design may slow site performance as caching will be compromised
KEY PLUGINS

MDM Club is a private community for members only
• Membership plugin increases the server load
• Currently Paid Membership Pro, moving to Restrict Content Pro

Advertising
• Advanced Ads Pro - https://wpadvancedads.com/
• Integrates with PeepSo and BuddyPress, including ads in the activity stream
KEY PLUGINS

• WP Fusion
  https://wpfusion.com/
  Integrates WordPress users with your email marketing platform (ours is currently ConvertKit)

• Uncanny Automator
  https://automatorplugin.com/
  Promising new plugin to automate tasks & works with WP Fusion

• Strong Testimonials
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/strong-testimonials/
  Collect, moderate and display testimonials from members

• Gravity Forms
  https://www.gravityforms.com/
  Highly accessible forms, plus addon to use Google invisible captcha

• Fatal Error Notify
  https://fatalerrornotify.com/
  Both free and premium versions

• Easy Theme and Plugin Upgrades
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/easy-theme-and-plugin-upgrades/
  Simplifies upgrade process
KEY PLUGINS

• Passwords Evolved
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/passwords-evolved/
  Prevent members using passwords involved in hacking / strengthens security

• Username Changer
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/username-changer/
  Restrict/add ability to change usernames which members will request

• Restrict Usernames
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/restrict-usernames/
  Important to ensure limit use of usernames that give impression of being an official user or site admin

• WP Persistent Login
  https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-persistent-login/
  Eases support issue by ensuring users stay logged in as long as possible

• User Role Editor
  https://en-au.wordpress.org/plugins/user-role-editor/
  Control/edit/manage your WP user roles, permissions and security

• PerfMatters
  https://perfmatters.io/
  Adds many performance tweaks
CONTACT DALE

✉️  dale@mydisabilitymatters.com
📞  +61 420 277457
🔗  dale.reardon

🌐  mydisabilitymatters.com and mydisabilitymatters.club
🐦  @audisability and @dalereardon
FontAwesomeIcon  /mydisabilitymatters
 unlink  au.linkedin.com/in/dalereardon