



# Frameworks 101

Presentation to the New York  
Dreamweaver Users Group  
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# What is a Framework and what can it do for me?

- **Definition from Wikipedia.org:** *A software framework is a reusable design for a software system (or subsystem). A software framework may include support programs, code libraries, a scripting language, or other software to help develop and glue together the different components of a software project. Various parts of the framework may be exposed through an API (Application Programming Interface).*
- **My description:** A software Framework is a basic preconfigured database-driven content management system website that can be easily redesigned and modified to suit almost any need. Most of the backend development work is done so developers and designers can focus on client requests.
- **7 words:** A Framework slashes development time and costs.

# What types of Frameworks are available?

- There are Frameworks available for both Windows and Unix/Linux/BSD-based web servers.

Tonight we are going to talk about Open Source Frameworks that run on Apache\PHP\MySQL, specifically **WordPress**, **Joomla**, and **Zen Cart**

- Other Frameworks worth mentioning are:
- DotNetNuke, an Open Source Framework that runs on Windows and uses ASP 2.0 .Net technology
- CakePHP
- Ruby on Rails
- Zend





# Who is this guy talking about Frameworks?

**Stephen Britton**

- Developing websites since 1994
- Survivor of the “Atomic Winter” of 2000 to 2003
- Most recently served for five years as Director of Technology for a Manhattan real estate firm, now back in the web dev consulting business
- Lives in lower Westchester, but works in mid-town and the financial district
- Big fan of LAMP (Linux/Apache/MySQL/PHP)
- Spends lots of time and money drinking Starbucks Coffee





**Pros:** Probably the easiest Framework to configure and use. Huge user base – lots of support. Tons of free and paid templates available. A multi-user version is available at [mu.wordpress.org](http://mu.wordpress.org). A commercial site: [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) offers free blogs.

**Cons:** No “true” ecommerce module. More of a site for bloggers. No real enterprise support like Joomla or Drupal.

**Who uses it:** Many, many, independent bloggers, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Le Mode, Southwest Airlines, Delta Airlines, Harvard University, XXL magazine

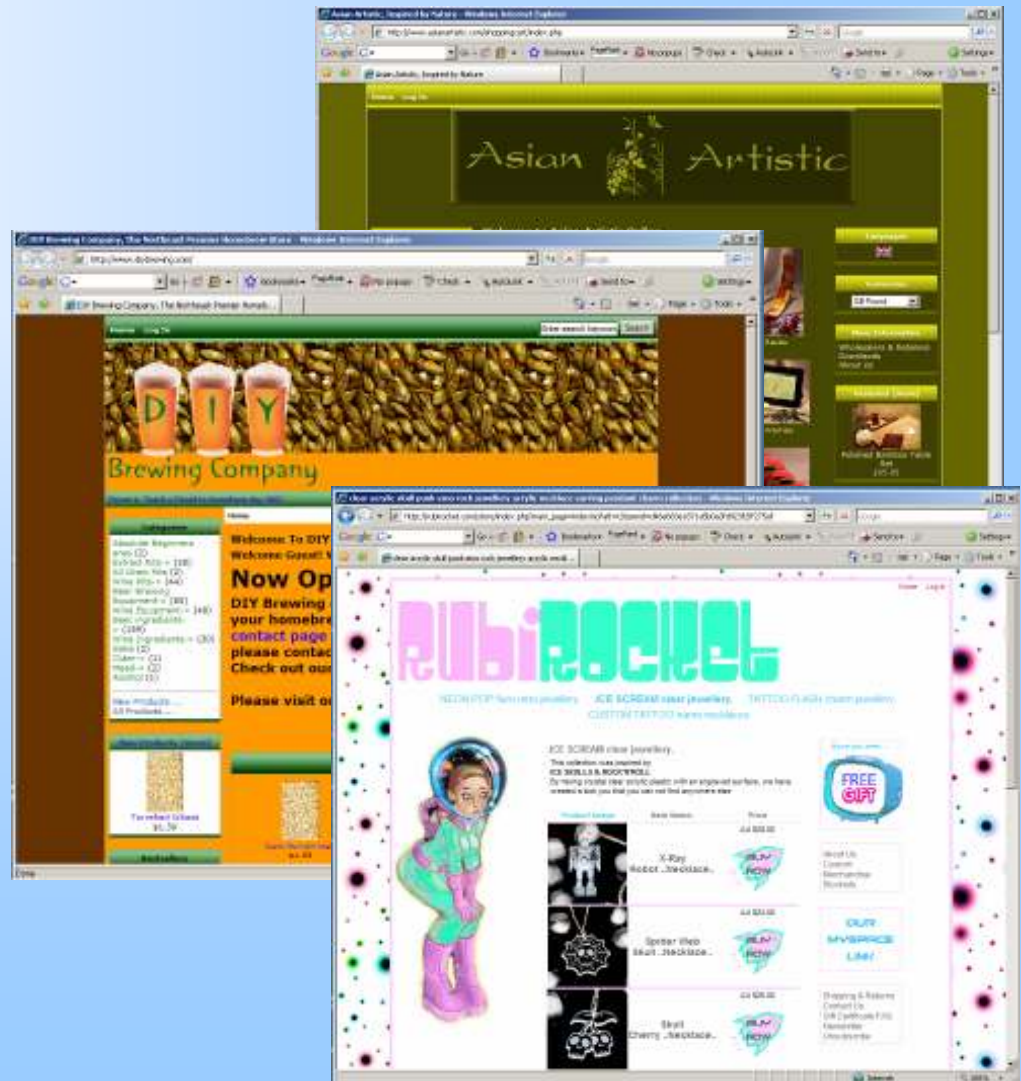




**Pros:** Supports unlimited products. For the small- to medium-sized company that wants an Amazon-like e-commerce website but doesn't have the budget. Good alternative to Yahoo store. Active forum at [www.zen-cart.com/forum](http://www.zen-cart.com/forum)

**Cons:** Templates are not as flexible as other Frameworks. Documentation is fine for configuring backend, but not as good for designers. Code base hasn't been updated since 2006.

**Who is using it:** Many small and medium-sized businesses.





**Pros:** True enterprise support.  
Modules are available for forums, blogs, ecommerce (VirtueMart), etc. Huge user base – Joomla forums has over 1 million posts!  
Lots of support. Very clean CSS code.

**Cons:** Larger learning curve than WordPress, but worth learning because Joomla can and is used for enterprise applications.

**Who is using it:** Porsche, Ford Europe, Nokia, lots of others.



# What do Frameworks mean to Dreamweaver?



- Dreamweaver will still be used for layout and prototypes
- Frameworks require knowledge of CSS and XHTML.

# Learning Frameworks

Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty. There are lots of online resources.

We are going to set up a WordPress test environment using WAMP.