

CoPE

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Community of Practice Environment

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Community Action

- Many Formal and Informal Communities
 - Clubs, Boards, etc.
 - Communities of Practice
 - Classes, Conferences, etc.
- Democratic Production and Decisions
- No Access to Technical Wizardry
- Many Potential **Distributed** Communities

Community Action

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- Many Potential Distributed Communities

Little System Support and

Very Few Instances

What is CoPE?

- A web-based tool for groups to democratically work together and decide upon actions of common interest.
- This includes...
 - Creating and sharing ideas/information
 - Discussion
 - Making decisions as a group

Goals

- Easy to use without having wizardry
- Non-proprietary, free to setup and use
- Highly customizable
- Functionality
 - Organize and Democratically Govern
 - Produce Work Products as Documents
- Institutional Support; repository, search

Document Centric

- “Work” in CoPE is represented in the form of a document (Plain text, MS Word, PDF, etc.)
- These could be anything like...
 - Proposals
 - Group budget report
 - Institutional Bylaws and Minutes
 - Best Practices Guides

Implementation

- CoPE is built by modifying an open source content management system called Plone (<http://www.plone.org>)
- Presentation code is written mostly in HTML and CSS
- Back-end logic is written in Python

What CoPE is Not

- Not a tool for group editing (Microsoft Word , etc. better at this)
- Not a tool for version control and management (CVS)
- Not a tool for synchronous collaboration (live virtual meetings, chat)
- Not an unstructured forum like a wiki

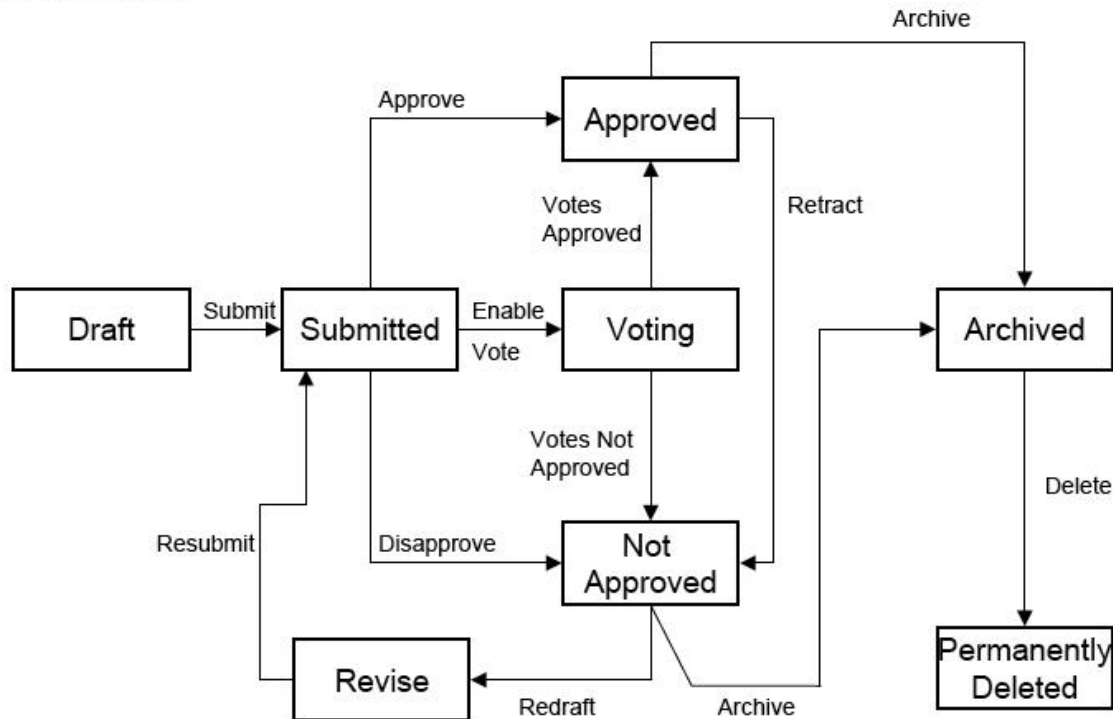
Key Features: Workflow

- Documents go through different states of a workflow
- Starts out in “draft” state. The ultimate goal is to get to the “approved” state
- Depending on the state, there are different permissions (view, edit)
- Workflow is customizable based on the groups business processes

Key Features: Workflow

CoPE Workflow

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Key Features: Coordinator

- Each CoPE site has a coordinator
- The coordinator is like a group leader and facilitator
- The coordinator is responsible for...
 - Creating/editing the folder structure of the site
 - Calling votes
 - Configuring the CoPE site
 - Handling membership
 - And more...

Key Features: Configuration

- A CoPE site can be configured based on a discrete set of parameters
- Some examples of configurable options are...
 - Voting mode
 - Maximum number of members allowed
 - Coordinator's privileges

Related Project - *Deme*

- Stanford University, Todd Davies
- Goals generally similar to CoPE
- Comprehensive support for Communities
- Working with East Palo Alto Community
- Client side operations, not thin client
- Open editing, ala Wiki

<http://www.groupspace.org/news.php>

Demo

- Login
- Creating Documents
- Commenting
- Voting

The End

- Questions?
- Thanks!
- To learn more about CoPE go to <http://cope.icsi.berkeley.edu>
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