



# Webmasters' User Group

*promoting Web publishing at Western Michigan University since 1999*

**Notes: 03/25/09**

## **In attendance**

Nancy Kroes, OIT; Susan Kamman, Campus Facilities; Nancy Meister, Student Affairs; Carolyn Fink, Student Affairs; Susan Copeland, Math; Matt Newton, EUP; Cindy Wagner, HCOB; Alex Aivars, CAS; Amy Brimmer, HR; Scott Puckett, EM; Deb Withee, COE.

## **Update on the Gform to PHP Online Form Conversion**

Nancy Kroes has found and successfully installed an accessible CAPTCHA (helps prevent bots from submitting your online forms). The PHP forms examples have been updated and one may now download form examples with the CAPTCHA, without the CAPTCHA, or access a document with the CAPTCHA code and instructions for its use. All may be accessed at <http://www.wmich.edu/oit/news/webforms/>.

Persons wishing to use forms that write to a file, should access the examples provided by the server admin and located from <http://www.wmich.edu/webadmin/forms/>.

Susan K. reported a problem with word wrap when printing the php form. Deb Withee had discovered a work around for it, which she sent to Nancy K. after the meeting. Nancy has updated the examples linked above so anyone downloading them from now on, will get the corrected code. If you'd already converted your forms, and want the correct code, simply replace the entire <pre> code at the bottom of the PHP script file with:

```
<pre>
<?php echo wordwrap($message,70); ?>
</pre>
```

Since 11/2008, the number of accounts with Gforms has gone from 71 to 52 and the number of Gforms has dropped from 504 to 283.

## **Update on the WMU Web Initiative**

All members have been named to the Web Governance Council (WGC), which is co-chaired by Thom Myers, Office of University Relations, and Greg Lozeau, Office of Information Technology. Their first meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

One of the first focus groups to be established by the WGC will be a group to look for a new content management system. Serena Collage, the CMS previously purchased by the University has been abandoned. The company ceased updates on the product as of 3/2008 and it was determined by WMU that at this point, it wasn't worth the effort to move into it while we were waiting to find another CMS to move into.

There will be a new design/look for WMU's site created with a corresponding Dreamweaver template. As we did before, WUG will be assisting departments on campus with moving into the new look/template. This will be done as soon as possible, and because even if we had a new CMS ready to begin moving into today, it would take several years before the entire campus was moved into it.

## **Writing for the Web**

Cheryl Rolland/University Relations has agreed to fund the Writing for the Web webcast that Deb Withee found. The webcast will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. on Monday, March 30. More information is found at <http://www.wmich.edu/wug/news.html>.

## **lynda.com**

Just a reminder that the University has made online training available to both faculty and staff via lynda.com. Approximately 200 folks have partaken of the training thus far. For more information, and to request an account, go to <http://www.wmich.edu/ftc/training.html>.

## **New WUG Co-Secretaries**

We have not heard from the two people who volunteered to be WUG secretary and at this point, not sure we have a secretary.

## **Round Table**

**Nancy Kroes:** working on a revamp of the WMU security site (<http://www.wmich.edu/security/>)

**Susan Kammer:** taking some Lynda.com courses and learning PHP. Has created some new forms.

**Nancy Meister:** marketing, getting ready for orientation and looking at the housing site which she was recently tasked with. Going to create an accessibility checklist and will share it with WUG. (WUG will be focusing on accessibility in a future meeting).

**Carolyn Fink:** marketing but revisiting PHP. Also taking some Lynda.com courses – really likes Lynda.com!

**Alex Aivars:** still very busy converting all the sites he's tasked with to the current template. Also converting Gforms to PHP forms.

**Cindy Wagner:** besides normal work, learning about second life as a faculty member in HCOB is using it for a class.

**Susan Copeland:** updating content and converting Gforms to PHP forms.

**Matt Newton:** still updating content. Using Contribute so others can assist with the content updates. Contribute is working out really well for them. Live Help project was put on hold because hardware/servers were not fast enough. Hoping that the upcoming hardware update will help with that.

**Amy Brimmer:** working on an online registration project and forms with PHP.

**Deb Withee:** PHP forms and looking at PHP for other projects.

**Scott Puckett:** inherited a tuition calculator done using PHP. Problems with it so rewrote using Javascript. Scott will demo this at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting** - Wednesday, Apr. 29th in the Stewart Clock Tower.