Living a Nightmare, Dreaming a Dream
A Drupal Deployment Dilemma
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About TVO

"use electronic and associated media to provide educational opportunities for all people in Ontario"
Verify Staging Environment

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Test Release Works

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Site Offline and perform same regression tests
The Dream

- Change architecture of Drupal code
- Introduce automated tests
- Automate the release process

Time

Excellence
Automated Tests
Coding Practices

- Content Management System
- Can configure with a "point and click" GUI
- Templates to build web pages for delivery through web server (apache)
- Includes page authoring and editorial workflow capabilities

Drupla™
Continuous Delivery

- Load Balancers
- Web Servers
- Databases
Culture Dilemma

Collaboration

Automation

Organization
Culture Changes
System as a composition of components

"Structural issues include the gross organization and global control structures; the protocols for communication, synchronization, and data access; the assignment of functionality to design elements; physical distribution; composition of design elements; scaling and performance; dimensions of evolution; and selection among design alternatives."

Garlan, Shaw: 1994
Lessons Learned

• Maintainability driving Architecture decisions

• Architecture decisions driving changes in work habits

• Need for work habit changes driving recruiting and organizational structure decisions
• Could these changes have been done incrementally?
• How would this work in another organization where the architect and manager roles are separate?
• How to take better advantage of the tight coupling of organization structure changes with motivational changes?
• The surprise: technology choice matters least of all