# D7.1 – Web portal

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due date of deliverable:</th>
<th>30 September 2010</th>
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<td>Actual submission date:</td>
<td>30 September 2010</td>
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<td>Responsible Partner:</td>
<td>NEO</td>
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<td>Contributing Partners:</td>
<td>CTI, UOL, FHG, UPM, IMA, BRF, PUB</td>
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**Nature:**
- □ Report
- □ Prototype
- □ Demonstrator
- ■ Other

**Dissemination Level:**
- ■ PU : Public
- □ PP : Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)
- □ RE : Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)
- □ CO : Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

**Keyword List:** Web portal, Drupal, wiki, project management.

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The Dicode Consortium

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Summary
This deliverable reports on development issues concerning the web portal of the Dicode project. The portal is based on a standard open source content management system, namely Drupal. It integrates a set of modules to properly serve dissemination purposes. In addition, the portal will be the entry point to a wiki, to be used to facilitate and augment communication and collaboration among the project’s partners, and an issue tracking system, to be used for various project management purposes. Finally, the portal provides access to widely used social networking sites, where the Dicode project maintains a profile.
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1. Introduction

The Dicode project web portal (http://dicode-project.eu/) was launched on August 26th, 2010 (that is, a few days before the official start date of the project).

The portal is based on the Drupal\(^1\) Content Management System (CMS) and hosted on an Ubuntu Linux system. The Drupal CMS has been chosen due to its wide-spread use, its ease of use, installation and maintenance, the wealth of additional (third party) modules available, as well as due to its flexibility and adaptability. The portal’s look-and-feel got adjusted by a publicly available theme, augmented by the project’s logo.

The portal’s content can be edited by project participants, through dedicated user accounts. By allowing that, the portal can be kept alive and used for sharing information in a blog-like style (without the need for a dedicated editor).

The basic purposes of the Dicode project web portal are to:

- inform the public about the project’s objectives, overall approach, foreseen work plan, consortium and example use cases;
- facilitate and augment the dissemination of project-related work and outcomes;
- facilitate and augment collaboration and knowledge sharing between the project’s partners;
- provide an entry point to the project’s issue tracking system, which will be used for various project management purposes, and
- provide access to widely used social networking sites, where the Dicode project maintains a profile.

In the next sections, we briefly report on the above issues.

2. Informing the public

The Dicode project web portal contains all the necessary information to allow the public shaping an overall understanding of the project. The general structure of the portal has been finalised (its content will be continuously updated). More specifically, its home page (Figure 1) contains the project’s fact sheet together with the project’s outline. It also contains a list of the most recent blog posts (see next section). The home page also acknowledges the EU funding and provides a link to the CORDIS website.

The information provided to the public has been structured through the following web pages (tabs):

- “Objectives”, where the project’s mission, motivation and rationale are sketched;
- “Description of work”, where the project’s evolutionary approach and workpackages architecture are analyzed;
- “Open source strategy”, where the project’s commitment to the open source initiative and to making most of its deliverables public is outlined;
- “Consortium”, where one can find a short description of the project’s partners and key people (Figure 2);
- “Use cases”, where the three example use cases through which the project’s outcomes will be validated are briefly described;
- “Dissemination” (see next section), and

\(^1\) http://drupal.org
• “Calendar”, where project related events and deadlines are noted.

The portal’s layout also features a right bar with contact information, recent blog posts (in any page other than the home page), links to social networking sites (see Section 6), Twitter updates, recent comments, and the portal’s RSS feed.
3. Dissemination of project-related work and outcomes

Continuous dissemination of project-related work and outcomes is achieved through (i) the “Dissemination” web page, and (ii) blog posts.

The former provides access to material such as press releases, newsletters and brochures of the project. The first press release, containing information about the Dicode project’s launch, has been already uploaded (Figure 3).

The latter (Figure 4) provides timely information about project related activities and achievements (for instance, current blog posts contain illustrative information about the project’s kick-off meeting). All members of the Dicode consortium have been authorized to upload new blog entries and post comments to existing ones (each member may maintain his/her own blog).

4. Facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing

To facilitate and augment collaboration between the project’s participants, in particular towards knowledge sharing and joint authoring of project-related documents (such as deliverables, press releases, scientific papers etc.), the web portal provides an entry point to a wiki. The Confluence wiki tool (by Atlassian)\(^2\) will be used.

\(^2\) [http://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence/](http://www.atlassian.com/software/confluence/)
Admittedly, wikis are especially suited for collaborative work on simple documents. In addition, they provide a very simple means of keeping documents up to date (editing pages can be done easily with any common web browser). To keep the wiki clean from outdated pages and maintain an easy-to-grasp structure, Spyros Christodoulou (CTI) will be the wiki’s chief editor, who regularly checks the wiki and puts orphaned pages into context.

The above tool will also enable the efficient management of the Dicode project’s document repository, which can be considered as the consortium’s collaborative memory. The repository will be structured according to the project’s needs and types of documents circulated.

Generally speaking, the wiki tool chosen provides the necessary access privileges as well as user management functionalities. Specific roles (and associated privileges) will be assigned to the project’s participants in order to guarantee a controlled evolution of the wiki pages and ensure their consistency.

![Figure 4: The Dicode blogs page.](image)

5. Project management

The Dicode project web portal also provides an entry point to an issue tracking system, to be used for various project management purposes. The JIRA issue and project tracking tool (also by Atlassian)\(^3\) will be used. The tool’s features and functionalities have been proven to be very useful to software development teams, in that they improve code quality and speed of development (JIRA is already used for issue tracking and project management by over 11,500 organisations in 107 countries around the globe).

\(^3\) [http://www.atlassian.com/software/jira/](http://www.atlassian.com/software/jira/)
It is noted that the licenses for Confluence and JIRA have been granted to Dicode by Atlassian under the assumption that all code developed with the help of these tools is developed under an open source license.

6. Social media channels

Dicode intends to integrate closely with existing communities working on related topics. To increase the visibility of the project’s outcomes and latest developments, Dicode has already established its presence on major social networking sites. That way potential users and developers can quickly get in touch with us and follow us easily on their preferred medium. The Dicode project web portal provides appropriate access to these sites.

6.1 Facebook

On Facebook, Dicode maintains both a profile (http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100001390513581 - Figure 5) and a group (http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=124336097612281 - Figure 6). Many project participants have already joined the Facebook group and have been connected to the project profile. The first posts published on the Facebook profile and group concerned the kickoff meeting.

![Figure 5: Dicode’s facebook profile.](image-url)
6.2 Twitter

The Dicode profile on Twitter (http://twitter.com/#!/DICODE_EU) is shown in Figure 7.

The Dicode’s profile on Twitter has been linked to the project’s Facebook account to automatically enable the sharing of information between these two profiles.
It is noted that the project’s profile on Twitter is being also followed by people belonging to distinguished communities, such as the Apache Software Foundation\(^4\).

### 6.3 LinkedIn

With the aim of targeting professionals (who usually refrain from using services targeting communities such as Facebook), Dicode also maintains a group on the LinkedIn social networking site ([http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=3380155 - Figure 8]).

![Figure 8: Dicode’s LinkedIn group.](image)

### 6.4 CiteULike

Aiming at sharing information on relevant publications, the project has also created accounts on CiteULike. In particular, the project has created a CiteULike profile ([http://www.citeulike.org/user/DICODE_EU - Figure 9]) and a CiteULike reading group ([http://www.citeulike.org/groupfunc/13888/home - Figure 10]). The aim of the group is to facilitate communication within the project with respect to existing literature related to the project’s research fields.

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Figure 9: Dicode’s CiteULike account.

Figure 10: Dicode’s CiteULike reading group.
6.5 Flickr

Finally, there is a project dedicated Flickr account (http://www.flickr.com/photos/53725931@N06 - Figure 11), which aims at enabling project members to share photos taken at various project events.

Figure 11: Dicode’s account on Flickr.