# Content Management Systems (CMS)

**Content Management Systems (CMS)** store content in a structured database that's enhanced for frequent updates. CMSs provide a framework, or the "plumbing", so that we do not have to re-invent content for every new website. They have been around for several years. This information is from Wikipedia and helps to answer the question, "What is a content management system?"

*A CMS is a software system used to manage and control a dynamic collection of Web material (HTML documents, images and other forms of media). A CMS facilitates document control, auditing, editing, and timeline management. A CMS typically has:*

### Automated templates

*Create standard output templates (usually HTML and XML) that can be automatically applied to new and existing content, allowing the appearance of all content to be changed from one central place.*

### Easily editable content

*Once content is separated from the visual presentation of a site, it usually becomes much easier and quicker to edit and manipulate. Most CMS software includes WYSIWYG editing tools allowing non-technical individuals to create and edit content.*

### Scalable feature sets

*Most CMS software includes plug-ins or modules that can be easily installed to extend an existing site's functionality.*

### Web standards upgrades

*Active CMS software usually receives regular updates that include new feature sets and keep the system up to current web standards.*

### Workflow management

*Workflow is the process of creating cycles of sequential and parallel tasks that must be accomplished in the CMS. For example, a content creator can submit a story, but it is not published until the copy editor cleans it up and the editor-in-chief approves it.*

### Delegation

*Some CMS software allows for various user groups to have limited privileges over specific content on the website, spreading out the responsibility of content management.*

### Document management

*CMS software may provide a means of managing the life cycle of a document from initial creation time, through revisions, publication, archive, and document destruction.*

### Content virtualization

*CMS software may provide a means of allowing each user to work within a virtual copy of the entire Web site, document set, and/or code base. This enables changes to multiple interdependent resources to be viewed and/or executed in-context prior to submission.*