

## Bitpalast® Technology Bulletin Content Management Systems

A content management system (CMS) is a program that enables you to modify your website in a browser. A CMS can be useful in some cases, such as:

- ✓ if your content is complex, time-critical, or extensive (upwards of around 150 pages)
- ✓ if you want to manage the same content in different output formats
- ✓ if you maintain different websites as a service provider

Although Bitpalast® supports all content management systems, we recommend a web editor software such as Microsoft™ FrontPage™ to most of our clients. FrontPage™ is just as efficient for website maintenance, but it saves you investment and operating costs.

Competitors claim that a content management system makes website maintenance easier and quicker. In truth, however, maintenance costs are higher. A CMS costs more to buy, and to manage it you need a web server with a database, so you end up paying a higher service rental each month. Competitors argue that less expensive solutions such as Microsoft™ FrontPage™ contain hidden costs. The truth is that once you have made the one-off purchase, usually for less than the price of a CMS, such products do not give rise to any further costs. Competitors further argue that only a CMS provides authorization management that restricts the areas of a website that a particular member of staff can modify. Yet in most small and medium-sized companies, the truth is that only one or two staff maintain the site in any case, so authorization management is not actually required. But, if you do need it, it can also be realized using Microsoft™ FrontPage™.

A CMS makes you dependent on the manufacturer of your website, as they are usually the only ones who are able to alter its appearance. A tool such as Microsoft™ FrontPage™, on the other hand, guarantees that you can edit all parts of your site and exploit all the technical opportunities afforded by the Internet.

The following list contains common content management systems.

Product	Infos	Price (non-binding, as of 8/2004)
Aconon CMS	aconon.de	from 350 Euro
Addnews	protonmedia.de	from 24 Euro/month
Contens	contens.de	from 6900 Euro
Contentboard	contentboard.de	from 120 Euro/year + 139 Euro set-up
Contentserv	contentserv.de	from 990 Euro
Infosite	sitepark.com	from 4900 Euro
Iracr	iracer.de	from 1950 Euro
Red Dot	reddot.de	no information
Six CMS	six.de	no information
Trafomat	trafo2.de	from 7990 Euro
Webedition	webedition.de	from 199 Euro
Weblication	scholl.de	from 129 Euro

### Non-official competitor

Microsoft™ FrontPage™	bitpalast.eu/webdesign/frontpage.html approx. 235 Euro
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