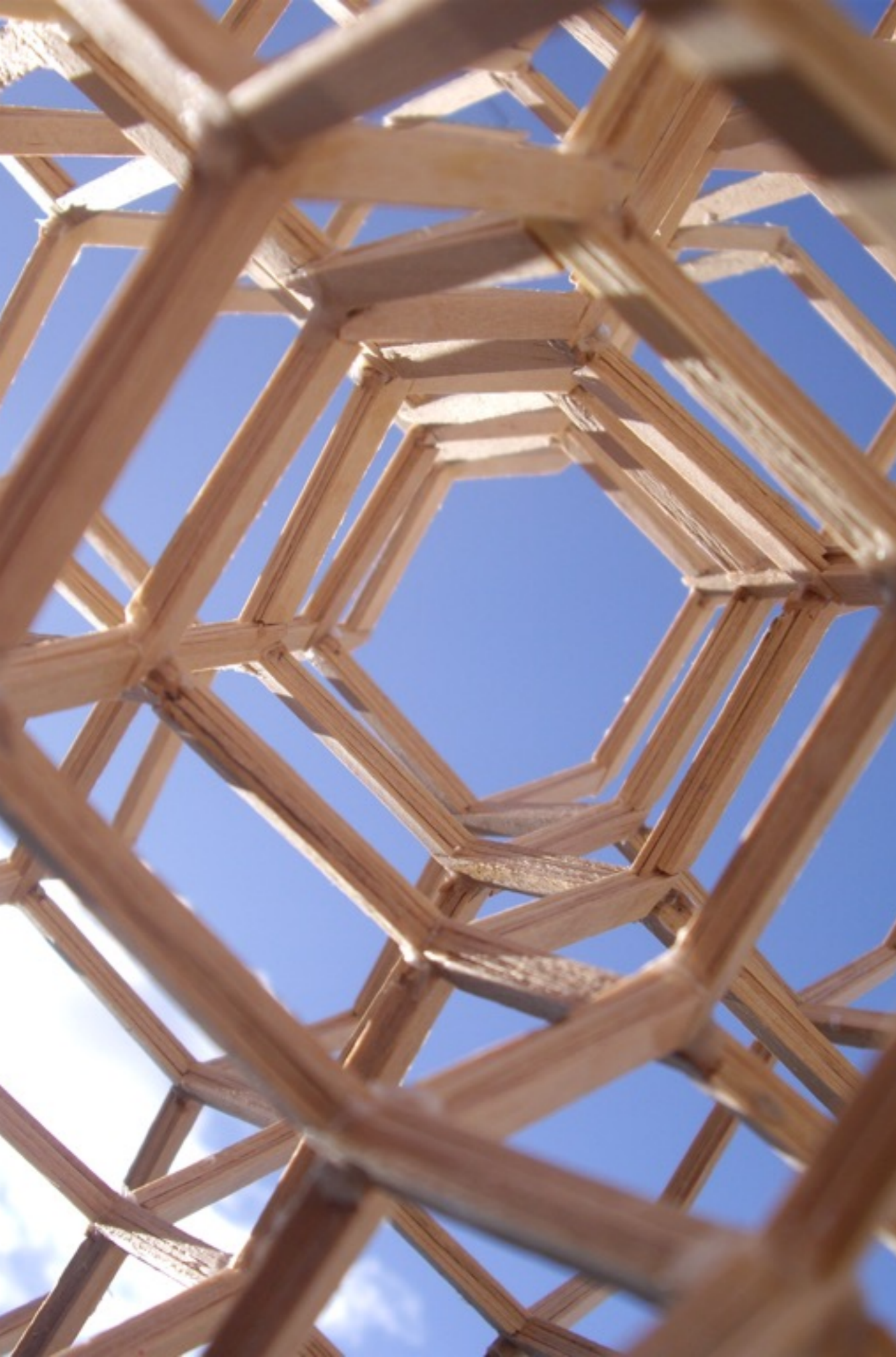




MULTISITE VS ORGANIC GROUPS VS DOMAIN ACCESS

Three models of structure for Drupal sites



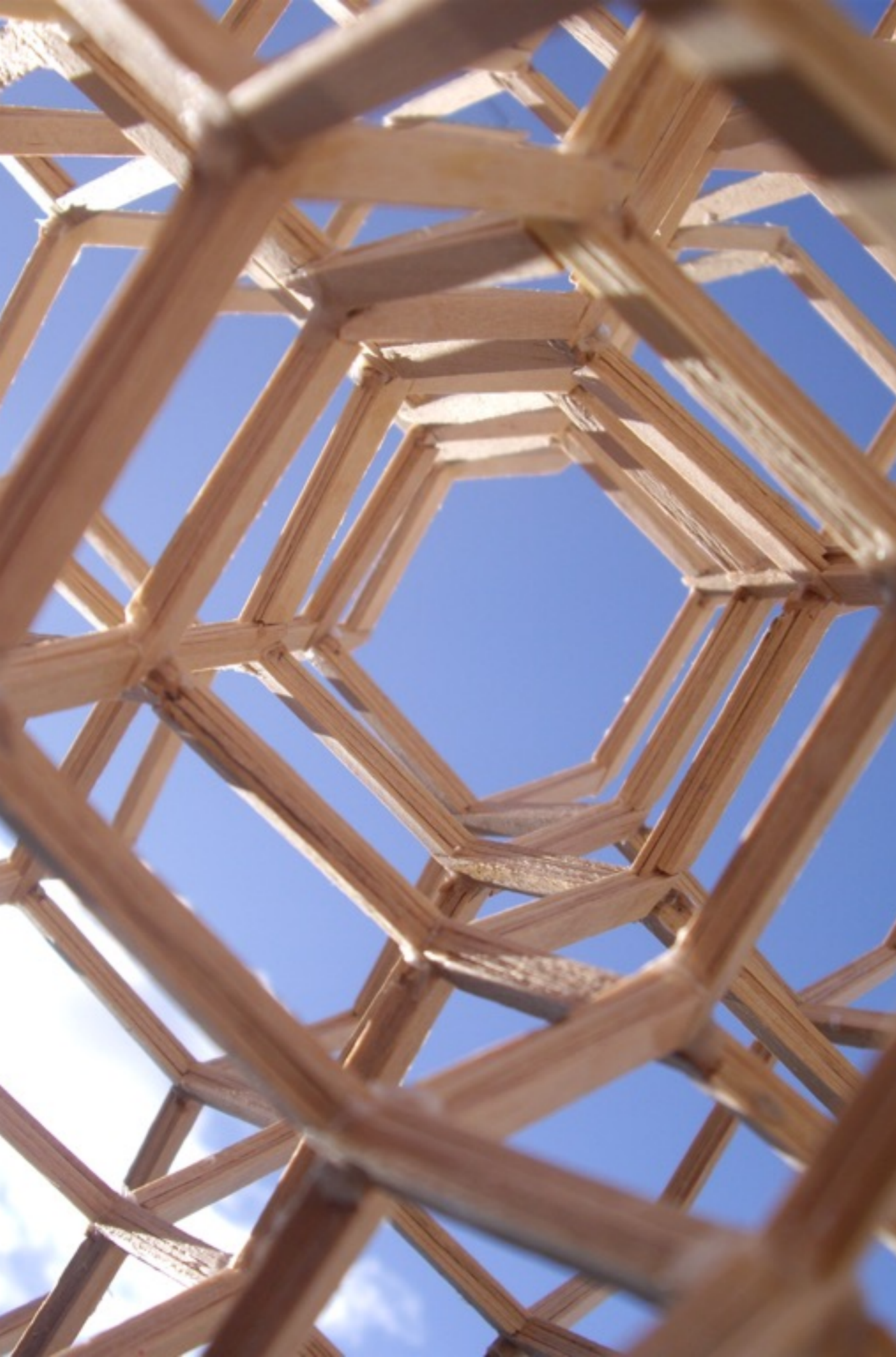


DAN EVELAND

- Drupal guy for 7 years
- I/T-related stuff for 30
- Full-time Drupal developer for True North Custom
- Prefer Rules and Views to custom modules
- My experiences only
- Your mileage may vary



Three different ways to structure your content and users. Each one has it's strengths and weaknesses that must be aligned to your specific requirements.



ALL ABOUT STRUCTURE

- Three different approaches to managing complex sites
- A wrong turn early on is difficult to fix
- I've spent a lot of time discovering the "fatal flaw"
- Plan, plan and plan

ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

Functionality	Multisite	Organic Groups	Domain Access
Separate databases	✓		
Separate modules	✓		
Separate themes	✓	*	✓
Users and content separated	✓	✓	✓
Users and content cross-sharable		✓	✓
Separations by domain	✓	*	✓

**Various modules provide additional functionality if one approach is great except for some particular functionality that's needed*

MULTISITE

*Sharing only the
same code base*





TYPICAL USES OF MULTISITE

- Multiple sites that do not relate to one another *at all*
- Where sharing of code can reduce maintenance time (@sites makes drush tasks quite efficient)
- Hosting requirements are shared (one set of Drupal code takes up space)



PROS AND CONS OF MULTISITE

- Pro: A Drupal misconfiguration only effects one site
- Pro: Different and conflicting modules and versions can be used between sites
- Pro: Changes, such as fields, Views and permissions can be made to one site without effecting others
- Con: No configuration/content/user/view/rule sharing without a lot of work
- Con: Code change requires extensive testing across several sites
- Con: Accounts can be different on each (someone who works on more than one site may have different credentials)

ORGANIC GROUPS

*Isolating content and
access into groups*





TYPICAL USES OF ORGANIC GROUPS

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- Situations where content and users are segmented, but there is also a need to have a higher-level that can access more than one group
- Large organization with departments who need to collaborate
- Any organization with areas a customer can log into to interact
- Self-serve sites where users can create content and invite others to share



PROS AND CONS OF ORGANIC GROUPS

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- Con: Relationships and context to segment content must be added to every single view
 - Con: Serious commitment to learn complex system and admin tasks for groups are clunky to group admins
 - Con: Tweaks for just one group or another are difficult
 - Pro: Incredible granularity in access is available
 - Pro: Amazing variety of supporting modules
 - Pro: When configured well, segmentation of users and content is extremely secure

DOMAIN ACCESS

*Isolating content and
access by domain*





TYPICAL USES OF DOMAIN ACCESS

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- Branding and content-specific changes by domain to a site that is managed by one group
- Multiple sites that share content heavily
- Sites that are similar but have changes to a theme, or a completely different theme, based on domain
- Sites where each client or group of users has a specific area they can manage some aspects



PROS AND CONS OF DOMAIN ACCESS

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- Pro: Easy 1 to 1 relationship between domain and content access
- Pro: Very flexible for domains and subdomain management
- Pro: Good amount of supporting modules to add functionality
- Con: Easy to forget the context of changes made on the admin side
- Con: Contextual argument to segment content must be added to every single view
- Con: Not really self-serve; an admin needs to create the domains

