

The (Semi-)Technical History
of the
Dallas Intergroup Association
Website

<http://aadallas.org>

H210

Who am I?

- Keith Davis
- Director of I.T. – P.R.I.D.E., Inc.
- Software Developer / Network Administrator -
16 Years Experience
- NETA, Area 65 (neta65.org)
 - Alternate Chairperson - Panel 63
 - Secretary - Panel 61,
 - DCM District 53 / NETA Webmaster - Panel 59
- Dallas Intergroup Association (aadallas.org)
 - Webmaster
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How it began...

The concept and ideas started in 1996 but we had to fight the demons for over a year. We had to fight to get the website motion to pass the Intergroup vote in 1996 and early 1997, but we finally got it passed after the third try in late 1997 by dropping the contributions page. The site launched in early 1997. Jim Jones (former Director) went to school to learn HTML in 1999-2000 to expand the site. We had people telling us the Dallas Intergroup was the work of the devil in 2001 (13 years ago). We were one of the first, if not the first, to have an online bookstore (which was very disturbing to the community...but we did it anyway).



Wayback Machine

If you want to follow
along....

<http://bit.ly/1oHHqcN>

Timeline

- 1996 – Vote passed
- 1997 – Launched
- 2001 – Bookstore is online by this point
- 2003 – Support by began by yours truly!
- 2004 – Added Meetings Search Engine
- 2007 – Jim Jones passes, I take over the site completely, change hosting companies
- 2007 – Changed the front end to Joomla
- 2010 – Changed the front end to WordPress
- 2013 – Re-Launched Group Directory & Meeting Search with Mobile Web versions
- 2104 – Plans to finally move the store are in the works



Highlights

- 10K+ unique visitors / month
- Online bookstore was one of the first and has provided a sizeable share of the income to support DIA's 12 Step efforts
- Bookstore has customers from all over the world
- Meeting Search Engine was one of the first and is heavily used by both members looking for meetings and the DIA itself to locate meetings for visitors / callers
- Managed / built entirely by the former DIA Director, Jim Jones
- I served as volunteer webmaster for several years and am not the paid webmaster



Highlights - Development

- Initial website was written in plain HTML, JavaScript and Flash
 - Cross browser issues
 - Very difficult to maintain – hundreds of HTML pages, tons of duplicated code, Flash objects could not be updated due to lost source files
 - Despite all of that, was very successful!
 - Meeting “search” was compilation of hand created image-maps using Mapsco grid numbers!
 - Had great difficulty taking over domain name after Jim passed (personal email address)

Highlights - Development

- Meeting Search Engine
 - Written by a very novice developer (me), horribly written and unsecure, but again, it worked for 9 years!
- Joomla
 - Problems with support, overkill for our needs
- WordPress
 - Easy to support & reliable
 - Tons of plugins (paid and free) for just about everything
 - Allows for administration by Director

Additional Links

- Search Engine (first implementation):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20040804031523/http://www.aadallas.org/search/search.php>
- Bookstore (early implantation):
<https://web.archive.org/web/20041204124853/http://aadallas.org/shop/shop.htm>
- Joomla Era:
<https://web.archive.org/web/20100507052220/http://www.aadallas.org/>