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Portal Administrator Report
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Portal Applications and Support Sites

- Currently all applications are installed and live.
- Applications include:
    - Soapbox.mpla.us (WordPress) blog is up and accounts are created. Secure registration process setup and tested. Updated version with additional plug-ins for functionality and security installed
    - Talk.mpla.us(PunBB) forum is up and all accounts created. Secured registration setup and tested. No updates added since last report.
    - Photos.mpla.us (minishowcase) image gallery is up and running. Still needs template redesign for improved layout.
    - Formtools form processor is up and running to process all MPLA form submissions. Added Captcha support to prevent spam submissions. Multiple modifications implemented on formtools and html forms to improve the process for Judy.
    - Mpla20.mpla.us Splash page and site introduction for portal applications is up and running.
    - Help.mpla.us provides support information for portal applications.
- Email setup for selected MPLA officers and positions. If you need an @mpla.us email address please let me know.
- Formtools application processes all MPLA forms. This application forwards emails to the appropriate recipient and sends verification emails to submitters. All submissions are stored in an online database with editing and searching capabilities. Additionally all form submissions can be downloaded as an MS Excel spreadsheet. Formtools creates a secure form submission environment with backup/archival features.
- Future applications
    - Calendar- VT Calendar has been installed to maintain the mpla calendar and events. This application allows for event submission and approval before being included on the calendar. VT Calendar offers a great deal of additional features:
        - RSS feeds
        - Download events to Outlook, iCal, and other calendar applications
        - User/admin account management
        - Searchable
        - Multiple categories and calendars
    - AskPeople- a survey, poll and election application similar to SurveyMonkey. Create surveys, manage submissions, and analysis of data. Simple to use and powerful.
- Site Maintenance
    - Formtools- required multiple adjustments and modifications to improve form submission process

- Captcha- implemented a PHP based form spam prevention scheme.
- Security vs Spam- Several different attacks were identified and overcome.
  - Wordpress Comment attack- Spam comments submitted with undesired spam links and content. Changed a wordpress setting to globally prevent spam by unregistered users.
  - Wordpress Pingback attack- spam comments submitted through pingbacks, a inter-blog submission feature. Turned off pingback feature to unregistered users.
  - Askimet installed in wordpress to check comments and other submissions versus know spam content and submitters.
  - Spam form submissions- added Captcha to attacked forms. If other forms are spammed Captcha will be added to the forms. Since captcha is image-based it will be used sparingly for ADA compliance.
  - Backups- Weekly backups are performed every Friday with the two most current backups stored online and past backups are stored on local computer.