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GovCMS backgrounder

GovCMS is Australia's whole-of government website management platform built on the open source content management system (CMS) Drupal. It was officially launched by the Department of Finance in February 2015.

In the beginning, government agencies built their own websites (or contracted the build out) in isolation using many different CMSs across different platforms. Government agencies were often hampered by limited resources and skills, making it difficult for them to establish a strong web presence, and fulfil their compliance obligations such as security accreditation, accessibility requirements, privacy and web standards. This led to a large technology burden for government.

GovCMS solves all these problems while at the same time saving time and money in a scalable manner. Some of the benefits GovCMS delivers include:

- A stable and reliable CMS
- 24x7 enterprise support and proactive monitoring
- Security compliance at the highest level
- An easy-to-use CMS
- Compliant with DTA's Digital Service Standards and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- Responsive to all devices — desktop, tablet and smartphones

As an open source product, GovCMS is also about a community of developers and public sector employees working together to create better solutions, contribute back to the community, and re-use existing solutions. This provides many benefits to Australian citizens, particularly cost-savings and better online services.

GovCMS was originally built by the Department of Finance and Acquia. On 18 July 2018 Salsa Digital won the contract to build the new GovCMS platform in partnership with amazee.io.

