

UP AND RUNNING FLEXES ITS DRUPAL SKILLS IN THE SERVICE OF IMPROVED HEALTH CARE

“Whenever we have a big decision regarding our IT, we ask Up and Running (UAR). They have extensive knowledge and we know we can rely upon them,” observed Miyoung Kim, web and online manager for the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), of a now seven-year partnership.

A Professional Non-Profit with a Limited Budget

AMIA is a professional association of over 5,400 members from 65 countries across a broad spectrum of the health care community, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, clinicians, dentists, researchers, educators, and government officials, among others, who all have a commitment to improve health and health care using informatics. Informatics science and practice is focused on those in health and health care delivery systems who seek to improve outcomes, lower costs, increase safety, and promote the use of high-quality services.

As information technology permeates the health care arena improving biomedical science, biomedical informatics takes a central role in the march toward a healthier populace and an improved health care system. AMIA describes biomedical informatics as “the interdisciplinary field that studies and pursues the effective uses of biomedical data, information, and knowledge for scientific inquiry.”

AMIA exists to facilitate that march, providing education, training, accreditation, and certification to the current and next generations of biomedical informatics professionals. AMIA provides members with growth opportunities while fostering collaboration and networking to support their work to improve people’s lives. Additionally AMIA publishes the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal covering research in the field.

Beyond its publicly accessible website, amia.org, AMIA maintains additional member-only sites that provide webinars, short courses, and access to digital journal archives of papers, posters, and slides. Online manager Kim joined AMIA in 2010 to discover their existing website built on Drupal 5 was already technically outdated. AMIA hired a consulting firm to bring them up to date, but it proved to have inadequate resources for the task. Kim knew they did not have the budget for a full-time position and began the search for a contract developer, posting a job description on the Drupal bulletin board.

Up and Running Brings the Resource that Fits the Bill and the Budget

Pete Hanson, Founder and CTO of UAR, responded to Kim's posting. "While we had been looking for an individual rather than a company, there was something about Pete's email and his resume that set them apart from the tons of replies we got, and ultimately we went with them," Kim remembered of a decision she has yet to regret. "We decided that a company would be better than a single individual as they had more resources and greater backup depth." And while over the years, the assigned developers have changed on occasion, the consistency of support has not wavered.

"I'm a website manager, but I do front-end work, and we needed someone for the back-end, and for an organization like us I very strongly recommend UAR. They work closely with us, are quick to respond, give us excellent guidance, and troubleshoot our problems. They've given us what we needed and at a fee we could afford, much better than what we would have to pay for a DC-based developer (AMIA is in Bethesda, Maryland). In fact, we just had an IT audit by a third-party consultant and they could not believe it. They said to hang on to UAR."

UAR and Drupal

Known for its fluency in PHP, UAR is quite at home with Drupal, an open source content management software with deep capabilities and endless flexibility to provide an engaging web experience for site visitors. Drupal powers content, commerce, and interaction on such high-profile websites as those of Harvard, Tesla, NBC, The Weather Channel, and The White House. Business.com ranked Drupal best content management system for search engine optimization and went on to say, "Drupal is a well-known content management system intended to help advanced designers create a powerful website capable of handling large volumes of visitors and hundreds of pages of content. Drupal is so flexible it can create a simple blog as easily as impressive, interactive business sites. This flexibility makes this CMS a great solution for a growing business with ever-changing website needs."

A proponent of the dynamic web experience Drupal can provide, UAR has taken a strongly supportive role in the Drupal community, one of the larger open source communities, by sponsoring DrupalCorn, an annual Iowa City gathering of Drupal users. DrupalCorn is one of many ways UAR supports both the technical and broader communities in which it does business.



UAR Works Across All Vertical Markets

AMIA is representative of two vertical markets in which UAR has become a proficient and experienced partner—health care and professional associations. “We are excited to continue our timely expansion into the health care field, and professional associations have been a strong sector for us,” observed Ian McKilligan, UAR’s CEO. Of the associations UAR works with he explains, “We don’t need to understand the profession they serve as much as we need to understand the needs of a professional association. We marry our expertise with theirs, and together we provide their members with a state-of-the-art resource.”

AMIA is typical of many of UAR’s small to mid-sized clients who need technical support but whose budget prohibits that support from coming in-house. As it has for AMIA, UAR can scale up or down over time to meet the needs of the organization, essentially becoming a “plug and play” tool for the organization’s technical leader or manager, and as Kim’s testimony supports, a trusted advisor.

About Up and Running

We partner with clients to solve important technical problems by building, implementing, and servicing complex software solutions for customers of any size in any industry.

Started in 1995 while founder Pete Hanson was a sophomore in high school, Up and Running Software began as a technical services firm and evolved into a developer of custom software solutions. Customer happiness and open communication have been the focus since day one, plain and simple, resulting in long-term relationships with any type of client, from non-profits to startups to the Fortune 10. Thanks to this mindset, Up and Running is fortunate to have served an impressive array of clients, including giants such as General Electric (GE), Henry Schein, Sanofi, and Hearst, as well as venture-backed startups at every phase, from formation to growth.

Its over two decades of custom software development, legacy system support, and migrations drive the engines of solutions that thousands of businesses and millions of people rely on daily. That experience has resulted in hands-on depth in most software development stacks, from the command line systems in the back office to ones that gracefully handle any screen size worldwide. A commitment to QA and process improvement drives scalable results, producing long-term software assets with high ROI. Up and Running’s work passes FDA & DEA audits, rolls up global treasury data, manages nuclear assets and railroads, delivers vaccines, and enables neuroscientists and researchers.

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Let us know your preference, and we'll connect you with either a technical architect directly or a non-technical sales representative.