Building Your Rockstar Drupal Team

Drupal is a wise choice for building the sites and apps your organization needs to accomplish business goals, whether it be Sales, Marketing, Customer Experience, Logistics, etc. Drupal is beautiful in its simplicity and has a large community of development support. Nevertheless, it is incredibly robust and takes a full team to make it work. In this booklet, we will cover the essential roles and skills needed to deliver the best results to your organization.

These roles are necessary, regardless of the size of your organization. Large enterprises will likely have one or more people in each role. However, in smaller organizations, you may find that one person covers multiple roles.

Drupal people are some of the best, brightest, and friendliest around.

Without further ado, let's introduce your Rockstar Team:

★ The Site Builder – Bass

★ The Designer – Lead Vocals

★ The Themer – Lead Guitar

★ The Developer – Drums

★ DevOps - Keyboard

★ The Hosting Partner - Manager

Number of 🎸 below each skill indicates level of importance.

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THE SITE BUILDER

This member is the first link in the chain when creating a Drupal site and a core Drupal competency. The Site Builder installs Drupal, configures modules, and lays the groundwork for a site that meets the requirements of the business.

Collaborative

Analytical

Thoughtful

Practical

Adaptive

"The Drummer"

Business Acumen

A full grasp of the needs of the business, and the ability to use that information to produce a suitable tool for the organization.

Thirst for Knowledge

A desire to learn and keep up with a multi-faceted, constantly evolving content management framework is essential.

Web/Web Applications/ Web Servers/Databases

A general understanding of how these items work are required to construct a Drupal site successfully.

Critical Thinking

The Site Builder needs to be able to evaluate, select, configure, and modify modules, especially as business needs change over time.
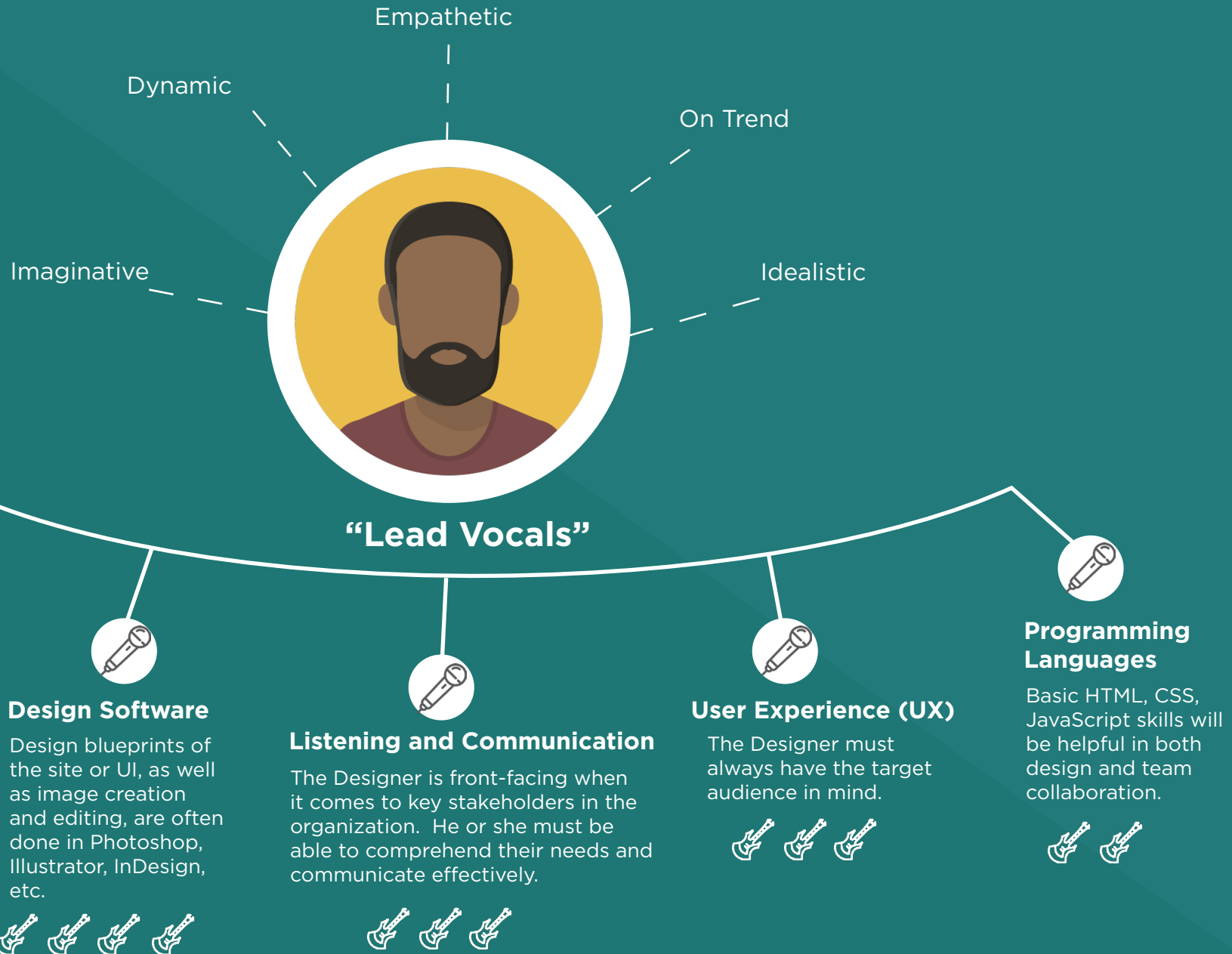
Research

The Site Builder often uses threads/forums and other community documentation in order to best use core and contributed modules to meet site needs.
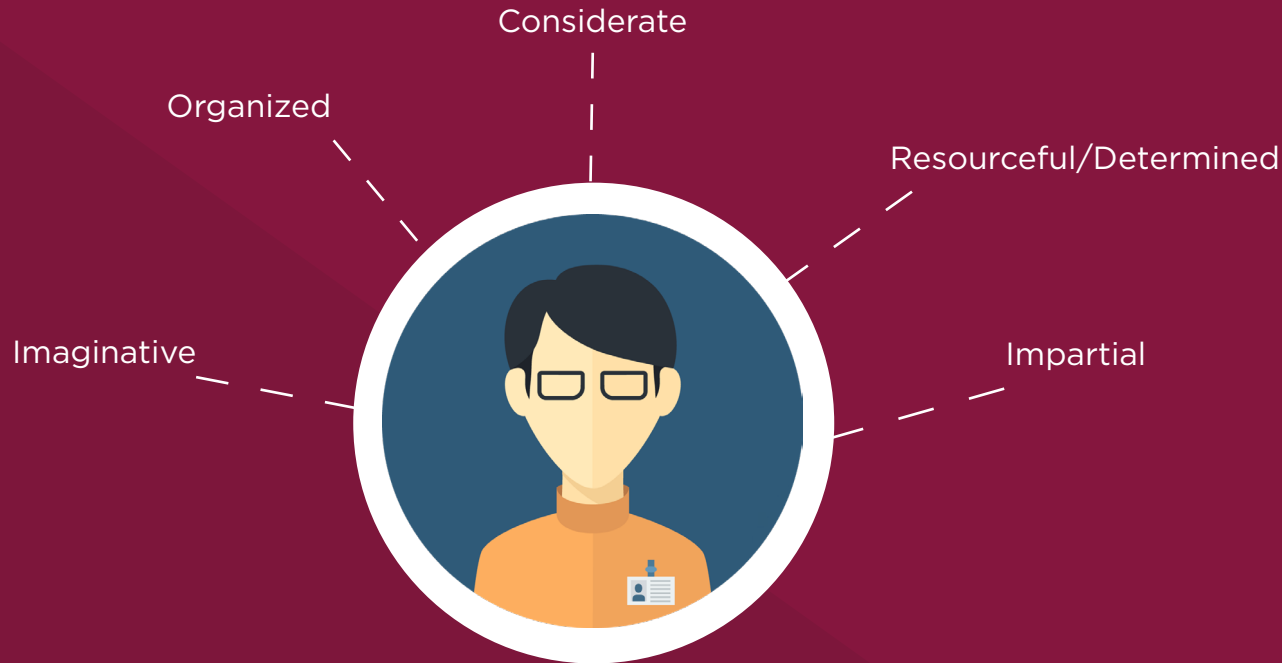
THE DESIGNER

The Designer is responsible for taking the functional needs of an organization and transforming them into a site or application that is beautiful to look at and use.

Empathetic

Dynamic

On Trend

Imaginative

Idealistic

"Lead Vocals"

Visual Design and Branding

Basic concepts of design, applied to the digital elements of site or application design (i.e. – typography and web fonts).

Design Software

Design blueprints of the site or UI, as well as image creation and editing, are often done in Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, etc.

Listening and Communication

The Designer is front-facing when it comes to key stakeholders in the organization. He or she must be able to comprehend their needs and communicate effectively.

User Experience (UX)

The Designer must always have the target audience in mind.

Programming Languages

Basic HTML, CSS, JavaScript skills will be helpful in both design and team collaboration.

THE THEMER

The Themer brings the plans and sketches of The Designer to life, while delivering a pleasurable user experience. This player is a unique mix of form and function. The Themer writes the code that makes a beautifully designed website perform efficiently.

Considerate

Organized

Resourceful/Determined

Imaginative

Impartial

"Lead Guitarist"

Coding Languages and Framework

HTML, CSS, JavaScript are must haves. PHP and YAML are good to know as well.

User Experience (UX)

The Themer should be devoted to UX.

Basic Drupal

Layouts, navigation and lists, images and media, etc.

Advanced Drupal

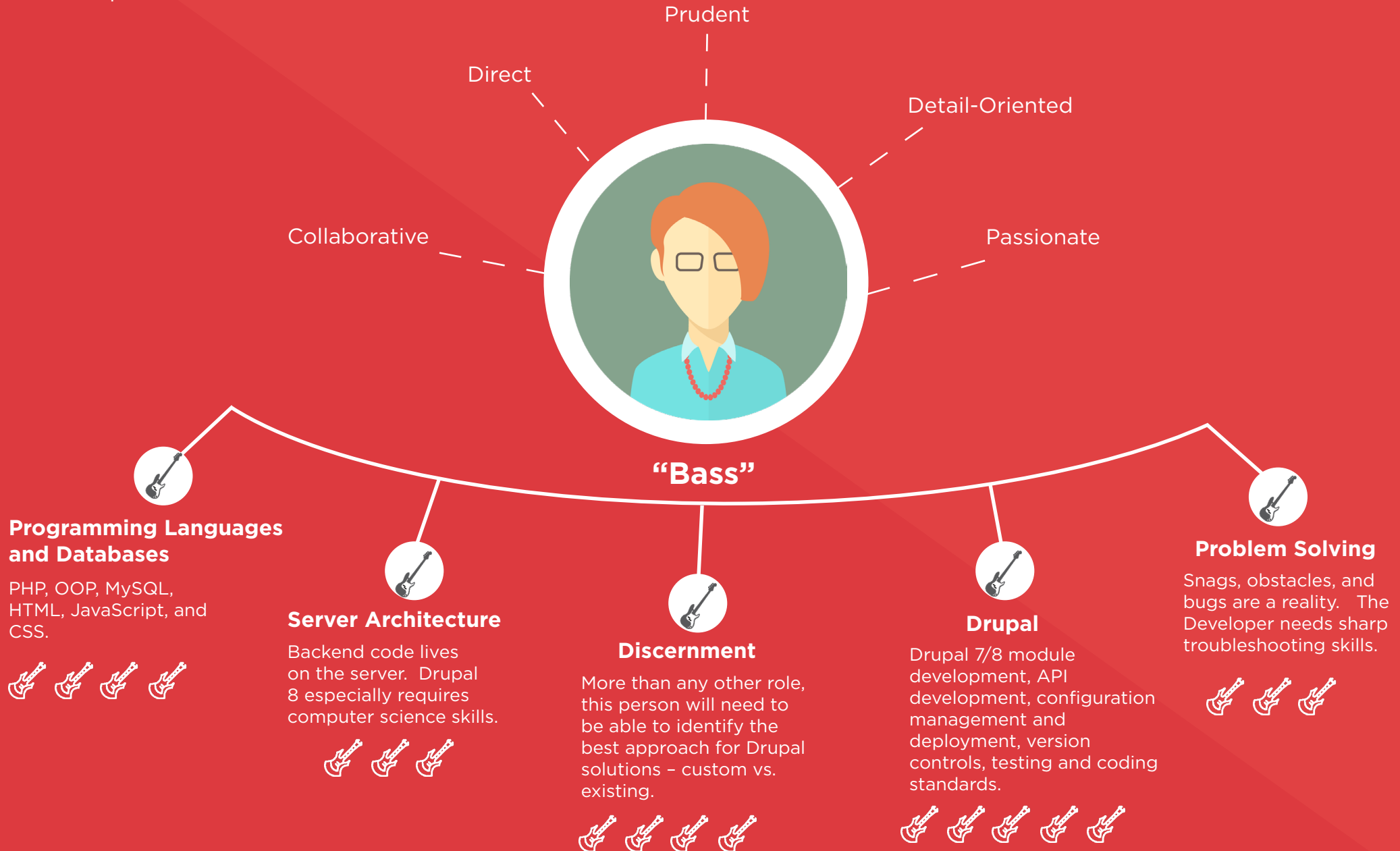Console, coding standards, and version controlling.

Problem Solving

A Themer's job as a front-end-developer spans the entire life of a site across multiple browsers, platforms, and devices. Snags, obstacles, and bugs are a reality.
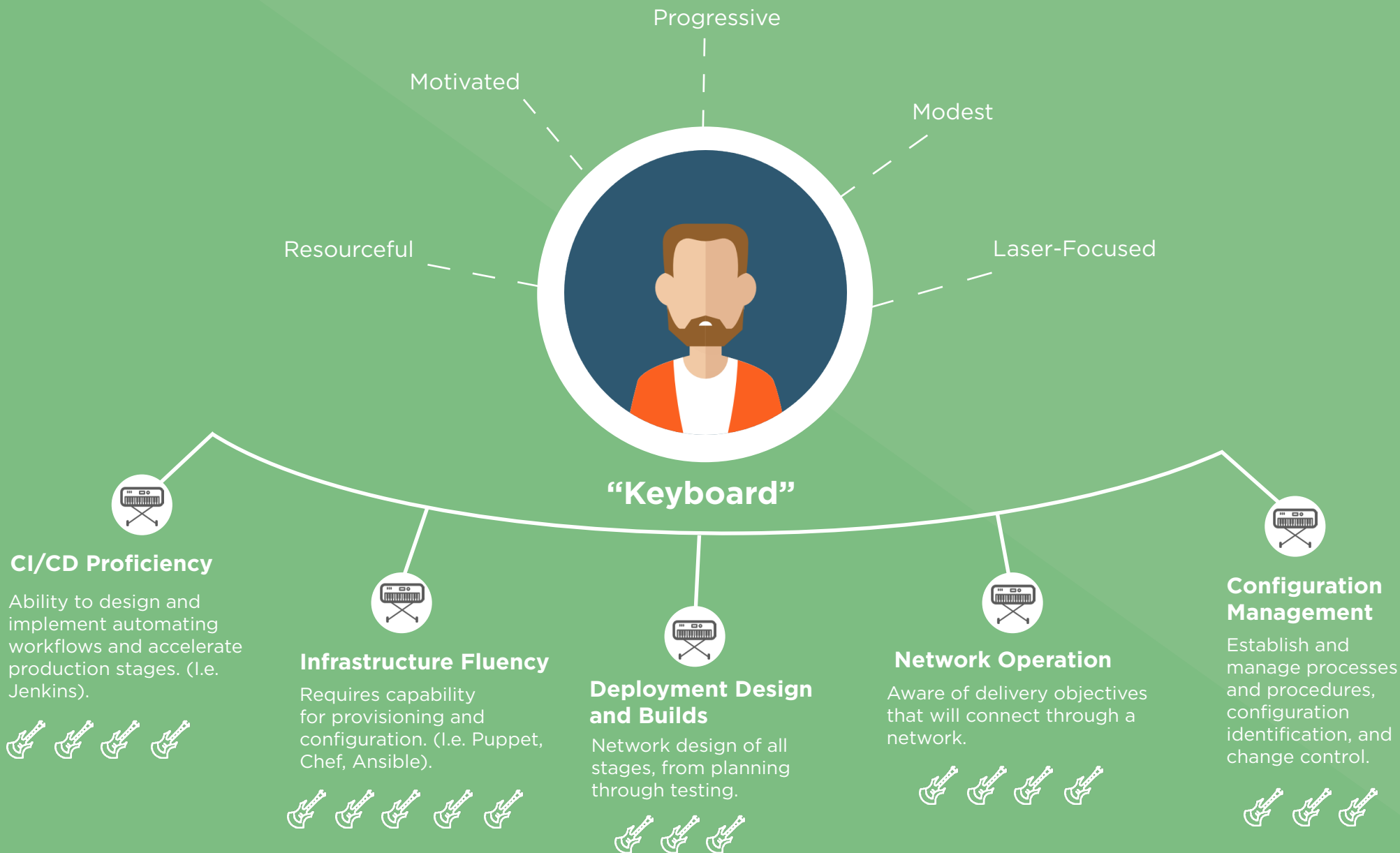
THE DRUPAL DEVELOPER

The Developer writes the code that makes the site or application function. They are also responsible for ensuring speed and performance.

Prudent

Direct

Detail-Oriented

Collaborative

Passionate

"Bass"

Programming Languages and Databases

PHP, OOP, MySQL, HTML, JavaScript, and CSS.

Server Architecture

Backend code lives on the server. Drupal 8 especially requires computer science skills.

Discernment

More than any other role, this person will need to be able to identify the best approach for Drupal solutions – custom vs. existing.

Drupal

Drupal 7/8 module development, API development, configuration management and deployment, version controls, testing and coding standards.

Problem Solving

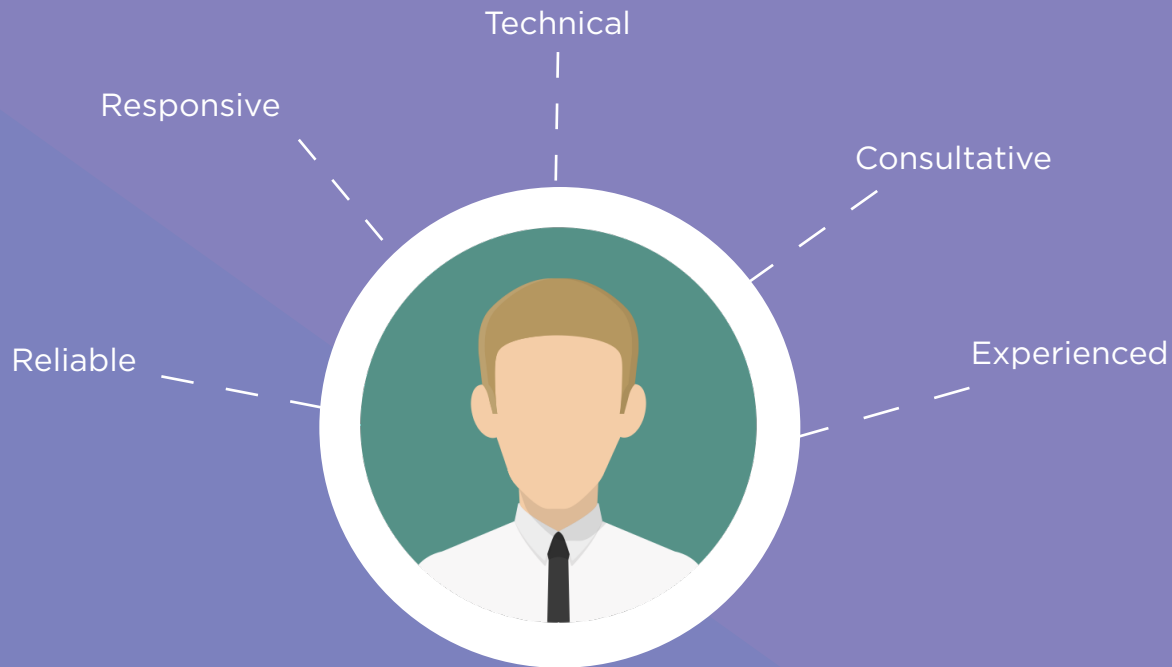Snags, obstacles, and bugs are a reality. The Developer needs sharp troubleshooting skills.

THE DevOps GUY

DevOps represents both technology and culture, increasing collaboration between engineering and operations. The DevOps Guy incorporates concepts from the other roles and manages ideas through each stage of development to production.

Progressive

Motivated

Modest

Resourceful

Laser-Focused

"Keyboard"

CI/CD Proficiency

Ability to design and implement automating workflows and accelerate production stages. (I.e. Jenkins).

Infrastructure Fluency

Requires capability for provisioning and configuration. (I.e. Puppet, Chef, Ansible).

Deployment Design and Builds

Network design of all stages, from planning through testing.

Network Operation

Aware of delivery objectives that will connect through a network.

Configuration Management

Establish and manage processes and procedures, configuration identification, and change control.

THE HOSTING PARTNER

The Hosting Partner lets the band focus on code and content, not the infrastructure. They are backstage ensuring every aspect of your Drupal environment is set up and monitored properly, so **you** are the star.

Technical

Responsive

Consultative

Reliable

Experienced

"The Manager"

Technology Competency

Extensive experience in tuning, scaling, and support for Drupal 7 and higher.

Infrastructure Design Management

Able to support all the way up, from the hardware to the app stack.

Security and Compliance Knowledge

Expert security services and compliance standards are crucial, especially for the government, healthcare, finance, and education industries.

Superior Customer Service

Your Hosting Partner's purpose is to make sure you receive maximum performance with unparalleled service.

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Q&A With a Drupal Expert

One of our Drupal Experts, Ron Johnson, answers all of your pressing Drupal questions in this short video.

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