

Core Publisher without Drupal:

Exploring the De-Coupled CMS

Got me Thinking ...

- Development Seed guys ditch Drupal for the decoupled CMS
- Actually, just flat HTML, lots of JS, and off-loaded the heavy lifting (even the DB!)
- Write about their exploits (seems more suited for one-off sites, not a platform)
- Henri Bergius joins in (inline editing)

Shared Cache

- YACL (yet another cache layer)
- The listener
- Extra custom code (taxo, Views tweaks)
- The featherer
- Two content types inside one
- 3(!) data models
- Accommodating all this at theme layer

But what if?

- NPMRL (NPRJSON?) were the data model for content
- The *only* data model, that is
- Stories are always stored (even locally) as NPRML/JSON
- Your local data store is simply a subset of the API's DB*
- Templating happens where it should -- at the templating layer.

*If you had enough faith in the API+CDN, your "DB" could be just a list of ID's.

A Bigger Problem: Drupal (?)

- PHP/MySQL-based behemoth
- Expensive on front- and back-end
- The same, single product for all CP customers
- Simple tweaks require design and/or SR
- CP treats drupal like a framework, not a CMS
- We're stuck with it -- or go through a painful data migration
- Drupal 8 ?



chx
@chx



Following

Could we just pretend the Drupal 7 upgrade path doesn't exist? Please?

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The De-Coupled CMS

- Thin, swappable layers + outsourced heavy lifting
- Freedom! Portability!
- Multiple points of failure
- At the same time, multiple points of failure
- We've lost our way! It used to be about putting data on a page!
- A return to simplicity

Srsly? ○ RLY?

- We already outsource comments, search, ads
- Why not authentication or sidebars? Or both?
- You (i.e., stations) can pick and choose what to "outsource"*

*Airquotes used b/c outsource vendor could be NPR!

The broad strokes

- A single key/value storage
- Easy pull/push with API
- Your data model (such that it is) is a key matched with a blob of NPRML (actually JSON)
- The rest is up to you!
- Authentication, templating, window dressing, etc.

How easy?

Pull

```
$ids = explode('/', $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']);
$id = (int)array_pop($ids);
if ($id) {
    $key = '<REDACTED>';
    $json = file_get_contents("http://api.npr.org/query?id=$id&dateType=story&output=JSON&apiKey=$key");
    $obj = json_decode($json);
    $doc = (array) $obj->list->story[0];

    $connection = new Mongo(); // connects to localhost:27017
    $collection = $connection->nprapi->stories;
    $collection->insert($doc);
    print 'Inserted story with ID = ' . $doc['id'];
}
else {
    print 'ID not an INT';
}
```

View

```
$ids = explode('/', $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']);
$id = (int)array_pop($ids);
if ($id) {
    $connection = new Mongo();// connects to localhost:27017
    $stories = $connection->nprapi->stories;
    $story = $stories->findOne(array('_id' => (string)$id));
    $grafs = array();
    foreach ($story['textWithHtml']['paragraph'] as $graf) {
        $grafs[] = $graf['$text'];
    }

    require_once './twig/lib/Twig/Autoloader.php';
    Twig_Autoloader::register();
    $loader = new Twig_Loader_Filesystem('./templates');
    $twig = new Twig_Environment($loader);
    $template = $twig->loadTemplate('basic.phtml');
    $params = array(
        'id' => $id,
        'title' => $story['title']['$text'],
        'grafs' => $grafs,
    );
    $template->display($params);
}
else {
    print 'ID not an INT';
}
```

POC Implementation

- Pull down stories (via simple interface)
- Or create new ones in blank (HTML) template
- Store in mongo
- On view, pull out JSON and place in RDFa template
- Include create.js and aloha
- The CMS *is* the page
- On save, new (local) data is pushed to NPR, then stored back in mongo

BINGO!

THE CLOUD!	RESTful API	Backbone	Twig
jQuery	Bootstrap	De-Coupled CMS	VIE
MongoDB	Create.js	Underscore	RDFa
Require	Modernizr	Aloha	PHP!

Harder questions

- Config/display for already outsourced stuff like ads
- Authentication
- Sidebars, and other window dressing

**Or is this just a
challenge?**

Config

- Simple config file that's in github, but human-readable and human-editable (see prose.io).
- Put a simple GUI around a "git pull" command.
- Or just run a cron every 5 mins that pulls changes.
- Or ... lots of ways to do this.

Authentication

- Use google.
- BAM! We're done.

Window dressing

- NPR already has all this data in the API; a service providing CP-style, query-able widgets not a stretch (even for, say, Related Links)
- Or use the human-readable config + a twig template to set stuff like Skybox and Sticky Strip.
- With something like mongo + Twig, you can replicate Views ... at a fraction of the overhead
- Most active. Just outsource to GA -- or a GA parasite service.

Staying Fresh?

- Replicating the listener
- Local copies of national stories could auto-expire every 3 hours
- Better: NPR provides an RSS feed of all recently edited

What else?

- Images? Flickr? Instagram?(JK!)
- Audio? NPR? NPRDS? (Hopefully!)

The delicious irony

- backbone, twig, inline editing, RESTful API, etc. -- these are all part of drupal 8 (already!)
- Though with all the overhead of drupal (but also the GUI)

We've Come Full Circle (Almost)

- Not quite a return to Dreamweaver
- More like a return to CGI, small Perl apps, Mason
- Except the tools are better, swappable, and much more accessible (again, see GH + Prose)
- You can actually store your data as a massive blob -- and get away with it
- Or possibly the ultimate "set and forget" CMS -- just add content and then have faith in the system (see Medium)
- Return to simplicity dovetails nicely with Mobile First, accessibility, lightweight delivery, etc.

Simplicity is the ultimate
sophistication.

- da Vinci

More:

<http://developmentseed.org/blog/2012/07/27/build-cms-free-websites/>

http://bergie.iki.fi/blog/decoupling_content_management/

<http://bergie.iki.fi/blog/category/oscom/>