

1. What is context? Context is `arg(0)` ... or is it?



fig. 1 A block, module, and theme ponder how to react to `arg(0)`

Blind runners problem

- ▶ Block + theme layers are blind to logic occurring in modules

1. node_load() hacks

- ▶ book module
- ▶ php block visibility
- ▶ taxonomy theme

2. URL alias schema

- ▶ themester module
- ▶ section module
- ▶ block visibility

3. \$_REQUEST hacks

- ▶ `arg(n)` (admin theme in `system.module`)
- ▶ `subdomain system ($_SERVER)`
- ▶ `query strings ($gids[]=5)`

4. Master Callback

- ▶ Panels
- ▶ Managing News

5. Session / Hybrid

- ▶ Organic Groups (og.module)
- ▶ og_init()
- ▶ og_theme()
- ▶ og_set_context()

Existing Methods

1. `node_load()`
2. URL alias schema
3. `$_REQUEST` hacks
4. Master Callback
5. Session / Hybrid
6. `i18n`

2. How we got here (Managing News)



fig. 2 Tracking a user's path in Managing News



- FEEDS
- Cyrve
 - drupal.org aggregator
 - Krimson - Drupal architects
 - Moshe Weitzman
 - Second Goose
 - "Dries Buytaert"
 - "DrupalCon Boston"
 - "Raincity Studios"
 - Acquia
 - Drupal
 - Drupal aggregator
 - FeedAPI
 - krimson

Acidfree Albums drupal.org	4:57 pm, Today Drupal
Akismet drupal.org	4:55 pm, Today Drupal
myDrupal	4:55 pm, Today 404
Lightbox not loading	4:54 pm, Today Drupal
Drupal School: SWFTools	4:50 pm, Today theartlab.net
Tests to be written	4:48 pm, Today groups.drupal.org
border cars	4:45 pm, Today georgegabriel.com
Drupal "Code Sprint" at MIT this Friday	4:45 pm, Today Massachusetts Institute of Tec
Advertisement drupal.org	4:44 pm, Today Drupal
Enter Zon Interactive Mandarin Chinese Immersion	4:43 pm, Today enterzon.com/
Drupalcon 2008	4:40 pm, Today feeds.feedburner.com
Drupalcon 2008 [Enter Content Here]	4:40 pm, Today feeds.feedburner.com

Drupal "Code Sprint" at MIT this Friday

The Drupal Association is hosting an all day code and documentation sprint at MIT on Friday March 7. There will be a Drupal booth in Stata on Friday ...

FEED
Drupal on Google Blog (plus 1 other feed)

SOURCE
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

[View story](#) [Go to source](#)

ADD TAG

FEEDS
NEW FEED
BY KEYWORD

- Cyrve ×
- drupal.org aggregator ×
- Krimson - Drupal architects ×
- Moshe Weitzman ×
- Second Goose ×
- "Dries Buytaert" ▶
- "DrupalCon Boston" ▶
- "Raincity Studios" ▶
- Acquia ▶
- Drupal ▶
- Drupal aggregator ▶
- FeedAPI ▶
- krimson ▶

×



Drupal "Code Sprint" at MIT this Friday

Drupal "Code Sprint" at MIT this Friday

CLOSE X

ALL TAGS:

MY TAGS: Add

The Drupal Association is hosting an all day code and documentation sprint at MIT on Friday March 7. There will be a Drupal booth in Stata on Friday and Drupal core developers' available to talk to. This sounds like fun, all you Drupal ...

CONTENT RETRIEVED FROM SOURCE:

The Drupal Association is hosting an all day code and documentation sprint at MIT on Friday March 7. There will be a Drupal booth in Stata on Friday and Drupal core developers' available to talk to. This sounds like fun, all you Drupal junkies should come!

A code sprint is a gathering of a bunch of programmers to complete a short, rapid development project. It allows developers from different countries and companies to work together and learn from each other. Most importantly, it's a fun event where we can make some impressive advances for Drupal.

We're all meeting in a big room, where we'll code and talk smack until we get kicked out. Come chat with long-time Drupalers to learn from their experience.

INFO

Source



Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Published

4:45 pm, Today

Feeds

Drupal on Google Blog Drupal on Bloglines

Keywords

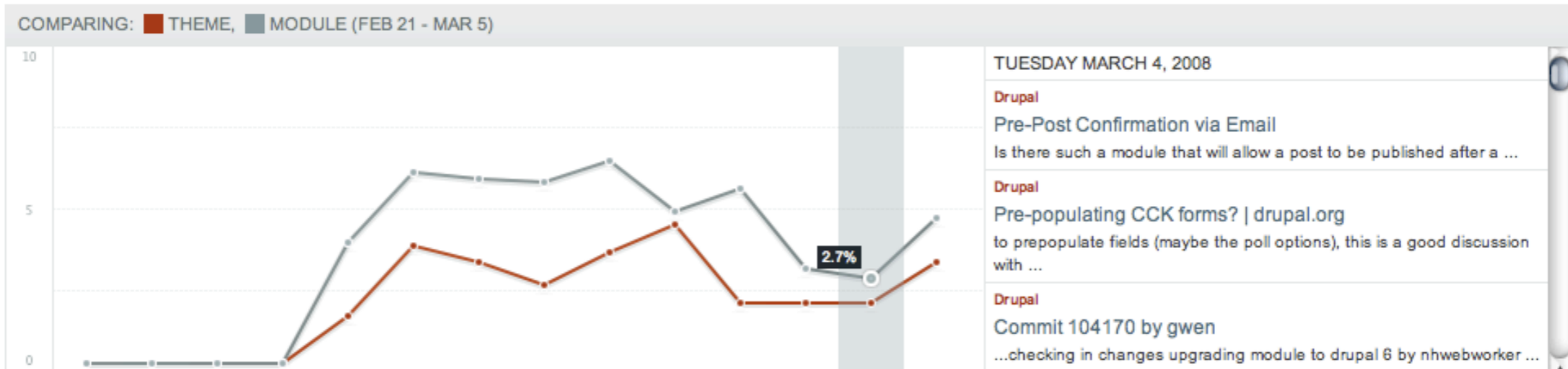
code, core, fun, mit, sprint, stata

Authors

lmayer@MIT.EDU



Trend Tracker Track and compare term trends



TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2008

Drupal
Pre-Post Confirmation via Email
Is there such a module that will allow a post to be published after a ...

Drupal
Pre-populating CCK forms? | drupal.org
to prepopulate fields (maybe the poll options), this is a good discussion with ...

Drupal
Commit 104170 by gwen
...checking in changes upgrading module to drupal 6 by nhwebworker ...

TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2008

1 2 3 4 Line Pie

star	open source	free	wordpress	crew	por	power	das
wars	film	lego star wars	fan	series	manga	guy	class
star wars	theme	sci-fi	fun	tags	cms	sith	una
bass	user	game	software	space	george	fine	games
add	love	drupal	style	community	starwars	yes	small
lego	music video	darth vader	create	code	hope	war	idea
module	force	title sequence	fit	friends	internet	ill	saga
music	startup company	want to	live	cool	content management	run	node

MN: Key actions

- ▶ Drilling down through news
- ▶ Going back to where you were
- ▶ Tagging in a group

Layers of context

- ▶ Group
- ▶ Track / Analyze / Act
- ▶ Feed / Source / Keyword / Date
- ▶ Modes of viewing (screen/print)

-
- ▶ Viewing a Story

The MN Solution

- ▶ Custom master callback
- ▶ Not a generalizable solution

3. Ok, what about my site? (A context tutorial)



fig. 3 A quick + dirty demonstration of context on your site

The IA Problem

- ▶ Drupal's architecture \neq Client's IA

node/43

- ▶ Now what?

Places to set context

Page callback

- ▶ Views
- ▶ Panels
- ▶ hook_nodeapi
- ▶ hook_form_alter

Places to respond to context

Everything else

- ▶ Blocks
- ▶ Menus
- ▶ Theme
- ▶ etc.

Simplicity

fig.1 Set context at key points of page logic

```
context_set('intranet', 'section', 'book');
```

fig.2 Simplified block/theme/menu logic

```
if (context_get('intranet', 'section') == 'book')  
{  
...  
}
```

4. Context Silo'ing



fig. 4 Turning an OG Drupal site into a set of city-states.

Use cases

1. Group working spaces
2. Public facing “sub-sites”
3. Multi-site with shared elements

The problem

Keeping a context alive

One solution

i18n

once user enters “English” language context, they stay there unless they explicitly switch to “Español” language context

What we want

- ▶ User is at:
foo.com/bar/node/43
- ▶ All links keep user in the **bar/** context

The magic hack (Drupal 5)

`custom_url_rewrite()`

http://api.drupal.org/api/function/custom_url_rewrite/5

The magic hack? (Drupal 6)

`custom_url_rewrite_outbound()`

http://api.drupal.org/api/function/custom_url_rewrite_outbound/6

Demo

- ▶ An implementation of context on a groups intranet site

1. What is context? Context is `arg(0)` ... or is it?



fig. 1 A block, module, and theme ponder how to react to `arg(0)`