Ideas for a Modern OCaml Web Portal

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OCaml User Meeting
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I’m a programmer, but have not heard of OCaml

Heard about OCaml, so google’d it

My lab used another functional language

My lab used OCaml

Degrees of Separation from OCaml
The Problem
• OCaml is more mature than its web presence suggests
• There are many OCaml books, blogs, tutorials, and libraries
• But no central portal leading to them
• Content frequently out of date and/or incomplete

The Solution
• Build a modern website
  – dynamic
  – social
  – aesthetic
User Accounts

• Login through OpenID, Facebook, LinkedIn

• Account Profile
  – (opt-in) pull information from linked accounts: Facebook, LinkedIn

• Authorize content modifications

• Map showing where OCaml programmers are based
Email Lists: Hosting and Archiving

- List of lists
  - OCaml List
  - OCaml Beginner's List
  - all project lists from ocamlforge
  - many external lists
- Make searchable
  - text search all lists over all contents
  - selectively search specific lists
  - limit by date, author
- Subscribe by clicking check box on your account page
Libraries: Catalog and Distribution

- Central place to search for libraries
- Libraries are tagged
- Integrate theme and function with rest of website
  - e.g. same login account should be usable to update/add libraries
- User comments and simple ranking
  - like Amazon 🐫antino
  - 1 – 5 camels
- _oasis provides metadata
- Oasis-DB will provide comprehensive repository
  Also pull from github
- List channels library is available from:
  oasis, godi, debian, redhat, etc
Libraries: Online Documentation

- Important for search engines
- Allows links from emails and web content, and cross-references between libraries
- Improve search

**Hoogle**

Welcome to Hooble

Hooble is a Haskell API search engine, which allows you to search many standard Haskell libraries by either function name, or by approximate type signature.

Example searches:
- `map`
- `(a -> b) -> [a] -> [b]`
- `Ord a => [a] -> [a]`
- `Data.Map.insert`

Enter your own search at the top of the page.

- Available for each version of every library
Blog

- planet.ocamlcore.org

Integrate within main website in terms
  - design
  - administration, users can request adding their own blog
  - search

- One main blog on front page with major announcements
- Include in search results
Books

• Several OCaml related books exist but not easy to find
  – http://caml.inria.fr/about/books.en.html lists many but important omissions

• Host in central location with common look and feel
  – of course only applies to free books and
  – with permission of authors

• Optimize for search
  – may require modifying format

• User comments (like Real World Haskell)
Tutorials

- **Pleac**

![PLEAC-Objective CAML Table of Contents]

- Absorb ocaml-tutorial.org
- Users can add their own tutorials easily
  - wiki should be friendly, support ocaml syntax highlighting automatically
- An editor to
  - oversee all content
  - make sure tutorials are organized coherently
  - solicit tutorials from qualified authors
Brand Cohesion

• CAML, Objective Caml, O’Caml, or OCaml?
  – search engines cannot tell these are the same
  – neither can beginners

• URL scheme
  – offer for using existing ocamlforge user account system
  – so is it in ocamlforge account or an ocamlcore account?
Design

- It should look good!
- Inspiration from other sites...
PostgreSQL.org Website Design Contest

Posted on 2009-05-06
Posted by josh@postgresql.org

Are you a web designer? Know someone else who is?

The current design of postgresql.org needs a refresh! We're looking for talented designers interested in re-developing our look. If picked, your design will be the public face the world's most advanced open source database.

To help find a great designer, we've decided to put $2000 on the table.

The first stage of the project is a design mock-up. A panel of PostgreSQL community members will act as judges for a $1000 (US) prize! We want our web design to reflect the care, dedication and excellence of our developers. We've outlined in detail what we're looking for on the Contest Requirements Page.

The second stage of the project is implementation. The winning designer will develop the stylesheets and create any images required, and work with the PostgreSQL Web Team to deploy the new design throughout our infrastructure. An additional $1000 will be awarded to the designer once the new look goes live!
Agile and Scalable

MongoDB (from "humongous") is a scalable, high-performance, open source, document-oriented database. Written in C++, MongoDB features:

- **Document-oriented storage**
  JSON-style documents with dynamic schemas offer simplicity and power.

- **Full Index Support**
  Index on any attribute, just like you're used to.

- **Replication & High Availability**
  Mirror across LANs and WANs for scale and peace of mind.

- **Auto-Sharding**
  Scale horizontally without compromising functionality.

In Production

- Foursquare
- Intuit
- Shutterfly
- More

About

- Use Cases
- Philosophy

Services

- Support, Training & Consulting
Come for the software, stay for the community

Drupal is an open source content management platform powering millions of websites and applications. It’s built, used, and supported by an active and diverse community of people around the world.

Why Choose Drupal?
Use Drupal to build everything from personal blogs to enterprise applications. Thousands of add-on modules and designs let you build any site you can imagine.

Drupal is free, flexible, robust and constantly being improved by hundreds of thousands of passionate people from all over the world. Join us!

Get Started with Drupal

Sites Made with Drupal

IT Dashboard
Drupal is used by some of the biggest sites on the Web, like The Economist, Examiner.com and The White House. Read more Drupal success stories.

Develop with Drupal

9,126 Modules  1,068 Themes  4,811 Code commits
6,706 Developers  6,783 Issue comments

Drupal Core
Security Info
Developer Docs
API Docs

Join the Drupal Association
Help build a successful ecosystem around Drupal.
Flexible & Powerful
That's why we love Perl

Perl is a highly capable, feature-rich programming language with over 23 years of development. More about why we love Perl...

- Learning Perl
  With free online books, over 21,000 extension modules, and a large developer community, there are many ways to learn Perl.

- Documentation
  Core documentation, FAQs and translations.

- CPAN
  The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN) has over 18,000 open source modules available for download.

- The Perl Community
  Perl has an active world wide community with over 300 local groups, mailing lists and support/discussion websites.

- Contribute to Perl
  Perl is being actively developed. There are many ways to get involved.

- Events and Conferences
  Conferences, social and technical events around the world offer lots of networking and learning opportunities.

- Perl 6

- The Perl Foundation
Site/Library/User Statistics
Implementation Technology

• Proposed website is essentially a content-management-system (CMS)
• Leading CMS system is Drupal
  – a PHP based solution
• Ocsigen has momentum
  – and we like Ocaml
• ocamlcore integration will be valuable
  – ocamlcore-api eases integration
  – it uses Ocsigen

• Search solutions
  – lucene, search-servers
• Email searching
  – requires mirroring email lists
Project Management

- Need a small core team to build URL scheme, and
- Write skeleton code covering overall site functionality

- Prioritize functionality
- Willing participants implement the functionality
- Contract professional designer

- Community owns the website