

GRAPHQL & TWIG

SOFT-DECOUPLED DRUPAL



PHILIPP MELAB

- Senior Developer @ Amazee Labs Zurich
- Co-Maintainer of the GraphQL module(s)
- Located in Austria
- pmelab everywhere



INTRO TO GRAPHQL

- Initiated by Facebook
- Language for operations in data graphs
- Implementation agnostic



EXAMPLE QUERY

```
query {
    node:nodeById(id: "1") {
        title:entityLabel
        related:relatedNodes {
            title:entityLabel
        }
    }
}
```



EXAMPLE RESPONSE

```
"node": {
    "title": "Article A",
    "related": [
        { "title": "Article B" },
        { "title": "Article C" }
    ]
}
```



THE NEED FOR DECOUPLING



STANDARD DRUPAL

- 1. Accept request
- 2. Build response
- 3. Push through theme



DECOUPLED DRUPAL

- 1. React on user interaction
- 2. Request data from backend
- 3. *Process the request* (GraphQL)
- 4. Update display



HYPOTHESIS

React is great, but the inversion of control is **crucial**.





- Product development leads
- Technology follows



GOING FULL DECOUPLED?

- Double the amount of knowledge
- Double the amount of errors
- No Drupal forms
- No interface translation
- No other nice everyday features



THE SOLUTION

BABYSTEPS



GRAPHQL IN TWIG



WHAT DO I NEED?

- Composer enabled Drupal 8
 https://github.com/drupal-composer/drupal-project
- The graphql module composer require drupal/graphql
- The graphql_twig module composer require drupal/graphql twig





SUMMARY

- Attach to any Twig template
- Assemble query from includes
- Match theme variables to query arguments
- Works alongside standard Drupal



BENEFITS

- Decoupled workflow
- Vertical Slicing
- Reduced risk
- Future proof



FORMS AND MUTATIONS?

- Drupal forms still intact
- Javascript widgets & GraphQL



PERFORMANCE?

- No HTTP requests involved
- No performance regressions
- Huge potential for improvements



QUERIES IN TEMPLATES? AGAIN?

- Not bound to an implementation
- Controlled environment



ARE WE DECOUPLED?

NOT QUITE THERE YET ...



LANGUAGE BETWEEN FRONTEND AND BACKEND ...





... WITH LOTS OF DRUPALISMS.

```
query {
  nodeQuery(filters: {
    conditions: [{ "field": "field_tags", "value": ["3"]}]
}) {
  entities {
    ... on NodeArticle {
     entityLabel
     body
    }
  }
}
```



SCHEMA DEFINITION LANGUAGE

```
type Query {
  articlesByTag(id: String!): [Article]
}

type Article {
  title: String!
  body: String!
  tags: [String]
}
```



OPTIMIZED SCHEMA

```
query {
  articlesByTag(id: "3") {
   title
   body
   tags
  }
}
```



GRAPHQL SDL

- Contract between frontend and backend
- Consumed by Drupal
- Interface to mix & match existing resolvers



LONG TERM GOAL?

- Full decoupling within Drupal
- Dedicated theme engine
- Frontend-framework for interactive elements



QUESTIONS?

