Using Views Programmatically

Jason Yee - Aten Design Group
jason@atendesigngroup.com

Session URL: http://dcco.us/n/42
Module: http://bit.ly/views_prog

Views

- Most installed module. About 250,000 installs in Drupal 6, and 19,000 in Drupal 7.
- Easily allows you to create lists of information in a friendly interface with Views UI
- But...

Views UI Problems

- Views created in Views UI are stored in the database
- Views trades some functionality in order to achieve its streamlined UI

Problem

Views created through the UI are stored in the Database.
Why should you care?
- Backups - File system backups are easier, faster and can provide better recovery point objectives
- Migration - much easier to update files (patches, version control, etc) than databases
- Version Control - who changed a view and why was it changed? What was changed and when was it changed?
- Speed - views in code save you a database query.

Solution

Move your views into code
- ~~Views Exporter module~~ Chaos Tools Bulk Exporter module
- Create custom modules without writing any code.
- Views Exporter module - Need to add opening <?php tag and, for Drupal 7 update info to core = 7.x

Problem

Views trades some functionality in order to achieve its streamlined UI

Limitations fall into two categories
- Display/format issues
- Data issues

Solution

- Use the Views UI field rewrite functionality
- Use templates to rewrite output

Solution

- Take advantage of Views hooks to manipulate data
- Understanding the life of a view

The Life of a View

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hook_views_query_alter()

- Views' $query object is similar to Drupal's $query object
- Lots of methods, see module to dpm a list or look in views/plugins/views_plugin_query_default.inc

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       hook_query_alter($query obj)
       hook_query_TAG_alter($query obj)
        views_query_views_alter()
     hook_views_post_execute(&$view obj)
$view->render()
   hook/theme_views_pre_render(&$view obj)

hook/theme_views_post_render(&$view obj, &$output str,
   &$cache obj)

hook_views_post_render()

Questions?

Using Views Programmatically

Jason Yee - Aten Design Group
jason@atendesigngroup.com

Session URL: http://dcco.us/n/42
Module: http://bit.ly/views_prog