DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Drupal 8 Content Syndication Plugin
User Guide

Version 1.0

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Document Version History

Version Number	Version Date	Author	Summary of Changes
0.1	01/22/2019	Dayo Akinwande	Initial draft
1.0	01/22/2019	Dayo Akinwande	Initial release
1.1	04/22/2019	Corey Doyle	• Add Caching time indicator • Add description for adding new content types

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this user guide is to help end users understand the Drupal 8 plugin employed to effectively and efficiently provide syndicated content with a system established by the Digital Communications Division (DCD).

2. Background

As part of the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), DCD leads the development, review, and maintenance of HHS web content and presence. The Division established a *syndication* program to promote a cost-effective "Create Once, Use Many Times" concept when sharing public health information. The Syndication system comprises several applications that allows end users—which include members of the general public—to pull content from HHS websites and publish it on their own sites.

The HHS Syndication Storefront (https://digitalmedia.hhs.gov/) is the Department's content syndication portal. **Figure 1** shows a screenshot of the portal's homepage.

Figure 1. HHS Syndication Storefront Homepage

The entire HHS Syndication program is an open-source effort rooted in collaboration across

HHS and the public health community in general. As a result, the source code and information are shared within the HHS GitHub at https://github.com/HHS/syndication.

3. Content Syndication Benefits

Content syndication provides the following benefits:

- **Information Accuracy and Timeliness:** The HHS content is automatically updated in real time.

- **Aesthetic Value and Integration:** Users can present the HHS content with the look and feel of their websites

- **Effective Presentation and Communication:** Users can control which HHS content to use on their websites and where it appears, and they can present it directly to employees through the intranet.

- **Increased Website Engagement:** Visitors stay longer on users' websites due to the content being published there, rather than linking to HHS webpages.

- **Convenience:** Users do not need to reproduce or host the HHS content themselves.

4. Installation and Configuration

4.1 Installation Resource

The Drupal 8 plugin and its installation instructions are available in the subdirectory (https://github.com/HHS/syndication/tree/master/syndication_drupal_8). The installation is similar to any Drupal contribute module.

4.2 Required Configuration Details

To configure the Drupal 8 plugin for a website, the following information will need to be provided:

- **Base API:** https://api.digitalmedia.hhs.gov (Production Syndication API URL)

- **Public URL:** This is the production site URL

- **Private Key:** Unique key

- **Public Key:** Unique key

- **Secret Key:** Unique key

- **Organization Name:** After initial save of the configuration, this drop-down menu will populate from available options in HHS Syndication Storefront. The user must select
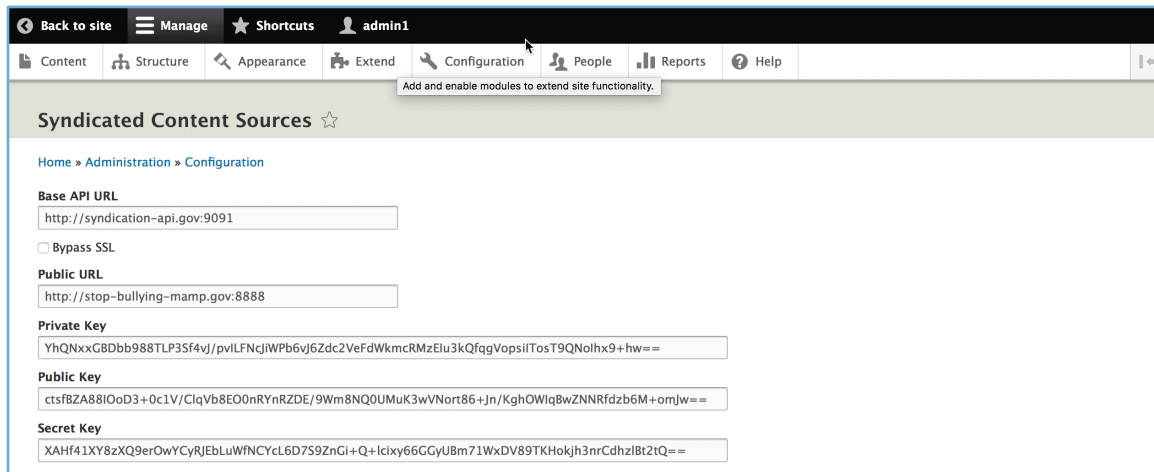
the appropriate organization that matches the keys established for that organization. If there is a mismatch, the syndicated content will not work.

NOTE: *Contact Syndication Administrators at syndicationadmin@hhs.gov for establishing keys (i.e., private, public, and secret) if needed.*

4.3 Configuring the Plugin

Once the module is installed:

1. Click **Administration**
2. Click **Configuration** to go to the **Syndicated Content Sources** page, as shown in **Figure 2**

Figure 2. Syndicated Content Sources Page

3. Enter the information for the URLs and keys (URLs must have .gov domain names for syndication to work)
4. Review the list of content types below the Key information and select the appropriate option from the drop-down menu (This will map the Drupal content types to the supported ones in the HHS Syndication system)
5. Click the **Save configuration** button

The Drupal 8 plugin is now ready to use for content syndication.

5. Features

5.1 Viewing Syndicated Content

The Drupal 8 plugin enables users to have a view of content that is already available to consumers in the Syndication Storefront. This provides an easy location to quickly review content and avoid combing through content piece by piece to determine its status.

After initial installation and configuration, the Drupal administrator can grant access to this view. To set up access:

1. Log in to the Drupal backend as an administrator
2. Click **Structure**
3. Click **Views**
4. Click **Syndicated Content**
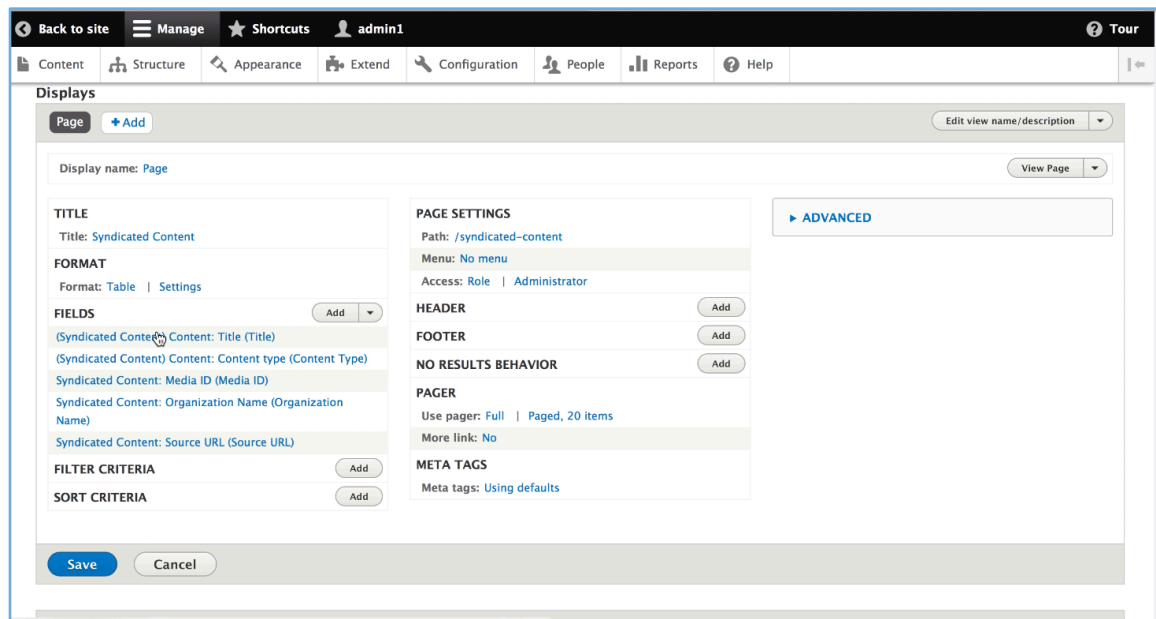5. Click **Edit** to pull up the **Displays** screen, as shown in **Figure 3**

Figure 3. Displays Screen

6. Select "Role" or "Administrator" next to **Access** in the **Page Settings** group to modify the default access setup (**Figure 4**)
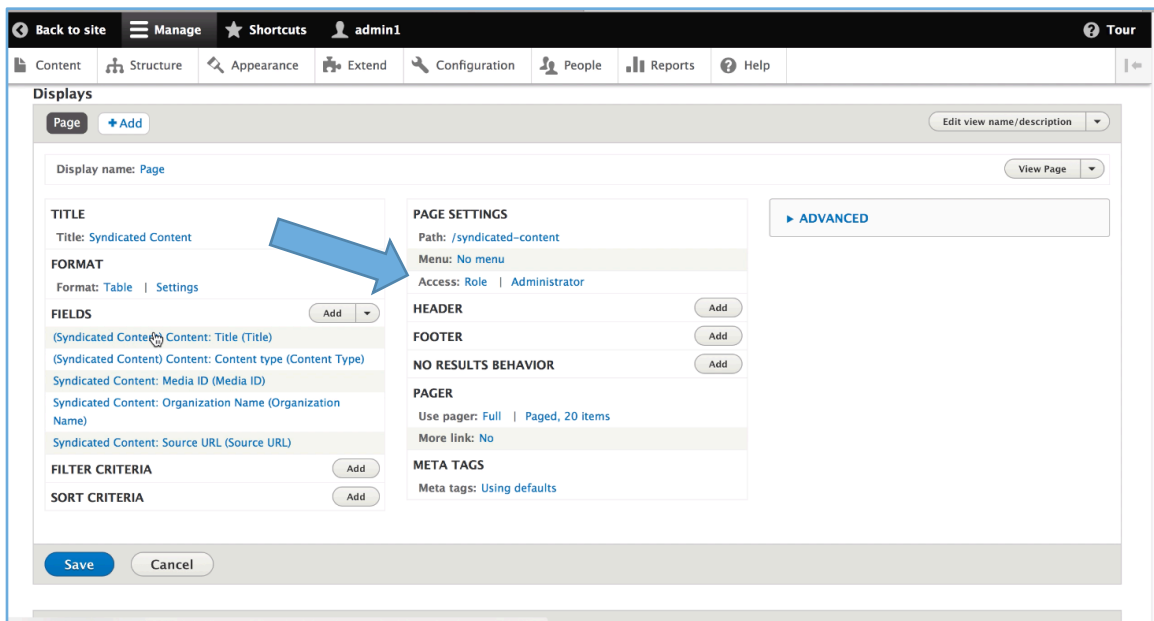
Figure 4. Modifying Access Level

Once permissions are set to the desired state, the *Syndicated Content List* is available to the authorized users. To view the list upon logging in to the Drupal backend:

7. Click **Configuration**
8. Click **Syndicated Content List** in the **Web Services** group, as shown in **Figure 5**
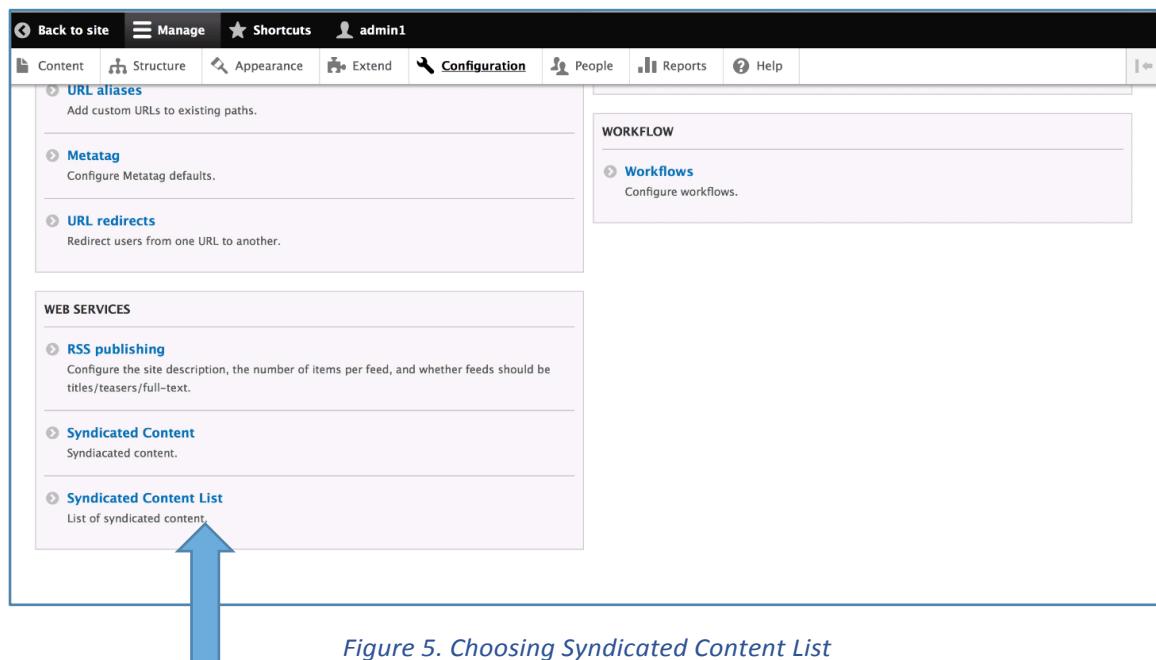

Figure 5. Choosing Syndicated Content List

The list appears in a table format and allows users to sort, select, and review the pieces of content that it comprises.

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5.2 Syndicating Content

5.2.1 Individual Content Syndication

The main purpose of the plugin is to allow syndication of content through the content management system. This feature is the bedrock of the plugin and allows a user to add content to the syndication system after it is created. Below are the instructions for individual content syndication:

1. Click the **Content** tab of the Drupal site
2. Select the desired piece of content to be syndicated
3. Click **Edit** in the **Operations** column
4. Scroll to the bottom of the content edit screen and view the Syndication information section, which should include the following fields:
   a. Syndication Language
   b. Syndication Action
   c. Media ID
   d. Source URL
   e. Last Syndication Sync
   f. Last Published to Syndication
   g. Archive
5. Select "Publish to Syndication" in the **Syndication Action** field (Step 4, Item b)
6. Click the **Save** button

The syndication information fields in **Step 4** is then populated with the details, as shown in **Figure 6**. In addition, the user receives confirmation that the content is now syndicated.

Note: Content is available immediately in the Syndication storefront , but note that it will not appear as the most recent piece of content because of the caching rules for the Storefront. It may take up to 30 minutes for the content to appear as the first item. However, you can validate that it is in the Storefront immediately, by searching for the content within the Storefront.

Figure 6. Populated Syndication Information Fields

The **Body** field of the content must be set to **Full HTML** in the **Text format** drop-down menu in order for the content to syndicate (See **Figure 7**). This option sets the appropriate DIV tags for the content to enable detection from the HHS Syndication system.

Figure 7. Setting Content to Full HTML Text Format

5.2.2 Automatic Syndication by Content Type

The auto-syndicate feature allows a user to automatically make content available through

the Syndication system. The purpose of this feature is to eliminate the need to execute the steps for *individual content syndication* for every piece of content created.

However, this feature syndicates *all* content of a given type. Consequently, automatic syndication should only be used if *all* the content is suitable for syndication. Once enabled for a content type, anything created of that content type from then on will be syndicated.

The auto-syndicate feature can be turned on or off by content type. If the feature is turned off for a content type, no subsequent content of that type will be syndicated. Content that is already syndicated is *not* affected by this feature.

To set up automatic syndication:

1. Click **Administration**
2. Click **Configuration**
3. Click **Syndicated Content** to see content types available on the website displayed beneath the Key information

Figure 8 shows the content types that each have Auto Syndicate check boxes under them.
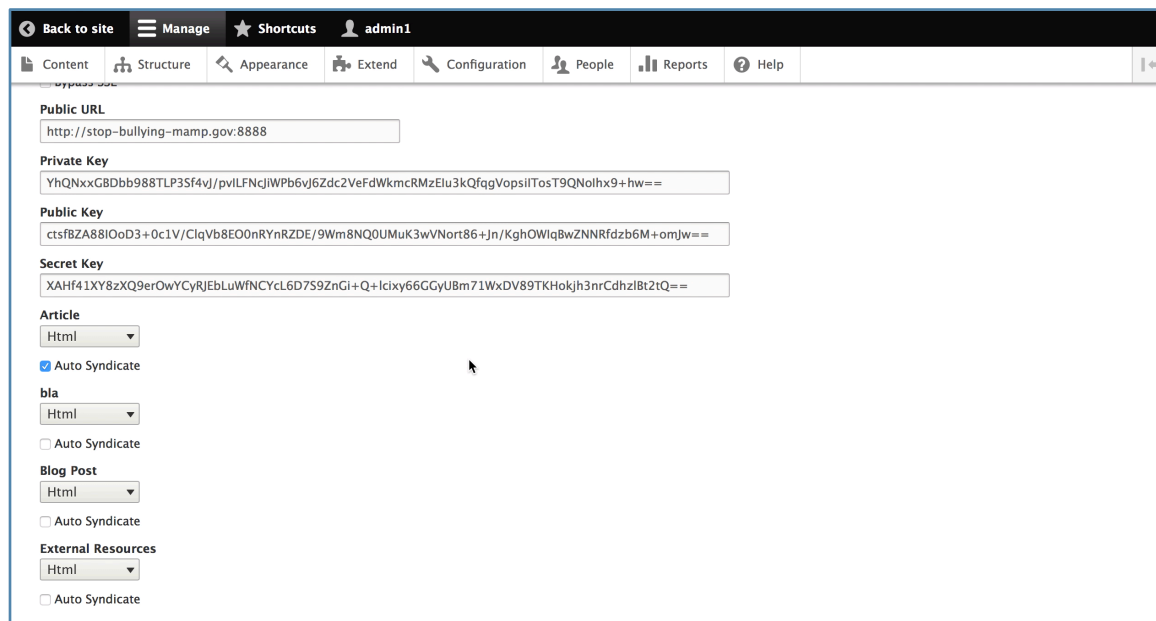

Figure 8. Auto-Syndicate Check Boxes

4. Select the check box beneath the drop-down menu for each content type you want to auto-syndicate
5. Click the **Save configuration** button

The **Auto Syndicate** feature can be switched off by unchecking the corresponding check box and clicking the **Save configuration** button.

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Note: Upon initial installation of the Syndication Plugin, the existing content types from Drupal will be populated and available for Syndication mapping. If new content types are added to Drupal after the initial installation, users will need to go back to the configuration page to set up those new content type(s) and the **Save configuration** button in order for content of that type to be syndicated.

6. Deleting, Archiving, and Unarchiving Content

Content can also be deleted, archived, or unarchived following the same steps and selecting the appropriate option from the drop-down menus.

- **Delete:** This feature removes the content from the syndication system. Delete is intended for removing items that were mistakenly added to syndication. Note that syndication best practice is *not* to delete content that other end users may already have accessed. This will cause issues if that content is already embedded; the website will no longer return any results.

- **Archive:** This feature keeps the content in the system, although it will no longer be available through the Syndication Storefront for user access.

- **Unarchive:** This feature allows users to revert content to an active state and reintroduce it to the Syndication Storefront.

Document Approval

The undersigned acknowledge that they reviewed the "Drupal 8 Content Syndication Plugin" document and agree with the information presented within this document. Changes in the document will be coordinated with, and approved by, the undersigned or their designated representatives.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Role: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Role: _____

Acronym and Abbreviation List

Term	Definition
DCD	Digital Communications Division
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services