**db.etree.org rewrite and etreedb.org reasons and goals**

db is the unique resource for tracking live concert information online. It is not a list of officially released albums and you cannot download from it. It is like a digital version of The Taper’s Compendium. The role db fulfills is that of live concert set list and recordings database. A supporting role is that of helping to disseminate the concerts listed at db. This is done through etreedb.org

A rewrite of db and etreedb is planned because advances in PHP tools such as Zend Framework 2 and Doctrine 2 are forward thinking enough to warrant it. Most websites like db are used internally and have a life span of 10 years. db is now 13 ½ and is a public resource. It is in the interest of db’s long term viability that db be rewritten now. db has taken the lead role of set list database and another website which does what db does is not likely to come around so it falls to us to make it the best resource of it’s kind.

etreedb will be a companion site to db and will track user owned copies of recordings. db’s data has a global reach and it is the intention of etreedb to support db’s role as set list and recordings database. The site will be freely browsable and non-members will be able to contact members and other non-members. If you want to keep your list of music you own at etreedb a fee of $5 / month will go towards a >fund< to pay etreedb and db’s hosting and maintenance costs. If you have a list and cancel your membership you and others will still have access to view your list but you will not be able to add to or edit it. You may at any time switch your list from public to private. Private lists are not displayed on user profile or search results.

Technically db.etree.org and etreedb.org will run on the same code base. This allows them to share database entities and models. The split on the two sites will be done at the first point of entry to the application. Based on the requested URL the db.etree.org Application will be loaded or etreedb.org Application will be loaded. Each application has it’s own routing tables, controllers and layout.

As part of this rewrite the db database will be retired and converted to a new database schema represented with an Entity Relationship Diagram. The conversion of the database will be done in it’s own, 3rd, Application and will not be necessary after a successful conversion.

Separation of concerns is represented by different ERD modules. The db module will not store any user specific supporting information. Rather, just data which is specific to the User entity will be stored. Attendance, Friends, Mail, Feedback, User lists of concerts they own, etc. is stored in the etreedb module.

The new ERD and separation between db and etreedb will allow complete indexing of all db content on Google and other search engines. The current REST and WDDX data sharing protocols will be retired in favor of one more compliant to the standards represented by [www.mashery.com](http://www.mashery.com) Third party API’s may be used such as showing upcoming shows from JamBase for venues. Third party API’s will be a favored approach for extending the data reach beyond the ERD.

A theme based on Twitter Bootstrap will be used throughout the sites. Different layouts mean we can use different Bootstrap configurations for each project. A theme of concert-centric data will drive the design. These are data driven applications and the focus should be on the data and ease of browsing, adding and editing the data.

The data centric goal of db is to have a site which works like Wikipedia with an ever-scrolling list of changes to the data. Time has shown users want correct information and the peer review system in place today shows users do not tend to abuse the privilege of correcting information. This does not hold as true for users entering new information. Therefore it will be a central goal of db’s data integrity design that users may be free to enter any information they please but all information will be audited and displayed in global history pages for all changes across the site with drill-downs to record specific revisions. Any user may view this log and flag entries as erroneous and/or correct any mistakes made by the previous user. Users may flag each others audit records as valid. This is not a structured wiki but simply borrows heavily from the idea of free user editing of data.

Administrative pages will be kept to a minimum because of auditing but any pages specific to administration will be created on an as-needed basis. The permissions structure of db today will be retired and based on data so if a user has permissions to an artist group they have the equivalent of SHN permissions today.

Our data is global and we should make db a global project, open sourcing it under the MIT license. We would still only allow data access through an API so we’re not throwing the baby out. The data of db is a most important resource and help with the code to run it would be appreciated. For example, slashcode is open source but you can’t download the Slashdot data.

Now is a good time to rewrite db. We’re the only one’s that do what we do, and for that reason above all others, we should take it upon ourselves to make db the best for our users today and generations to come.

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