

Grabbit: A Data Migration Tool for AEM

Introduction

Grabbit is a data migration tool that allows quick and efficient transfer of content between AEM instances. It leverages the power of the Java Content Repository (JCR) API in AEM to serialize content into a JSON format, which can then be transferred to the target instance and deserialized back into the JCR format.

Development Background

Grabbit was developed as a content sync solution for one of our clients, with iCiDIGITAL members being the primary contributors. Initial releases of Grabbit proved to be extremely useful for the client, leading to its open-sourcing.

How Grabbit Works

- **Data Streaming:**
 - Grabbit tackles the problem of content sync differently. Instead of high frequency HTTP handshakes (as used by tools like `vlt rcp`), Grabbit creates a stream of data using Protocol Buffers.
 - Adobe mentions that "Grabbit is an open-source content synchronization tool that was developed by Time Warner Cable for their Experience Manager implementation. Because it uses continuous data streams, in comparison to `vlt rcp`, it has a lower latency and claims a speed improvement of two to ten times faster than `vlt rcp`. Grabbit also supports synchronization of delta content only, which allows it to sync changes after an initial migration pass has been completed." ([Source](#))
 - **Monitoring Jobs:**
 - Grabbit allows monitoring of content sync jobs using Spring Batch and its querying features. A job in Grabbit is essentially a Spring Batch Job used to sync one path specified in the Grabbit configuration file.
 - There can be one or more jobs in Grabbit based on the number of paths configured in the configuration file.
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Issues and Maintenance

- **GitHub Issues Page:**
 - Visit [Grabbit GitHub Issues Page](#).
 - **Last Release:**
 - The last release was on August 26, 2018, with version v7.1.5.
 - **Common Issues:**
 - Users commonly face issues with "Unable to find any references to download the packages and didn't find the solid steps for the migration."
 - As per Grabbit documentation, "One-time installation of a system Fragment Bundle is needed. It can be found [here](#)." However, this link is no longer active since Bintray sunsetted on May 1st, and there is not much information about where to find these files.
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Conclusion

Grabbit provides an efficient and effective solution for content synchronization between AEM instances, offering a unique approach through data streaming and robust job monitoring. Despite the lack of recent updates, it remains a valuable tool for AEM content migration.

References

- [Grabbit GitHub Repository](#)
 - [Adobe Experience Manager Migration Guide](#)
 - [Grabbit GitHub Issues](#)
 - [Grabbit Content Sync Solution by Blue Acorn iCi](#)
 - [Protocol Buffers Documentation](#)
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