

Intro to Omeka Plugins

Provide an overview of how plugins in Omeka work, conventions of the Zend Framework that are important, Model-View-Controller pattern, how Zend does MVC

Pedagogically, some might prefer to start with high-level concepts first, some might prefer to start with quick hacks first and build up to the concepts.

Simple Plugin: add text to item pages

Explain how the hook and filter system works in plugins.

Install HookFilterExample

Activities

- Change the text of output based on information in the item
- Use the hook onto the collections show page

Plugin Directory Structure

Explain how views directory structure aligns with public, admin, and common. Explain how subdirectory names align with Controller names Explain how php files in subdirectories align with actionMethod names

ControllerViewExample plugin is designed for this

Activities

- Using ControllerViewExample plugin, build something into indexAction to display in the view.
 - set a variable in the action and echo it in the view
 - set a variable as an array and loop
- Create a new method and the view to go with it

Models

Explain how to use a model, including the modelTable pattern, to dig up and display stored data

ModelExample plugin is designed for this

- Models often consist of a class for the model, which extends Omeka_Record, and a model table, which extends Omeka_Db_Table

Activities

- Switch from using the simple search method to using the findBy() method
- Using the Omeka applyFilters pattern, add another filter for public and change the query in the hook to use that instead of the straightforward one

Omeka's Model-View-Controller structure

Explain how the models, views, and controllers work together

The Omeka_Controller_Action and Zend_Controller_Action Classes

Explain typical use cases for using methods on the superclasses

application/libraries/Omeka/Controller/Action.php
application/libraries/Zend/Controller/Action.php

Pre-made actions

- showAction : show an individual record
- indexAction : forwards to browse
- browseAction : show many records with pagination
- editAction : edit a record
- deleteAction : delete a record

Navigating Omeka's Codebase

Explain likely places to look if you need to know more about how Omeka's functions, classes, and methods work

Underscores in class names usually mean a directory path. So Omeka_Db_Table is found in application/libraries/Omeka/Db/Table.php.

- application/helpers folder
 - if a function with underscores, look around in files here
- application/models folder
 - look here for more about core types: Item, Collection, User, plus *Table classes
- application/libraries/Omeka folder
 - look here for database and record classes
- application/libraries/Zend folder
 - we build off of Zend, so look here when Omeka classes extend off of Zend_* classes

Changes coming in Omeka 2.0 (Fall 2012)

- See [Updating Plugins For Omeka 2.0](#)