iTunes U Feedmanager

Changes towards v2

Overview

The iTunes U Feedmanager has been upgraded to a new version. Apple decided to drop support for the Podcast Producer Server, so this Feedmanager drops support also. From now on, media files are to be rendered manually and then imported via finder and the web app. This also implied a new file structure to store the media files, but the old structure can be migrated to the new one.

Noteable changes

CakePHP

CakePHP has been upgraded to the most recent version from the 2.x branch for security reasons. When migrating, just replace `lib/Cake` with the content from a recent download.

Configuration file

`feedmanager.php`: Some new directives have been added to let the feedmanager know where the files should be stored from now on and from which directory they can be imported. Make sure the user the web server runs under has read and write privileges to those directories. The path to the Podcast Producer Server library (`Pcp.library-path`) is obsolete except for the migration tool, because of which this value will remain there for now.

Migration

There is a migration tool accessible via the CakePHP console. To use it, open a terminal session, navigate to the `app` directory and enter

```
> Console/cake migratepcplib
```

If all paths and access rights were set correctly, this should copy the media files to the new directory in the correct structure. It also updates the database entries to reflect those changes.

This script additionally copies the metadata which was stored in .plist-files in the Podcast Producer Server library to a folder called `oldmetadata` inside the folder containing the regarding item. Those files are being kept „just to be sure", in case some data was forgot in this migration.

Deprecated functions

In the original implementation Feedmanager had to synchronize it's database to the library provided by Podcast Producer Server. This was done by another CakePHP Console script called by `> Console/cake syncpcplib` (which ran regularly using a LaunchDaemon). This is obsolete now, so remember to stop the LaunchDaemon and remove it's plist-file.

For monitoring Feedmanager was connected to the **Xgrid** service which rendered media files for Podcast Producer. This function is also obsolete, the navigation link has been removed. Because of this there's no more need for the Kerberos „keytab" file and related things. Remove them for security reasons.

Usage

Together with the Podcast Producer Server Apple also discontinued Podcast Capture and it's web fronted. Instead of submitting media to a workflow using those tools you have to render the final media formats manually and then copy those files to the directory defined as import folder for Feedmanager. Next you can navigate to „Import items" in the Web interface where all files which have been put into that folder are listed. Now select one or more media files (which represent „Assets" from that moment on) and click next. A form will be shown where you can enter the metadata which used to be entered into Podcast Capture. Clicking „Save" adds a new „Item" to the library which is connected to the selected Assets. It also moves the media files into Feedmanager's library (this may take a couple of seconds, so be patient).

From here on the workflow is the same as before (create a feed, assign items to it, copy the feed url from the list to register it with iTunes U).