

Drupal Feeds



Bill Severe

Special Thanks to Sean Wilson

[QUOTIENT]™

Topics to be discussed

- Using the feeds modules to import/export content to/from Drupal 7 sites, via an XML feed

Topic: Feeds Module

- Pull in contents of XML feed as nodes

The screenshot shows the Drupal website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Get Started, Community, Documentation, Support, Download & Extend, Marketplace, and About. Below this is the Drupal logo and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Download & Extend' and has tabs for Download & Extend Home, Drupal Core, Distributions, Modules, and Themes. The 'Feeds' module page is selected, showing a 'View' button and 'Version control' link. The page content includes a post by 'febraro' on September 21, 2009, at 10:01pm, describing the module's functionality: 'Import or aggregate data as nodes, users, taxonomy terms or simple database records.' A list of features follows: One-off imports and periodic aggregation of content; Import or aggregate RSS/Atom feeds; Import or aggregate CSV files; Import or aggregate OPML files; PubSubHubbub support; Create nodes, users, taxonomy terms or simple database records from import; Extensible to import any other kind of content; Granular mapping of input elements to Drupal content elements; and Exportable configurations. On the right, a 'Maintainers for Feeds' section lists contributors: twistor (276 commits, last: 1 day ago, first: 2 years ago), franz (10 commits, last: 13 weeks ago, first: 1 year ago), febraro (7 commits, last: 1 year ago, first: 1 year ago), kking (2 commits, last: 1 year ago, first: 2 years ago), and Dave Reid (75 commits, last: 1 year ago, first: 2 years ago). A link to 'View all committers' is provided at the bottom.

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Feeds

[View](#) Version control

Posted by [febraro](#) on September 21, 2009 at 10:01pm

Import or aggregate data as nodes, users, taxonomy terms or simple database records.

- One-off imports and periodic aggregation of content
- Import or aggregate RSS/Atom feeds
- Import or aggregate CSV files
- Import or aggregate OPML files
- [PubSubHubbub support](#)
- Create nodes, users, taxonomy terms or [simple database records](#) from import
- Extensible to import any other kind of content
- Granular mapping of input elements to Drupal content elements
- Exportable configurations

Maintainers for Feeds

[twistor](#) - 276 commits
last: 1 day ago, first: 2 years ago

[franz](#) - 10 commits
last: 13 weeks ago, first: 1 year ago

[febraro](#) - 7 commits
last: 1 year ago, first: 1 year ago

[kking](#) - 2 commits
last: 1 year ago, first: 2 years ago

[Dave Reid](#) - 75 commits
last: 1 year ago, first: 2 years ago

[View all committers](#)

What is Feeds useful for?

Examples:

- One-time: migrating content or taxonomy items from one Drupal instance to another
- Creating nodes from a static CSV file's entries
- Providing scheduled content updates from one site to another, our scenario
 - Content is vetted on “exporter site”
 - Once vetted, content is put into an XML feed
 - The XML Feed is ingested by “importer site”
 - new node added/updated on importer site

Exporter-Importer model

Dashboard Content Structure Appearance People Modules Configuration Reports Help

Add content Find content Account settings Performance Recent log messages

National Science Education Standards

View Edit Devel

Resource Type:
Product

Description:
Americans agree that our students urgently need better science education. The National Science Education Standards publication offers a coherent vision of what it means to be scientifically literate, describing what all students should understand and be able to do in science. The volume reflects the principles that learning science is an inquiry-based process, that science in schools should reflect the intellectual traditions of contemporary science, and that all Americans have a role in science education reform.

Author(s):
National Committee on Science Education Standards and Assessment
National Research Council

Author(s) Organizational Affiliation:
Board on Science Education (BOSE)
Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE)

Publication Date:
1996

Month:
March

Year:
1996

Number of Pages:
246

Website URL:
http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=4962

Key Words:
Science as inquiry


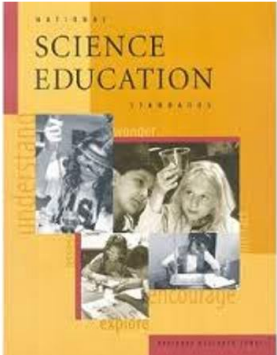
Thumbnail:


Image:


Exporter Site

XML Feed

```
</skill>
<training><p>No training required.</p></training>
<source/>
<added>1356725546</added>
</node>
<node>
  <title>National Science Education Standards</title>
  <topic>Science</topic>
  <authors>
    <author>National Committee on Science Education Standards and Assessment ; National Research Council</author>
  </authors>
  <affiliation>
    <affiliation>Board on Science Education (BOSE); Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE)</affiliation>
  </affiliation>
  <resource-type>Product</resource-type>
  <description>
    <p>Americans agree that our students urgently need better science education. The National Science Education Standards publication offers a coherent vision of what it means to be scientifically literate, describing what all students should understand and be able to do in science. The volume reflects the principles that learning science is an inquiry-based process, that science in schools should reflect the intellectual traditions of contemporary science, and that all Americans have a role in science education reform.</p>
  </description>
  <thumbnail>
```

Home » National Science Education Standards

National Science Education Standards

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Board on Science Education (BOSE)
Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE)

Published:
1996

Keywords:
Science as inquiry, Sciences, Scientific inquiry, Scientific research

Number of Pages:
246

Product Type:
Standards

Target Audience:
Local Program Administrators, Professional Developers, Researchers, State Staff, Teachers

Skill Level:
NRS EFL 1-ABE Beginning Literacy
NRS EFL 2-ABE Beginning Basic Education

Year Published:
[1996](#)

Resource Type:
[Product](#)

Related Topics:
[Science](#)



[View Resource](#)

Importer Site

Modules Needed for Exporter-Importer model

- On Exporter Site
 - Views
 - Views Data Export
- On Importer Site
 - Feeds
 - Feeds XPath Parser
 - Job Scheduler
 - Feeds Tamper!

Steps to implementation Exporter Site

Exporter Site

- Set up Content Type on Exporter Site ex. – Article
- Configure Views Data Export view display of Article nodes (Remember - filter for Published only!)
- Test viewing of the feed URL as an anonymous user

Note: Every time you make a change to the data export view config, remember to clear your cache!!!

Even if you have caching disabled on the view, I have still experienced caching problems.

Steps to implementation Importer Site

Importer Site

- Set up Content Type on Importer Site - ex. Article
- Create feed importer
- Add settings to fetch XML feed via HTTP and create Article Nodes based on it
 - Important Options:
 - Periodic Import
 - Update Existing Nodes
 - Expire Nodes
 - Ignore XPath XML parser settings for now

Steps to implementation

Importer Site – Cont.

Node Processor Mapping

- Fill in XPath parser settings
- Set XPath targets (AKA Node fields) for retrieved data
- Set a field as unique in order that nodes can be updated later – otherwise they get duplicated! ☹
 - Good choice for unique ID – Node ID on exporter site

Steps to implementation

Importer Site – Cont.

At `http(s)://ROOT_URL/import`:

- Input feed URL

XPath Parser settings

- Set context to: `/nodes/node`
- Enumerate XML feed tags (source) to corresponding Node fields (target)
- Click Import and go!

Trouble spots

- Importing data for List fields
 - List options on Exporter and Importer fields should be the same
 - If they change on Exporter site, must be changed manually on Importer site too
 - Can get around this by using taxonomy fields instead of list fields
 - Then exporting and importing via a separate, taxonomy XML feed

Trouble spots cont.

- Multiple List items?
 - Use Feeds Tamper!
 - Explode on item separator
 - Trim whitespace on both sides
 - Ex. value “red, round” gets split into two values, “red” and “round”
- Need to find/replace section of content before it is saved to a node’s field?
 - Use feeds tamper!

Disadvantages of Exporter-Importer model?

- The Feed can get quite large
 - On both exporter and importer sites:
 - update `/etc/my.cnf` - set `max_allowed_packet` to be larger than your feed size, and watch over time
 - Import delays due to feed size: Not such a big issue if both sites are on same internal network
 - Currently 500 nodes in our feed
 - Total feed size: Currently ~1.6 MB
 - Total Time to import: 10 – 20 seconds if very few node changes?
- Tip to reduce feed size: Just set filter on exporter site to only display items modified today in feed

Security Concerns

- DDoS attack on exporter site
- Man in the middle insertion attack on feed

Concerns can be mitigated by Apache directives
– restrict access to feed to certain IPs only,
including IP of importer site

DIY!

- <http://www.ostraining.com/blog/drupal/feeds>
- <http://www.atendesigngroup.com/blog/drupal-imports-using-feeds-module>
- DrupalCon Portland 2013: GET YOUR DATA INTO DRUPAL WITH FEEDS <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isF04Aswf7w>

DIY!

- <https://github.com/bsevere/feedsdemo>
 - This presentation
 - Views_data_exporter configuration
 - Article content type export
 - Article feed importer configuration

Questions?

bsevere4@gmail.com