How to Easily display Your Tweets using XSLT transformation – Script Tutorials

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How to Easily display Twitter posts using XSLT transformation

Today I will tell you how to create application which will display your Tweets (or someone else) at your website. And we will use **XSLT** transformation to parse XML (RSS) provided by Twitter. As example I take my Twitter account. At this page you can see that I have RSS channel: http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/83882961.rss. Today I'll show you how to display this information in any view.

Here are samples and downloadable package:

Live Demo

download in package

Ok, download the source files and lets start coding !

Step 1. PHP

Ok, here are all used PHP files:

index.php

This file will generate list of Twitter posts. All code commented, so I hope it will easy to understand it.

```
04 $sXmlSrc = getTwitterStoriesXml($sMethod);
07 $xml = new DOMDocument;
08 $xml->loadXML($sXmlSrc);
11 $xsl = new DOMDocument;
12 $xsl->load('xslt/twitter.xslt');
14 $proc = new XSLTProcessor;
15 $proc->importStyleSheet($xsl);
17 echo '<link media="all" href="css/styles.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet">';
18 echo $proc->transformToXML($xml);
21 function getTwitterStoriesXml($sUrl) {
23     $sCacheFolder = 'cache/';
26     $sFilename = date('YmdHi').'.xml';
28     if (! file_exists($sCacheFolder.$sFilename)) {
29         $ch = curl_init($sUrl);
30         $fp = fopen($sCacheFolder.$sFilename, 'w');
31         curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_FILE, $fp);
32         curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_HEADER, 0);
33         curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_HTTPHEADER, Array('User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US;
   rv:1.8.1.15) Gecko/20080623 Firefox/2.0.0.15') );
38     return file_get_contents($sCacheFolder.$sFilename);
```

Step 2. CSS

Here are used CSS file. Just few styles for our demo:

css/styles.css

```
2 .tw-unit{background-color:#F3F3F3;border:1px solid #CCC;position:relative;margin:10px;padding:10px}
3 body{background:#eee;font-family:Verdana, Helvetica, Arial, sans-serif;margin:0;padding:0}
4 .main{background:#FFF;width:900px;font-size:80%;border:1px #000 solid;margin:3.5em auto 2em;padding:1em 2em 2em}
```

Step 3. XSLT

And, most interesting part of my story – used XSLT rules:

xslt/twitter.xslt

```
01 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
03     <xsl:template match="channel">
04         <xsl:variable name="channelDescription" select="description"/>
05         <xsl:variable name="authorLink" select="link"/>
06         <xsl:variable name="authorName" select="substring(title, 10)"/>
07         <xsl:variable name="authorNameLength" select="string-length($authorName)+2"/>
11                 <h1><xsl:value-of select="$channelDescription"/></h1>
12                 <xsl:for-each select="item">
16                         <xsl:attribute name="title"><xsl:value-of select="substring(title, $authorNameLength)"/
   ></xsl:attribute>
17                         <xsl:attribute name="href"><xsl:value-of select="link"/></xsl:attribute>
18                         <xsl:value-of select="substring(title, $authorNameLength)"/>
23                     <xsl:attribute name="href">
24                         <xsl:value-of select="$authorLink"/>
26                     <xsl:value-of select="$authorName"/>
29                 <div>Description: <xsl:value-of select="substring(description, $authorNameLength)"/></div>
30                 <div>Source: <xsl:value-of select="*[name()='twitter:source']"/></div>
31                 <div>When: <xsl:value-of select="substring(pubDate, 0, 26)"/></div>
35             <xsl:comment>Copyright © AndrewP</xsl:comment>
```

Step 4. Few important notes

During checking my PHP file you will notice that I perform caching of Twitter requests. I don`t load provided RSS often that once per minute. No need overload Twitter server with often requests 😃

I made 'cache' folder with permission to write (you should create 'cache' folder too).

Also I created .htaccess file in it with next content:

Options -Indexes

Thats all. After this, you will able to load not only my RSS feeds (of 83882961.rss), but also and your own too.

Live Demo

download in package

Conclusion

I hope that today's article will very useful for your projects. Good luck!

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