

MonarchPress Software Design

Green Team

Unequipped Digital Journalism

- ▶ explosion of news media consumption on the internet
- ▶ users' demand has steadily driven need for:
 - ▶ captivating writing and reporting
 - ▶ high-quality digital media and interactive content production

Unequipped Digital Journalism

- ▶ technical training for student journalists has not kept pace with the required skillsets
- ▶ modern university news organizations:
 - ▶ utilize complex digital publishing platforms or content management systems
 - ▶ would like to integrate rich media throughout

Mace and Crown

University student news outlet -

- ▶ interested in delivering relevant and dynamic content to increase engagement among readers in the University community

Mace and Crown

University student news outlet -

- ▶ writers and editors need a product with the features necessary to compete with other news organizations
 - ▶ global, digitally connected information economy
 - ▶ other organizations may have significant budget just for digital media

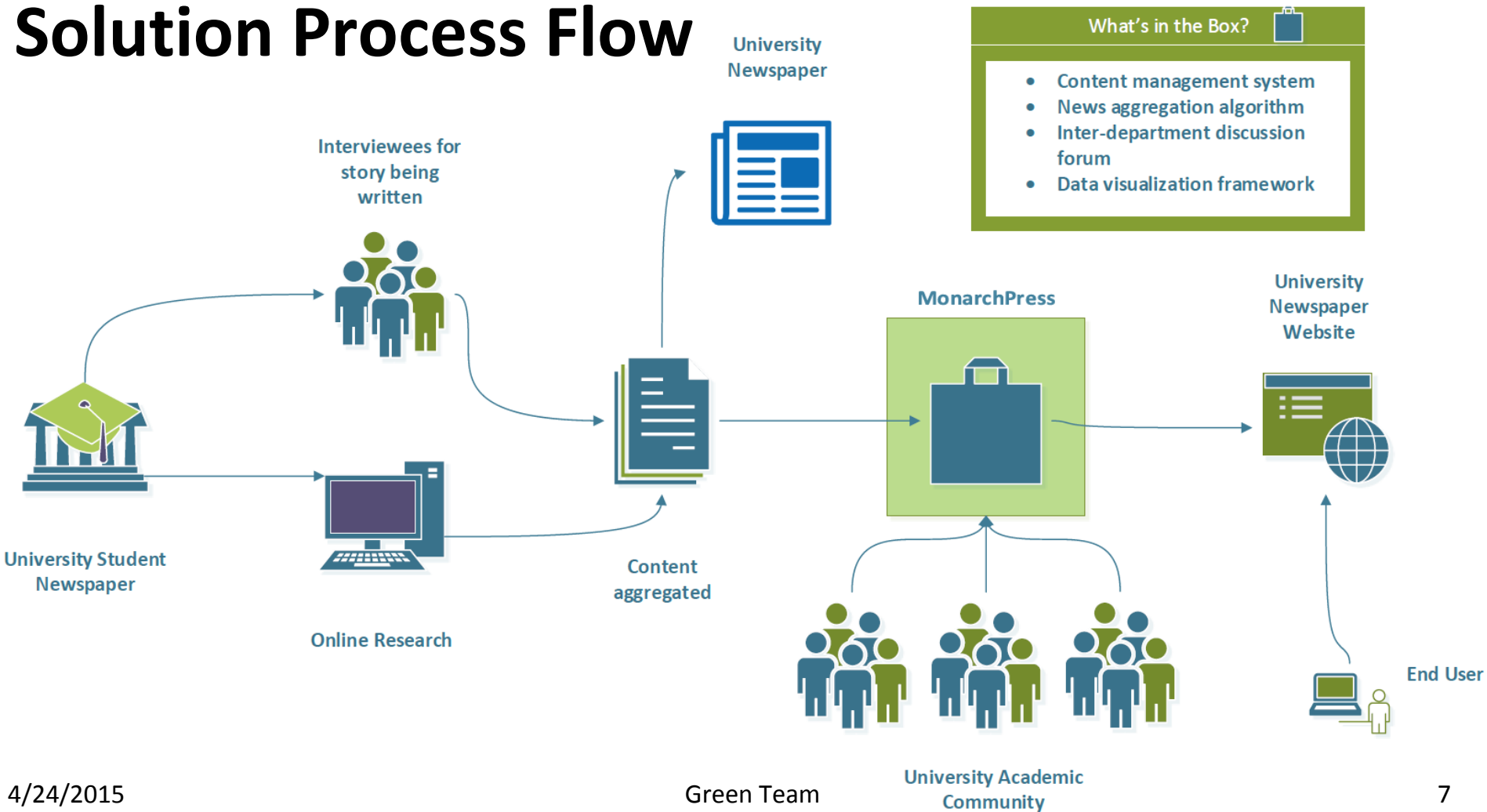
Current Process Flow



What's wrong with the current process?

- No social media content for stories being pushed to the website (whitelisted twitter feeds, guest columnists, reputation based discussion)
- Content isn't visually appealing enough to hold the attention spans of readers
- There isn't an easy to use framework for those contributing to the content on the website

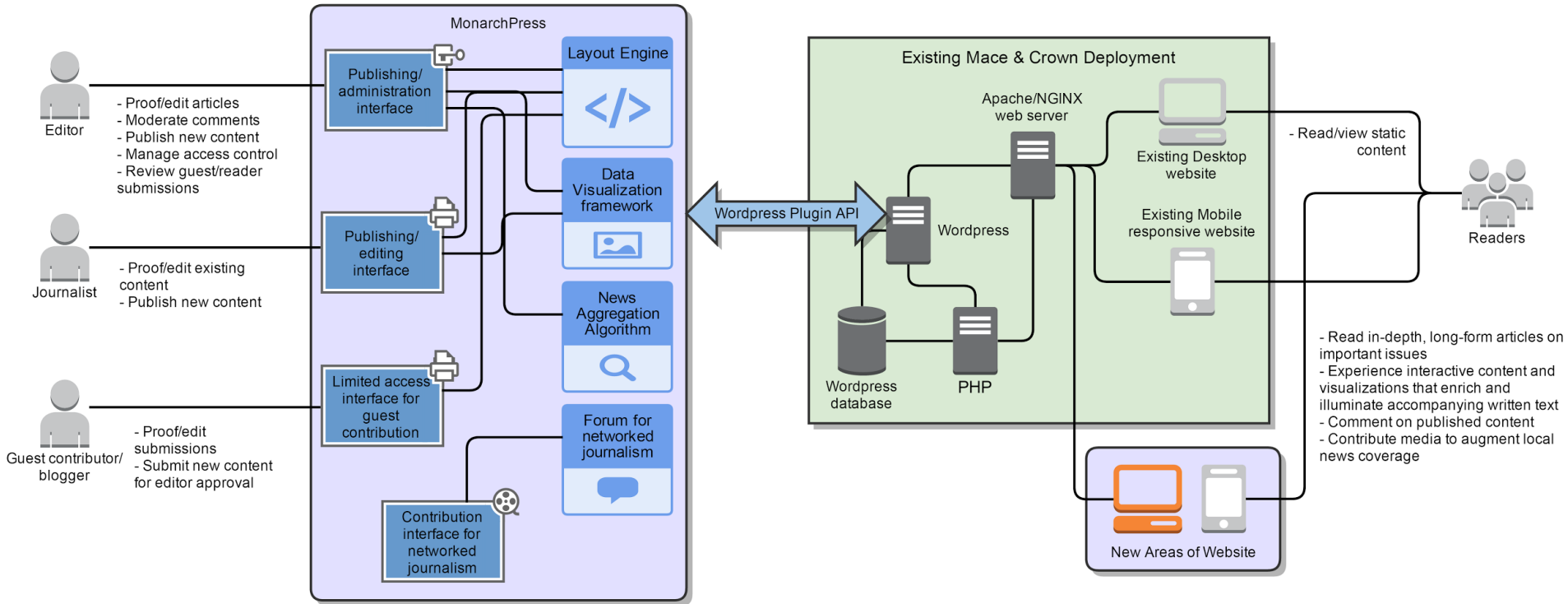
Solution Process Flow



Major Functional Components

- ▶ Existing Mace & Crown Website
 - ▶ Wordpress
- ▶ MonarchPress provides -
 - ▶ Drag and drop editing capabilities for articles, themes, and page templates
 - ▶ Dynamic feeds from social media and trending news headlines from around the internet
 - ▶ Capability to integrate dynamic data visualization, interactive, and media elements
 - ▶ Management features for community interactions and guest contributions

Major Functional Components



Solution Design

- ▶ Open Source Content Management System
 - ▶ Living Documents that will can be changed and dynamically grow
 - ▶ Content aggregation that pulls syndicated new feeds together
 - ▶ Integrate interactive content such as maps and graphs
 - ▶ The readers will be able to interact and be more engaged with the articles

Hardware Requirements

- ▶ 8.7k unique monthly visitors
- ▶ approx. 25k monthly pageviews
- ▶ at current visitor volume - very modest hardware requirements
- ▶ Current shared hosting plan at godaddy.com should be sufficient for at least 3x the current traffic volume^[6]

Software Requirements

- ▶ User Interfaces
 - ▶ Drag & drop editing
 - ▶ Integrate media elements and dynamically aggregated feeds into themes and templates
- ▶ Database
 - ▶ Storage for aesthetic customizations
 - ▶ Local cache for aggregated feeds
 - ▶ User profiles, customization (favorites, notifications, comments)

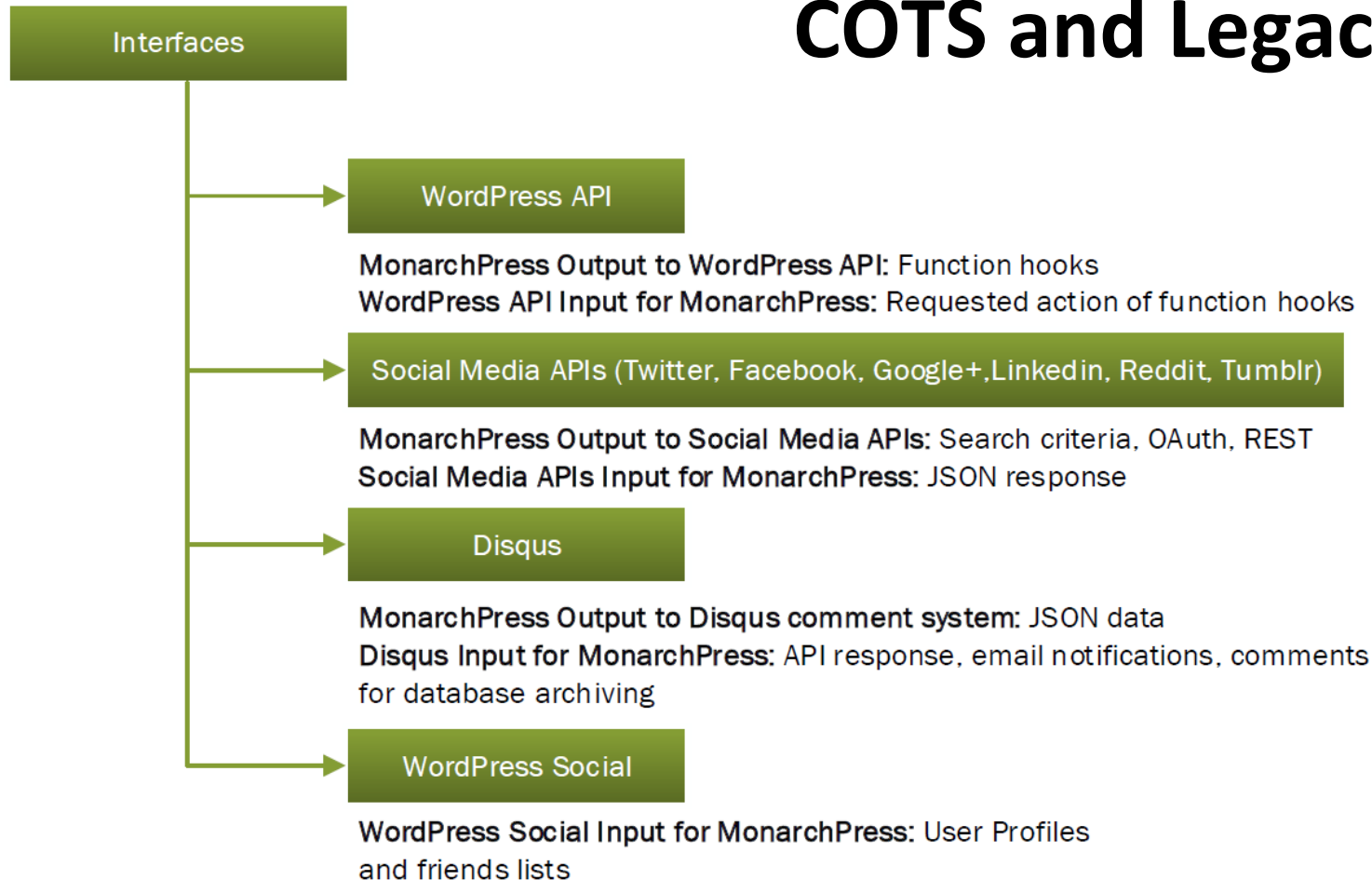
Software Requirements

- ▶ Interfaces
 - ▶ Integrate content stored in Wordpress database
 - ▶ Pull from Twitter API^[3]
 - ▶ OAuth integration and Social Media Sharing^[5]
- ▶ Algorithms
 - ▶ Drag & drop editing
 - ▶ Render media elements and content widgets
 - ▶ Feed aggregation

Software Requirements

- ▶ Wordpress Requirements^[1]
 - ▶ LAMP/LEMP stack
 - ▶ Linux
 - ▶ Apache or Nginx
 - ▶ MySQL (ver 5.0+)
 - ▶ PHP (ver 5.2.4+)
 - ▶ Managed (shared) hosting at GoDaddy.com

COTS and Legacy Systems

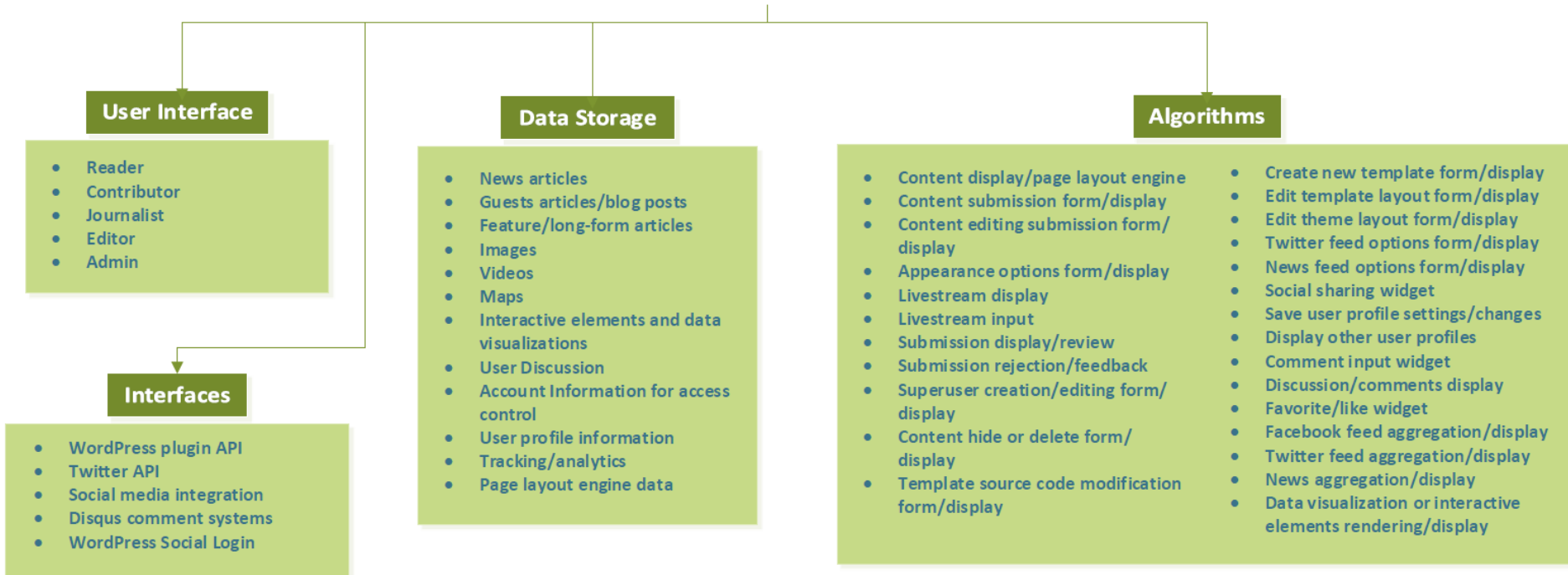


Agile Development Process^[2]

- ▶ Adapt to change
- ▶ Iterative development
- ▶ Customer feedback
- ▶ Prioritize product features
- ▶ Maximize collaboration by embracing each other's experiences

Work Breakdown

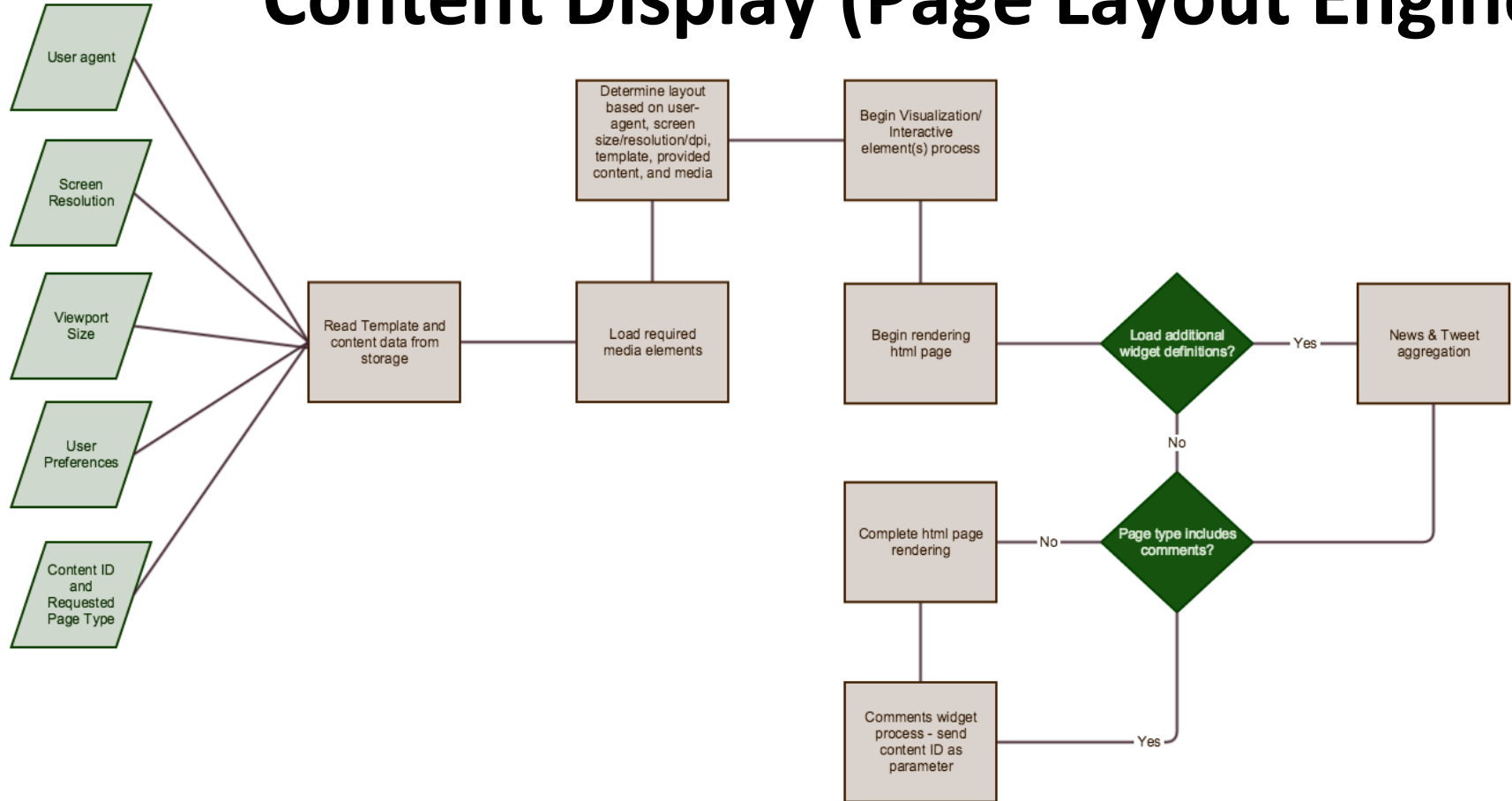
MonarchPress



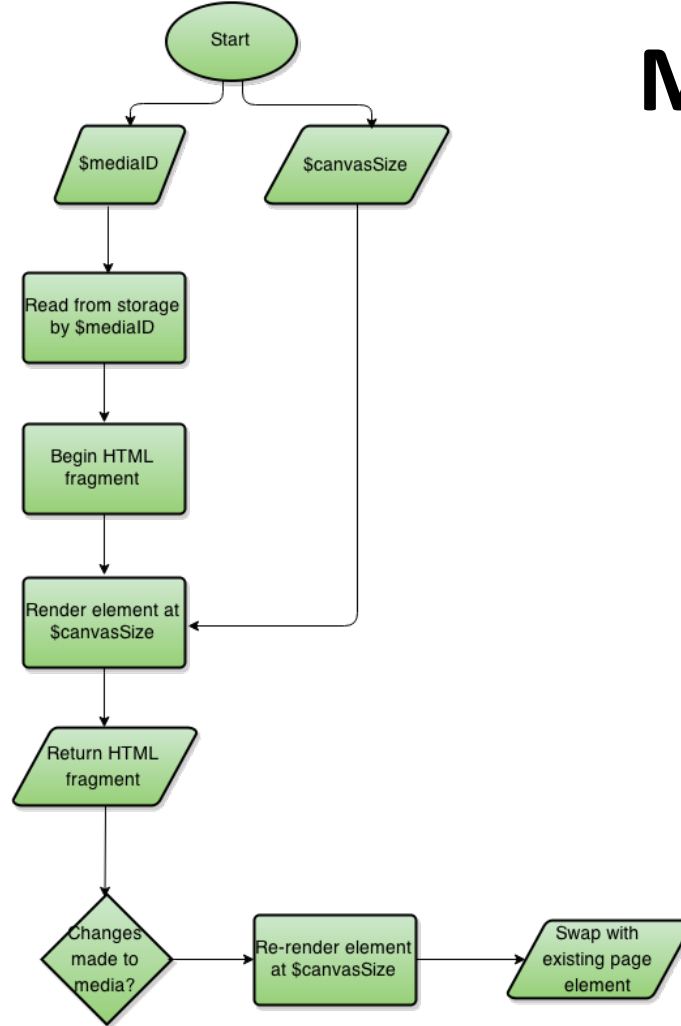
Reader stories

- ▶ View M&C content
 - ▶ Images and video
 - ▶ Interactive and data visualization elements
- ▶ Receive notifications about “favorite” content
- ▶ Social media sharing
- ▶ Discussion/comments
- ▶ User profiles
 - ▶ Contact information
 - ▶ Favorites

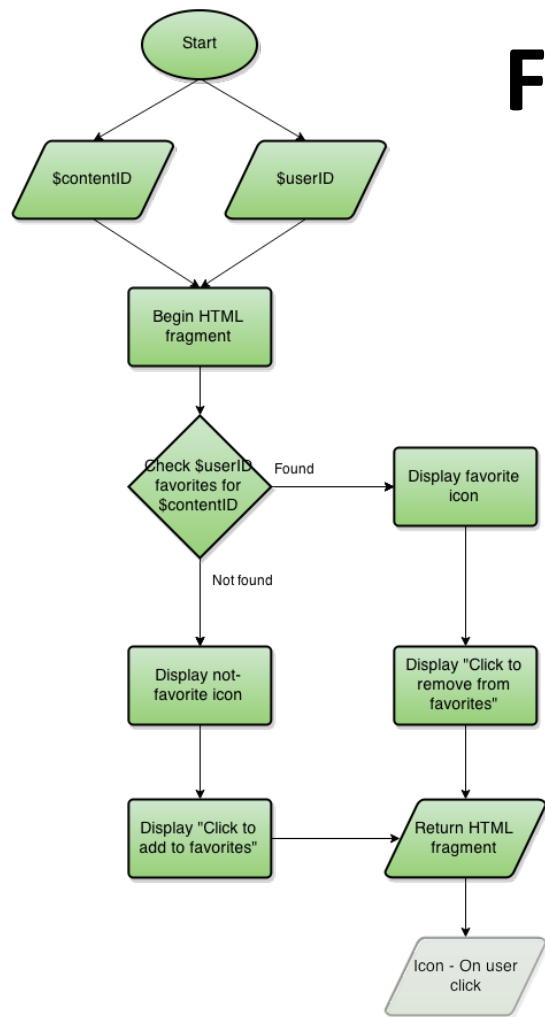
Content Display (Page Layout Engine)



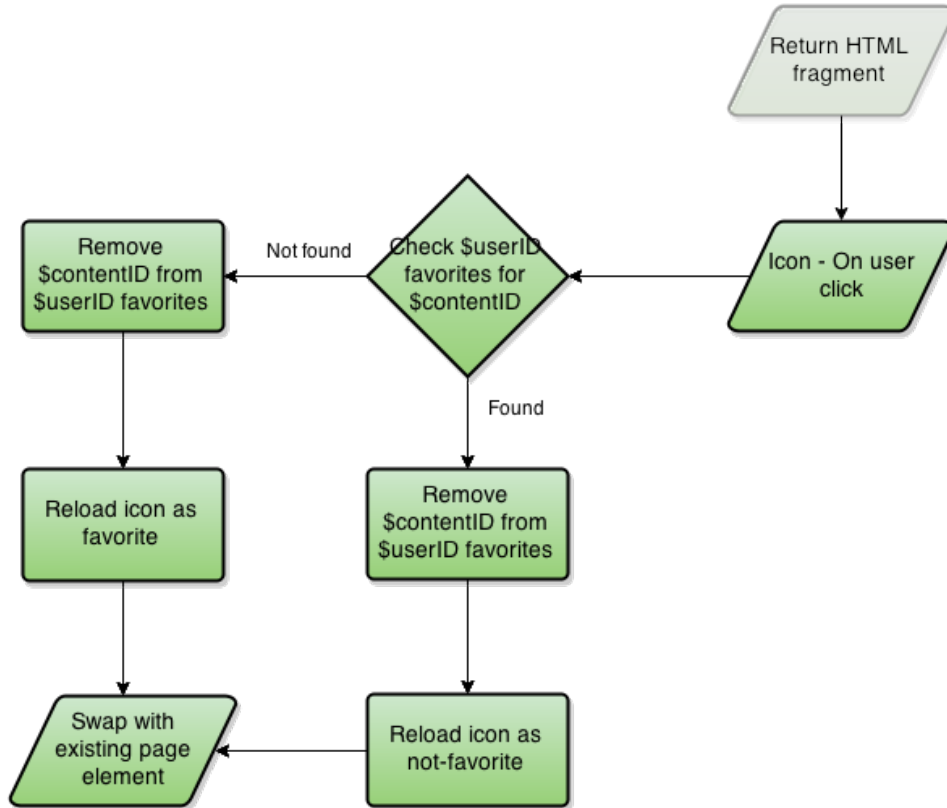
Media Element Display



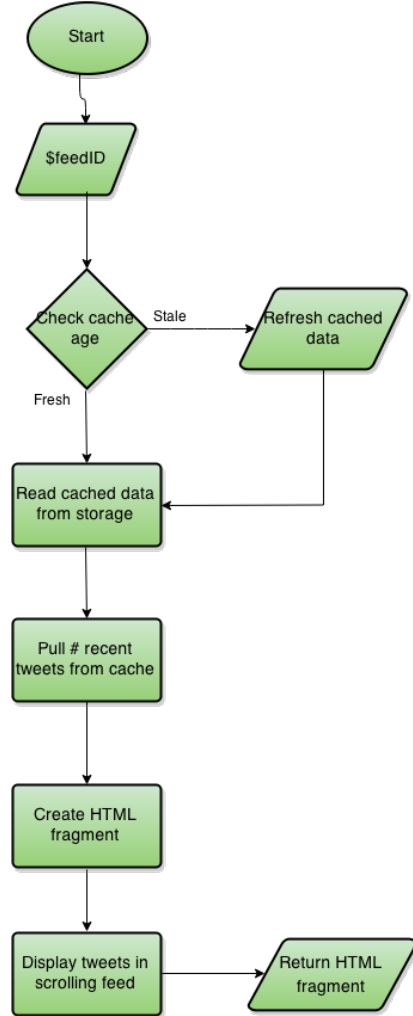
Favorite / Notification Widget



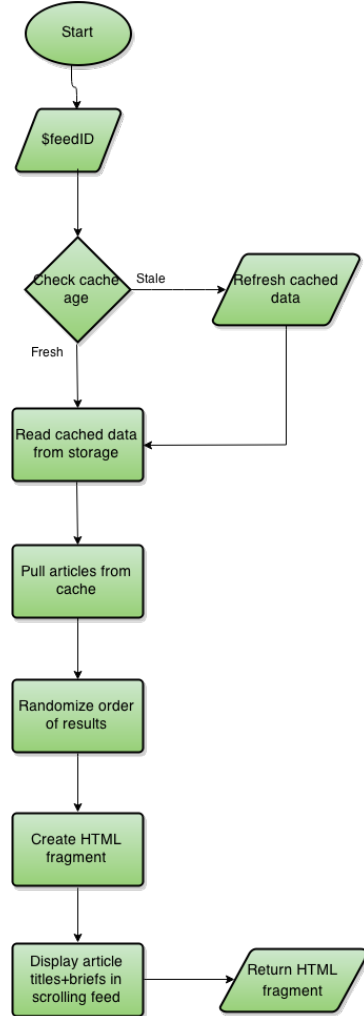
Favorite / Notification Widget (cont.)



Twitter Feed Display



News Feed Display



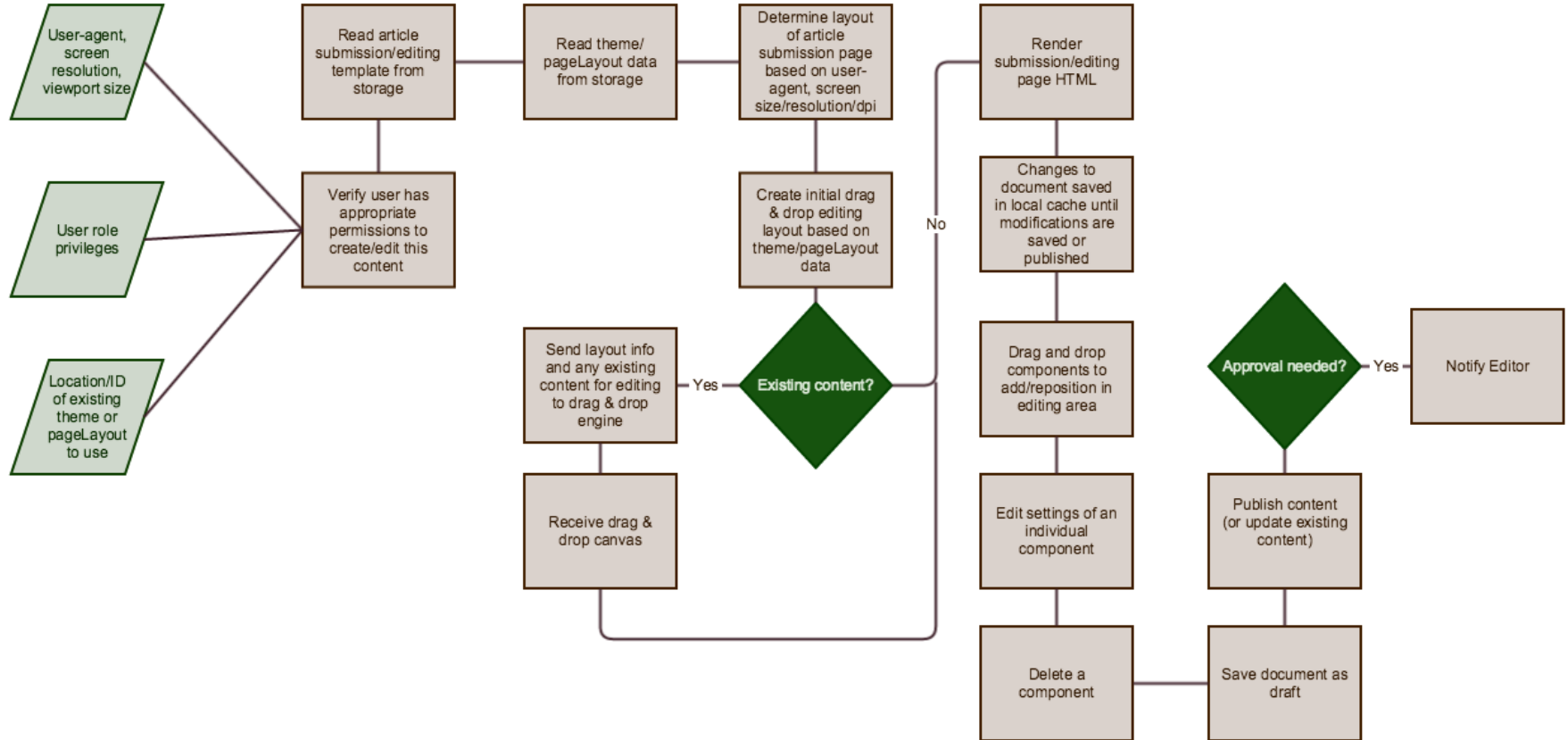
Contributor

- ▶ Everything a reader can do
- ▶ Post new Blog/Guest Article
- ▶ Edit and submit revisions for existing content
- ▶ Post to curated Twitter feed by using a pre-determined hashtag

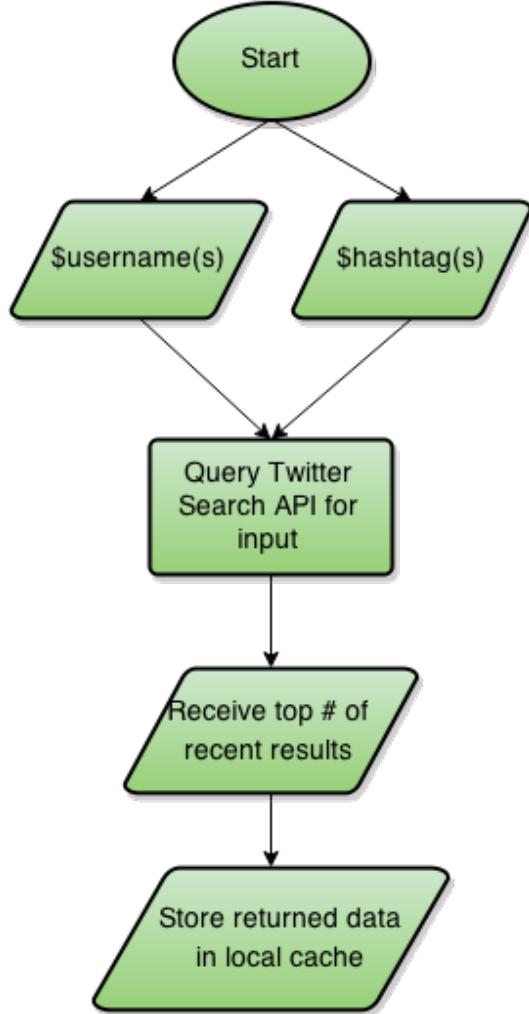
Journalist

- ▶ Everything that either a reader or contributor can do
- ▶ Create new content items
 - ▶ Including news articles or ongoing (“living”) documents
 - ▶ Modify appearance of approved template elements
- ▶ Edit and submit revisions to drafts and published items

Content Editing



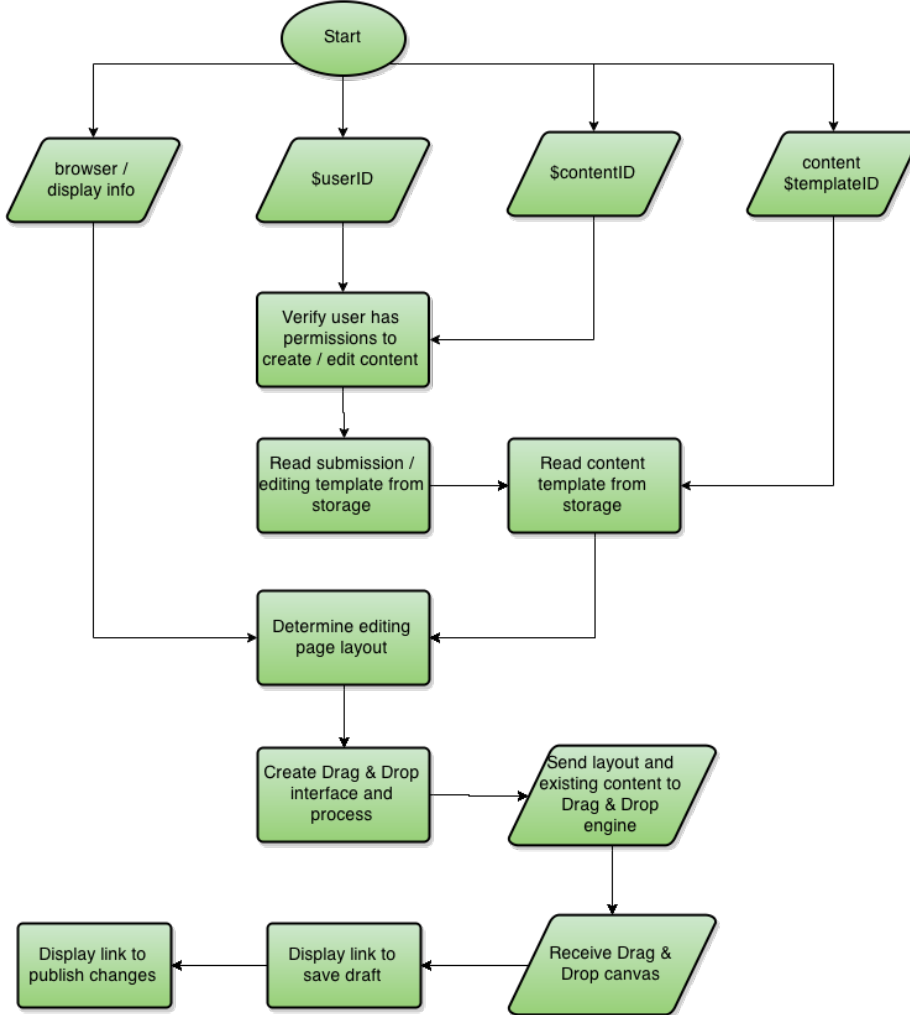
Twitter Feed Aggregation



Editor

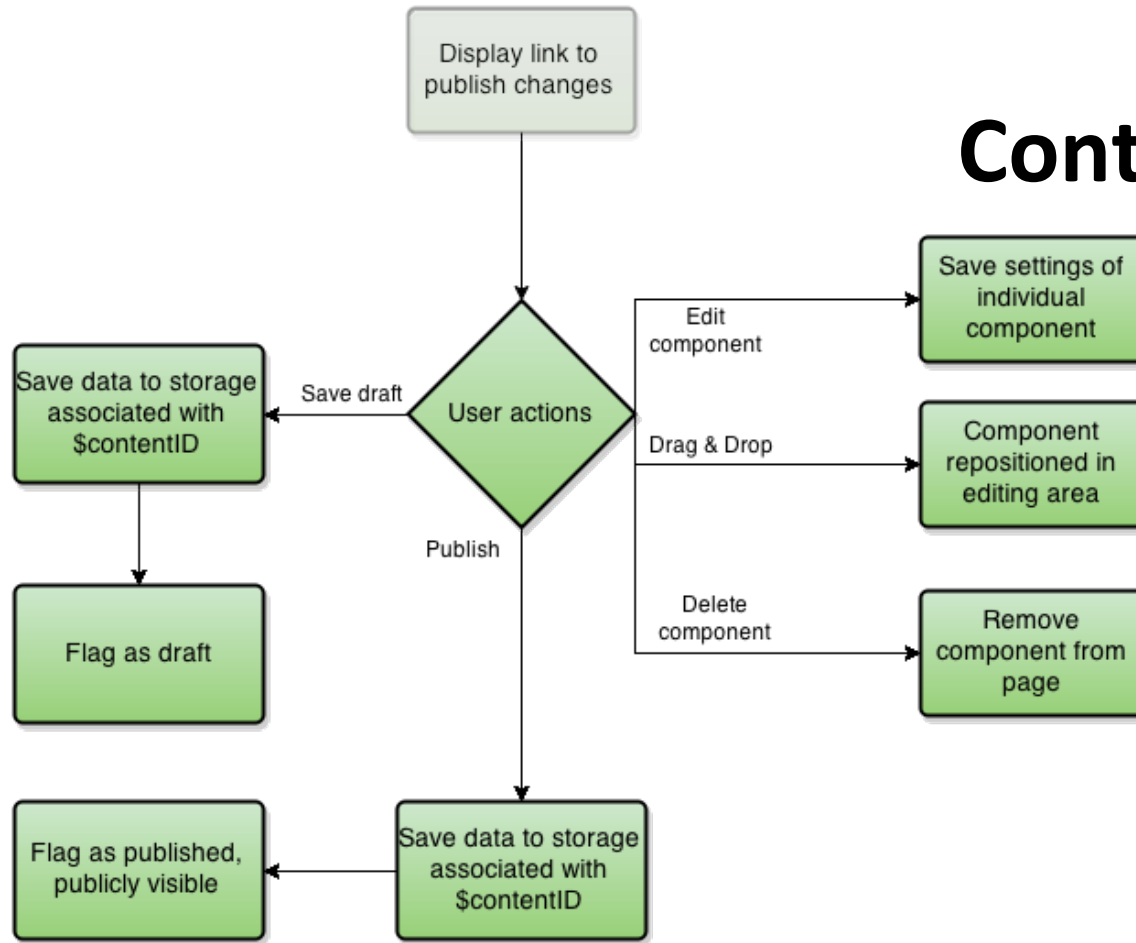
- ▶ Everything a journalist, contributor, or reader can do
- ▶ Drag and drop page builder
 - ▶ Create or modify:
 - ▶ site theme
 - ▶ individual page templates
 - ▶ View/Edit template source code
- ▶ Create new content or delete/hide existing content
- ▶ Approve or reject content submissions
- ▶ News aggregation using specific tags and keywords
- ▶ Twitter feed using whitelisted users and hashtags

Superuser Content Editing

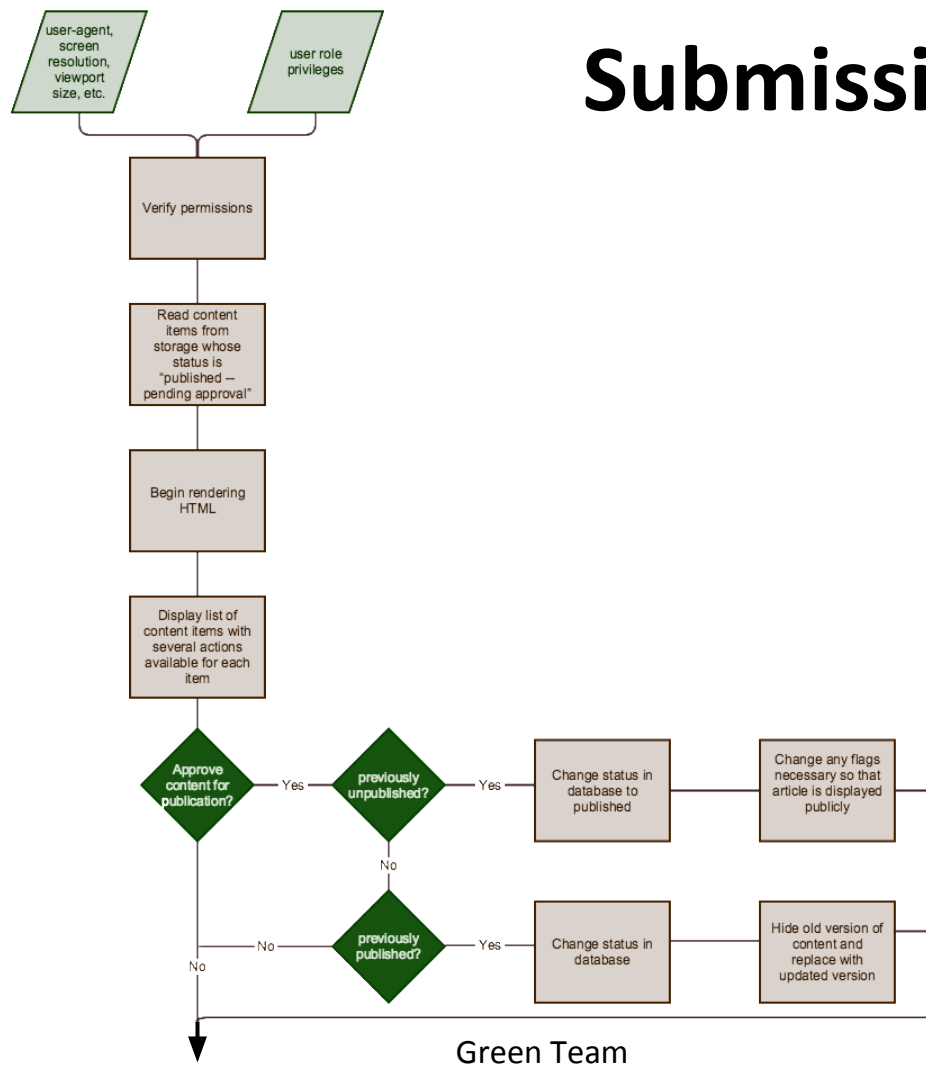


Superuser

Content Editing (cont.)

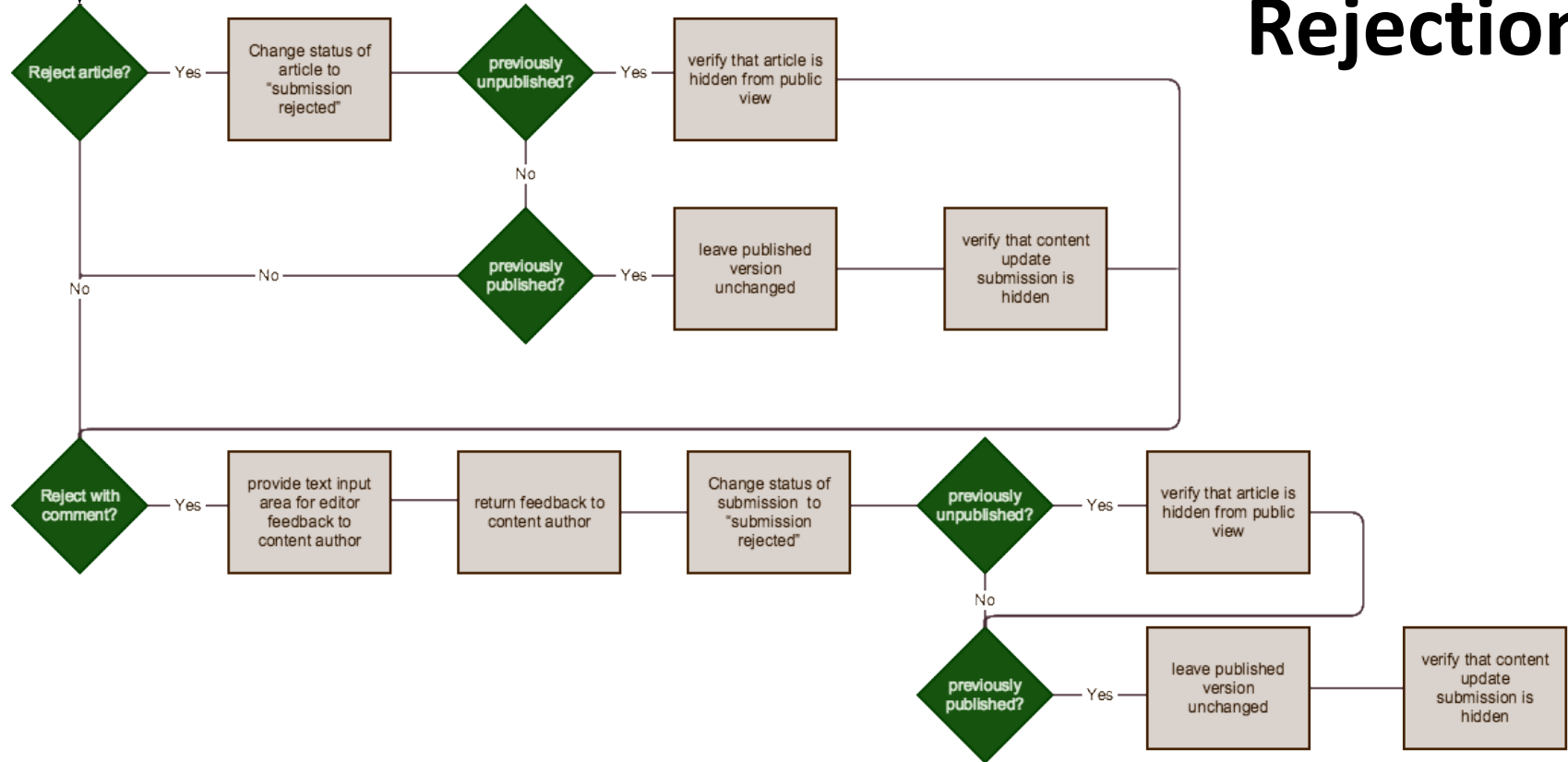


Submission Approval / Rejection

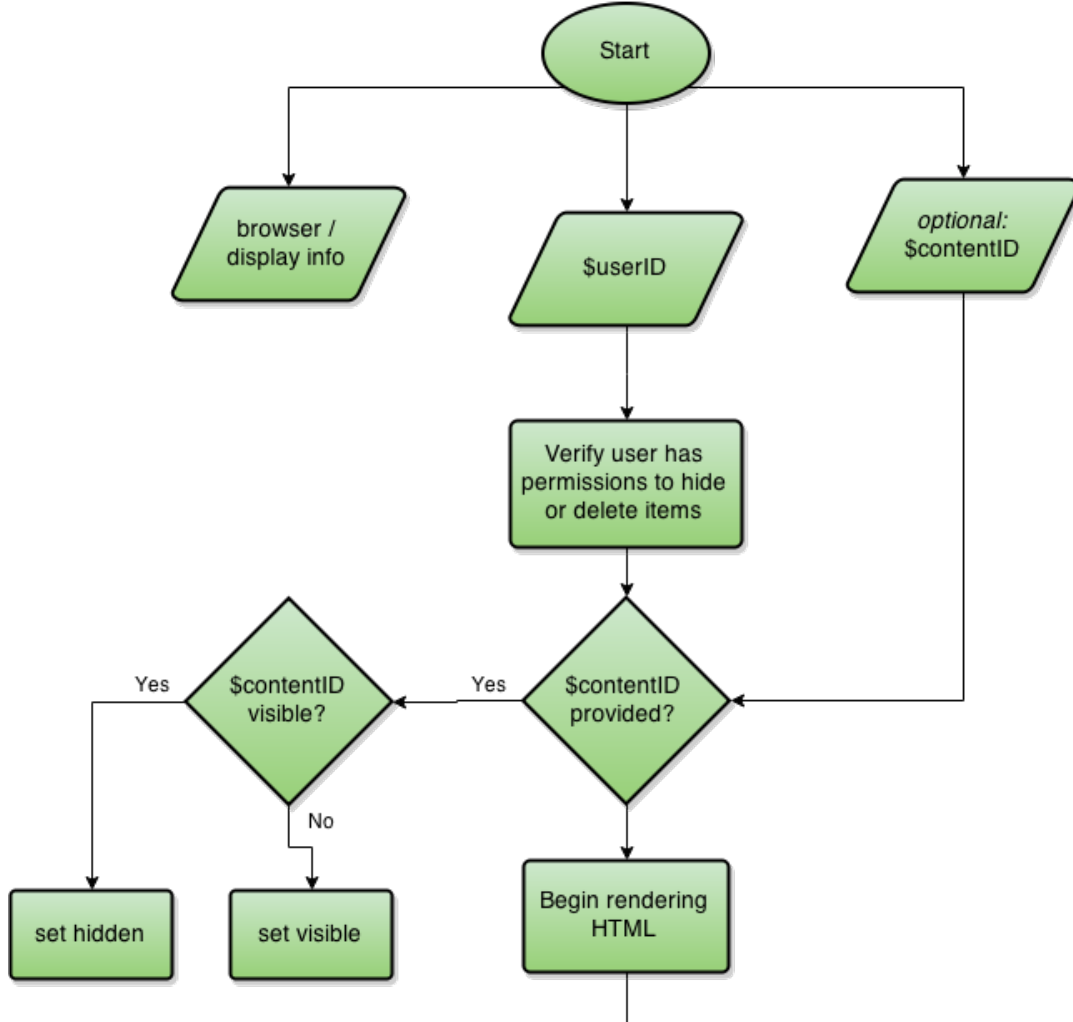


Submission Approval / Rejection

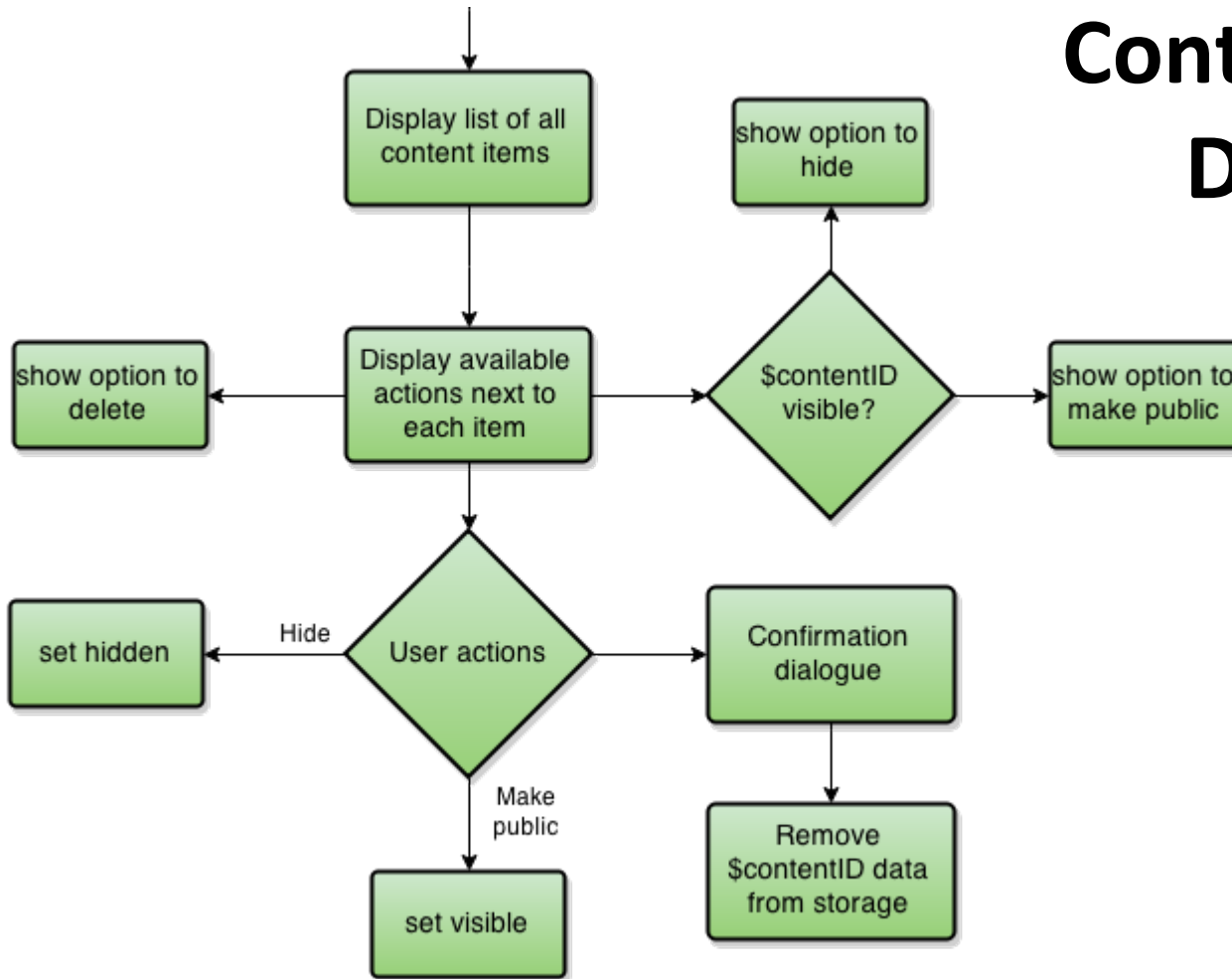
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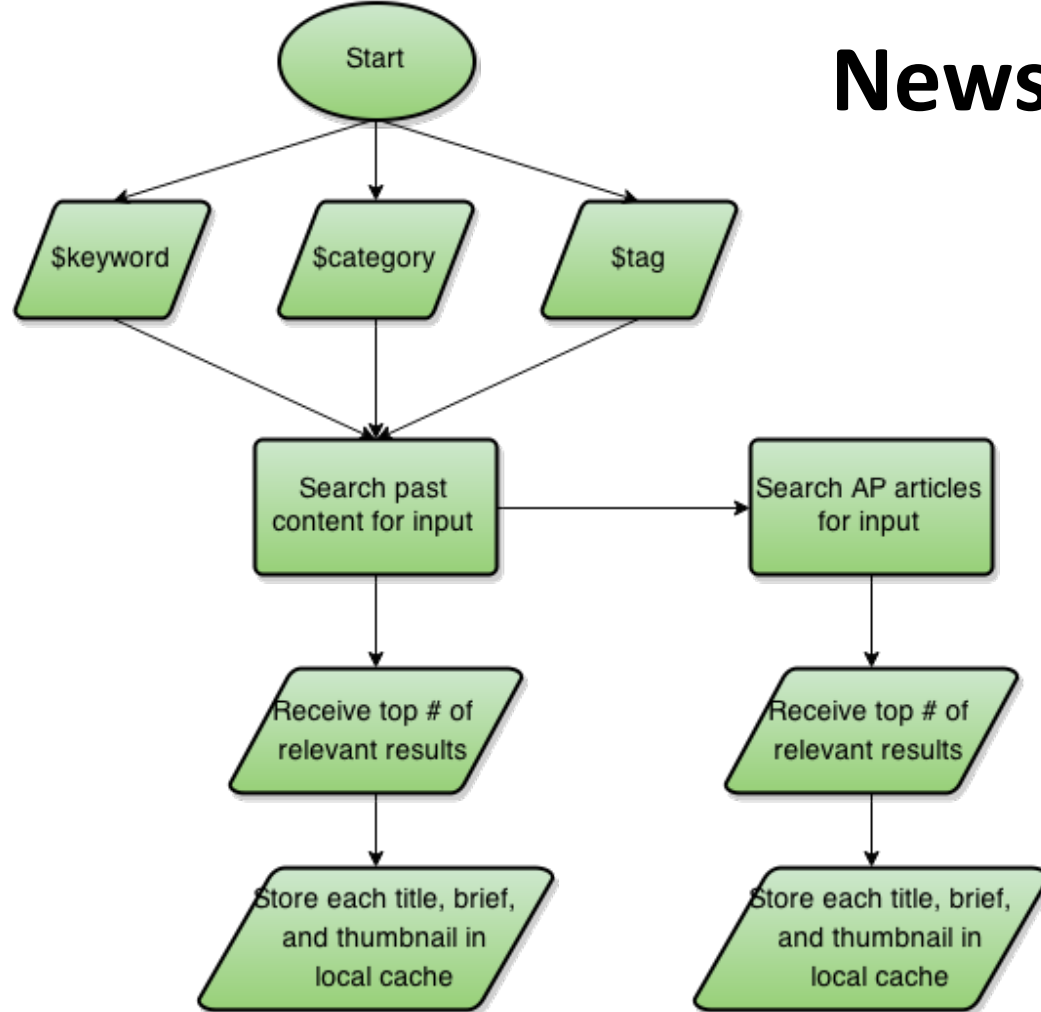
Content Visibility / Deletion



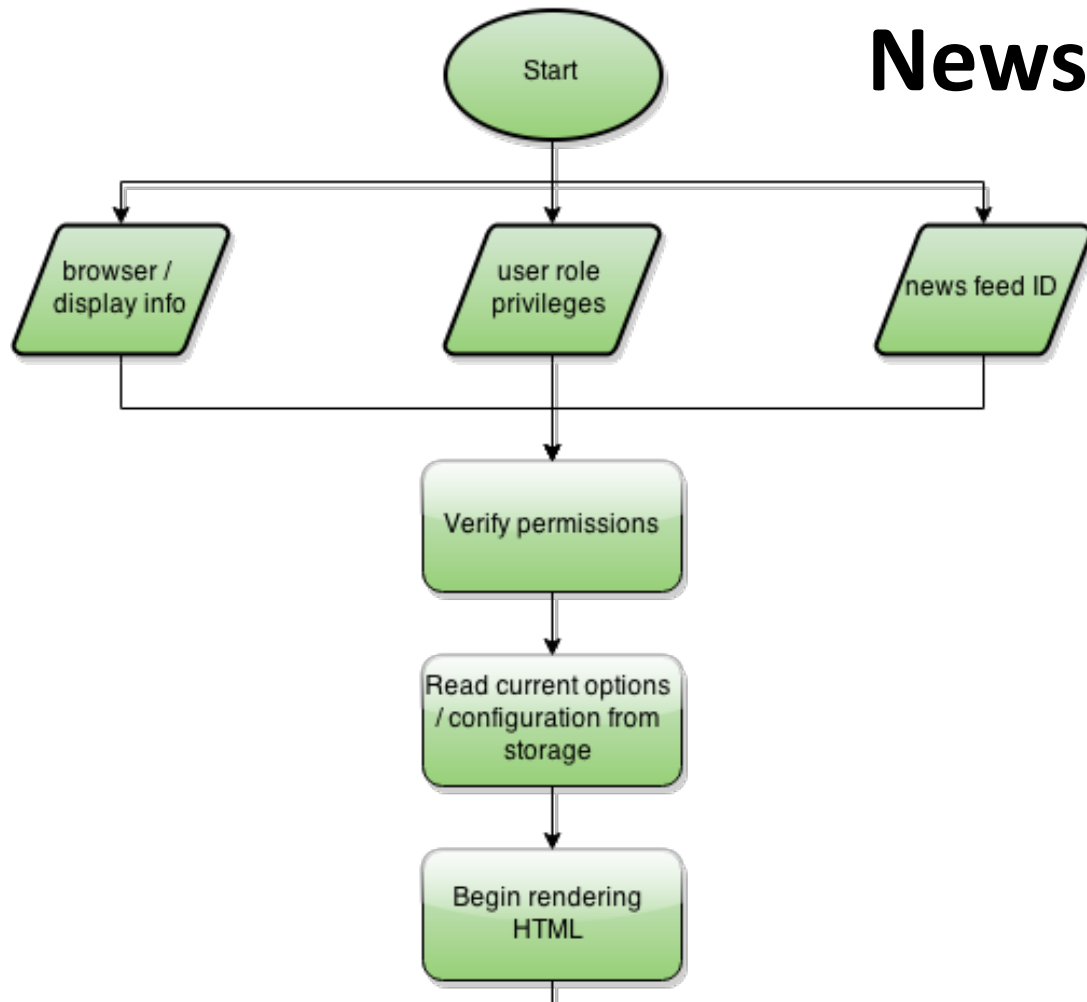
Content Visibility / Deletion (cont.)



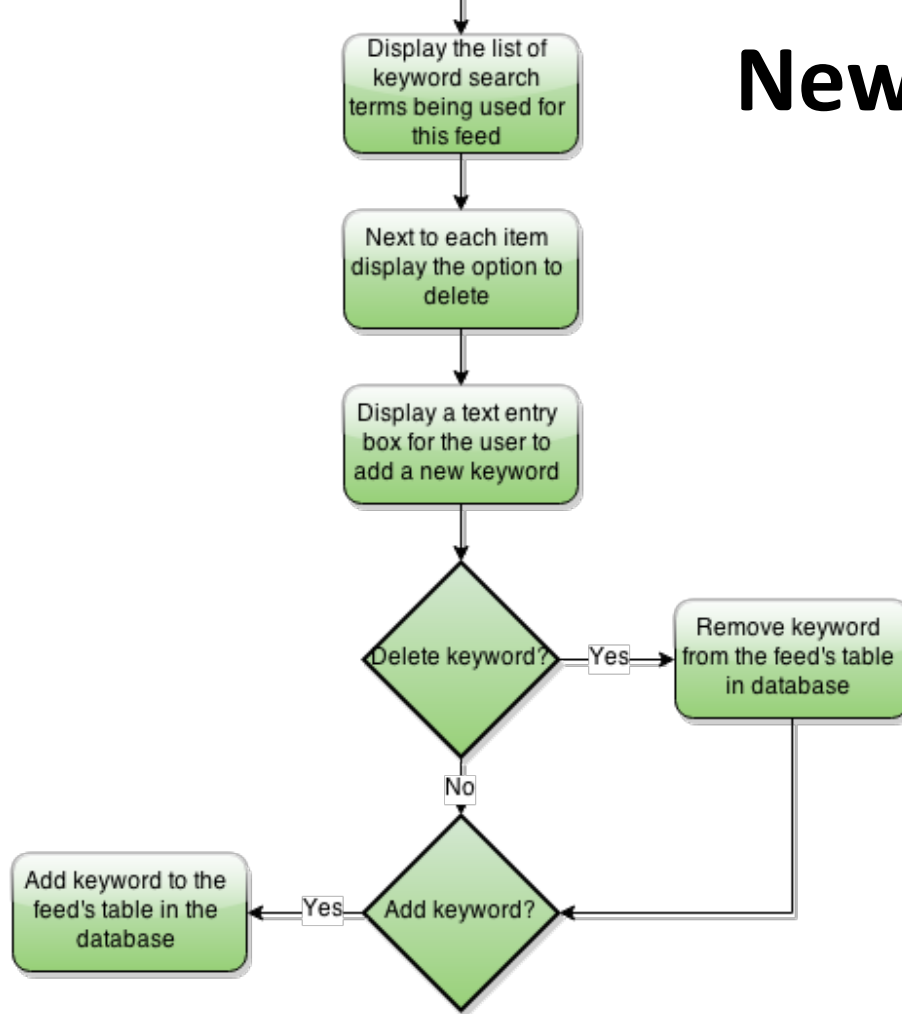
News Feed Aggregation



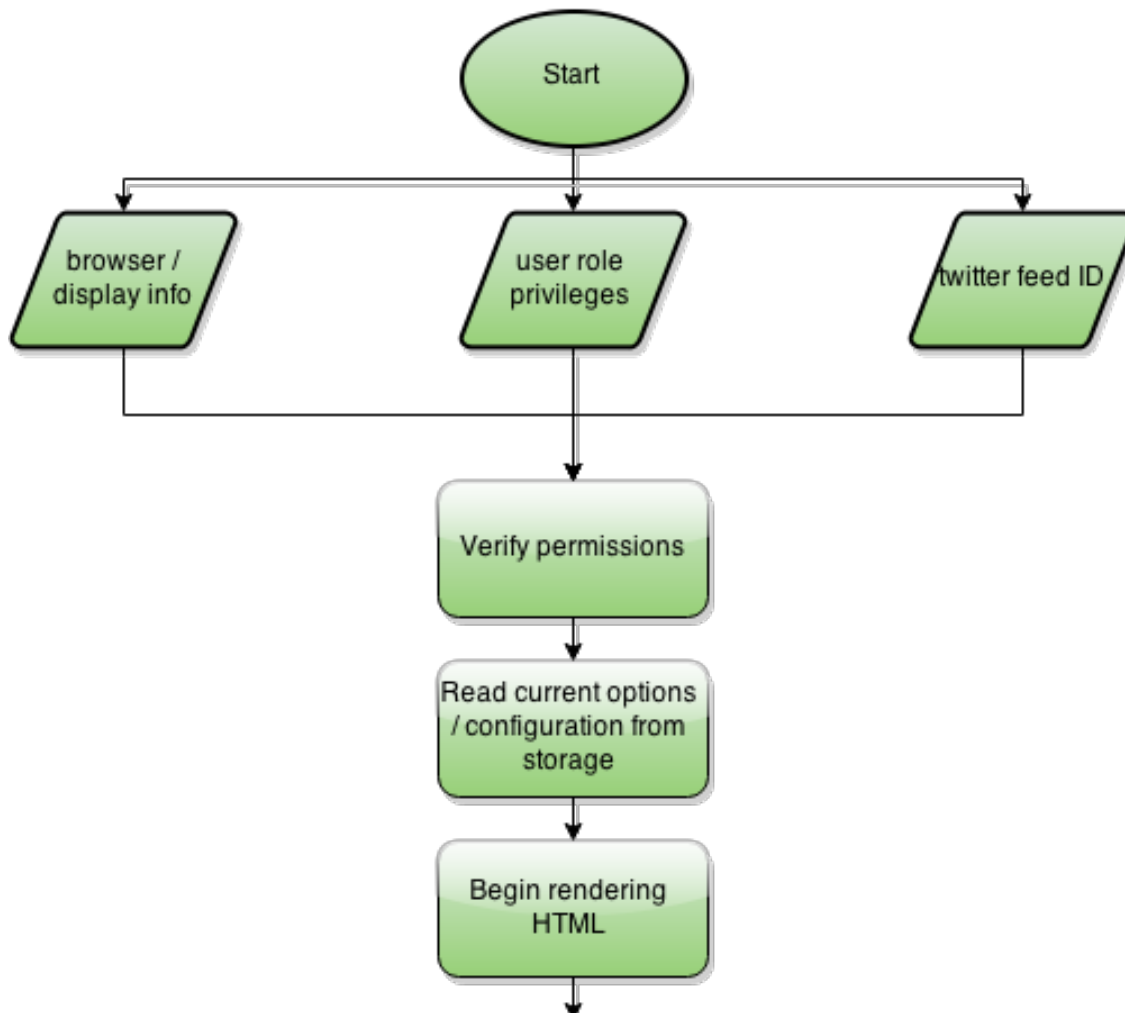
News Feed Management



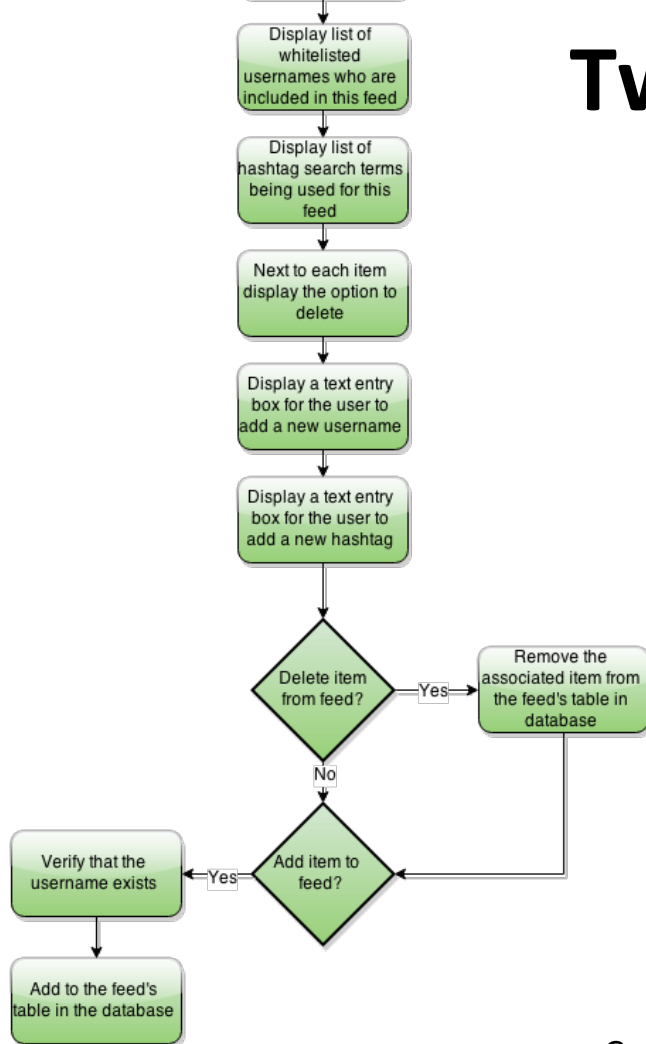
News Feed Management (cont.)



Twitter Feed Management



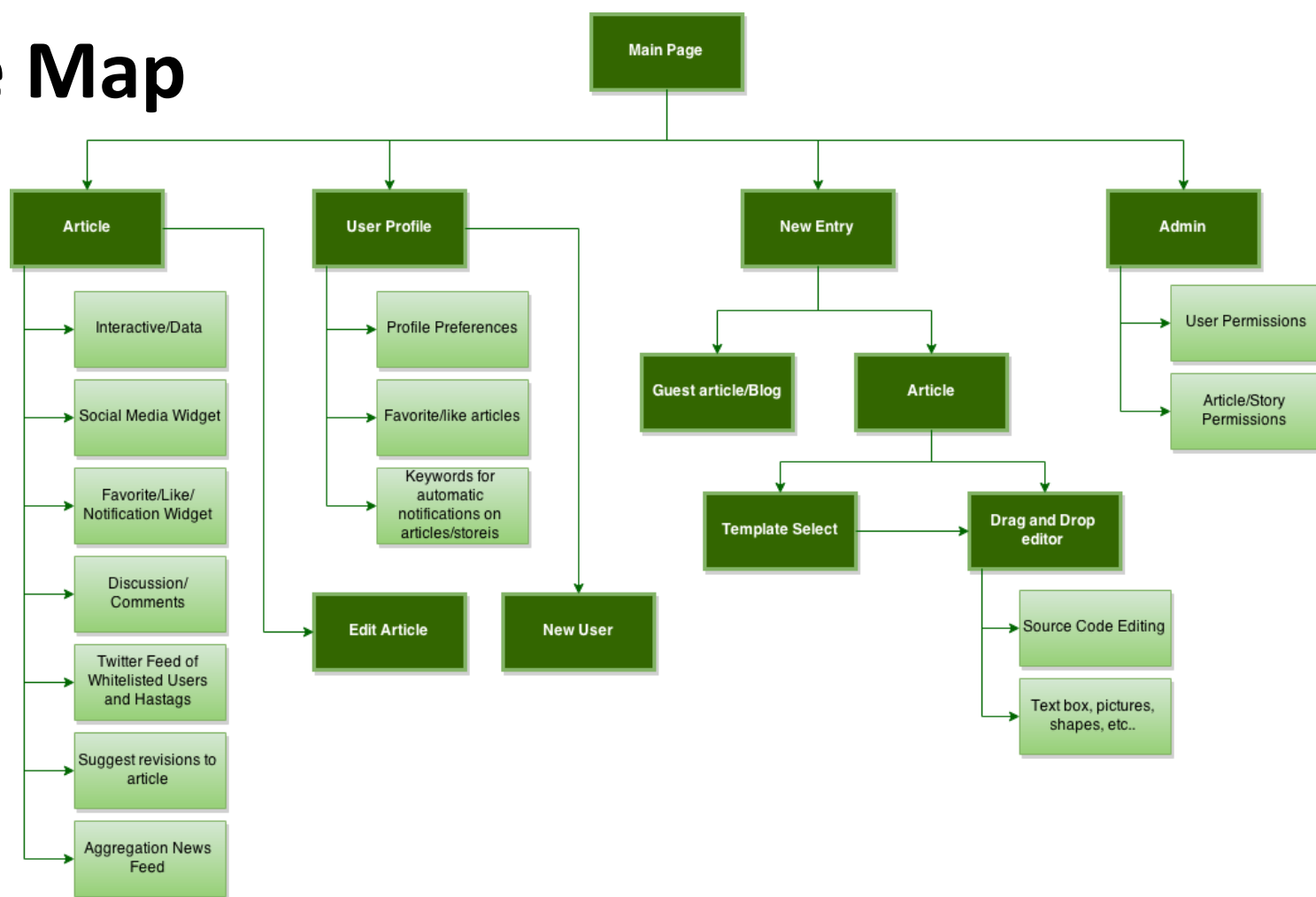
Twitter Feed Management (cont.)



Admin

- ▶ Can perform any action that any other role can do
- ▶ Adjust user access options and privileges
 - ▶ Add new users and their roles
 - ▶ Adjust their permissions

Site Map



Database Schema

User		
id	int	PK
username	varchar	
password	varchar	
secretQuestion	varchar	
secretAnswer	varchar	
email	varchar	
twitterHandle	varchar	N

UserRole		
id	int	PK
user_id	int	FK
role_id	int	FK

Role		
id	int	PK
name	varchar	

Privilege		
id	int	PK
name	varchar	
desc	varchar	

Article		
id	int	PK
published	timestamp	
lastModified	timestamp	
content	blob	
user_id	int	FK

ArticleComment		
id	int	PK
article_id	int	FK
user_id	int	FK
content	varchar	
published	timestamp	

Notification		
id	int	PK
user_id	int	FK
article_id	int	FK
hasBeenNotified	bool	
wantsNotification	bool	

BlogPost		
id	int	PK
published	timestamp	
lastModified	timestamp	
content	blob	
user_id	int	FK

BlogComment		
id	int	PK
blogPost_id	int	FK
user_id	int	FK
content	varchar	
published	timestamp	

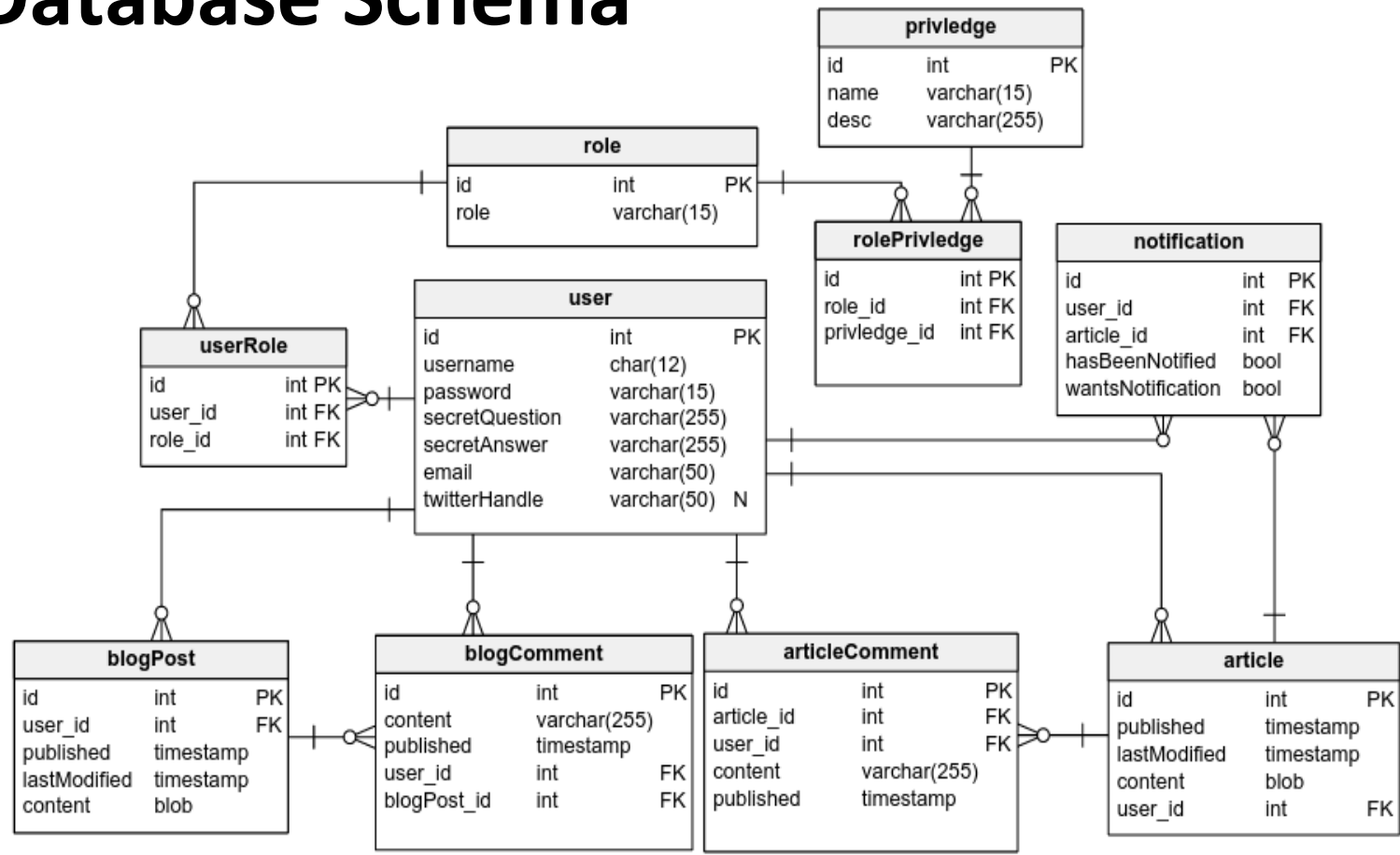
RolePrivilege		
id	int	PK
role_id	int	FK
privilege_id	int	FK

N = Nullable

PK = Primary Key

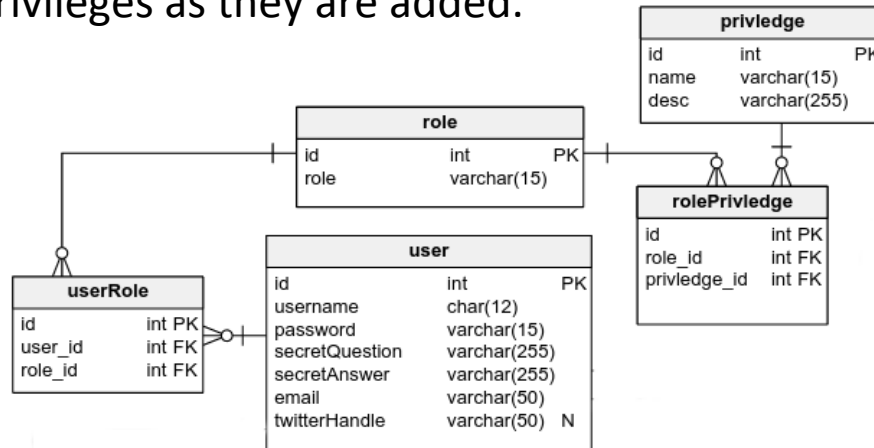
FK = Foreign Key

Database Schema



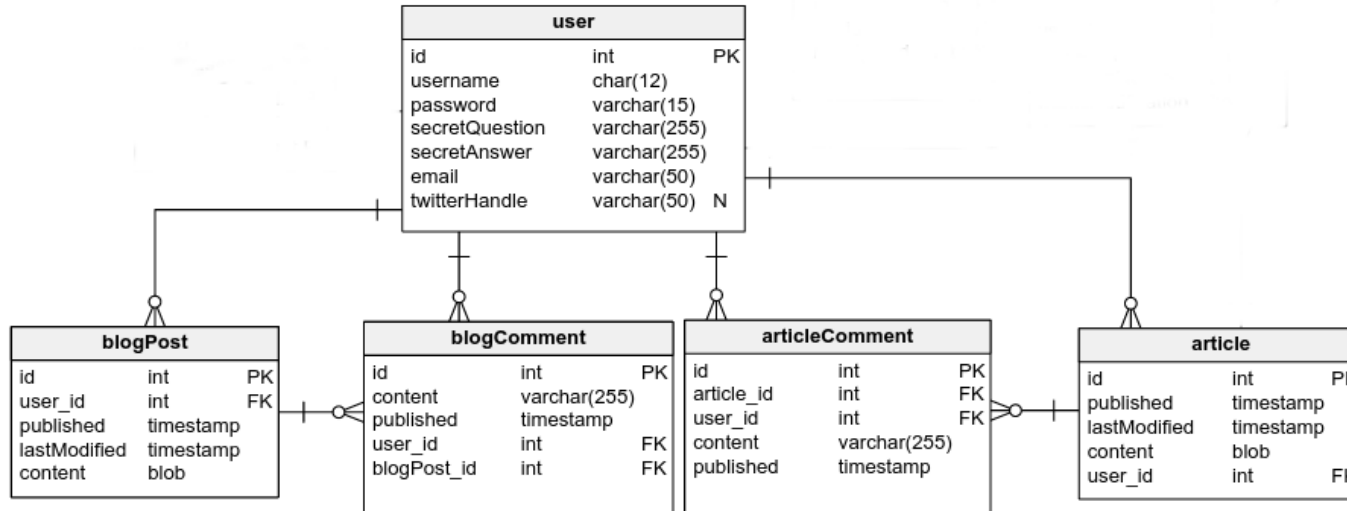
Security

- ▶ Username, password
- ▶ Users are joined to roles, where a user may have more than one role
- ▶ Roles are joined to privileges, where a role may have more than one privilege
- ▶ Roles and privileges are scalable. The design can handle new roles and privileges as they are added.



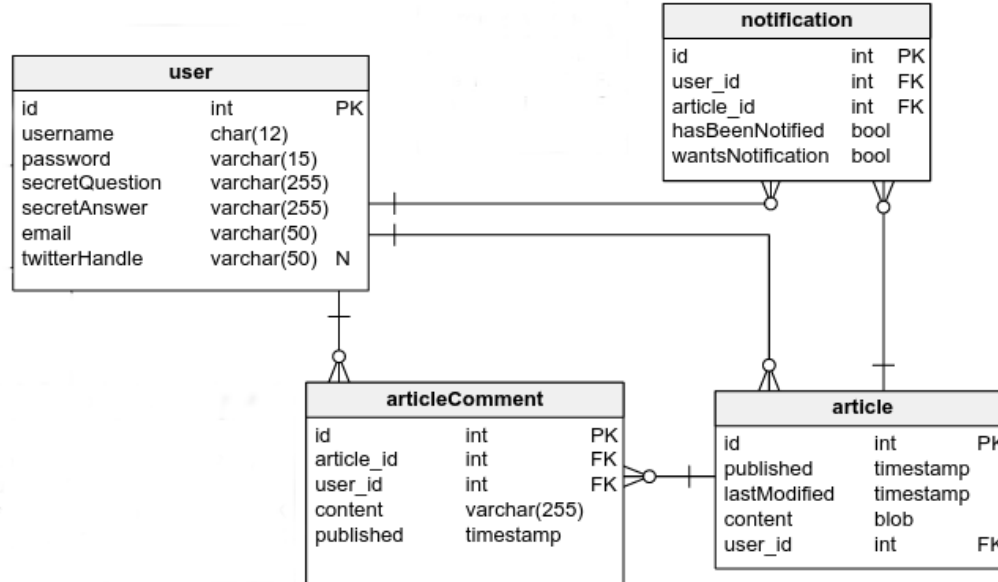
Content and Comments

- ▶ Articles and blogs are published by privileged users
- ▶ Users can comment on articles and blogs



Notifications

- ▶ State of notification is preserved
- ▶ A user can be notified about many articles



Risks Assessment Overview

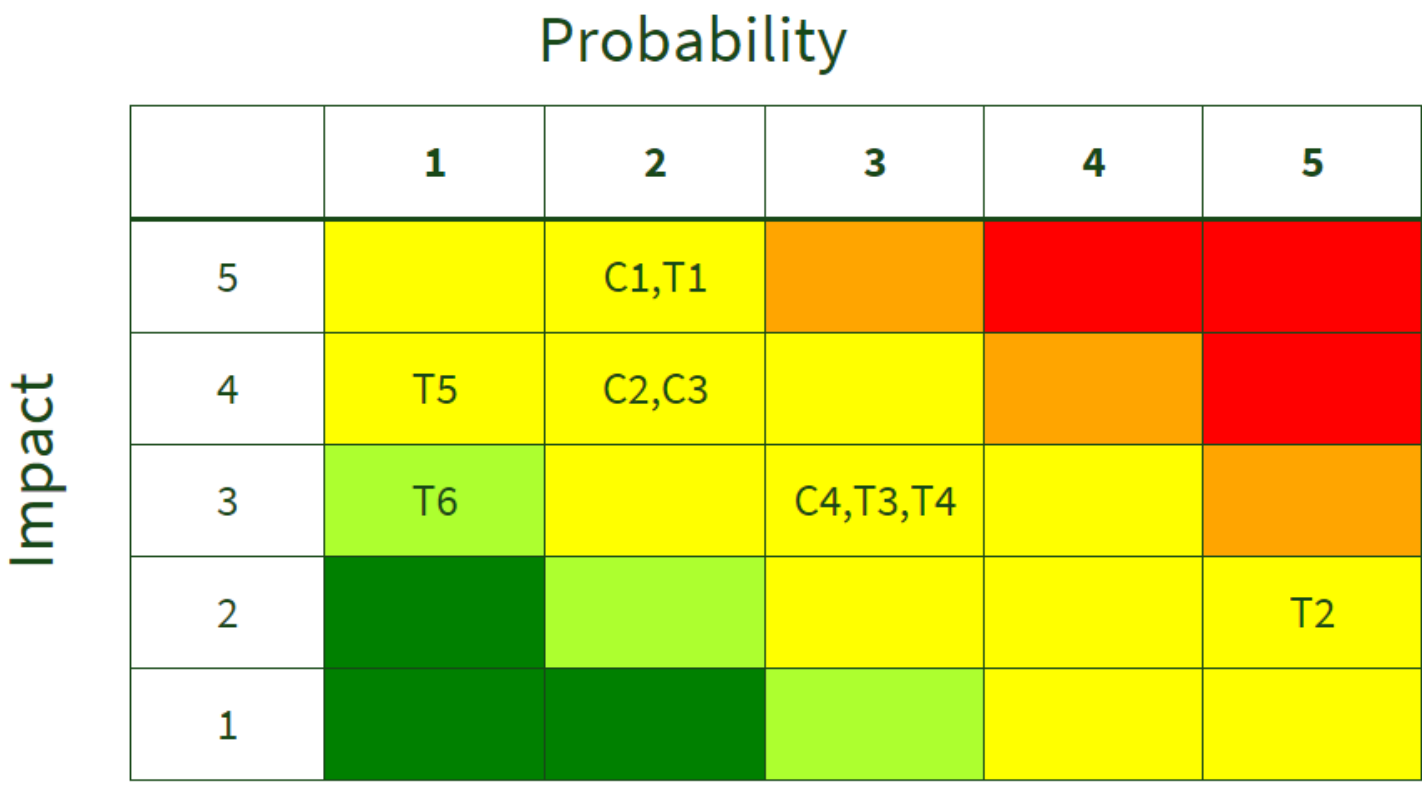
Customer Risks

1. Customer does not adopt delivered solution
2. Skill set and knowledge level of intended user is not sophisticated enough for the delivered solution
3. Content served by the delivered product is not attractive enough for readers
4. Readers do not come back to revisit stories that are ongoing and being updated

Technical Risks

1. Limitations of WordPress API
2. Lack of expertise with required APIs and languages
3. Incompatibility with legacy software
4. Difficulty integrating elements for interactive content and data visualization
5. Security issues created by additional editing and publishing interfaces
6. Performance concerns and additional overhead

Risks Matrix



Customer Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
5		C1			
4					
3					
2					
1					

- C1: Customer does not adopt the delivered solution
 - Impact: 5
 - Probability: 2
 - Description: The intended customers do not use our delivered solution and this entire project has been a waste of time.

Customer Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
	5				
	4	C2			
	3				
	2				
	1				

- C2: Skill set and knowledge level of intended user is not sophisticated enough for the delivered solution
 - Impact: 4
 - Probability: 2
 - Description: New users are intimidated by the delivered solution.

Customer Risks and Mitigation Strategies

- C3: Content served by the delivered product is not attractive enough for readers
 - Impact: 4
 - Probability: 2
 - Description: Readers do not find the theme, page templates, or news content served by the delivered product attractive.

		Probability				
Impact		1	2	3	4	5
	5					
	4		C3			
	3					
	2					
	1					

Customer Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact

	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
5					
4					
3			C4		
2					
1					

- C4: Readers do not come back to revisit stories that are ongoing and being updated
 - Impact: 3
 - Probability: 3
 - Description: Readers visit an article once but do not follow up on how the story has evolved since then.

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Probability

Impact

	1	2	3	4	5
5		T1			
4					
3					
2					
1					

- T1: Limitations of WordPress API
 - Impact: 5
 - Probability: 2
 - Description: The WordPress API may limit what the delivered product can do and how it does it.

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

- T2: Lack of Expertise in WordPress, PHP, HTML, CSS, and Javascript
 - Impact: 2
 - Probability: 5
 - Description: The delivered product is written in languages that not everybody knows and this can lead to difficulties implementing and using it.

Impact

	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
5					
4					
3					
2					T2
1					

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
	5				
	4				
	3		T3		
	2				
	1				

- T3: Incompatibility with Existing Plugins
 - Impact: 3
 - Probability: 3
 - Description: The delivered product does not interact desirably with existing plugins.

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Probability

Impact

	1	2	3	4	5
5					
4					
3			T4		
2					
1					

- T4: Difficulty Integrating Interactive and Visualization Elements
 - Impact: 3
 - Probability: 3
 - Description: It may be difficult to add visualization elements into the already existing architecture.

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
	5				
	4	T5			
	3				
	2				
	1				

- T5: Security issues created by additional editing and publishing interfaces
 - Impact: 3
 - Probability: 1
 - Description: There may be security issues with how the delivered product interacts with other interfaces.

Technical Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Impact	Probability				
	1	2	3	4	5
5					
4					
3	T6				
2					
1					

- T6: Performance Concerns with Additional Plugin Overhead
 - Impact: 3
 - Probability: 1
 - Description: The delivered product might not function at a desirable speed.

Conclusion

Provide a tool for university news organizations that:

- ▶ is dynamic, helps create high-impact content
- ▶ requires little or no technical knowledge
- ▶ is easy to learn - little or no training required
- ▶ integrates with most widely deployed CMS^[4]
- ▶ utilizes free and open-source software to meet needs of organizations with limited resources.

Glossary

- ▶ **Admin** - a person that has the rights to do anything to the software or database.
- ▶ **Application Program Interface (API)** - a set of routines, protocols, and tools for building software applications. An API expresses a software component in terms of its operations, inputs, outputs, and underlying types.
- ▶ **Content Aggregation** - bringing together specific type of information from multiple online sources.
- ▶ **Content Management System (CMS)** - allows publishing, editing and modifying content, organizing, deleting as well as maintenance from a central interface often used to run websites containing blogs, news, and shopping.
- ▶ **Contributor** - a person who sends in material to be published, whether it is through twitter or a researcher. Not, someone that is part of the news organization.
- ▶ **Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)** - a simple mechanism for adding style to Web documents.
- ▶ **Digital Journalism** - a contemporary form of journalism where editorial content is distributed via the Internet as opposed to publishing via print or broadcast.
- ▶ **Disqus** - is a blog comment hosting service for web sites and online communities that uses a networked platform.
- ▶ **Editor** - a person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a text, particularly a newspaper or magazine.
- ▶ **Javascript** - an object-oriented computer programming language commonly used to create interactive effects within web browsers.
- ▶ **Journalist** - a person who writes for newspapers or magazines or prepares news to be broadcast on radio or television.
- ▶ **HTML** - Hypertext Markup Language, a standardized system for tagging text files to achieve font, color, graphic, and hyperlink effects on World Wide Web pages.

Glossary (continued)

- ▶ **Living Document** - dynamic document is a document that is continually edited and updated.
- ▶ **Mace & Crown** - A university news organization that is under a tight budget and looking for a cheaper alternative to their current CMS with more customization and tools.
- ▶ **MySQL** - Most widely used open-source RDBMS.
- ▶ **Open Source** - denoting software for which the original source code is made freely available and may be redistributed and modified.
- ▶ **PHP** - is a server-side scripting language designed for web development.
- ▶ **Reader** - a person that reads and interacts with the articles posted by the news organization.
- ▶ **RDBMS** - relational database management system.
- ▶ **UI/UX** - the process of enhancing user satisfaction by improving the usability, ease of use, and pleasure provided in the interaction between the user and the product.
- ▶ **Plugin** - a software component that adds a specific feature to an existing software application.
- ▶ **Whitelisted** - a list of people or products viewed with approval.
- ▶ **Wordpress** - Most popular open source CMS based on PHP and MySQL.

References

1. Wordpress requirements - <https://wordpress.org/about/requirements/>
2. Agile Manifesto - <http://agilemanifesto.org/>
3. Twitter Search API - <https://dev.twitter.com/rest/public/search>
4. CMS Market Share - <http://www.opensourcecms.com/general/cms-marketshare.php>
5. OAuth Documentation - <http://oauth.net/documentation/>
6. GoDaddy Managed WordPress Hosting - <https://www.godaddy.com/pro/managed-wordpress-hosting>