Ideas for a Modern OCaml Web Portal

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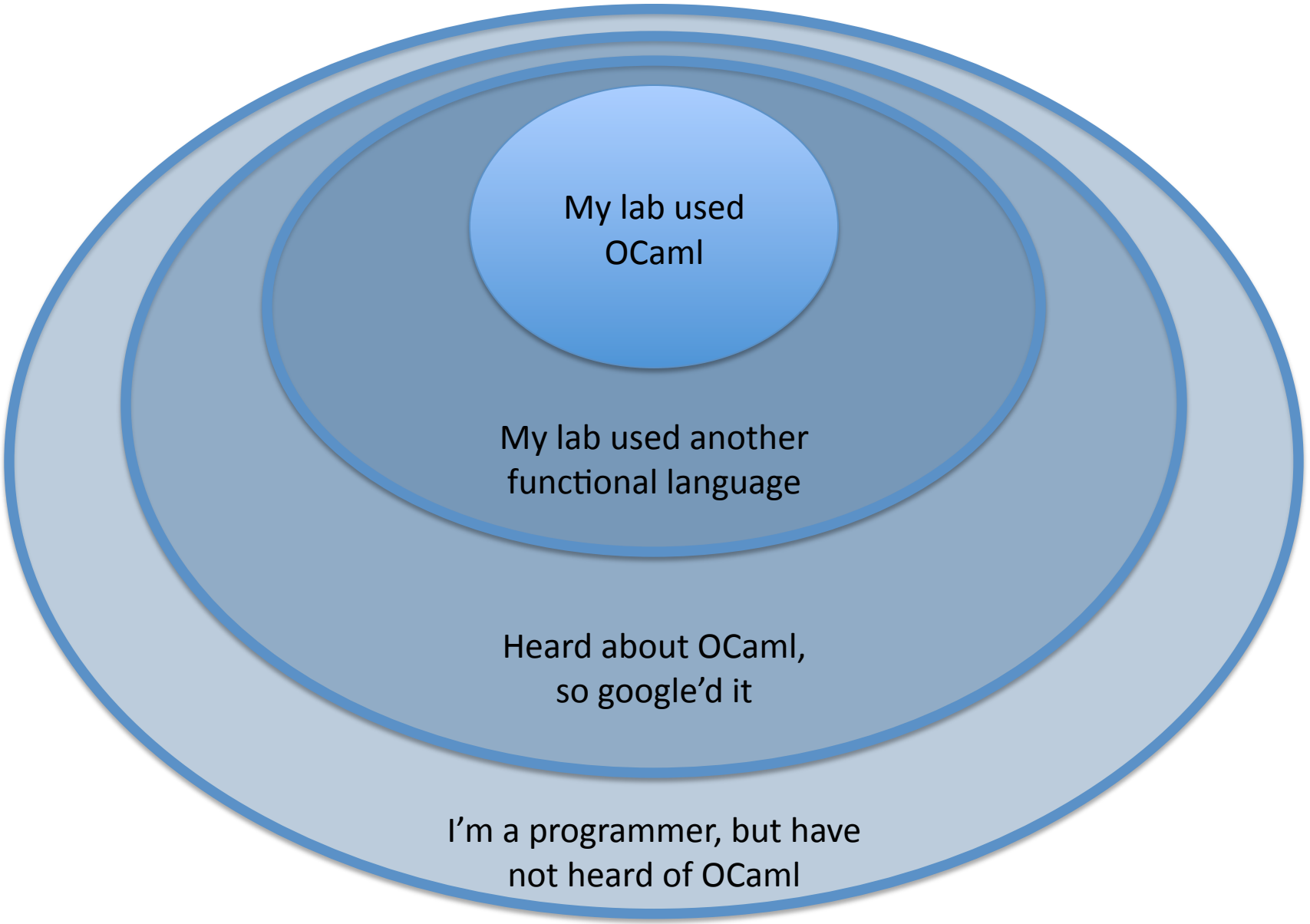
OCaml User Meeting
Telecom ParisTech
Paris, France
April 15, 2011

Degrees of Separation from OCaml



The Problem

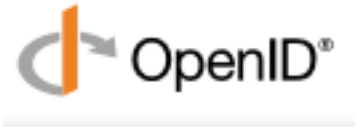
- OCaml is more mature than its web presence suggests
- There are many OCaml books, blogs, tutorials, and libraries
- But no central portal leading to them
- Content frequently out of date and/or incomplete

The Solution

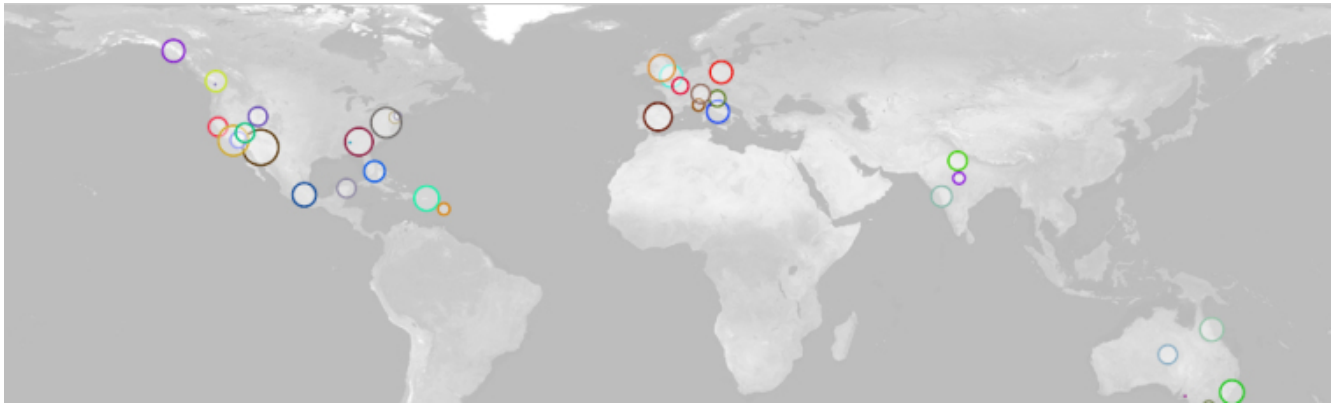
- Build a modern website
  - dynamic
  - social
  - aesthetic

User Accounts

- Login through OpenID, Facebook, LinkedIn



- Account Profile
  - (opt-in) pull information from linked accounts: Facebook, LinkedIn
- Authorize content modifications
- Map showing where OCaml programmers are based



Email Lists: Hosting and Archiving

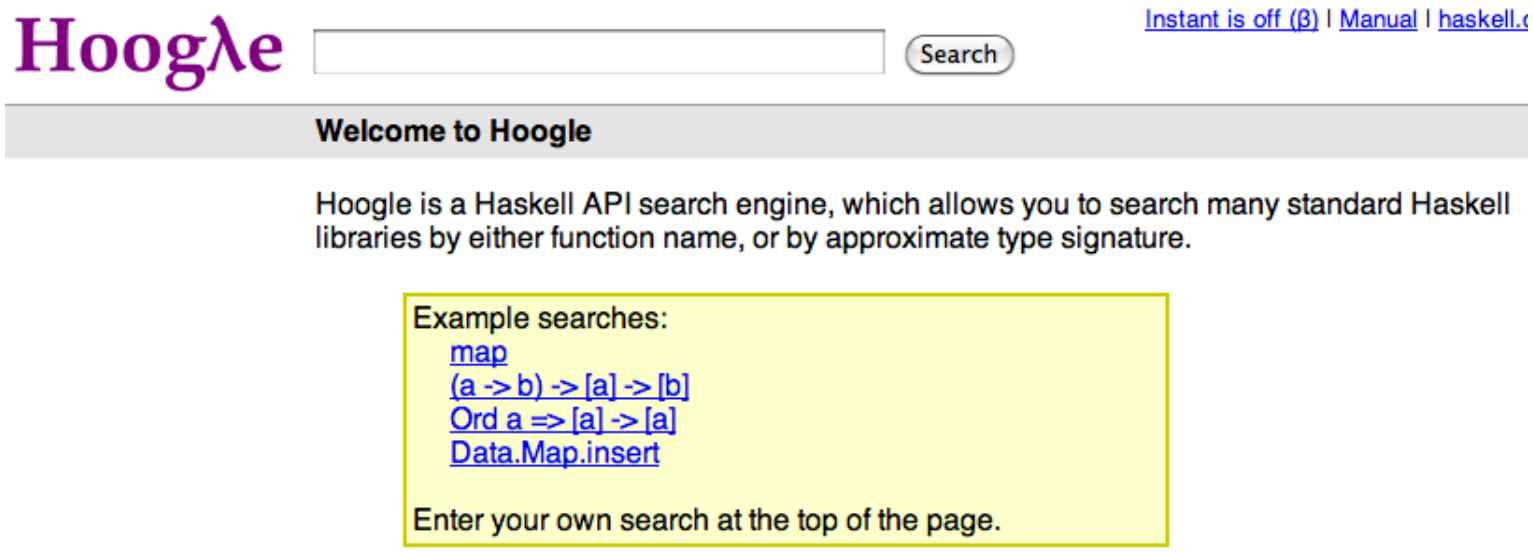
- List of lists
  - OCaml List
  - OCaml Beginner's List
  - all project lists from ocamlforge
  - many external lists
- Make searchable
  - text search all lists over all contents
  - selectively search specific lists
  - limit by date, author
- Subscribe by clicking check box on your account page

Libraries: Catalog and Distribution

- Central place to search for libraries
- Libraries are tagged
- Integrate theme and function with rest of website
  - e.g. same login account should be usable to update/add libraries
- User comments and simple ranking
  - like Amazon
  - 1 – 5 camels
- _oasis provides metadata
- Oasis-DB will provide comprehensive repository
  Also pull from github
- List channels library is available from:
  oasis, godi, debian, redhat, etc

Libraries: Online Documentation

- Important for search engines
- Allows links from emails and web content, and cross-references between libraries
- Improve search



- Available for each version of every library

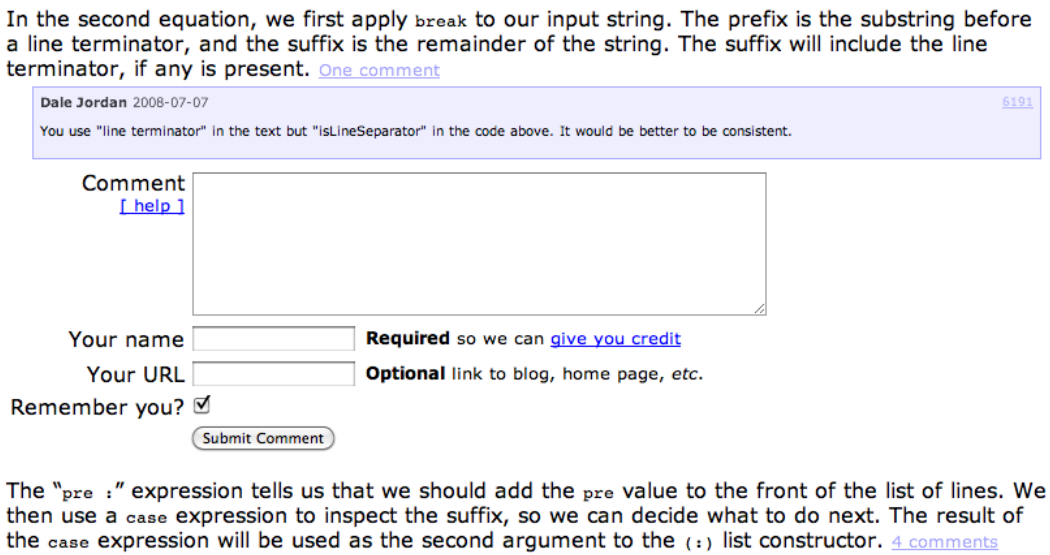
Blog

- planet.ocamlcore.org

  Integrate within main website in terms
  - design
  - administration, users can request adding their own blog
  - search
- One main blog on front page with major announcements
- Include in search results

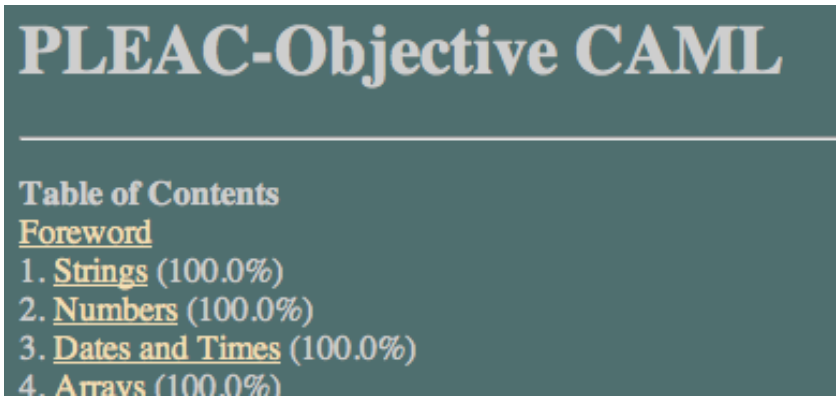
Books

- Several OCaml related books exist but not easy to find
  - http://caml.inria.fr/about/books.en.html lists many but important omissions
- Host in central location with common look and feel
  - of course only applies to free books and
  - with permission of authors
- Optimize for search
  - may require modifying format
- User comments (like Real World Haskell)



Tutorials

- Pleac



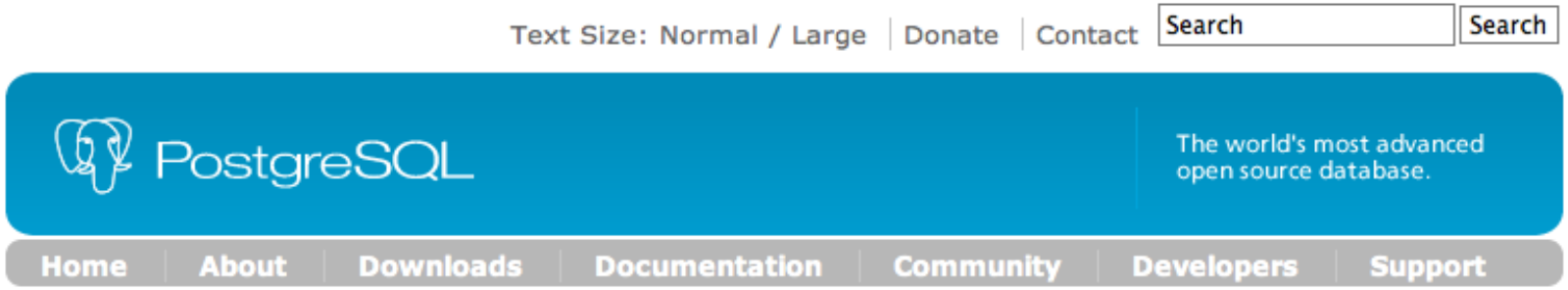
- Absorb ocaml-tutorial.org
- Users can add their own tutorials easily
  - wiki should be friendly, support ocaml syntax highlighting automatically
- An editor to
  - oversee all content
  - make sure tutorials are organized coherently
  - solicit tutorials from qualified authors

Brand Cohesion

- CAML, Objective Caml, O'Caml, or OCaml?
  - search engines cannot tell these are the same
  - neither can beginners
- URL scheme
  - offer for using existing ocamlforge user account system
  - so is it in *ocamlforge* account or an *ocamlcore* account?

Design

- It should look good!
- Inspiration from other sites...



- About
- Advantages
- Feature Matrix
- Awards
- Donate
- Case Studies
- Quotes
- Featured Users
- History
- Sponsors
  - Servers
- Latest News
- Upcoming Events
- Press
- License

PostgreSQL.org Website Design Contest

Posted on **2009-05-06**
Posted by **josh@postgresql.org**

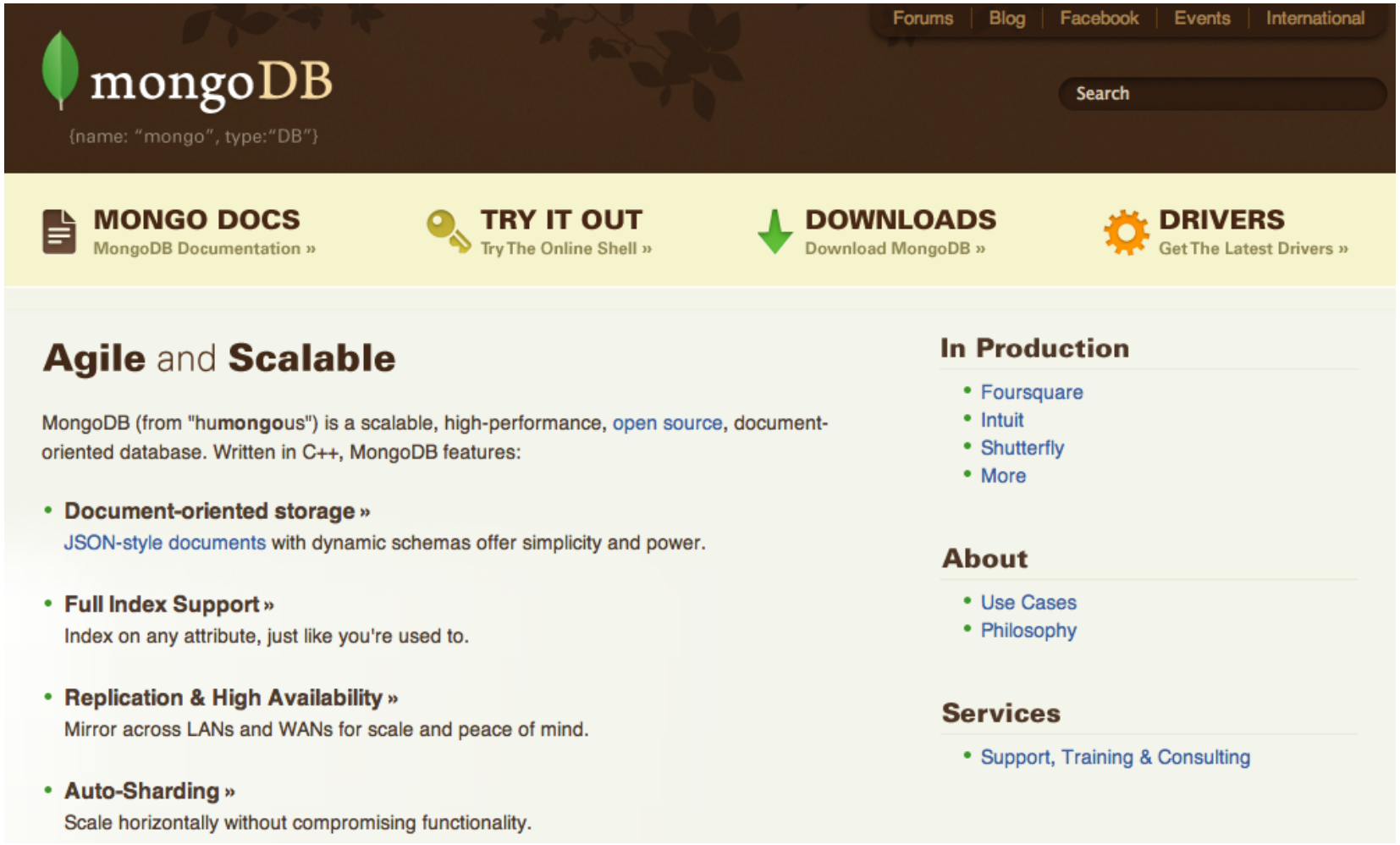
Are you a web designer? Know someone else who is?

The current design of postgresql.org needs a refresh! We're looking for talented designers interested in re-developing our look. If picked, your design will be the public face the world's most advanced open source database.

To help find a great designer, we've decided to put $2000 on the table.

The first stage of the project is a design mock-up. A panel of PostgreSQL community members will act as judges for a $1000 (US) prize! We want our web design to reflect the care, dedication and excellence of our developers. We've outlined in detail what we're looking for on the Contest Requirements Page.

The second stage of the project is implementation. The winning designer will develop the stylesheets and create any images required, and work with the PostgreSQL Web Team to deploy the new design throughout our infrastructure. An additional $1000 will be awarded to the designer once the new look goes live!


Forums
Blog
Facebook
Events
International
mongoDB
{name: "mongo", type:"DB"}
Search
MONGO DOCS
MongoDB Documentation »
TRY IT OUT
Try The Online Shell »
DOWNLOADS
Download MongoDB »
DRIVERS
Get The Latest Drivers »
Agile and Scalable
MongoDB (from "humongous") is a scalable, high-performance, open source, document-oriented database. Written in C++, MongoDB features:
Document-oriented storage »
JSON-style documents with dynamic schemas offer simplicity and power.
Full Index Support »
Index on any attribute, just like you're used to.
Replication & High Availability »
Mirror across LANs and WANs for scale and peace of mind.
Auto-Sharding »
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Refine your search

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- ( ) Documentation
- ( ) Forums & Issues
- ( ) Groups

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Why Choose Drupal?

Use Drupal to build everything from personal blogs to enterprise applications. Thousands of add-on modules and designs let you build any site you can imagine.

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IT Dashboard

Drupal is used by some of the biggest sites on the Web, like The Economist, Examiner.com and The White House. Read more Drupal success stories.

Develop with Drupal

		This week	
9,126	Modules	4,811	Code commits
1,068	Themes	6,783	Issue comments
6,706	Developers		

Drupal Core
Security Info
Developer Docs
API Docs

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That's why we love Perl
Get started
DOWNLOAD PERL
Perl is a highly capable, feature-rich programming language with over 23 years of development. More about why we love perl...
Learning Perl
With free online books, over 21,000 extension modules, and a large developer community, there are many ways to learn Perl.
The Perl Community
Perl has an active world wide community with over 300 local groups, mailing lists and support/discussion websites.
Documentation
Core documentation, FAQs and translations.
Contribute to Perl
Perl is being actively developed. There are many ways to get involved.
CPAN
The Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN) has over 18,000 open source modules available for download.
Events and Conferences
Conferences, social and technical events around the world offer lots of networking and learning opportunities.
Perl 6
The Perl Foundation
Current Perl version
5.12.3 - download now
Find out more
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Networking and Colocation

Camel
Deer
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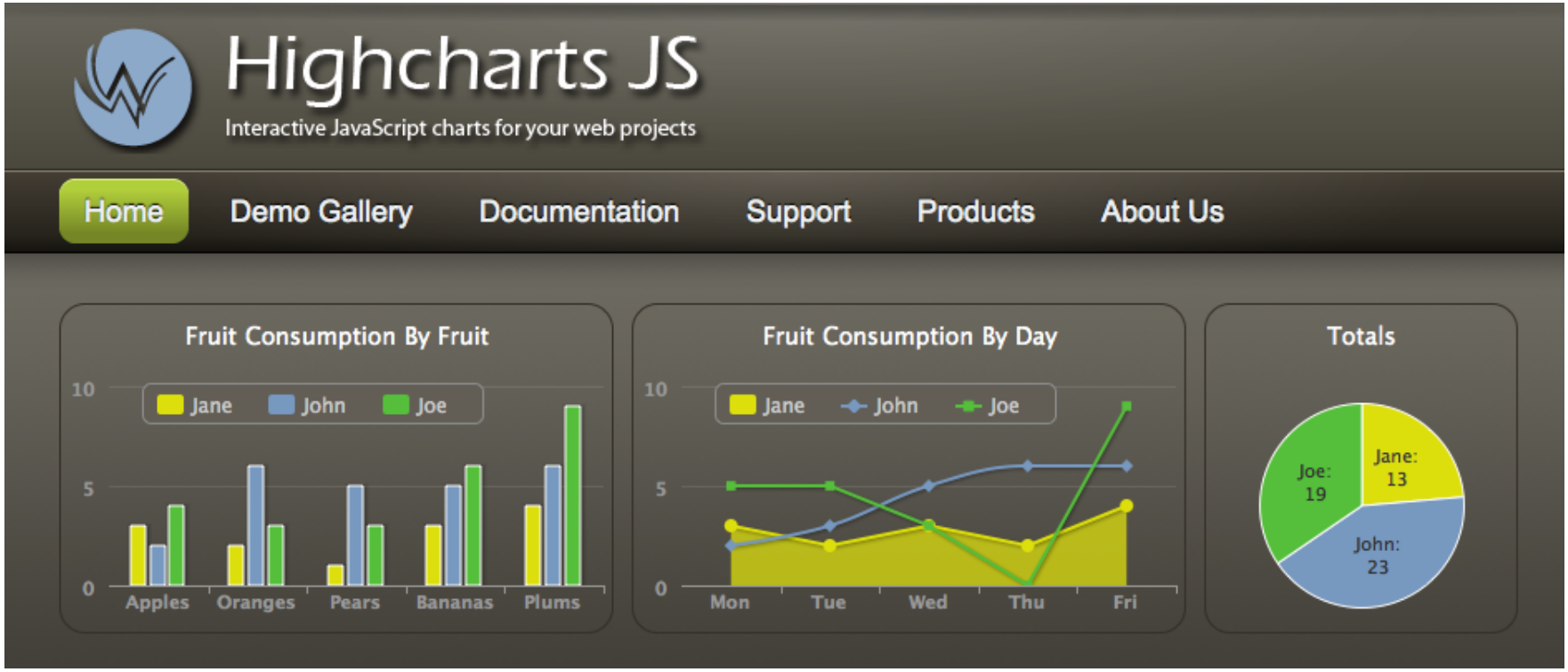
Wildebeest
Warthog
Meerkat
Porcupine
Aardvark
Aardwolf
Hyena
Jackal
Lion
Leopard
Cheetah
Rhinoceros
Hippopotamus
Elephant
Buffalo
Baboon
Monkey
Squirrel
Mouse
Rat
Bat
Hare
Rabbit
Fox
Wolf
Bear
Panda
Koala
Kangaroo
Wombat
Platypus
Echidna
Dingo
Tasmanian Devil
Badger
Otter
Beaver
Skunk
Raccoon
Armadillo
Sloth
Anteater
Tapir
Okapi
Gazelle
Antelope
Wildebeest
Hartebeest
Eland
Oryx
Addax
Gemsbok
Reedbuck
Waterbuck
Nyala
Sitatunga
Bushbuck
Duiker
Steenbok
Klipspringer
Dik-dik
Suni
Blesbok
Bontebok
Springbok
Impala
Kudu
Sable
Roan
Topi
Hartebeest
Eland
Oryx
Addax
Gemsbok
Reedbuck
Waterbuck
Nyala
Sitatunga
Bushbuck
Duiker
Steenbok
Klipspringer
Dik-dik
Suni

Site/Library/User Statistics



Implementation Technology

- Proposed website is essentially a content-management-system (CMS)
- Leading CMS system is Drupal
  - a PHP based solution
- Ocsigen has momentum
  - and we like Ocaml
- ocamlcore integration will be valuable
  - ocamlcore-api eases integration
  - it uses Ocsigen

- Search solutions
  - lucene, search-servers
- Email searching
  - requires mirroring email lists

Project Management

- Need a small core team to build URL scheme, and
- Write skeleton code covering overall site functionality

- Prioritize functionality
- Willing participants implement the functionality
- Contract professional designer

- Community owns the website