



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Developing DotNetNuke 6 Modules

Ian Robinson

Sr. Software Engineer


DotNetNuke Corporation

House Keeping

- Breaks
 - 10:30 & 2:30 (15 Min)
- Lunch
 - 12:00 – 1:00
- Questions

About Me / Resources

Top 10%  for [jquery](#) [asp.net](#) [cms](#) [dotnetnuke](#)

Top 20%  for [javascript](#) [css](#)

- Twitter [@irolinson](#)
- GitHub <http://github.com/irolinson>
- Professional Profile: <http://bit.ly/irolinson>
- Email: ian@dnncorp.com

Agenda

- Crash Course: DotNetNuke Module Development
 - *High level tour. Key concerns, strategies and techniques.*
- Deep Dive: **WebFormsMVP**
 - How and why? Unit testing! Diving into code.
- Introducing: Client Resource Management
 - Key concepts and strategies for working with JS and CSS



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Section 1

DotNetNuke Module Development Crash Course

Section 1

DotNetNuke Module Development

- Roles
- Goals
- How DNN Works
- Bare minimum configuration
- Project Structuring
- Development styles
- Key API Methods
- Form patterns & jQuery plugins

The Spectrum of Roles

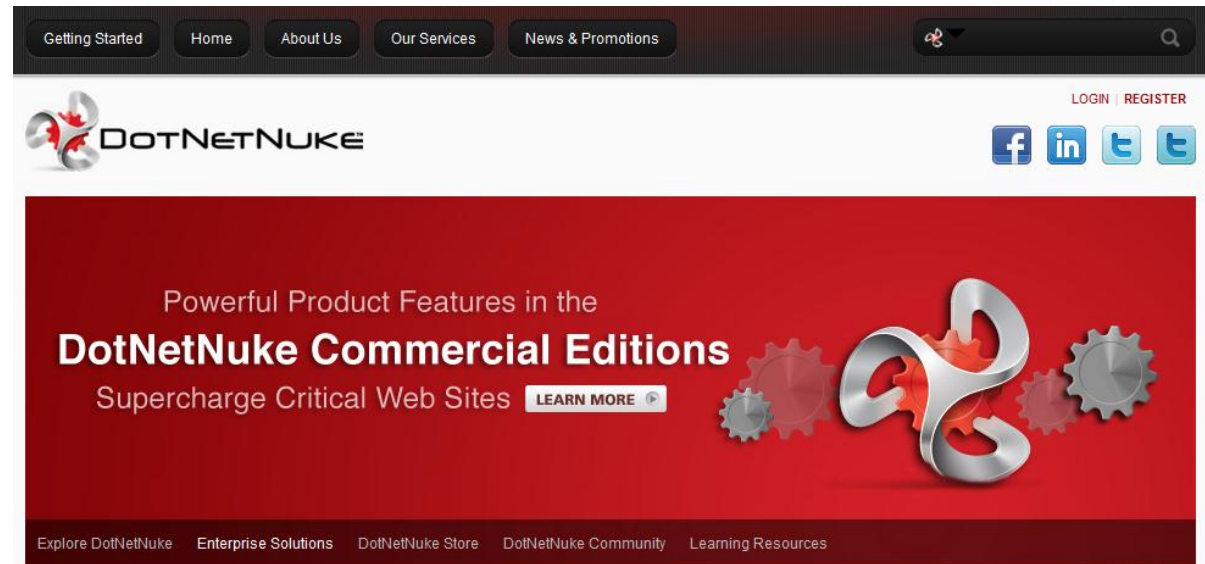
- Savvy Hobbyist
 - Developing in their free time, maybe pro-bono work, etc
- Small biz
 - The “how many hats can I wear at once?” developer.
- Big biz
 - Focused on building modules
- Consultant/integrator
 - Builds solutions for clients
- Commercial Module Developer
 - Sells modules on the interwebs

The Goals of Module Developers

- Develop “stand-alone” code, make it show up in DNN
 - Learn how to plug code in to DNN
 - What are the bare minimum requirements to get going?
- Tight integration with DNN features
 - Leverage the API, get to know how DNN works
 - Learn UI and functional paradigms

So, how does DNN work?

- Default.aspx
 - User controls
 - Within user controls
 - Within user controls



GETTING STARTED

The video below will help get you started building your new DotNetNuke site. Using DotNetNuke is fast and easy and you can have your new site up and running with real content in just a matter of minutes. Also be sure to explore the links on the right for more information on how to get the most out of your DotNetNuke based website.



GET MANUALS
Download the DotNetNuke User and SuperUser Manuals



GET TRAINING
View training videos or register for upcoming sessions



FIND APPS
Select from nearly 10,000 commercial and open source apps



ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY
Engage with other members of the DotNetNuke community



ATTEND CONFERENCES
Look for DotNetNuke conferences and events in your area

The Bare Minimum Module

- One user control
- Place in a folder within DesktopModules
- Inherit from common base class
 - PortalModuleBase

```
HelloWorld.ascx x
Server Objects & Events (No Events)
<%@ Control Language="C#" Inherits="DotNetNuke.Entities.Modules.PortalModuleBase" %>
<p>Hello world!</p>
```

- Register module through Host -> Extension

Development Styles & Strategies

- *Environment choice + development strategy*
- Razor Modules
- Inline Script
- ASP.NET Web Site Project (WSP)
- ASP.NET Web Application Project (WAP)
- WebFormsMVP (Using WAP)

Some things to keep in mind...

- Project Size
- Team Size
- Team Experience
- Business Urgency
- Problem Complexity

Razor Modules

- First, what is Razor?
 - Code-focused templating
 - HTML Generation
 - MVC View Engine

Razor:

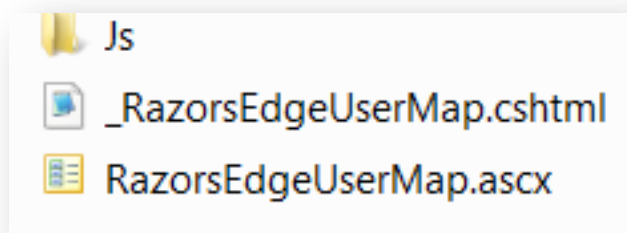
```
<ul id="products">  
    @foreach (var p in products) {  
        <li>@p.Name ($@p.Price)</li>  
    }  
</ul>
```

ASPX:

```
<ul id="products">  
    <% foreach(var p in products) { %>  
        <li><%= p.Name %> (<%= p.Price%>)</li>  
    <% } %>  
</ul>
```

Razor Modules

- Razor in DNN
 - Razor Host Module
 - DNN context available
 - Packaging/ASCX Buddy System



- ***Reference: Razor's Edge User Map***

Inline Scripting

- Quick and easy
- Dynamically compiled
- Well known for average .NET developer
- Main benefit: All code in ASCX files
- ***Reference: Customer Feedback Module***

VS Web Site Projects

- Integrates into App_Code and DesktopModules
- Main benefit: dynamically compiled
- More organization + scales better than inline script
- ***Reference: IWeb***

VS Web Application Projects

- WAP is just the project environment
- The strategy is generally larger scale, Object Oriented, n-tier development, etc.
- File system/Project in DesktopModules
 - Build to /bin
 - Include own assemblies
- ***References: DnnSimpleArticle***

WebFormsMVP

- Demo: coming up!
- Project environment is the same as a WAP
- Strategy is leveraging the MVP pattern

Key DNN API

- Current Context
- Localization
- Navigation
- Module Settings

Current Context

- Portal
 - What portal am I in?
- Page
 - What page am I on?
- User
 - Who is the current user (if logged in)?
- Module
 - What settings do I have?

Localization

- Resource Files / Keys
 - Local Resource File
 - Convention based discovery
- Declarative
 - In markup
 - ResourceKey=""
- Imperative
 - In code
 - LocalizeString("")
 - Localization.GetString("", this.LocalResourceFile)

Module Registration

■ Control Types

- View
 - Primary type for public facing module views
- Edit
 - Focus
- Settings
 - Integrate with “out of the box” module settings

■ Manifest Files

- XML files defines key points
- Useful for packaging and installation

Navigation

- `NavigateURL()`
 - Returns the URL of the default view control for your module
- `NavigateURL(TabID)`
 - Returns the URL of the specific tab
- `NavigateURL(TabID, String.Empty, "itemId=4", "mode=2")`
 - Returns the target tab URL with custom parameters

Tab == Page

Navigation

- EditUrl
 - Helps you to navigate to a specific control
 - Specify by key used during registration
 - Module Isolation

Tab == Page

Module Settings

- All modules have settings
- Custom Module settings
 - Build your own settings control
 - Settings base class
 - Two key methods (Load and Save)
 - Register appropriately
- Module Settings
- Tab Module Settings

General UI Guidelines

- User-facing UI is pretty open ended
- Be a good DNN citizen
 - Semantic well-structured markup (paragraphs, lists, etc)
 - Common sense look and feel
- You're not a designer, so keep it simple
 - Setting different font-sizes? Sure...
 - Setting different type-faces? Not so much...

Admin User Interface

- DNN Admin UI Patterns
- Allow for complete consistency across modules
- Take the guesswork out of implementing the UI
- Messaging! Info, Success, Error, Warning
- ***Reference: Crispy's Contest Module***



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Section 2

Deep Dive: WebFormsMVP

Section 2

WebFormsMVP

- Simple and Easy
- WebFormsMVP
- Unit Testing
- Converting DnnSimpleArticle Module
 - Review the starting module structure
 - Convert the edit functionality to the MVP pattern
 - Refactoring existing logic for testability
 - Review the unit tests

Simple and Easy in Software

- Simple
 - One role or task
 - Opposite of complex/intertwined
- Easy
 - Close at hand, known, familiar
- Often we choose easy, at the expense of simplicity
- *Simple is objective, easy is relative*

Examining your project needs

- Quick? Throw-away? Trivial? Low-impact?
 - Sure, go with what you know: easy.
- Project with any kind of longevity or significant importance?
 - Spend the time up front to make things simpler.
- A bug makes it past the type checker, the tests, and then what?

Separation of Concerns

- Each piece has focus
 - One role, task, concept, dimension
 - Lack of interleaving
- Final product has **many** *focused* pieces
- Rather than **few** *overloaded* pieces

WebFormsMVP

- Separation of concerns
- Increased Testability
- “Cleaner Architecture”
- Retains productive characteristics of WebForms

The Players

- View
 - Displays UI, has simple behavior
 - Does not do “heavy lifting”
- Model
 - Holds data, updated by both view and model.
 - Used to transfer data back and forth
- Presenter
 - Isolated from view
 - Performs business logic
 - Ideally, free of hard dependencies

WebFormsMVP Characteristics

- Requires the view to give control to Presenter
- The view and presenter pass around a model
- Interfaces are used to break hard dependencies
 - This supports unit testing

WebFormsMVP in DNN

- View
 - ModuleView base class
 - IModuleView interface
- Model
- Presenter
 - ModulePresenter base class

Diving in: DnnSimpleArticle

- Started as “normal” Web Application Project
 - ASPX pages with UI logic and some business logic in code behind
- “Edit” view converted to WebFormsMVP
 - More players, each with a more focused role

Unit Testing Benefits ^[1]

- Facilitates Change
- Simplifies integration
- Provides Documentation
- Design

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unit_testing

What do unit tests test?

- Smallest piece of testable software^[3]
- Logical and/or complex code
- Core business logic
- High traffic code / mission critical
- Or, in TDD: everything!

[3] <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa292197.aspx>

Simple Code

```
namespace SimpleLibrary
{
    using System;

    public class Fibonacci
    {
        public static int Calculate(int x)
        {
            if (x < 0)
                throw new ArgumentOutOfRangeException("x",
                    "Must be greater than or equal to zero.");

            return (x > 1) ? Calculate(x - 1) + Calculate(x - 2) : x;
        }
    }
}
```


Simple Test

```
namespace SimpleLibrary.Tests
{
    using ...

    public class FibonacciTest
    {
        [Test]
        public void Fibonacci_NumberGreaterThanOne_ReturnsExpectedResult()
        {
            int result = Fibonacci.Calculate(12);
            Assert.AreEqual(144, result);
        }
    }
}
```

Unit Test Characteristics

Unit tests should be: [2]

- Automated & Repeatable
- Easy to implement
- Once written, it remains for future use
- Anyone should be able to run it
- It should run at the push of a button
- Run quickly



[2] The Art of Unit Testing, Roy Osherove, Manning Publications 2009

Testing Frameworks

- Unit Testing “Glue”
 - (Addresses the Automated & Repeatable)
- csUnit, **MbUnit**, MSTest, Nunit, xUnit
- Pick one and go

We use MbUnit & Gallio

- MbUnit
 - Class and Method Attributes
 - Assertions
- Gallio Test Runner
 - Displays results
 - Visual Studio Integration
 - ReSharper Integration

What is testable code?

- Is all code testable?
- Single Responsibility/Separation of Concerns
- Dealing with dependencies

Seams

- “...place where you can alter behavior of your program without editing it in that place” – (Feathers, 2005)
- Plug-in / Injection

Seam / Constructor Injection

```
public class Fibonacci
{
    private readonly IGenericDependency genericDependency;

    public Fibonacci()
    {
        genericDependency = new GenericDependency();
    }

    public Fibonacci(IGenericDependency dependency)
    {
        genericDependency = dependency;
    }

    public int Calculate(int x) ...
}
```

Seam / Property Injection

```
public class Fibonacci
{
    public IGenericDependency Dependency { get; set; }

    public Fibonacci()
    {
        Dependency = new GenericDependency();
    }

    public int Calculate(int x) ...
}
```


Two Consumers

- Production Code
- Tests
- Seams help cater to the test

Fakes!

- Stubs
 - Return results
 - Throw exceptions
- Mocks
 - Verify behavior

Isolation Frameworks

- Help us create fakes
- And verify expectations
- Moq, Nmock, Rhino Mocks, Typemock Isolator

My Setup

- MBUnit – Unit testing framework
- MOQ – Isolation framework
- Gallio – Test runner
 - Integrated into Visual Studio / Resharper

Unit Testing: Quick Summary

- Unit testing increases confidence in your code. Code is more changeable.
- Therefore Unit Testing is a desirable practice
- WebFormsMVP allows us to better conduct unit testing in DotNetNuke



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Section 3

Introducing: Client Resource Management

Section 3

Client Resource Management

- Background/overview
- Key characteristics
- Client Dependency Framework
- JavaScript and CSS Registration
- Implementation details
- A new development approach

Overview

- Performance is a feature (*an important one*)
- Fast sites lead to satisfied users
- DotNetNuke is largely optimized on the server side, was not so much on the client side

Client Side Performance

*80% of the end-user response time is **spent on the front-end**. Most of this time is tied up in **downloading all the components** in the page: images, **stylesheets, scripts, Flash, etc.** **Reducing the number of components** in turn reduces the number of HTTP requests required to render the page. **This is the key to faster pages.***

-Yahoo! Exceptional Performance Team

DotNetNuke 6 – Resources Overview

■ Clean install, home page

- unauthenticated
 - 6 CSS Files
 - 13 JavaScript Files
- Logged in as host
 - 8 CSS Files
 - 22 JavaScript Files



Goals for Improvement

- Reduce the file size of each resource
- Only deliver a resource that is needed
- Combine resources into as few as possible

Client Resource Management: Key Characteristics

- Resource Registration API
 - Request a JS or CSS resource be loaded
- File combination
 - Combine all requests of a given type into one file
- Caching / Persistence
 - Cache the combined file / save it to disk
- Reuse
 - Reuse cached files across pages if appropriate
- Versioning
 - Allow for cache busting based on versioning

Client Dependency Framework

- Open Source Framework
- Microsoft Public License (Ms-PL)
- Originally released Early 2010
- Supports MVC & WebForms
- Used in Umbraco
- **Meets all key characteristics on the previous slide**

Step 1: Resource Registration

- Script Loader on page
- Register in code

```
var clientDependencyLoader = (ClientDependencyLoader)page.FindControl("Loader");  
clientDependencyLoader.RegisterDependency(styleSheet, ClientDependencyType.Css);
```

- Or register in markup

```
<%@ Register Namespace="ClientDependency.Core.Controls" Assembly="ClientDependency.Core" TagPrefix="CD" %>  
<CD:JsInclude runat="server" FilePath="~/Resources/Shared/Scripts/jquery/jquery.hoverIntent.min.js" />  
<CD:JsInclude runat="server" FilePath="~/Portals/_default/Skins/DarkKnight/jquery.cycle.min.js" />  
<CD:CssInclude runat="server" FilePath="/Portals/_default/Skins/DarkKnight/DNNMega/dnnmega.css" />
```

Resource Registration w/ DNN API

- Wrapped script loader control in Default.aspx
- Register in code using DNN API

```
ClientResourceManager.RegisterScript(this.Page, "~/Resources/Shared/Scripts/jquery/jquery.tmpl.js");
```

- Or register in markup using wrapped controls

```
<%@ Register TagPrefix="dnn" Namespace="DotNetNuke.Web.Client.ClientResourceManagement" Assembly="DotNetNuke.Web.Client" %>
```

```
<dnn:DnnJsInclude runat="server" FilePath="~/Resources/Shared/Scripts/jquery/jquery.hoverIntent.min.js" />
```

DNN 6.1 w/ Client Dependency

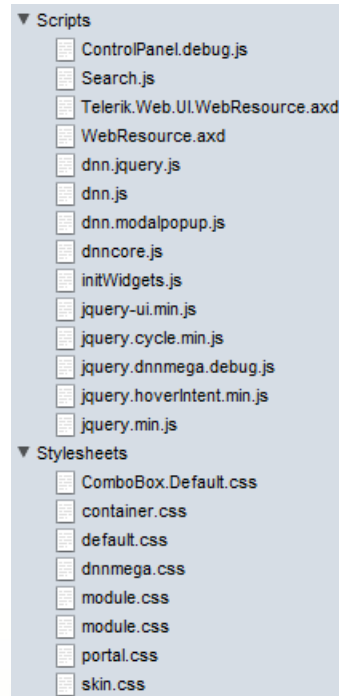
■ Home page, clean install

• Unauthenticated

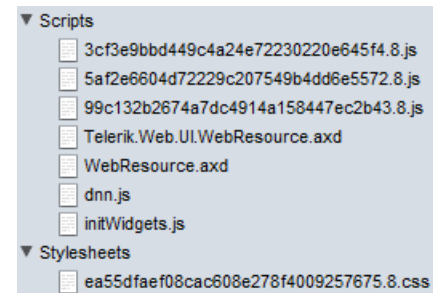
- Debug
 - 8 CSS Files
 - 14 JS Files
 - **22 Total**
- Release
 - 1 CSS Files
 - 7 JS Files
 - **8 Total**

■ 14 Fewer Requests

debug="true"



debug="false"



DNN 6.1 w/ Client Dependency

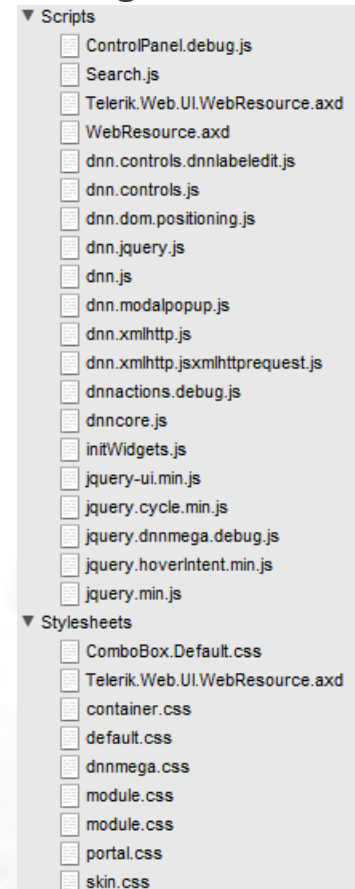
■ Home page, clean install

• Logged in as Host

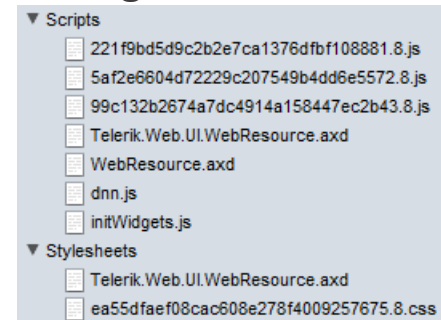
- Debug
 - 9 CSS Files
 - 20 JS Files
 - **29 Total**
- Release
 - 2 CSS Files
 - 7 JS Files
 - **9 Total**

■ 20 Fewer Requests

debug="true"



debug="false"



Into the wild

- DNN Core Strength: custom & third party components
- But, usage means resource requests often grow
- Consider these (unauthenticated. As of 8/16/2011)
 - R2integrated.com: 30+ JS files and 5 CSS files
 - DataSprings.com: 18 JS files and 11 CSS files
 - DotNetNuke.com: 16 JS files and 12 CSS files
 - EngageSoftware.com: 23 JS files and 9 CSS files
 - Mybrantford.ca: 17 JS files and 9 CSS files
 - Dreamslider.net: 16 JS files and 9 CSS files

Implementation Details

- Reference Assembly
- Additional web.config section
- Composite files stored in App_Data/ClientDependency
- DNN wrapper API methods
 - RegisterStyleSheet already exists
 - RegisterScript?
 - Wrapper control for user in skins and other controls
- WebUtility and WebControls assemblies need updating
- CDN integration
- Load ordering scheme for both JS & CSS

The New API

- DotNetNuke.Web.Client Assembly
 - RegisterStyleSheet methods
 - RegisterScript methods
 - DnnCssInclude
 - DnnJsInclude

File Combination

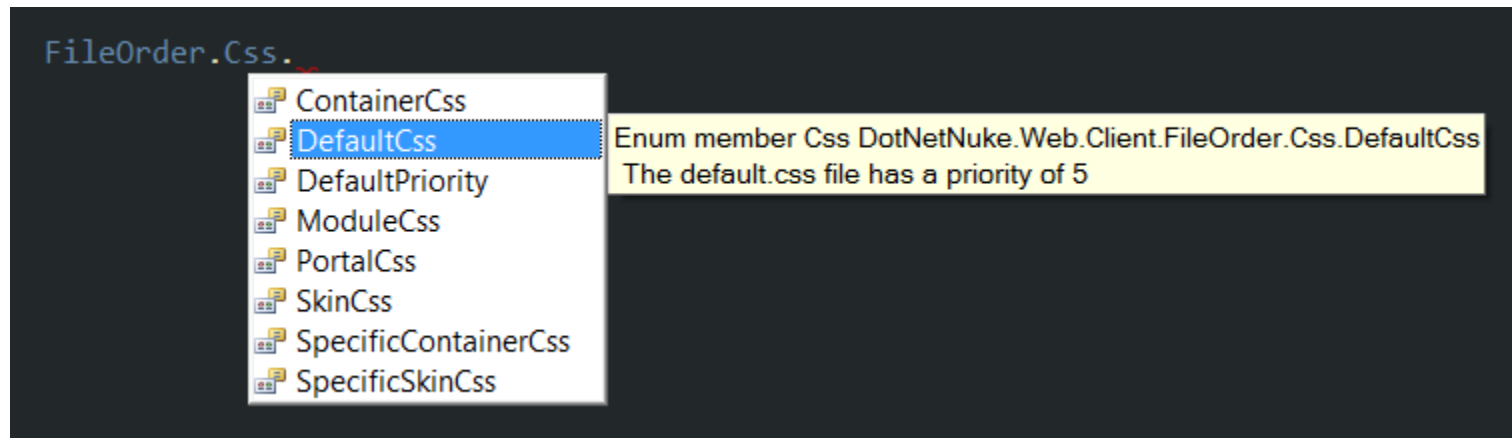
- Duplicates removed based on path/filename
- Combined into one file
- Absolute external URLs (JS & CSS) such as CDN requests are requested separately
- An xml file map is kept on the server
- The dynamic URL is a hash of those file path/names

Location in the Document

- Provider model
- Provider dictates where it is rendered
- Out of the box:
 - LoaderControlProvider
 - PageHeaderProvider
 - LazyLoadProvider
- DNN Provides:
 - DnnPageHeaderProvider (6.1.1)
 - DnnBodyRenderProvider
 - DnnFormBottomRenderProvider

File Ordering

- Integer based relative priority
- DotNetNuke core file order enumeration (spaced by 5)



Caching and Persistence

- ASP.NET Output Caching
 - MSDN: *“On subsequent requests, the page or user control code is not executed; the cached output is used to satisfy the request.”*
- Stored on disk for persistence across application restarts
 - Pulled from disk (not rebuilt) and put in cache

Versioning

- Integer based version number
- Stored in web.config
- Forces a fresh rebuild of the files
- A variety of ways to increment
 - Install an extension
 - Clear the cache
 - Save Portal.css
 - Perform an upgrade

Step 2: A New Development Approach

- Freed up to structure as necessary
 - No longer shove all styles into one module.css file
 - Can break it out into separate files and request as needed
 - `CssInclude('base.css')`
 - `CssInclude('ui-widgets.css')`
 - `CssInclude('gallery.css')`
 - Same with JS files



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Resources

General Module Development

- [DotNetNuke Wiki](#) (Really!)
 - jQuery Plugins
 - Manifest Files
- [Razor's Edge User Map](#)
- [IWeb](#)
- [DnnSimpleArticle](#)
- [Customer Feedback](#)
- [C# WAP Module Development Templates](#)
- [Updating the Contest Module UI for DNN 6](#)

Simple Made Easy

- Rich Hickey, Oct 20, 2011 @ Strange Loop Conference in St. Louis MO. Please watch!!!
- <http://www.infoq.com/presentations/Simple-Made-Easy>

WebFormsMVP Resources

- WebFormsMVP.com
- [DnnSimpleArticle](#)
- [BeerCollectionMVP](#)
- Upcoming: [core forums module](#)

Unit Testing Resources

■ Books

- Roy Osherov's "[The Art of Unit Testing](#)"
- Michael Feathers "[Working Effectively with Legacy Code](#)"

Client Resource Management Resources

- [ClientDependency Framework on Codeplex](#)
- [Client Resource Admin Module](#)
- [DNN Client Resource Logger Library](#)
- **Blog posts**
 - [Enhancements for working with JavaScript and CSS Files in DNN 6.1](#)
 - [DNN 6.1 JS/CSS File Combination Potential Gotchas](#)
- **Documentation**
 - [DNN Client Resource Management API](#)
 - [Client Dependency Framework](#)



2011
DOTNETNUKE™ WORLD
O R L A N D O

Bonus!

Client Capability API

■ ClientCapabilityProvider

- IsMobile
- IsTablet
- IsTouchScreen
- SupportsFlash
- + more

■ Additional Resources

- <http://www.dotnetnuke.com/Resources/Blogs/EntryId/3194/Mobile-APIs-in-6-1.aspx>
- <http://www.dotnetnuke.com/Resources/Blogs/EntryId/3208/Mobile-Device-Detection-and-Redirection-ndash-Under-the-Hood.aspx>

Templating

- Ask me about templates!

```
<ul id="products">
  {% for product in products %}
    <li>
      <h2>{{ product.title }}</h2>
      Only {{ product.price | format_as_money }}

      <p>{{ product.description | prettyprint | truncate: 200 }}</p>

    </li>
  {% endfor %}
</ul>
```