

GateIn Introduction

Michal Vančo & Miroslav Cupák JBoss QA 22 Nov, 2011

Abstract:

This presentation is an introduction to portal and portlets basics, features and UI of GateIn Portal. Workshop covers specification details for portlet development.

Agenda

- Motivation for portals & portlets
- GateIn Overview (demo)
- JSR-168 / 286 Portlet development
 - Lifecycle, API
 - Tag library
 - IPC (inter-portlet communication), resources etc.
- Workshop

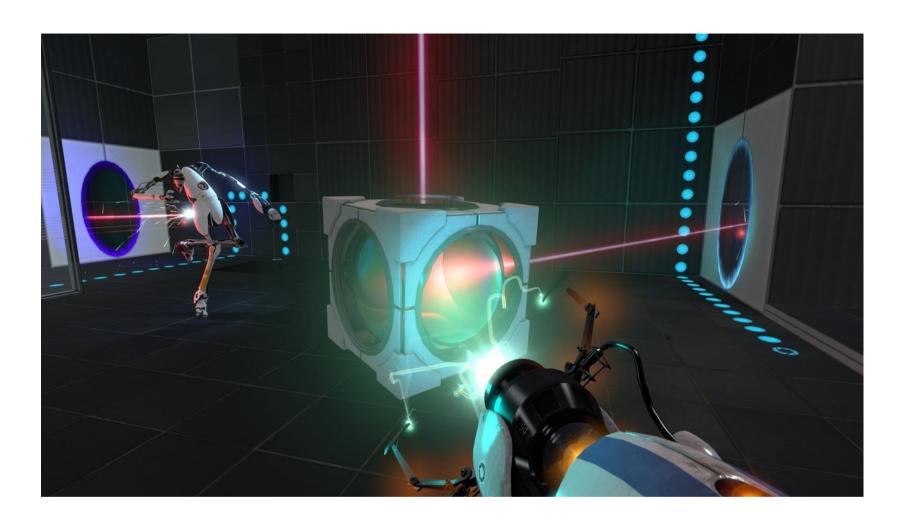




What is portal?



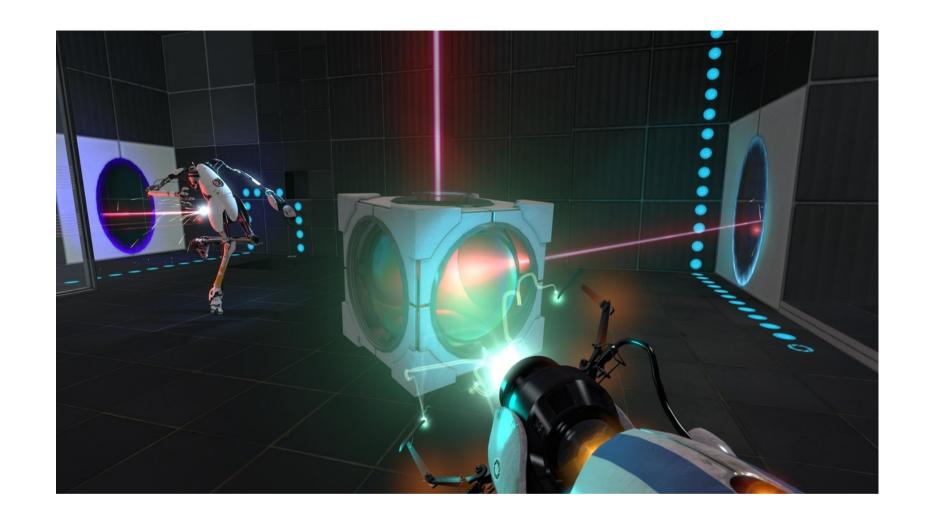








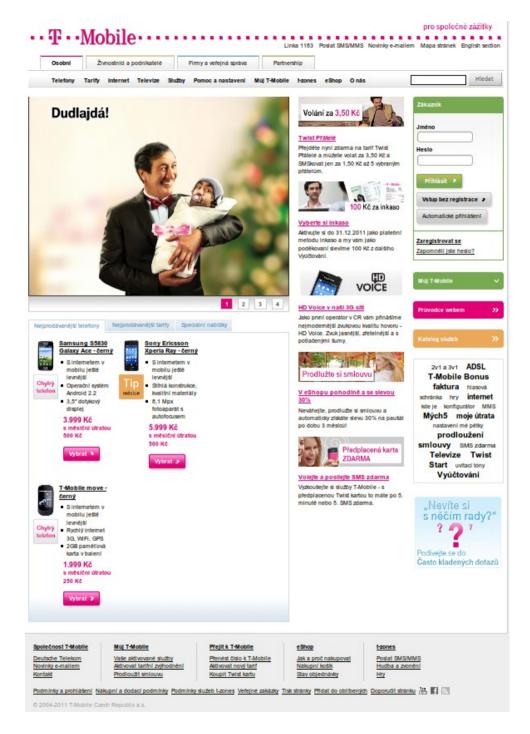




No! :)

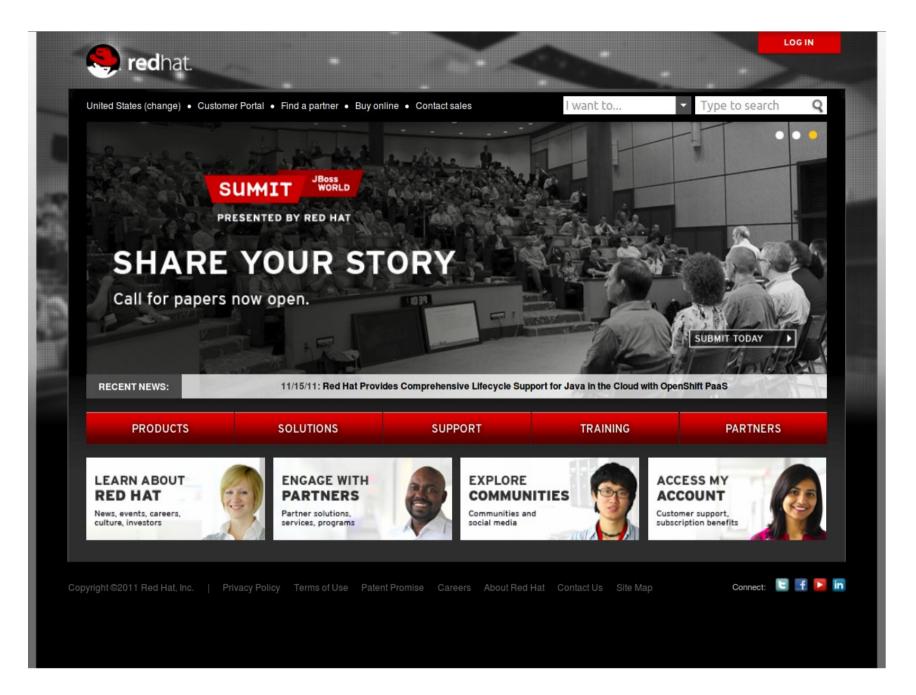
















Portal

- A portal is a web based application that provides personalization, single sign on, content aggregation from different sources in the form of portlets.
- Framework for integration of information, people and processes in an organization.
- Set of services/applications.
- Portal server.





Types of portals

- General (yahoo.com)
- Community (MySpace.com)
- Business (Amazon.com)
- Information (BBC.co.uk, idnes.cz)
- Enterprise (GateIn, Liferay)
- Horizontal (Seznam.cz) vs. Vertical (CouchSurfing.org)
- B2B, B2C, B2E, G2C





Enterprise Portals













Advantages

- integration
- single sign-on
- customization & personalisation
- authorization & authentication
- communication
- extensibility







What is that 'portlet' thing?

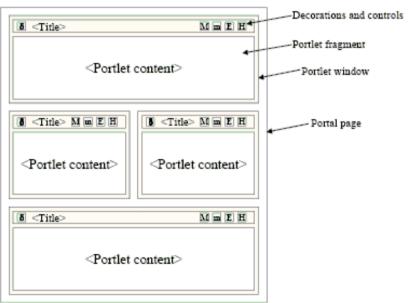






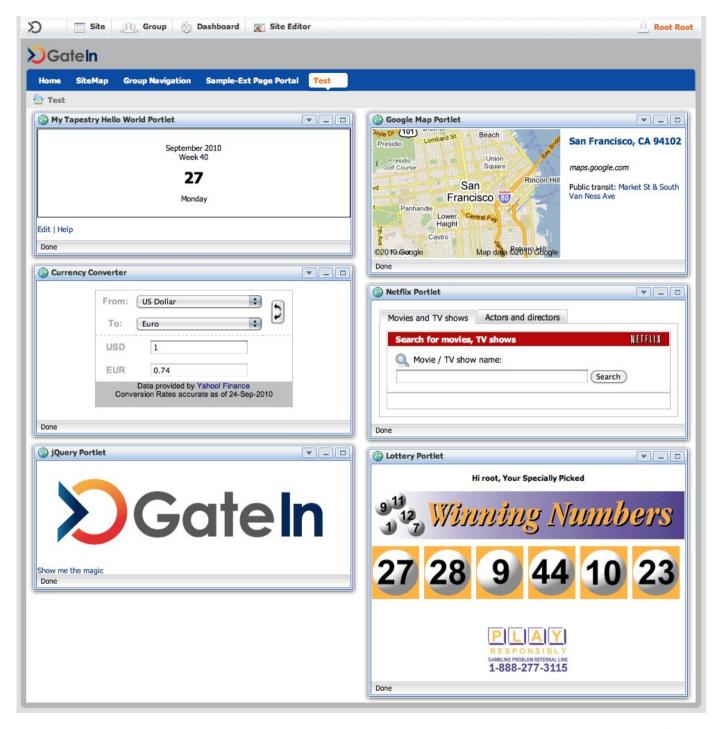
Portlet

- Small web application designed to be deployed on portal server.
- Reusable web component generating dynamic content (markup fragment) based on requests. Portal aggregates portlet markup fragments into a complete portal page.















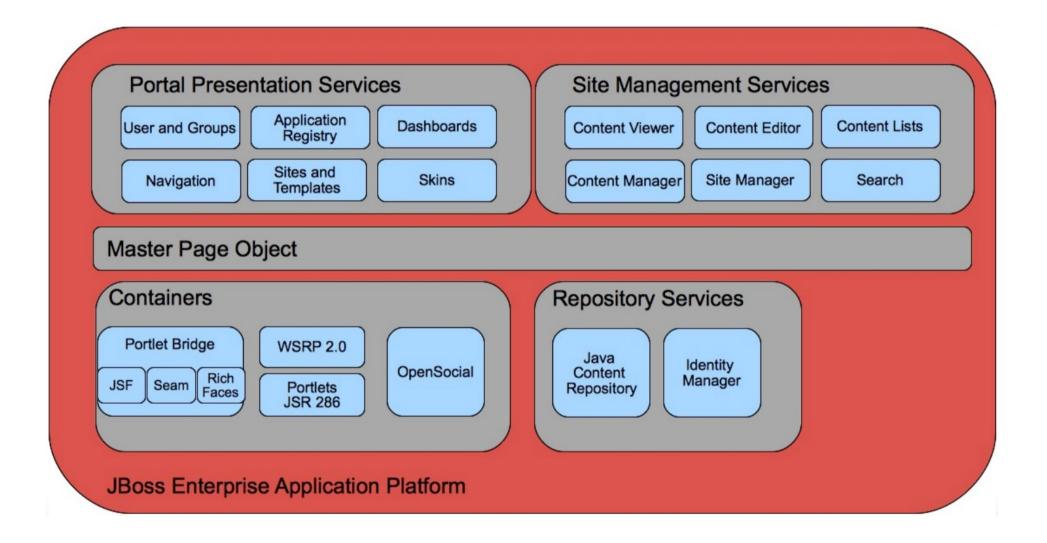
- Open source portal server.
- GateIn Portal is a merge of two mature projects that have been around for a while, JBoss Portal (Red Hat) and eXo Portal (eXo).
- Based on standards, selected services.
- ...and it's awesome!







Anatomy of GateIn portal







Main features

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- rich user interface, internationalization
- dynamic navigations and page creation (DnD), intuitive administration
- support for portlet specifications, bridges
- dashboards, gadgets
- IDM
- SSO & LDAP support, OS-JVM & DB compatibility
- content stored in JCR, extensions
- WSRP.





Imagine implementing these by yourself...













GateIn live...







Portlet development





JSR-168

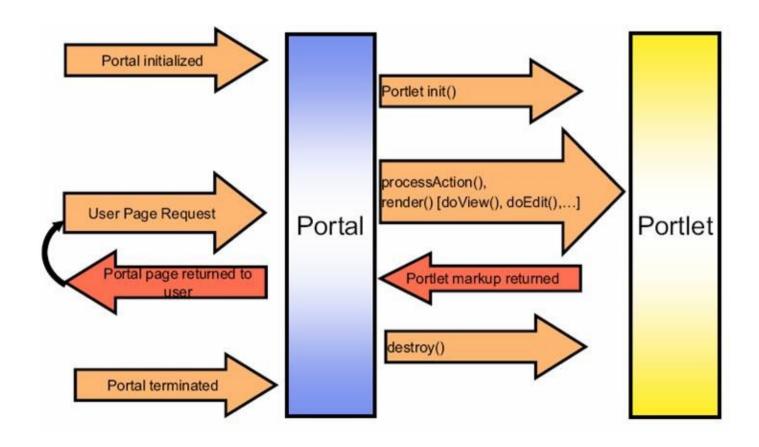
- Portlet vs. Servlet
 - common features:
 - generate dynamic content
 - components based on Java
 - lifecycle managed by container
 - request/response model
 - portlet specific features:
 - generate fragment of pages
 - not bound to URL
 - communication via portal
 - more complex request processing and behavior
 - multiple instances on page





Portlet container & lifecycle

- Manages lifecycle of portlets
- Distributes requests among portlets

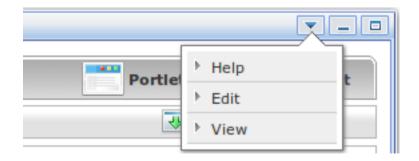






Portlet modes & window states

- Modes indicate current portlet function.
- 3 common modes: VIEW, EDIT, HELP.
- Window states determine the amount of space on the page available to the portlet.
- 3 common states: NORMAL, MAXIMIZED, MINIMIZED.
- Custom states & modes.







PortletPreferences & PortletSession

- Session is temporary storage of data to share among portlets.
- Preferences are used to persist attributes (userspecific key-value pairs). Typically set in EDIT mode during processAction phase.





JSR-286

- Extends JSR-168 (+ backwards compatible)
- Inter-porlet communication:
 - public render parameters
 - events
- Resource serving
- Filters, annotations support, advanced AJAX handling.





Tag library

- Used in JSP pages
 - <% taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/portlet_2_0" prefix="portlet" %>
- Allow access to portal specific request/response objects
 - <portlet:defineObjects />
- Is used in JSP pages to generate links (actionURL, renderURL, resourceURL)
- request/response objects can be accessed in scriplet or EL expressions

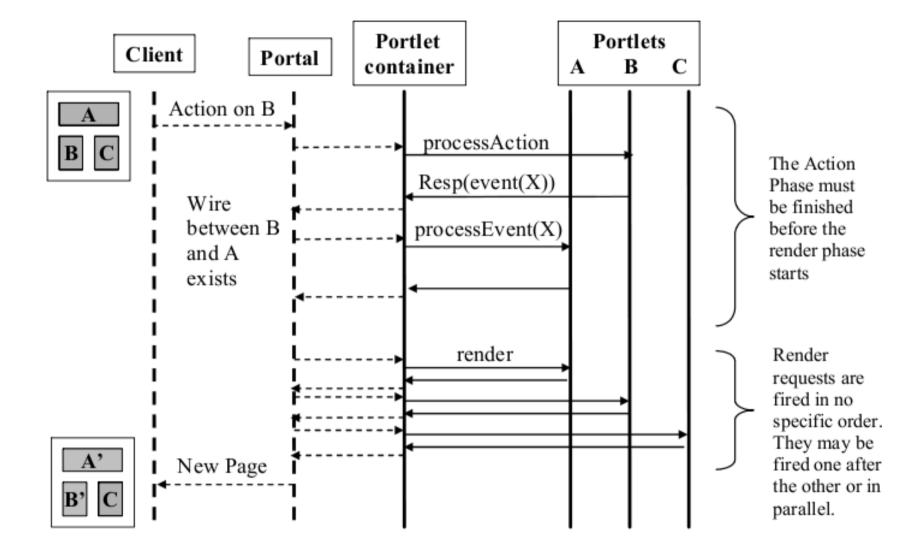
```
<portlet:renderURL var="invoiceRenderUrl">
        <portlet:param name="view" value="invoice"/>
        <portlet:param name="id" value="42"/>
        </portlet:renderURL>

<a href="${invoiceRenderUrl}">Show invoice 42</a>
```





Request handling (with action & event)







Portlet descriptors

- WEB-INF/web.xml
- WEB-INF/portlet.xml
 - Contains definitions of portlets, its parameters, modes, events, PRPs, etc.







Let's have some fun!





Workshop details



- Generate dynamic web project in JBDS with Portlet facet
- Generate simple portlet & deploy
- Update portlet to render content from JSP
- Create form in JSP & implement processAction
 - add another JSP which displays value from form + use renderURL to return
- Create help mode & display information about signed user
 - add link to switch back to view mode (using renderURL)
- Advanced: create edit mode & implement storing and display of PortletPreferences





Important links

- http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=286
- http://www.jboss.org/gatein/

(Download page, User & Reference Guides)

http://www.jboss.com/products/platforms/portals/

Contact

mvanco@redhat.com mcupak@redhat.com











Thanks for your attention!

See you next week on advanced portlet development session.



