
The Tekuma Art Curation System

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April 14, 2017

1 OVERVIEW

There has been approximately one year to date of active, ongoing technologies development at Tekuma, Inc. When development began in June 2016, very little web infrastructure existed besides the tekuma homepage¹. The first goal realized was to build a system for onboarding, cataloging, and accessing artworks in an effort to streamline the art curation process happening at Tekuma, and provide a more scalable business model. One year later, much of the infrastructure for this goal has been implemented, and is ready for innovative and more marketable applications to be built on top of this curation infrastructure.

2 COMPONENTS

The infrastructure which would most help Tekumas curation process was not clear at the time development began. Design decisions were made as they arose, as Tekuma's needs and use cases were evolving with the development. Different prototypes were being tested to analyze different possible web technologies that could be used. After two weeks of prototyping, it became apparent that some preliminary specification needed to be defined in order to structure development of the core infrastructure and to drive production forward. In June 2016, Stephen decided that a four-sided approach would best meet the needs of Tekumas complex business model, and multiple targeted users. Specifically, an underlying cloud-based system serves 4 web apps to act as portals

¹<http://tekuma.io>. A WordPress static website

	Name	Targeted Users	URL	Repository
A	The Artist Portal	Artists	https://artist.tekuma.io	artist-portal
B	The Business Portal	Property Owners	https://business.tekuma.io *	n/a
C	The Curator Portal	Curators	https://curator.tekuma.io	curator-portal
D	The Discover Portal	Consumers	https://discover.tekuma.io	n/a

Figure 2.1: the ABCD User Abstraction

into different parts of Tekuma’s curation system. These web apps are referred to as the ABCD user abstraction. This model is described below and summarized in figure (2.1), where each entry represents an online hosted application. All code connected to the curation system is stored in Tekuma’s GitHub. ²

2.1 BOILERPLATE

Before creating the web applications, a general boilerplate was designed for online user interfaces. The boilerplate makes up Tekumas online graphic and visual identity. The UI primarily defaults to customs and principles dictated by Googles Material Design³ in line with the current standards in User Interface design. Also included with the boilerplate is Tekumas general CSS stylesheet, and a set of interface icons created by Afika Nyati. The style sheet builds upon the material design guidelines by customizing it to Tekumas aesthetics. More technically, the interface is written in JavaScript ES6+ using ReactJS, transpiled using webpack and BabelJS. State in the interfaces, user account creation, and file uploads are all handled by Google Firebase and managed in the Firebase Conosole⁴. For simplicity, all code in the system is written in JavaScript and is either executed in-browser, or with NodeJS (v6.4.0LTS). Together, the stylesheet, ReactJS interface components, logo, color palette and gradient, type choices (Nexa font, utf-8) makeup Tekumas online visual identity, an extrapolation of Tekumas brand identity developed by Kwaku Opoku in collaboration with Tekumas founders. (do we hold trademarks on the font usage?)

2.2 ARTIST

The first component designed and implemented was the beta version of the Artist portal. The Artist portal is powered primarily by Google Firebase, and was originally designed to function without server-side code as a statically served interface. All communications from the portal to the rest of the curation system are handled through the Firebase Realtime Database. The Artist Portal

²<https://github.com/tekuma>

³<https://material.io/guidelines/>

⁴

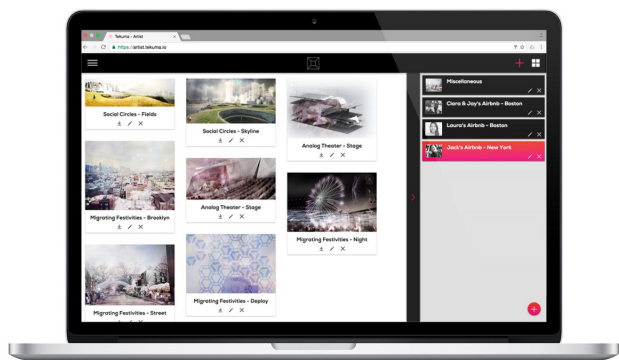


Figure 2.2: The Artist Portal

provides two main functionalities to its users, as well as a standard interface for editing and supplying personal information about themselves and their artistic style.

2.2.1 ARTIST STUDIO

The primary goal of the portal is to handle uploaded and cataloging of artworks. All uploaded files are saved into Google Cloud Storage buckets, located at in the Cloud Console⁵ and all data cataloged in hierarchical (non-structural) format in the Firebase Database. The organization of these files within the storage buckets is detailed further in url-schema.md in the Documentation repository⁶. Later, functionality was added to do extra processing on uploaded artworks to provide more labeled data. This functionality exceeded the scope of client-side execution, and integrating HTTP communication to a server would incur a large overhead. Instead, a daemon running on a Google Compute Engine (GCE) cloud-hosted server handles this extra processing. Communication to the daemon is facilitated by Google Firebases real-time database where a first-in-first-out (FIFO) stack is used to keep track of jobs for the daemon to execute. The extra labeling includes gathering text tags and color palletes from the uploaded images using machine-vision technology, and is further explained in (X.X).

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2.2.2 ARTIST GALLERY

2.3 BUSINESS

2.4 CURATOR

server and daemon (modularity)

2.4.1 CURATOR SEARCH

2.4.2 CURATOR MANAGE

2.4.3 CURATOR REVIEW

(discuss daemon)

2.5 DISCOVER

3 UNFINISHED COMPONENTS

3.1 BUSINESS

3.2 DISCOVERY

4 DATABASES

4.1 ARIST DATABASE

Branches of the firebase database. Used to handle state of artist.tekuma.io interface

4.2 CURATOR DATABASE

branches of the firebase database Used to handle state of the curator.tekuma.io interface

4.3 TEKUMA ARTWORK DB

4.4 ART.COM DATABASE

The Art.com Database, which is roughly 10MB, contains **2,311,390** rows of data, in structured SQL format. Examples of these rows are below.

```

columns = [ 'SKU', 'ITEM_TITLE', 'ITEM_LONG_DESC', 'ARTISTNAME',
'ITEM_TYPE', 'IMAGE_URL', 'PRODUCT_URL', 'PRODUCT_TAXONOMY' ]
actual_row = [ '30742196502A',
'Spurzheim_Bust',
'JOHANN_KASPAR_SPURZHEIM_German_phrenologist_with_his_autograph',
'H_Corbould',
'Photographic_Print',
'http://cache2.allpostersimages.com/MED/\\84\\8488\\5WQK300Z.jpg',
'http://www.art.com/products/p30742196502-sa-i9032642/.htm?RFID=197560',
'World_Culture>European_Cultures>German_Culture>>>>>>' ]

```

5 RELATED WORK

1. **ArtFlip** (<https://www.artflip.com/product>) A website very similar in UI and UX to the curator portal.

6 POTENTIAL INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS