Hello World (D7)

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Background

This drupal module is a modified version of the helloword_d7 module that comes with the assignment 2. I have added the mass import feature.

Helloworld

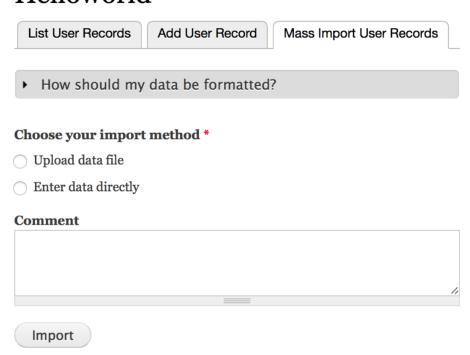


Figure 1: Mass Import User Records

1 Basic Use Case

The Mass Import User Records feature is added in the form of menu tab alongside the existing List User Records and Add User Record tabs (as shown in Figure 1).

There is a fieldset which contains a guide on how the data should be formatted at the top of the form. It is collapsed by default. Click on the title to expand it.

This mass import feature supports two types of import method: file upload and direct input. Different type of line breaks: \n , \r , and \r are supported.

1.1 File Upload

Data file should be of plaintext .txt format and data should be structured in the stated way properly.

- 1. Choose the Upload data file radio button, a file upload form will appear.
- 2. Choose a file to upload.
- 3. (Optional) Enter *comment* for the users if necessary.
- 4. Click the Import button.

1.2 Direct Input

Data should be formatted according to the guide.

- 1. Choose the Enter data directly radio button, a text area will appear.
- 2. Paste or enter data into the text area.
- 3. (Optional) Enter *comment* for the users if necessary.
- 4. Click the Import button.

2 Miscellaneous

- I've found and fixed a small bug in the helloworld_api. Originally it does not sanitize the name and comment before output, which makes it vulnerable to script injections. Drupal's convention is to save everything that the user entered without escaping, but sanitize them before output. So I did not do any escaping when importing data. Instead, I added sanitize filters in the output function. This bug also exists in the audit_log menu of the cvwobase_d7 module, I've fixed that also. However, since it is not part of this assignment, I'll not upload that module.
- I did not make use of the existing add_user() method. Instead, I implemented a import_users() method into the helloworld_api. This is because in case of error occurring during the actual writing to the database, I can rollback the whole transaction. If I choose to call add_user() iteratively, each add_user() call will start a transaction and commit it. In case of error, those successful commits won't be rolled back. And if the user sees the error and tries to upload the same file again, there will be duplicate entries in the database. Another reason is that it is not possible to nest transactions in another transaction.
- I did not perform validation on name so that it can support different types of characters, such as Chinese and Vietnamese.
- To easily find out the changes in code, please refer to the commit log on Github.

3 Accomplishment

Although I did not have time to add more features to it, I feel quite satisfied with this assignment. I've learnt how Drupal works and how to hook into it. I had fun with the form API.