Drupal Coding Patterns

Drupal Camp NJ - Princeton University
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About Me

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Interested?

Let’s talk after the session.
Today’s Topics

+ Entity API
+ Node patterns for template.php
+ Display modes
+ Views theming custom handlers
*Warning: We’re talking code, today."
**Warning: We’re gonna move fast.**
***Warning: I tend to talk fast.
****Warning: ...and at great length.
Entity API
Entities:
- We’re introduced in D7
- Are the base of all field-able objects
- Are built on a core entity API

Entities API ([http://drupal.org/project/entity](http://drupal.org/project/entity)):
- Is not referring to the core entity API
Entity API

Main features

+ Interact with existing entities
+ Query entities
+ Define new entities
Entity API

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Entity API

$node->body['und'][0]['value'];
Entity API

```php
$node->body['und'][0]['value'];
```
Entity API

Interacting with existing entities
$wrapper = entity_metadata_wrapper($entity_type, $eid);

Accessing properties
$wrapper->property->value() // return property
Entity API

CODE!
Entity API

Querying Content

EntityFieldQuery();

Example

Get all article nodes that have the tag “demo.”
Entity API

CODE!
Node Patterns for template.php
Node patterns for template.php

This scares me on an almost daily basis:
Node patterns for template.php

Why node--{node-type}.tpl.php is terrible inefficient:

+ Duplication is the devil.
  See also: “DRY”

+ Code == Documentation
  Multiple tpl’s convey a false sense of complexity

+ Promotes putting logic in your views
  The leading cause of dead kittens.
Node patterns for template.php

What your theme should look like:

- node.tpl.php renders about 10 different node types, all with different output requirements.
Node patterns for template.php

template_preprocess_node() is your friend.
Node patterns for template.php

Some MVC design theory.

+ The controller implements your business logic and integrates your data with the appropriate output.
  
  template.php is your controller

+ The view just prints stuff.
Node patterns for template.php

CODE!
View Modes
View Modes

(Enough with the Views fields, already.)
View Modes

Display modes allow you to display an entity in different ways.

+ Only two modes in D6: teaser & full.

+ D7 allows you to define display modes in hook_entity_info_alter().

+ Ex. Real estate listings: View modes could be full, teaser, quick view.
View Modes

Step 1: Add the view mode
+ Using hook_entity_info_alter()

Step 2: Define a template for view mode
+ Using template_node_preprocess()

Step 3: Tell your view to use it
+ Format: Show Content | [Display Mode]

Step 4: Theme your view template
CODE!
BONUS!

+ Manually render any node with any view mode:

```php
print render(node_view($node, "quick_view"));
```
Views Custom Handlers
Views Custom Handlers

What is a view handler?

“In Views, a handler is an object that is part of the view and is part of the query building flow.”

http://api.drupal.org/api/views/views.api.php/group/views_handlers/7
Views Custom Handlers

What parts of the query can they handle?

+ Fields
+ Sorting
+ Filtering
+ Arguments
+ Relationships
+ Areas
Views Custom Handlers

How they are implemented?

Class Inheritance (http://api.drupal.org/api/views/handlers%21views_handler_filter.inc/class/views_handler_filter/7)

Start with the closest base class that meets your functionality, then override what you need.
Views Custom Handlers

What parts of the query can they handle?

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Views Custom Handlers

What parts of the query can they handle?

+ Fields
+ Sorting
+ Filtering
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+ Areas
Views Custom Handlers

CODE!
Lighting Round

+ Questions (...about anything...)
+ Comments
+ Talk shop
Thank you!

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