Creating a Tweet Field Type

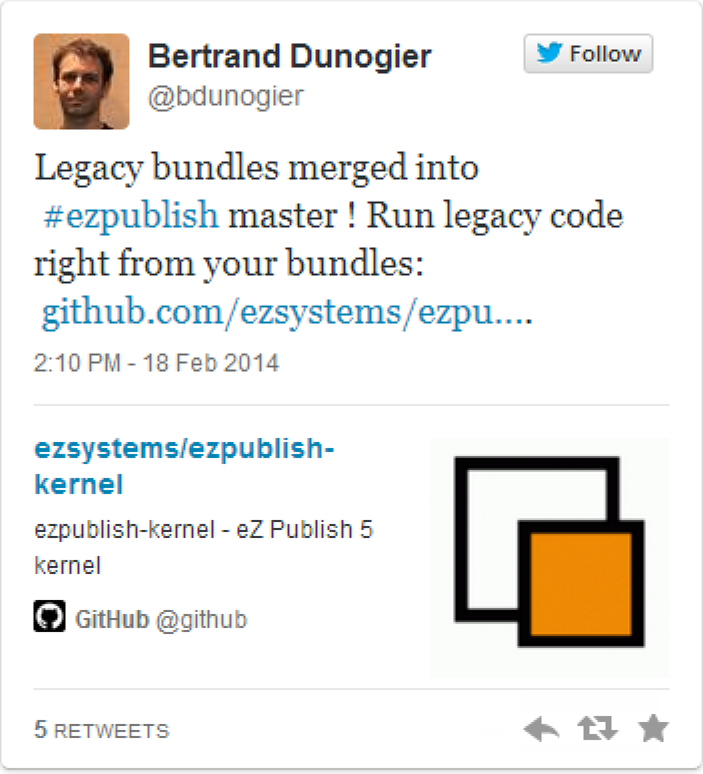
About this tutorial

Tutorial Path

This tutorial aims at covering the creation and development of a custom eZ Platform Field Type.

We will do this by implementing a *Tweet* Field Type. It will:

- Accept as input the URL of a tweet (https://twitter.com/<username>/status/<id>)
- Fetch the tweet using the Twitter oEmbed API (https://dev.twitter.com/docs/embedded-tweets)
- Store the tweet’s embed contents and URL
- Display the tweet's embedded version when displaying the field from a template



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@bdunogier

Legacy bundles merged into #ezpublish master ! Run legacy code right from your bundles: github.com/ezsystems/ezpu....

2:10 PM - 18 Feb 2014

ezsystems/ezpublish-kernel

ezpublish-kernel - eZ Publish 5 kernel

GitHub @github

5 RETWEETS

About Field Types

Field Types are the most granular building blocks for content managed by eZ Platform. The system comes with about 30 native types that cover most common needs (Text line, Rich text, Email, Author list, Content relation, Map location, Float, etc.)

Field Types are responsible for:

- Storing data, either using the native storage engine mechanisms, or specific means
- Validating input data
- Making the data searchable (if applicable)
- Displaying an instance of the type

Custom Field Types are a very powerful type of extension, since they allow you to hook deep into the content model.

You can find the in-depth documentation about Field Types and their best practices here. It describes how each component of a Field Type interacts with the various layers of the system, and how to implement those.

Getting the code

The code created throughout this tutorial is available on GitHub: https://github.com/ezsystems/TweetFieldTypeBundle.

Steps

The bundle

Field Types, like any other eZ Platform plugin, must be provided as Symfony2 bundles. This chapter covers the creation and organization of this bundle.

Read more about creating and structuring the bundle.

API

This part covers the implementation of the eZ Platform API elements required to implement a custom Field Type.

Read more about implementing the Tweet\Value class and the Tweet\Type class.

Converter

Storing data from any Field Type into the Legacy Storage Engine requires that your custom data is mapped to the data model.

Read more about implementing the Legacy Storage Engine Converter.

Templating

Displaying a Field Type's data is done through a Twig template.

Read more about implementing the Field Type template.

PlatformUI integration

Viewing and editing values of the Field Type in PlatformUI requires that you extend PlatformUI, using mostly Javascript.

You should ideally read the general extensibility documentation for PlatformUI. The part about templating covers view templates. Edit templates are not documented at the time of writing, but Netgen has published a tutorial that covers the topic: http://www.netgenlabs.com/Blog/Adding-support-for-a-new-field-type-to-eZ-Publish-Platform-UI.