Building Responsive Websites

NYU Computer Science Website Overview
Daniel Tsadok
Who Am I?

Daniel Tsadok
Courant Web Developer, 2008-present
I write software for and manage
cs.nyu.edu
cims.nyu.edu
math.nyu.edu
Types of Content

- News *
- Course Schedule *
- Office Hours *
- Contact Information
- Static Content

- Events/Colloquia *
- Final Exams *
- Department Calendar *
- Program Information
- User Content (Not covered)

* Dynamic
Dynamic Content
Content Management

Goals:

• Consistent Layout
• Simple interface
• Version Control
• Access Control
• Addressable/Routable
CMS Feeds

/events/17/foo

CMS Page

/events/18/bar

CMS Page

/events/19/baz

CMS Page

/events/ Feed

Wednesday, January 30, 13
Imported Content

Courses
Final Exams
Faculty Listing
Office Hours

Internal CS database
(MSAccess...)

csv

Rails App Server

DB

import script (cron)
Original

Static Files

Apache Web Server

Clients
Static Files

Apache Web Server

Clients

Pros and Cons?
Current Architecture

Dynamic Content

Rails App Server

DB

Static Files

Apache Web Server

User pages

Home Directories

Clients

Response
mod_proxy

Rails App Server ← Apache Web Server ← Clients

ProxyPass /rails/(.*) http://rails/$1

Request
Authentication

• Courant LDAP (CIMS account)
• NYU (ITS) LDAP (Net ID)
• before_filter in Rails
Why Rails?
Why Rails?

Model:
class Colloquium
    belongs_to :semester

Controller:
@colloquia =
@current_semester.colloquia.limit(5)

View:
<% for colloquium in @colloquia %>
    <div><%= colloquium.title %></div>
<% end %>
Other Frameworks

Sinatra (simpler than Rails)
Torquebox: jruby on Rails with JBoss
Groovy on Grails (JVM)
Scala (JVM)
BackboneJS (MVC for client-side)
Thank You

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