Plone at TLC²
and
Taking it easy with zShells

Josten Ma

Thursday, November 8th, 2007

The UH Experience

- How we got started
- Lesson learned
- It is not just technical
- Some sample
- Things that we organized

Our Wish List

- Content management System
- That does not Cost a lot
- Extensibility
- **Support** both **General** and Expert users
- Performance, Reliability, Redundancy
- Security

Credit Reference: external sources

Texas Learning & Computation Center

Few Basic Assumptions

- KISS
- Simple Security Model
- Reusable Templates
- User Interfaces
- General code support (html, pdf, images …)
- Dummy Proof

The Choice is Plone

- Open Source CMS
- Secured Membership
- Easy of content management
- Full Features (more than 300 add-ons)

users

www

Portal

Content Stake Holders

Technical Administrations
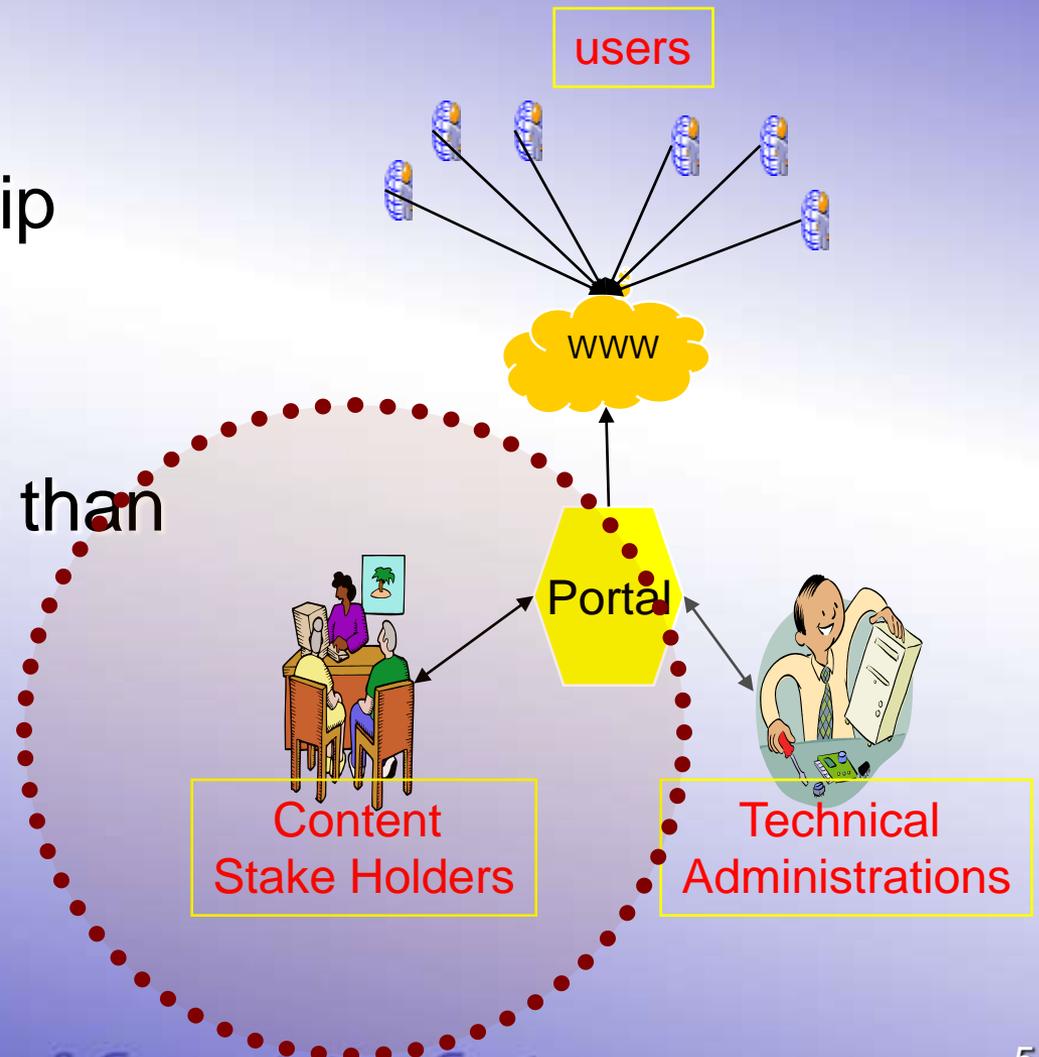
Researchers Needs

- **Basic Functionalities**
  - Web Pages with customizable templates
  - Folders, Documents, Images & Photo Album
  - News, Calendar & Events
  - Bread Crumb, Navigation & Shortcuts
  - Search, Workflow
  - External References Links
- **Recent Capabilities Requests**
  - Forum, Blog, Polls, Mailing List, Newsletter, e-commerce.

Web Items

- **Basic**
  - Web page
  - News
  - Event
  - Folder
  - Document
  - Image
  - Link

- **Specialized**
  - Photo Gallery
  - Bibliography
  - Publications
  - Collaboration
    - Chat, Forums, Wiki
  - Multimedia
  - GIS, Mapping
  - … etc

Texas Learning & Computation Center

It is not just technical

- Organization support (Boss(es))
- Understanding your user & environment
- Importance of Process
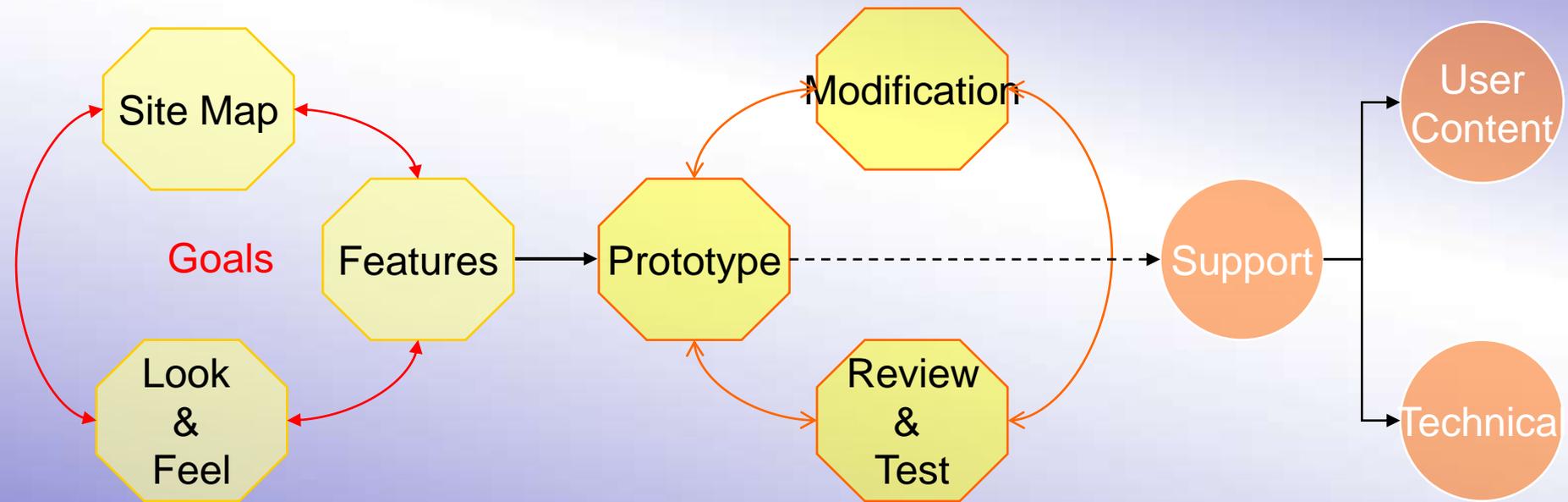- Tech team
  - Immediate staff
  - Open source communities
  - Consultants
- Knowing your limits

Business Process

- Need a blue print
- Development approach
- Get them started
  - Interview (What is the compelling story,
  - Design Layout
  - Site mapping
- Support
  - Training
  - Maintenance
  - Documentation

Rapid Deployment Model

Texas Learning & Computation Center

Sample Web Sites

- Research Centers
  - http://www.tlc2.uh.edu/
  - http://www.tlc2.uh.edu/Members/josten
  - http://www.research.uh.edu/
- PI
- Conferences
- Student Associations
- Community Outreach
- Cultural (multimedia)

Click here for:
Example Web Sites

Texas Learning & Computation Center

Looking Ahead

- Homeland Security & Public Safety
- Grant Application
- Video
- Web Site of the Future (3D)

What is ZShell?

- Adopts the Plone way of templating to play well
- Reusable and Customizable
- Comes with a default template that can be customized
- Bundles of template components to facilitate export/imported
- Use it for your entire site or (single main template)
- Or Create a consistent branding with complex multi-level nested templates
- Templating framework for easy custom development rototyping tool
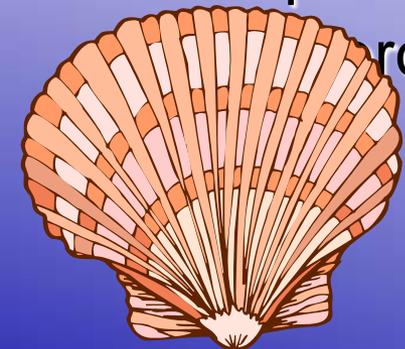
The ZShells Game

- Applying your own design
- Install ZShells and Use
  - 3 simple steps
- Changing Shells is simple
  - Import Design Template OR
  - Customize your own
- Replicating web site with Appeal
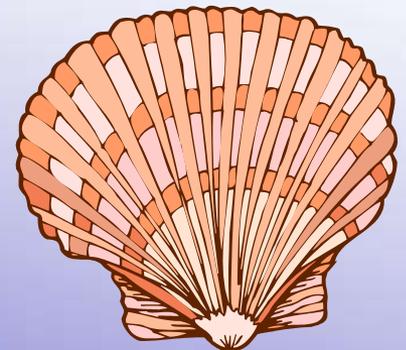
Customizing Web Site

- Download Template
- Import template
- Select
- Apply banner and
- Customize
- Add content

Default Design

Changing to New Design

Rapid Web Sites

Customizing Content Pages

- Select Pre-Packaged Templates
- Add Contents
- Built Your Own
  - Centralized Location
  - Plone Compliant

Member - Editing Layout

Breadcrumbs

Member Section

View page

Folder View

Item Tabs

Add Web Items

ZOPEN PUBLISHER

user1   My Folder   Preferences   Undo   Site Setup   Log out

Website Folders

http://denali.tlc2.uh.edu:9080/APP_New / app-home / app-inprints / recovery-project

Exit and View

APP_New
- global pages *
- wikitest *
- News
- Events
- Global general images
- APP Home *
- Help *

You are editing a Folder

WEB ID: recovery-project
TITLE: Recovery Project

contents   edit   properties   sharing   shell layout   advanced

actions   display   add item   state: public

Welcome! You are now logged in.

Recovery Project

	title	id (web)	size	modified	state	order
☐	Recovery Services	recovery-services	1 kB	2007-07-23 20:09	Public Draft	▲ ▼
☐	About Recovering US Hispanic Literature	about-us	1 kB	2007-07-03 15:20	Public Draft	▲ ▼
☐	Advisory Board	advisory-board	1 kB	2007-07-03 15:21	Public Draft	▲ ▼
☐	Publications	publications	1 kB	2007-07-03 15:18	Public Draft	▲ ▼
☐	Research Projects	research-projects	1 kB	2007-07-03 15:19	Public Draft	▲ ▼

copy   cut   rename   delete   change state

chat
event
file
folder
gmap
image
link
manuscript
message board
news item
page
photo
photo album
smart folder
web page
wiki page
restrict...

* Not Published
Refresh This Frame

Create web page

Breadcrumbs

Member Section

ZOPEN PUBLISHER

&user1   ▸My Folder   ▸Preferences   ▸Undo   ▸Site Setup   ▸Log out

My Folder

http://denali.tlc2.uh.edu:9080 APP_New / Members / user1 / web_page.2007-08-17.0939888425   Exit and View ☒

📁 user1

You are editing a Web Page

View page

WEB ID: web_page.2007-08-17.0939888425
TITLE: New web page

?

identity   edit web page   properties   sharing   shell layout   manage properties

actions ▾   add to folder ▾   state: public

ⓘ   Web Page changes saved.

Edit Web Page Content   Select a template:

Generic Text/HTML ▾   Change Template

Edit Web Page Title Edit

New web page

Edit Web Page Body Text Edit

Folder View

* Not Published
↻ Refresh This Frame

Item Tabs

Web Page Interface

Add Items

Texas Learning & Computation Center

Apply Content Template

- Choose templates
- Types
  - Front page
  - With images
  - Slots
  - Combinations
- Working with widgets of the template

Texas Learning & Computation Center

News Folder View

Breadcrumbs

Member Section
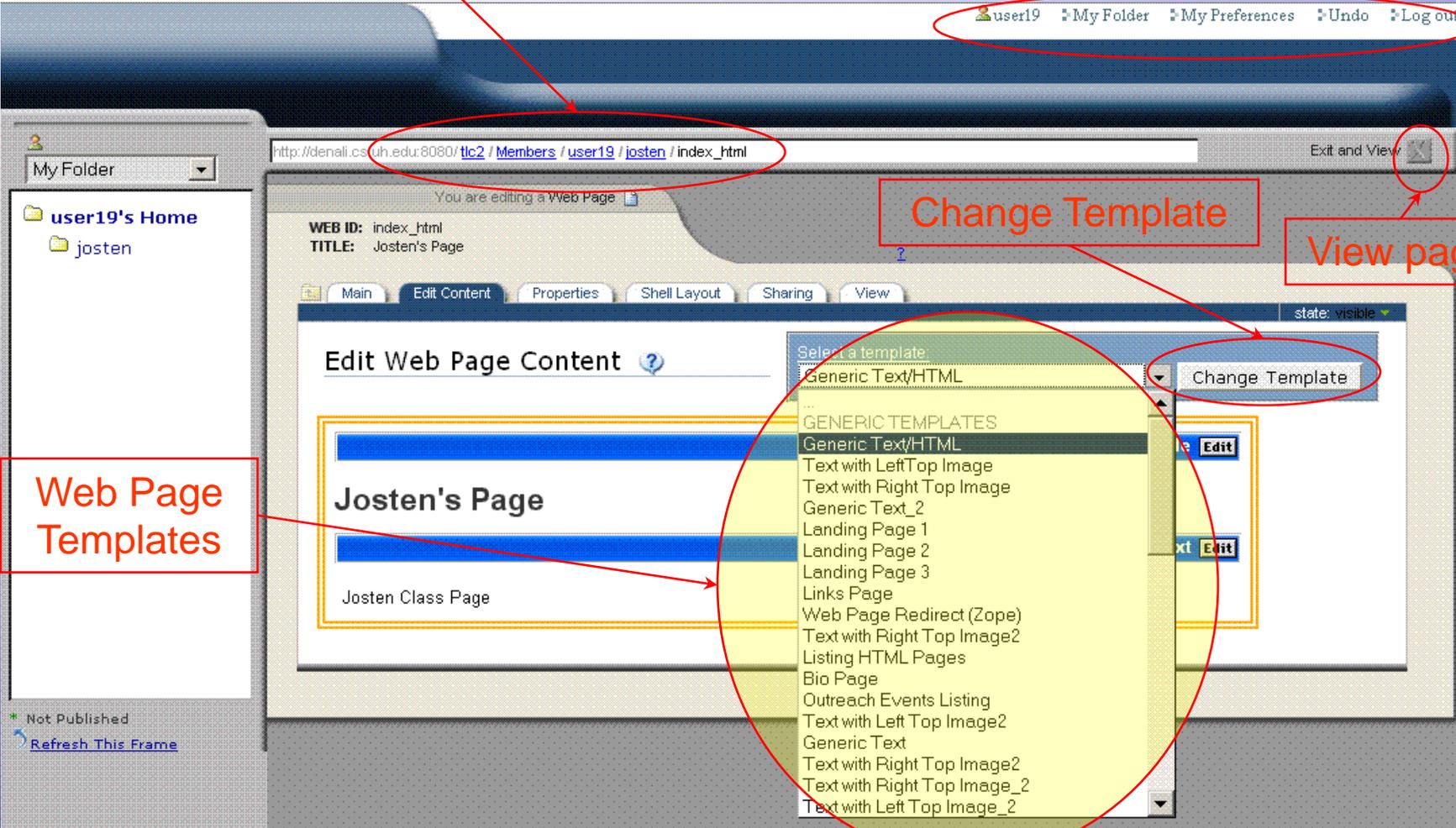
Folder View

View page

Item Tabs

Items in News Folder

Add Items

Web Page Templates View

Breadcrumbs

Member Section

user19   My Folder   My Preferences   Undo   Log out

http://denali.cs.uh.edu:8080/ tlc2 / Members / user19 / josten / index_html   Exit and View

My Folder

user19's Home
  josten

You are editing a Web Page

WEB ID: index_html
TITLE: Josten's Page

?

| Main | Edit Content | Properties | Shell Layout | Sharing | View |

state: visible

Change Template

View page

Edit Web Page Content ?

Select a template:

Generic Text/HTML   Change Template

Josten's Page

...
GENERIC TEMPLATES
Generic Text/HTML
Text with LeftTop Image
Text with Right Top Image
Generic Text_2
Landing Page 1
Landing Page 2
Landing Page 3
Links Page
Web Page Redirect (Zope)
Text with Right Top Image2
Listing HTML Pages
Bio Page
Outreach Events Listing
Text with Left Top Image2
Generic Text
Text with Right Top Image2
Text with Right Top Image_2
Text with Left Top Image_2

Josten Class Page

Edit

xt Edit

Web Page
Templates

* Not Published
  Refresh This Frame

Adding News Item

References

Web Page

- At the root folder, click the index_html item
- This is the default page anonymous viewers will see when visiting your webpage
- Name (ID):
- Title: Details about the page
- Description: Hidden details about the page

News Item

- Return to the root folder

- Click the News folder you created

- Select the News Item

- Click the Add New Item and select News Item from the drop down menu
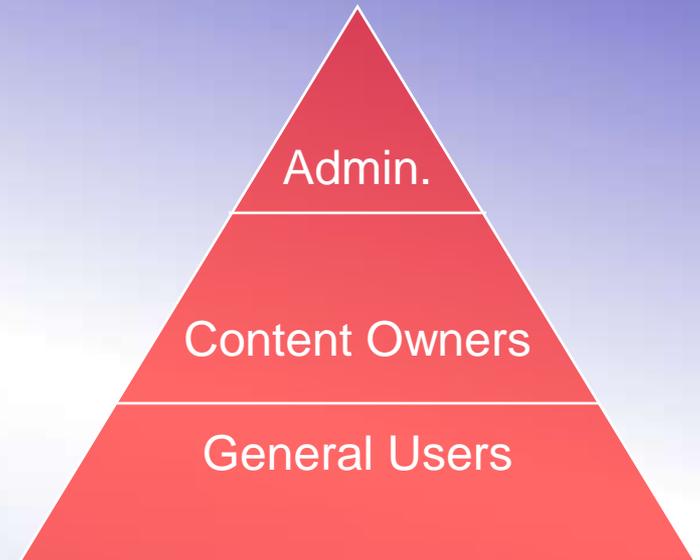
Event

- Return to the root folder

- Click the Events folder you created

- Select the News Item

- Click the Add New Item and select Event from the drop down menu

Usage Model

- General Users
- Portal Users
  - Members
  - Content Owner
- Administration
  - Members with the a administration roles
  - Site administrators & developers

Admin.

Content Owners

General Users

Sample Web Sites

- Research Centers
  - http://www.tlc2.uh.edu/
  - http://www.tlc2.uh.edu/Members/josten
  - http://www.research.uh.edu/
- PI
- Conferences
- Student Associations
- Community Outreach
- Cultural (multimedia)

Sample Web Sites

Sample Web Sites

- Research Centers
- PI
- Conferences
- Student Associations
- Community Outreach
- Cultural (multimedia)

What's inside ZShell?

- Separates edit features into a clear and distinct editing mode.
- Provides a templating framework for the creation of presentation elements of a website.
- Allow developers to swap and install entirely new Plone skins for their portals with a simple click.
- Highly extensible
- Transform the presentation of plone portals entirely and are content driven, so a single portal can now take on many different visual forms.
- Installs a new content type called Web Page. Web Pages are essentially Document types, but can be assigned content layout templates to enforce consist looking pages, or provide a set of features a given page should contain.