Perl Blogging Techniques

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UniForum PerlSIG @ College of DuPage
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Blog Basics
What is a blog?

A blog is a web page that contains brief, discrete hunks of information called posts. These posts are arranged in reverse-chronological order (the most recent posts come first). Each post is uniquely identified by an anchor tag, and it is marked with a permanent link that can be referred to by others who wish to link to it. (from O'Reilly's Essential Blogging)
What is a blog?

Examples

Boing Boing ( http://www.boingboing.net/ )

MetaFilter ( http://www.metafilter.com/ )

Slashdot ( http://www.slashdot.org )

Use.perl.org journals

High School Diaries
I hate the word “blog.”

- Not the same as a Web Server Log
- Sounds gross
- Too bad. We are stuck with it.
- Don’t let the word turn you off.
What software exists for setting up a blog?
Hosted Services

- Blogger
- LiveJournal
- TypePad
- use.perl.org
- Radio Userland
- AOL Journals (aol subscribers only)
Installed Services

- Blosxom
- Movable Type
- GreyMatter
- Slash
- Wordpress
How can I use perl with my blog?
APIs are based on XMLRPC.

Some (like MT.pm) use the vendor's code directly.
Blogger's Children

- **Blogger API**
  - The original - very simple

- **MetaWeblog API**
  - Added support for titles, file uploads and lists of posts.

- **Movable Type Extended API**
  - Adds MT-only features.
Net::Blogger

- Interface to both Blogger API, the metaWeblog API and engine specific features
- Uses “engines” to post to specific systems
Net::Blogger

Currently available engines

- Blogger
- Movable Type
- Manila
- Radio
- Slash
- Userland

See Code
MT.pm

- Module system that runs movable type.
- Overkill for posting.
- Let's you get at the internals of Movable Type.
- MT has a non-free license, so check first.
MT.pm - Examples

- MT-Plugin Manager
- Users MT for authentication.
- Can automatically download and install many plugins.
- Developed by the people behind mt-plugins.org
Welcome to the Plugin Manager!

key:

- **UPGRADE** -- an upgrade is available for the plugin. Click the upgrade link for a one-click upgrade.
- **INSTALL** -- install this new plugin. Click the install link for a one-click install.
- ? -- click for the extended details on the plugin and to do other activities.

**Installed Plugins:**

These are the plugins that are currently installed and ready for use on your server. Click any plugin name for brief details.

**Available Plugins**

These are the plugins are not currently installed on your server. Click any plugin name for brief details.

- ? **INSTALL** AWStatsReferers
- ? **INSTALL** Acronym
- ? **INSTALL** Again
- ? **INSTALL** AllConsuming
- ? **INSTALL** ArchiveAnyway
- ? **INSTALL** ArchiveDateHeader
- ? **INSTALL** ArchiveLoad
- ? **INSTALL** ArchiveYear
- ? **INSTALL** Authors
- ? **INSTALL** BlogAuthorCount
MT.pm - Examples

- MT-Digest by Michael Graham
  Generates text digests of a given blog for a given date range.
  Designed to help create files to distribute for sites blocked by foreign governments.
MT::Digest - Settings

Blog: notebook

Date range
From Date: 2003 - October - 1, 20 - 29
To Date: 2003 - October - 12, 20 - 29

Digest Template

<%MTBlogName%>

Digest generated on <%=MTGenerationDate format="%B %d, %Y"%>

<MTWrap><%=MTBlogDescription%"></MTWrap>

<MTEntries>
Posted by <%=MTEntryAuthor%> on <%=MTEntryDate format="%B %d, %Y"%>
<%=MTEntryTitle%>
<%=MTEntryLink%>
<MTWrap><%=MTEntryExcerpt%"></MTWrap>

</MTEntries>

<%MTBlogName%> :: <%=MTBlogURL%>
<MTWrap><%=MTBlogDescription%"></MTWrap>
notebook

Digest generated on October 13, 2003

Posted by jason gessner on October 09, 2003
new coen bros film!
http://www.multiply.org/notebook/archives/006273.html

Just got back from a free preview showing (thanks wired!) of the new Coen Bros. flick Intolerable Cruelty. Short review: funny. Very, Very Funny. Clooney is slick, Catherine Zeta Jones plays a pretty gold digger. Eh. She fits the roll,...

Posted by jason gessner on October 09, 2003
Blogging Talk (take two)
http://www.multiply.org/notebook/archives/006272.html

I will be giving my Perl Blogging Techniques talk again this coming Tuesday, October 14th @ the Uniform PerlSIG (special interest group). Check the Unifrom site for details and directions....

Posted by jason gessner on October 09, 2003
CPAN contributions
http://www.multiply.org/notebook/archives/006271.html

Just finished up some changes to HTTP::Recorder that I submitted to the author. Hopefully those should be rolled in to the next release. The changes are: 1) Links are properly generated with the right index (ie, the 3rd link called...

Posted by jason gessner on October 08, 2003
CPAN ID
http://www.multiply.org/notebook/archives/006269.html

I am now an officially registered Perl CPAN developer. I have some web testing modules, some blogging modules and some other random stuff in mind (like contributing to the excellent HTTP::Recorder). Hopefully my CPAN profile page will look a little...

notebook :: http://www.multiply.org/notebook/
My Example Script (based on the “Hacking Movable Type” script from the WWW::Mechanize examples.

Illustrates the problem(s) with MT:

- redirects and javascript
- Allows full control over the MT posting process (at a cost).

YMMV
Uses for the APIs: Alternative Interfaces
Alternative Interfaces

- Cell Phones
- Email
- Instant Messenger
- CVS Change Log Page
- Test Failures Log?
Cell Phones

- Often Called MoBlogging (for Mobile Blogging)
- Used for text and photos
- Also for drawings!
Cell Phones - Pictures

keitai email:
you@yourhost.com

PIN:
****

let me in!

hi
back
Cell Phones - Drawings

multiply mobile sketches

- guy reading newspaper next to me
- juliana puts stickers on her legs for fun
- plane out the window

- cigar & bourbon on the rocks
- chicken & ka bobs
- bbq in the rain
Instant Messaging

- Fast, but limited
- Could be useful for a small group to post collaboratively.
- Could be simply one function of a larger bot.
bill, tracey and I went to see Matchstick Men (salon review, ebert review) last night. It was not great, primarily due to the ending, but it had a great performance by Nicolas Cage (who I loved in Adaptation, as well). The movie reminded me of Peter Bogdonavich's Paper Moon, but it had less heart. The ending assumes the audience is too dumb to realize what just happened over the last 2 hours.

multiplyBot: Wow!
That was a great post!
Thanks!
The new post id is 211
LOOKING - MATCHSTICK MEN

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Posted by instant messaging jason, on September 13, 2003 at 05:49 PM | Comments (0) | TrackBack (0)

CODE - APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks for tolerating a few weeks of random, incoherent posts (most of which have been deleted).

In the process of wrapping up the code for my perl blogging techniques talk, i made lots of test posts which should have simply gone to a test blog. Ha! I am not that smart. ;)

Anyway, new content to expect here soon:

- Zelda: The Wind Waker extensive review
- Golden Sun: The Lost Age review
- Big Questions review
CVS ChangeBlog

- Uses the “loginfo” script in CVS to call a Net::Blogger script.
- By default, CVS gives you too much info.
- Could utilize plugins such as Blog Times to plot development habits.
- Prettier than viewCVS
September 13, 2003

[MULTIPLY-CODE CVS] PERL_BLOGGING_TECHNIQUES/IMAGES
Update of /usr/local/multiply-code/perl_blogging_techniques/images
In directory tetsuo.menget.com:/tmp/cvs-serv24046/images

Added Files:
AIMBlogbot-Results.png AIMblogbot1.png AIMblogbot2.png
kpix_001.png kpix_002.png kpix_003.png
Log Message:
added screenshots for the examples.
The shots added were from the instant messenger bot post and some kpix screens.

Posted by command line jason at 07:10 PM | Comments (0)

September 11, 2003

[MULTIPLY-CODE CVS] PERL_BLOGGING_TECHNIQUES/IMAGES
Update of /usr/local/multiply-code/perl_blogging_techniques/images
In directory tetsuo.menget.com:/tmp/cvs-serv24017/images

Log Message:
Directory /usr/local/multiply-code/perl_blogging_techniques/images added to the repository

Posted by command line jason at 07:09 PM | Comments (0)
What APIs are out there to find out who is talking about my site?
Who’s Linking?

- Trackback
- Attributed linking
- Technorati
- Blog Database
- Net::Technorati?
- BlogDex
  - http://blogdex.net/
- Good Ol’ Fashioned Goggle
  - link:http://www.yoursitehere.com/
How can I syndicate my site or find out when other people have updated their sites?
Sharing / Syndicating

- **HEAD**
  - check for date changes

- **PING**
  - Used by blog aggregate services to advertise new posts

- **RSS/RDF**
  - Many flavors.
What does the future hold?
The Future

Echo/ATOM API
- REST based API supporting introspection and new posting, editing mechanisms.

New Syndication formats?

Beginning of the Semantic Web?

Wiki Integration
Questions?