

Karsten Dambekalns

TYPO3 5.0

In the framework flow

More than eighteen months ago the decision was made to self-develop the base for TYPO3 5.0. Since no suitable framework was available Robert Lemke took up the task of designing a foundation which supports the development style of the TYPO3 team. Following the positive feedback from the TYPO3 and PHP communities the development team felt emboldened to release the solution independently. This was possible without too much additional effort because a strict division between the framework and packages which supply the functions of the CMS had been intended anyway.

FLOW3, the framework behind TYPO3 5.0

With FLOW3 [1] the T3BRAND team developed a new daughter brand which attests to the fact that the functions on which the developers have hitherto worked not only serve as a foundation for TYPO3 5.0, but also serve as an excellent foundation for envisioned PHP projects without CMS functions. With the aid of FLOW3 it will hopefully also be possible to draw developers who are not interested in a CMS into the project.

In addition, a lot has been happening under the bonnet. In the last few months most of the work went into the development of the MVC framework. This important component will later become the backbone of all plugins in TYPO3 5.0. Andreas Förthner gave Robert strong support during the development and will be responsible for the completion of the components through validation and filter functions.

Quality for all

Although there is always agreement on how important legible and well-documented code is, it is rare for programmers to point the finger at themselves.

On the basis of the current Coding Guidelines the development team promptly introduced rules for code which are to flow into TYPO3 5.0. A new feature is that the keeping of these rules will be checked automatically. With the aid of the PHP_Codesniffer [2] and one of the rule sets based on the Coding Guidelines (the so-called sniffs) by Tim Eilers and Malte Jansen the code will be constantly monitored. Thus code deviants will not be given a chance.

Alongside style prescriptions, such as those concerning the placing of brackets and indentation, prescriptions relating to content will also be monitored, such as those concerning the presence of comments in the source code.

Documentation! Documentation?

The documentation surrounding TYPO3 5.0 is based on DocBook XML. The aim is to create a cohesive documentation that will offer a way out of the jungle of single documents. The problem: the documentation is supposed to be located in one spot but has its origins in a multitude of FLOW3 packages and, in addition, is supposed to be individually readable and manageable in the context of these individual packages.



This problem was solved with a clearly prescribed structure for package documentation and a simple yet specialised DocBook-Renderer (again a

FLOW3 package). Additionally this new structure creates the pre-

conditions for the translation of the documentation into the many languages of the community.

Organization is everything

At the end of January developers and interested parties were able to observe a restructuring of the Subversion Repository. Thus, not only is the tried and proven design of labels for trunks, tags and branches followed, but further layers for the separation of projects from repositories are also provided for. In the context of the planned set up of an own SVN server for the hosting of subversion, these are the best prerequisites for the planned implication of a continuous integration tool.

PHP Quebec conference

The next conference is almost upon us. In the middle of March the author will speak in Montreal [3] about the development of the Content Repository and will also try to garner enthusiasm for FLOW3. Following the positive feedback coming out of the conference in Karlsruhe in autumn 2007 the team is looking forward to the opportunity of promoting its product in North America.

More speed through greater haste

This year the development of the project is to be sped up significantly. The author has withdrawn from his agency's daily business in order to work exclusively with TYPO3 5.0. In addition, changes to the documentary foundations, new methods of quality control and a restructuring of the Subversion Repository have made it easier to draw in new developers. Charge!

Links and Literature

☞ *Softlink 2010*

- [1] FLOW3: <http://flow3.typo3.org>
- [2] PHP_Codesniffer: http://pear.php.net/package/PHP_CodeSniffer
- [3] Montreal: <http://conf.phpquebec.com/en/>

THE AUTHOR



Karsten Dambekalns lives in Brunswick with his wife, Liga, two children and a nameless coffee machine. Two years after first encountering TYPO3 he first stood on stage at T3-BOARD04 and a short while later got behind the implementation of the DBAL project. Since 2005 he has been a core developer and an active member of the TYPO3 Association. Since the beginning of 2008 he has been working

exclusively with TYPO3 5.0