Drupal Theme Development

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What I'll be talking about

- Overview of Drupal's theme system
- Making the FriendsElectric theme
- Clean, semantic XHTML/CSS with Drupal
- Examples of sexy Drupal sites

How Drupal outputs HTML

- The content is fetched and output through *themable functions* ('push' model).
- Each themable function outputs the HTML for one item on the page (node, block, comment, item list, menu, ...)
- Each themable function can be overridden by the theme.

Example themable function: block

```
function theme_block($block) {
  $output  = "<div class=\"block block-$block->module\"
    id=\"block-$block->module-$block->delta\">\n";
  $output .= " <h2 class=\"title\">$block->subject</h2>\n";
  $output .= " <div class=\"content\">$block->content</div>\n";
  $output .= "</div>\n";
  return $output;
}
```

- Ranges from simple HTML + PHP placeholders to more complicated logic.
- Note: semantic HTML and useful CSS IDs and classes

Middle layer: theme engines

- Coding a theme in PHP directly is impractical
- A theme engine acts as a middle layer between Drupal and a theme consisting of loose templates.
- *XTemplate*: simple, single-template themes with only begin/end markers in HTML comments.
- *PHPTemplate*: several HTML/PHP files for templates. Best of both worlds: easy to edit, but powerful in abilities.
- Others: *PHPTal*, *Smarty*, ...

Styling with CSS

- Every theme normally has its own stylesheet
- You can create new themes by building an alternate stylesheet for an existing template/theme.
- Drupal combines the HTML of the original template with the new CSS.
- This is made available as a separate selectable theme (with its own settings, links, screenshot).

In practice

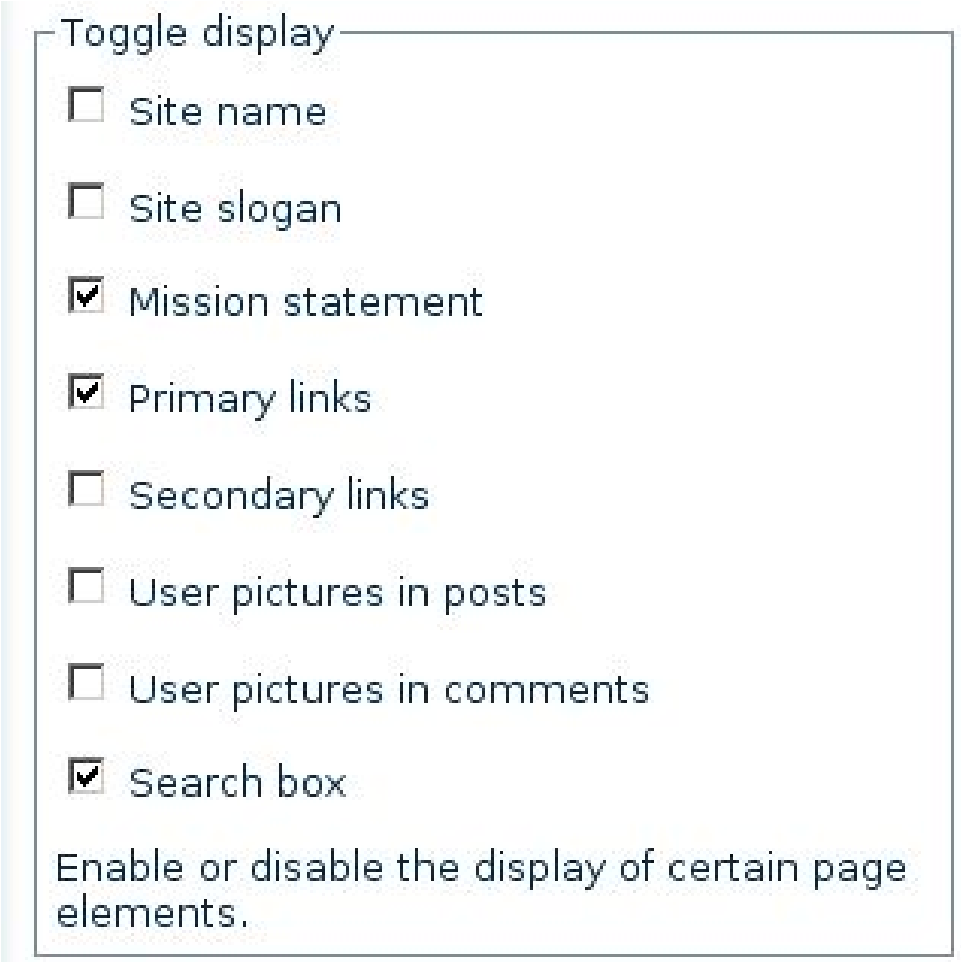
Theme	Engine (PHP)	Template (XHTML)	Style (CSS)
Pushbutton	XTemplate	.xtmpl	.css
Box Grey	PHPTemplate	.tpl.php	.css
Box Cleanslate			.css
Bluebeach		.tpl.php	.css
Chameleon	Chameleon.theme		.css
Marvin			.css

Directory structure

```
themes/engines/xtemplate/xtemplate.engine
themes/engines/phptemplate/phptemplate.engine
themes/pushbutton/xtemplate.tmpl
themes/pushbutton/style.css
themes/box_grey/page.tpl.php
themes/box_grey/style.css
themes/box_grey/box_cleanslate/style.css
themes/bluebeach/page.tpl.php
themes/bluebeach/style.css
themes/chameleon/chameleon.theme
themes/chameleon/style.css
themes/chameleon/marvin/style.css
```

Standard theme settings

- Toggle various page elements on/off
- Customize logo
- Set navigation links

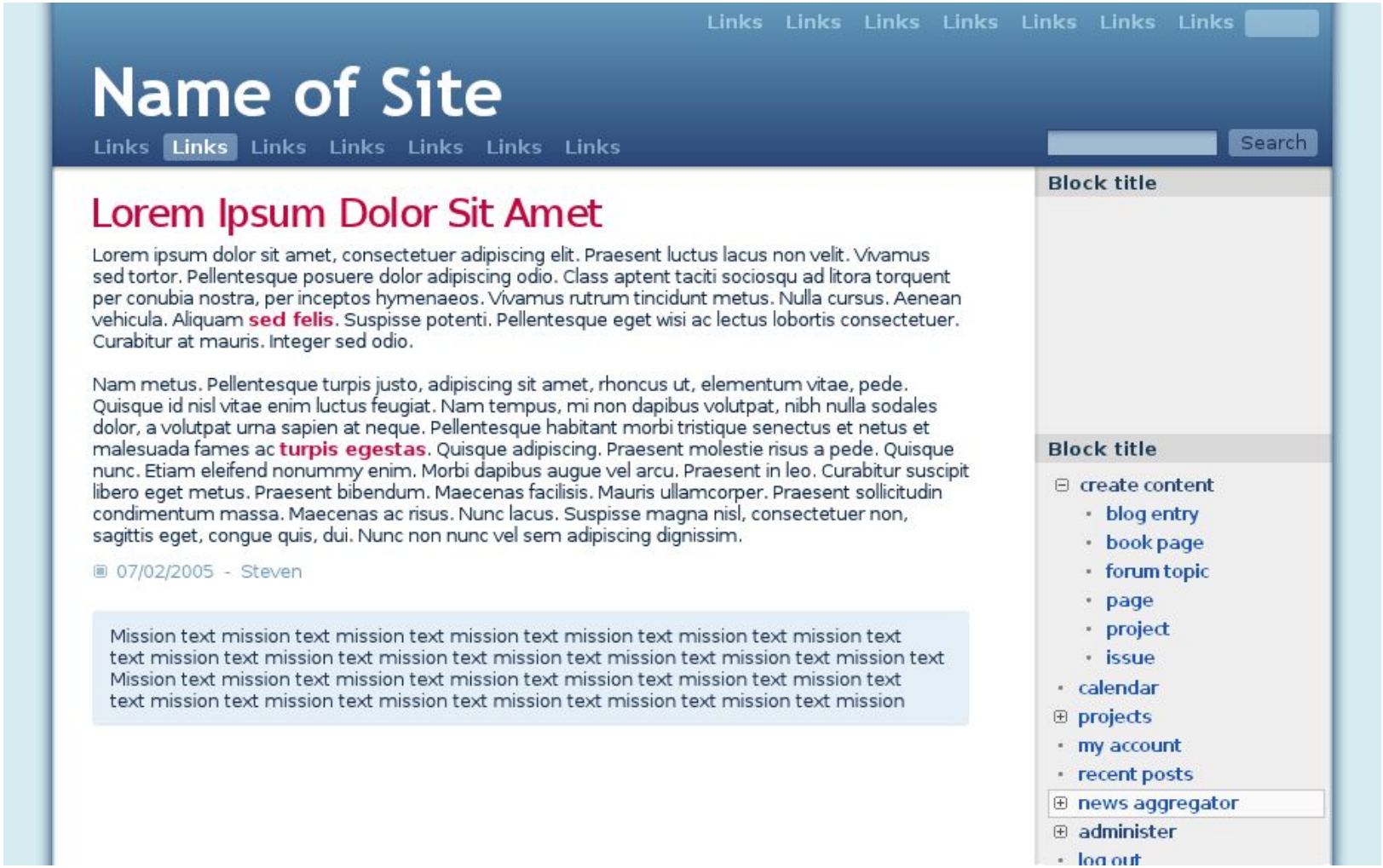


Making the FriendsElectric theme

- PHPTemplate-based
- Tableless XHTML/CSS
- Supports 1-3 columns
- Supports theme options (logo, slogan, search box, navigation links, ...)

Starting from a design/mockup

A lot of design choices still to be made (columns, footer, comments, forms, ...)



Build a skeleton page template

- Make a `page.tpl.php` containing a skeleton HTML document
- Focus on layout first: CSS positioning (google for a good layout template to start from)

```
<?php if ($search_box): ?>
<form action="<?php print url("search") ?>" method="post">
 <div id="search">
  <div>
   <input class="form-text" type="text" size="15" value="" name=

  </div>
 </div>
</form>
<?php endif; ?>
```

Add more templates for specific items

- Theming a node: `node.tpl.php`

```
<div class="node<?php print ($sticky) ? " sticky" : ""; ?>">
  <?php if ($page == 0): ?>
    <h2><a href="<?php print $node_url ?>" title="<?php print $title ?>"><?ph
  <?php endif; ?>
  <?php print $picture ?>

  <div class="info"><?php print $submitted ?><span class="terms"><?php print
  <div class="content">
    <?php print $content ?>
  </div>
  <?php if ($links): ?>
    <?php if ($picture): ?>
      <br class='clear' />
    <?php endif; ?>
    <div class="links"><?php print $links ?></div>
  <?php endif; ?>
</div>
```

FriendsElectric Layout

Dynamic CSS classes

- Problem: A theme can have a sidebar on either side, or both at the same time.
- Requires 4 different positioning scenarios (so empty sidebars don't take up space)
- CSS class name changes depending on `$layout`: 'content-none', 'content-left', 'content-both', 'content-right'.

```
<div id="content" class="content-<?php print $layout ?>">
```

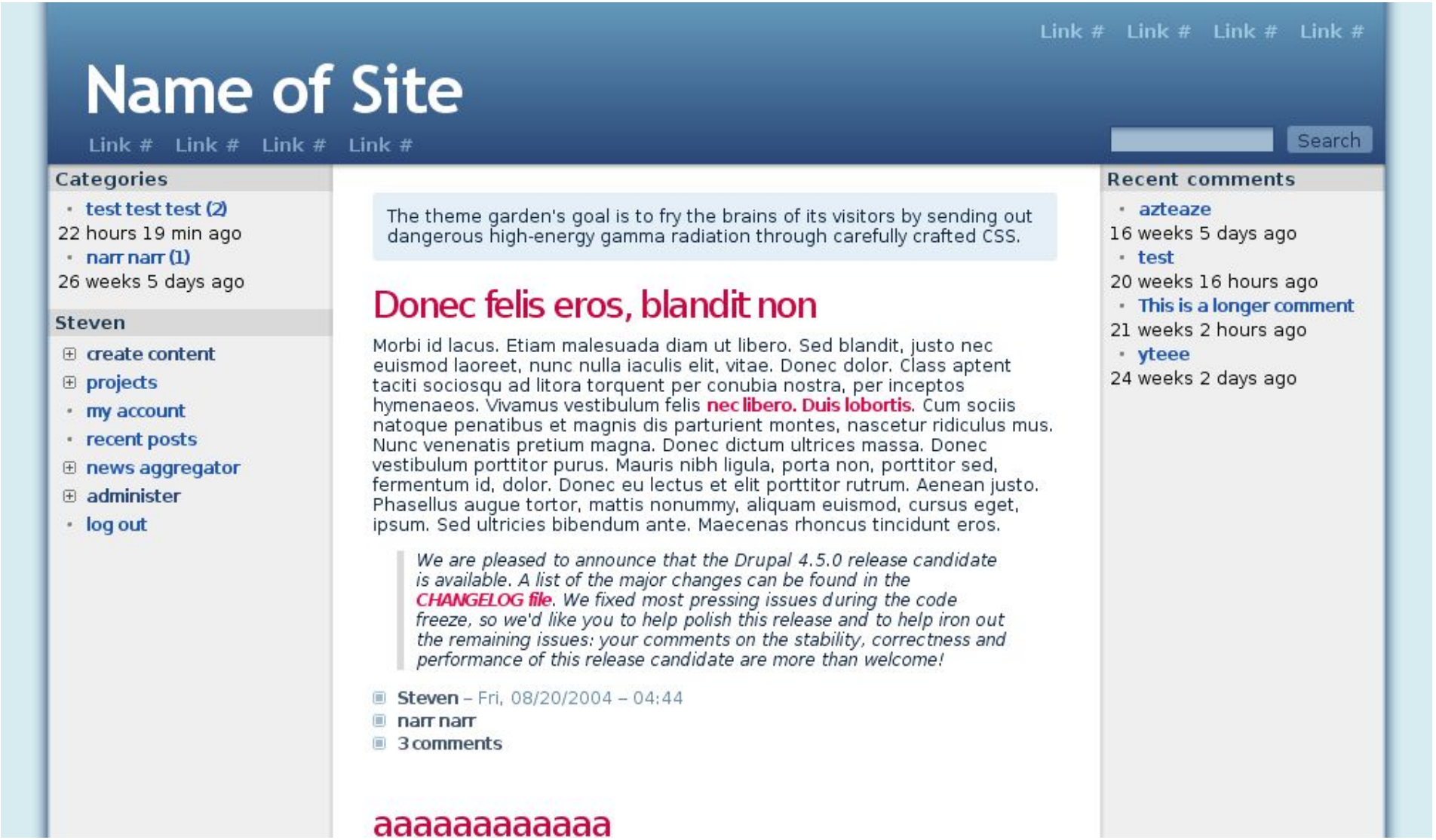
Overriding specifics

- PHPTemplate offers a minimal set of base templates: page, node, comment, block.
- To override a themable function not in this list, you need to provide a template wrapper:

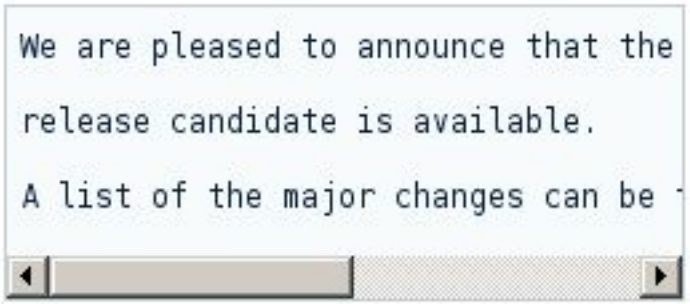
```
function phptemplate_item_list($items = array(), $title = NULL) {
  return _phptemplate_callback('item_list',
            array('items' => $items, 'title' => $title)
          );
}
```

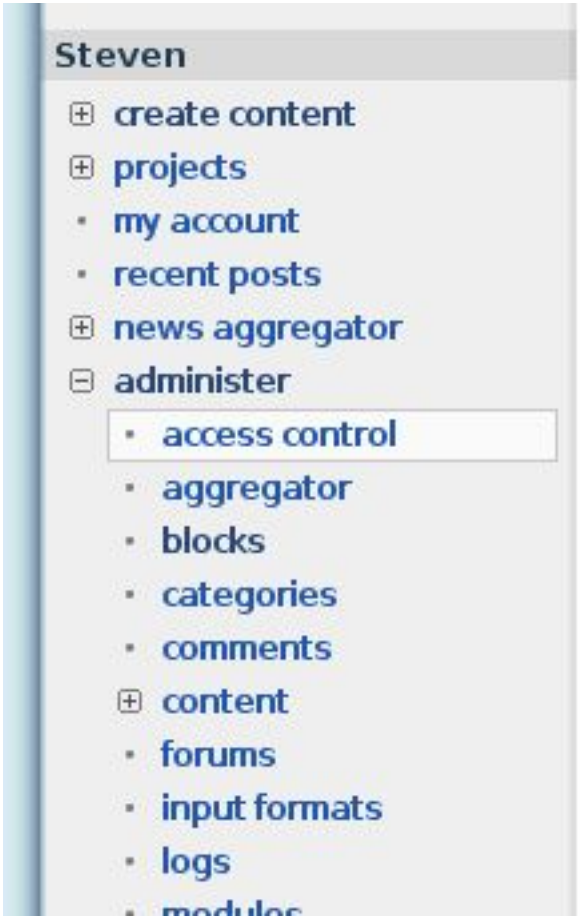
- This wrapper will run the template `item_list.tpl.php`

Putting it all together



Many things to theme





Drupal

People who will attend the Drupal conference at FOSDEM 2005

Steven
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http://www.acko.net/
Belgium

camworld
Cameron Barrett
http://www.camworld.com
United States

ec
Eric Charikane
France

jvandyk
John VanDyk
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~jvandyk/
United States

chx
Károly Négyesi
Hungary

Bèr Kessels
Bèr Kessels
http://www.webschuur.com
Belgium

dikini

Bart Jansens

Type	Date	Message	User	Operations
search	22/02/2005 - 06:46	Search: *drupal* (users).	Steven	results details
search	22/02/2005 - 06:46	Search: *drupal* (content).	Steven	results details
search	22/02/2005 - 06:45	Search: *drupal* (content).	Steven	results details
search	22/02/2005 - 06:45	Search: *drupal* (content).	Steven	results details

Clean XHTML/CSS

- Yes, but with some caveats:
- Most CSS work today is being made for static / blog-like sites. Drupal's content has fieldsets, tables, pre, ...
- Most theme functions output semantic XHTML: on-going work to clean up the themable functions.
- Rich styling: many CSS classes and IDs to style specific parts of the page.

Drupal or not?

- Pop-quiz:
  Are the following sites Drupal-based or not?

Drupal or not?

[redacted]

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Search

Join us at the:

[redacted] Conference
Brussels, 2005
Click for more info

[redacted] is the official website of [redacted], an open source **content management platform**.

Equipped with a powerful blend of features, [redacted] can support a variety of websites ranging from personal weblogs to large community-driven websites.

More:
- About [redacted]
- [redacted] sites
- Features

Download

Latest release:
[redacted] 4.5.2

Contributions:
- Modules
- Themes
- Translations

[redacted] 4.5.2 released

Dries - January 15, 2005 - 10:00 — News and announcements

The [redacted] project has released version 4.5.2 of its open-source content management platform. [redacted] 4.5.2 is a maintenance release that provides corrections of problems reported using the bug tracking system. [redacted] 4.5.2 fixes a cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability so it is recommended that you upgrade your existing [redacted] sites. There are no new features in this installment. For more information about the [redacted] 4.5.x release series, please consult the [redacted] 4.5.0 release announcement and the [redacted] 4.5.1 release announcement. For more information about the [redacted] 4.5.2 release in particular, read on.

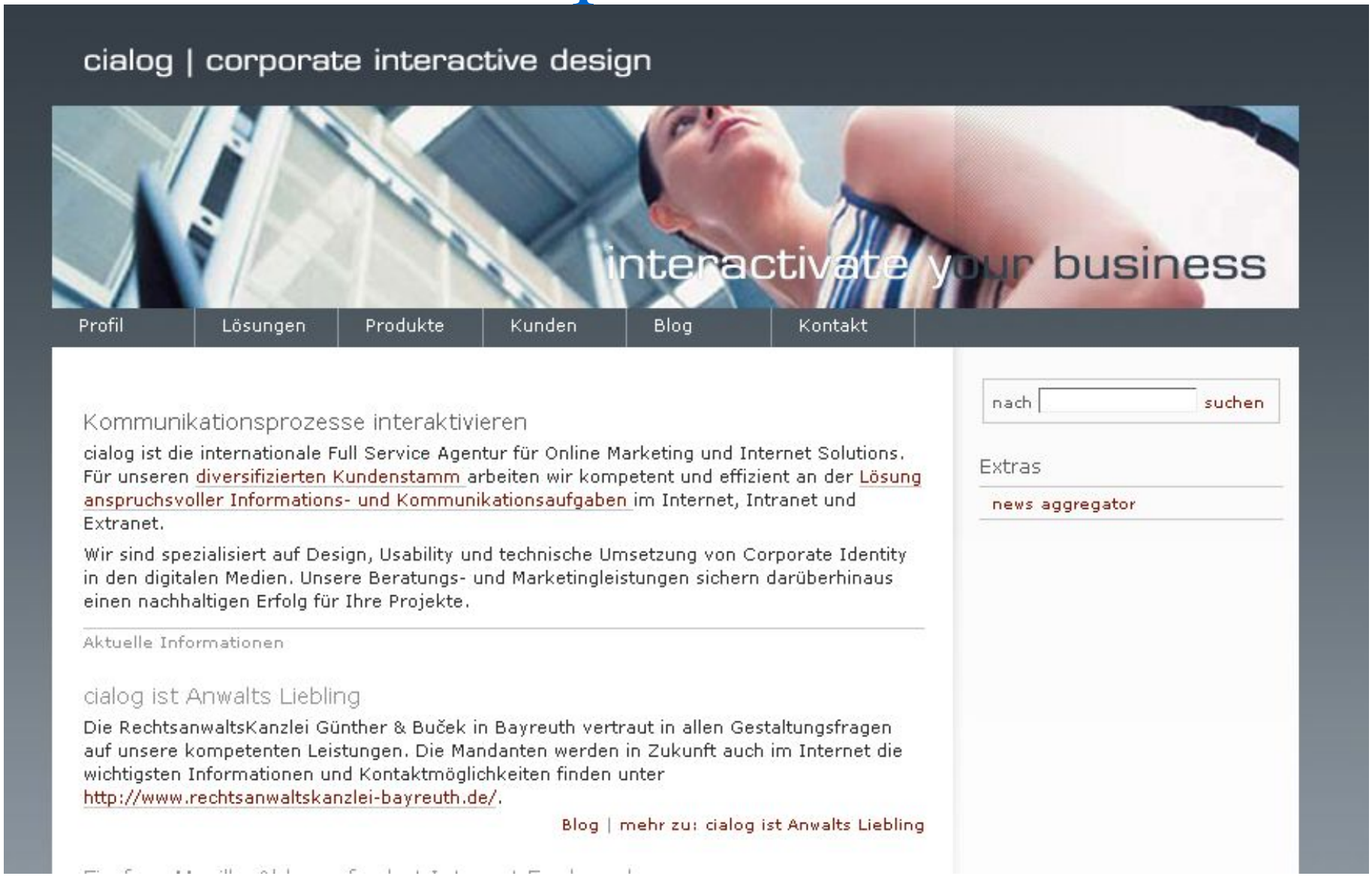
» read more

Steven
- CVS messages
- create content
- projects
- my account
- recent posts
- news aggregator
- administer
- log out

Forum topics

Drupal or not?

Drupal or not?



Drupal or not?

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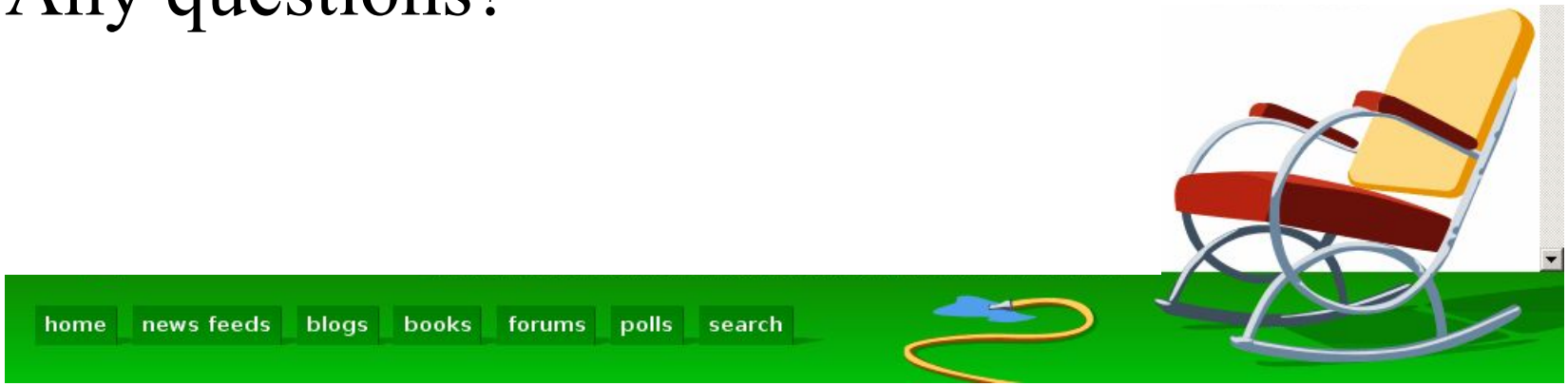
Drupal

Drupal or not?

Conclusion

- Sexy Drupal sites are already here
- Drupal themes are flexible and powerful
- Caters to various skill sets with CSS-only or templated themes
- Accessible to designers

More?

- Theme showcase: *Drupal Theme Garden* (Bèr Kessels)
  http://webschuur.drupaldevs.org/
- This presentation:
  http://www.acko.net/drupalcon
- Any questions?