

Content Editing Challenges in a Decoupled (Drupal) Environment

Track: Users & Editors

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Education & experience

Jeremy Chiquist

- [Project Manager at drunomics G.m.b.H.](#) / [Profile](#)
- Master's Degree in Information Management, Technical University of Vienna (Vienna, Austria)
- B.A. in Computer Science, St. John's University (MN, USA)
- Entrepreneur, volunteer for various organisations.

- More at [LinkedIn](#)



Background

Decoupled environments are just that, decoupled. The content producers are often left hanging.

The Content Creator's Context

Issues content creators face in a decoupled project:

- Missing administrative links to edit, delete, etc.
- No preview method. (Note: access unpublished is not a good hack!)
- Missing administrative details of the content including:
 - publishing status
 - publishing date/time
 - moderation status
 - revisions

Our Expertise

Recent decoupled projects include:

- [lupus.digital](#) & [lupus.digital contentpool](#)
- [Valuita.at](#) an instance of [lupus.digital](#)
- [Wirtschaftsverlag](#) implementing the [lupus.digital contentpool](#) for an array of sites such as [Handwerk+Bau](#).
- [Kurier](#) implementing an in-house solution called Hermes for an array of public websites including [Kurier.at](#).
- Participation in talks for the [Burda's Thunder Initiative](#)

The Developer's Context

We, as developers, like decoupled solutions:

- Performance: resource loading is optimized. Backend traffic reduced when using static generation.
- Security
- Development velocity: Back-end setup is fast. Content creators can start adding content early.
- Maintainable: Drupal can be updated without touching the front-end, and vice versa.

The Consequences

Content creators develop workarounds:

- Two separate browsers: Drupal Admin UI & frontend
- Content is published prematurely for previewing! (Search engines may even index!)
- The content creator gets frustrated! May reject the CMS.

The Goals

How can the content creator experience be optimized in a decoupled environment?

- Enable content creators to have immediate access to content workflows in the front-end.
- Inform content creators what they are viewing: a preview, published content or unpublished.

The Goals (2)

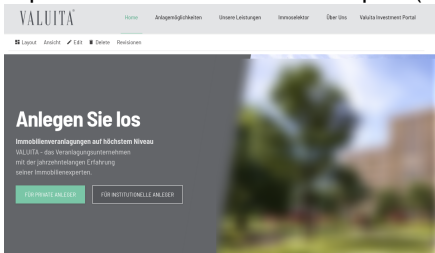
When making changes, don't forget anonymous readers and search engines!

Outline

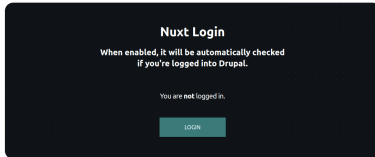
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Our current solution: valuita.at

A preview of a real-world example: (this is a decoupled site)

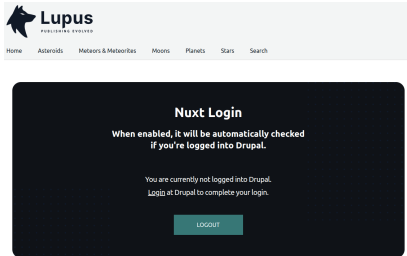


Our current solution: lupus.digital (1)



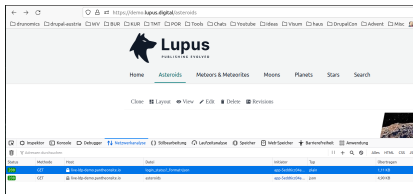
- Requires login on the front-end (just a button click)

Our current solution: lupus.digital (2)



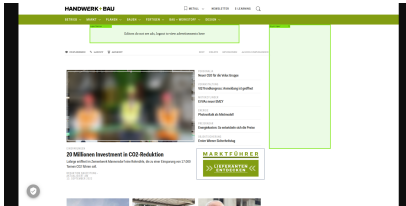
- Loads back-end resources ONLY after front-end login (point for SEO!)
- Requires the content creator to (really) login for the back-end (security)

Our current solution: lupus.digital (3)



- Once logged in, the Drupal tabs are loaded (somewhat helpful, but we can do better!)

Our current solution: Handwerk+Bau



- Hide the advertisements and display meta information instead? (check)

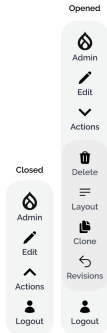
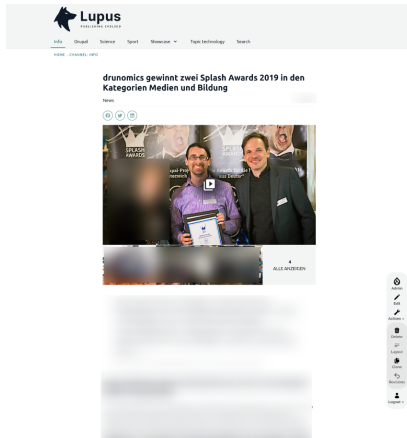
Current State-of-the-Art

Ongoing discussion: simply leverage the [Admin Toolbar](#)?
We'll come back to that shortly.

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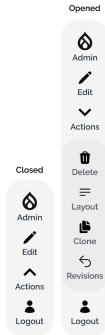
Conceptual Design



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Conceptual Design: Benefits

- Improve placement
- Make compact
- Improve usability (and thus acceptance)



Backend Extras for the Editor

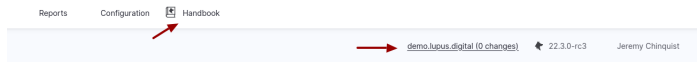
Communication with content creators is essential:

<input type="checkbox"/> Title	Content type	Author	Publishing state	Updated	Operations
<input type="checkbox"/> About Us	Custom page	dru_admin	Draft	08/12/2022 - 10:34	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome to the lupus.digital Demo Website!	Custom page	dru_admin	Published	08/12/2022 - 10:34	Clone Layout View API Output Delete
<input type="checkbox"/> How to Photograph a Meteor Shower	Custom page	dru_admin	Published	08/12/2022 - 10:34	

- Make the API transparent

Backend Extras for the Editor

Communication with content creators is essential:



- The manager knows which version lupus.digital feature release they are on (released 2x / year).
- A handbook lists the important features.
- The statically generated front-end status is up-to-date with all Drupal content changes (0 changes to push).

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Results

...we have to leave you hanging, the proposal is in active development.

Then we will publish the results on [the drunomics Blog](#).

Thank you!

Thank you!



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Thank you!

Let's get the discussion started.

- The current proposal brings the back-end to the front-end
- Fabian Franz: “Don't bring the back-end to the front-end. Bring the decoupled front-end into Drupal & leverage the admin toolbar.”

References



Behler, Christian (2021). *Designing an admin panel*. URL: <https://uxdesign.cc/designing-an-admin-panel-3e77c19870f4> (visited on 03/01/2021).



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