

# *Simplistix*

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## **Plone**

*“The hell in which I live my life from day to day”*

Chris Withers

# Who am I?

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- Chris Withers
- Independent Zope and Python Consultant
- Using Zope and Python since 1999
- Using CMF since before it was CMF
- Using Plone since 2004

# What do people know already?

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- Who's used Python?
- Who's used Zope?
- Who's used Plone?

# What is Plone?

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- Layer over the CMF
- Adds Schema-based content types
- Adds a nice UI
  - if you like that particular UI!
- Fully internationalised
  - and widely localised
- Proliferation of Plugin Components

# CMF

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- Separation of content and software
- Filesystem-based software development
- Component-based software model
- State-based workflow engine
- Content-type centred development
- Assisted menu generation
  - the actions tool!

# Archetypes

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- Schema
  - wide selection of field types available
- UI Widgets
  - using field types in different ways
- Validation
  - Form-based
  - Content-type wide

# Demo

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- CMFDefault
- Vanilla Plone
- A “Custom” Plone
  - what's changed
  - anatomy of an archetype

# Problems

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- Poor code quality
  - doesn't scale
    - HOW many time must you re-index?!
  - ill thought customisation options
    - Not easy to customise
    - Too pluggable
  - extremely “noisy”
  - largely the fault of Archetypes

# Problems

- Doesn't play nice with other developer communities
  - must mention “Plone”
  - licensing
    - GPL Hell
  - no sharing of ideas and infrastructure
  - needless duplication of code and concepts
    - PloneQueueCatalog
    - Duplicate error\_log
  - no feedback of changes

# Problems

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- Proliferation of plugin components
  - usually of terrible quality
    - CMF Board
    - CMF Member
  - no indication to a new user of what is “safe” to use
  - encourages “copy'n'paste” programming

# Problems

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- No project management at crucial times
  - 2.0 and 2.1 release debacles
  - extremely fragile dependencies
  - little or no testing
    - ships with failing unit tests!

# Why is Plone so Successful?

- Build the community
  - Multi-lingual
  - Invite everyone onboard
- Concentrate on marketing
  - even if that means “inflating” features
- Worry about quality last of all
  - remind anyone of M\$? ;-)
- Any more ideas?

# Tips for Plone

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- Don't fight the framework
- Don't fight the look and feel
- Use Zope 3 ;-)

# Avoid like the Plague!

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- File fields
- Photo and Image fields
- Reference Engine
- (validation framework)

# End of Plone Stuff

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- Any questions?

# Nice little bits

- `zopectl run`

`demo.py`

```
from Testing.makerequest import makerequest
from AccessControl.SecurityManagement import newSecurityManager
from AccessControl.User import system
```

```
newSecurityManager(None, system)
app = makerequest(app)
```

```
app.frameworks.portal_catalog.manage_catalogClear()
get_transaction().note('Cleared Catalog')
get_transaction().commit()
```

```
print app.frameworks.absolute_url()
# prints http://foo/frameworks ;-)
```

```
$ bin/zopectl run demo.py
```

# Nice little bits

- zopectl debug

```
$ bin/zopectl debug  
  
>>> print app  
<Application Manager instance at 0xXXX>  
  
>>>
```

# Nice little bits

- MailingLogger

```
%import Products.MailingLogger
<eventlog>
  level INFO
  <logfile>
    path $INSTANCE\log\event.log
    format \n----- %(asctime)s %(levelname)s\n%(message)s
  </logfile>
  <logfile>
    path STDOUT
  </logfile>
  <mailing-logger>
    level error
    from support@simplistix.co.uk
    to chris@simplistix.co.uk
    subject [%(hostname)s] %(levelname)s: %(line)s
  </mailing-logger>
</eventlog>
```

# Nice little bits

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- SimpleUserFolder
  - especially good for RDB integration
  - can be tough for specialised authentication
- <http://www.simplistix.co.uk/software>

# The End

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- Any questions?

# Thankyou!

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- <http://www.simplistix.co.uk>
- Do people want these slides to be available?