

#themineproject



themineproject.org

contact: @alecmuffett

(poll)

topics

- the mine! project (concept)
- pymine (software)
- my terrible ignorance of everything
- experiment? participate? play?

the mine! project

context

- there are numerous “intermediaries” on the net
 - data silos / clouds / SaaS-services / ...
 - Google, Yahoo/Flickr, Tesco, Amazon, Facebook, Bitly, Twitter, Ning, Government, Experian, ...
- these are not under your control
 - thus, the data you put into them is not under your control
 - url-shorteners fold, disks get trashed, services go bankrupt, APIs lock you out
 - eg: **<http://is.gd/99dTR>**

intermediaries

- these intermediaries will never go away
 - they have a market, and always will have
 - to try to overthrow them would be pointless
 - “We’re going to replace Google.” - not plausible
- ...but, to have an alternative would be nice!

context

- “data portability”
 - *“your information lives elsewhere; deal with it.”*
 - *“we will help you use the tremendous power of our XML standards to move your data between silos”*
 - *“we will help you” = “we want to be an intermediary / be involved”*
 - *“XML standards” = “we want to define the data formats that you use”*

the mine! alternative

- why not instead, “personal authority”?
 - *“here is a link to some information.”*
 - *“anything else, anywhere else, is not current nor authoritative.”*
 - *“piss me off, and I’ll disconnect you from future updates.”*
 - this threat (↑) is what gives you some degree of control

mine! goals

- create a personal platform
- disintermediate information flows
 - become the most authoritative source of data about you*
 - gain some control over your identity

* fundamental concept: Adriana Lukas, Chief Mine! Architect

mine! mechanism

- be your own silo
 - share data with *zero or more people*
- maintain data-based relationships
 - those with whom you share, may respond, if you permit

pyrimine

pymine design

- no new technology to adopt
- no new formats to adopt
 - no “extensions” to RSS or ATOM
- content-neutral (not just HTML “postings”)
 - user’s posting = HTML, PDF, JPEG, MP3, vCard, ... *anything*
 - subscriber’s comment = *similar* (under construction, feb 2010)

pymine storage

- **CRUD object store + tagging + feed generation**
 - GUI (HTML/Django)
 - cmdline interface (*perl/curl* wrapper for ReST; pure python 90% done)
 - ReST API
 - Python client lib 90% done ; JS client lib, started
- **Future**
 - crypto storage (Tahoe-LAFS?), distribution, clouds, mobile uploaders, plugin apps... see the project Wiki for a list.

pymine sharing

- automatic feed generation for a user-controlled list of data relationships
 - this is “*asocial software*”
 - you *define* who your “friends” are
 - you *give* them individualised feed URLs
 - you *control* what they see
 - per-relationship feed generation via tags, with filtering, firewalling & safety checks

pymine sharing

- Any HTML hyperlinks are rewritten on-the-fly...
 - ...in terms of *who* is looking at the HTML
 - → per-relationship commenting / feedback URLs
 - → per-relationship access-logs and auditing
 - “yes, you *did* download that file, at 11:42pm...”
- “depth control” enforced
 - → restrict ability to go link-chasing all over my Mine!

pymine nifty

- Embedded URL Shortener
 - *“Why should I trust Bitly?”*
- All feed items are/have enclosures
 - instant darknet / filesharing
- Feeds are RSS / iTunes-compliant
 - *did you know iTunes can download PDFs automatically?*

pymine non-goals

- data portability (*instead: self-custodianship*)
- DRM (*instead: relationship-management*)
- transport secrecy (*instead: SSL*)
- transport authentication (*instead: whatever...*)

pymine goals

- data privacy (within architectural bounds)
 - URL example, including SHA256 HMAC:
`/key/ODxvqWAliKehbsnvMSQFzIuzLhzIAJ7mG56TVbZGt6E/4/1/0/3/data.feed`
- taking back fine-grained control over data that you don't control for yourself

pymine status

see upcoming slide

ignorance

“a happy fool”

Not knowing that
“*you’re not meant to do [x] in Django*”
has been liberating

web2.0 duck-typing

“Why would anybody want to do [that]?”

most-frequently-asked question on #django IRC

re: our failure to quack

pymine's deviation from web2.0-app normality imply
that either it's *excitingly different*
or perhaps *stunningly wrong*.

I go with the "different".

but: failure to deliver?

we cannot fail, because at least one person
will be using pymine.

hopefully rather more than that.

the mine! project

- we are not a startup
- we are a trad open-source project
- we are doing it to “scratch an itch”, and ...
- because it's about bloody time that someone did something about web disempowerment

my ignorance

still, i can't yet answer:

ignorance

what parts of Django have I managed to
skate-over and totally miss, yet they might help?

(Forms, for starters)

ignorance

building a WSGI-Apache distro/package for OSX?
(elegant dependency bundling, packaging tools)

ignorance

a stdlib method to POST *multipart/form-data*

(“poster” looks nice but is not std?)

ignorance

doing CSRF protection properly, in a REST API?

(pull session cookie and mandate submission in POST?)

ignorance

REST-created model validation on `m.save()` ?

signals ?

ignorance

```
# want a many2many version of foo__in=s  
  
s = some_set_of_foreign_keys  
qs = Model.objects.filter(m2m_field__intersects=s)  
xml = [ x.to_xml() for x in qs.all() ]
```

participate?

participate?

- please help address my ignorance
- please help with integration
- please experiment
- please come play

read more

- <http://themineproject.org/>
- pymine googlecode repo & wiki
- YouTube and Blip.Tv videos
 - GoogleTechTalk - **<http://is.gd/96Ygo>**
 - Install-Howto - **<http://is.gd/96XWK>**

get help

- Maillist / Group
 - groups.google.com/group/themineproject
- @themineproject on Twitter
 - #themineproject Twitter tag
- #themineproject on freenode IRC

code repo

- <http://code.google.com/p/pymine/>
 - Subversion
 - **r408** = deprecated 1.x series alpha, **old-core**
 - **r481** = development 2.x series alpha, **new-core**
 - Ubuntu .deb downloads; installs into /var/mine
 - I would love to solve my OSX packaging questions; dependencies, etc

thanks

- #python irc community
- #django irc community
- #appengine community

#themineproject

“if you want to be social, go somewhere else.”

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