

Structured Content Initiative



Lidia Demin and André Kraus



#cig-structuredcontent

Agenda

1. What is the Structured Content Initiative about?
2. Content Block Registration API - Concept
3. Content Block Registration API - Demo and FAQ

1. What is the Structured Content Initiative about?

Goals

- Improvement of UX for editors
- Improvement of integration of new/ custom content elements for integrators
- Independent frontend rendering

Our groups

Due to complexity of overall goals, we created 3 groups for the main targets:

- Editing Interface UX:
 - Improvements of current UX
 - Evaluation of the page module
 - Creation of personas and user story templates
 - UX wireframes and click dummies for actual implementation
- Content Block Creation:
 - Definition of content block data structure
 - Definition of content block registration
 - Concept for maintenance, existing solutions must continue to be supported
- Rendering Group:
 - Concepts for content interpretation in the frontend
 - Rendering of various data formats and markups like AMP, JSON, XML
 - CSS & JS registration per content element

The members

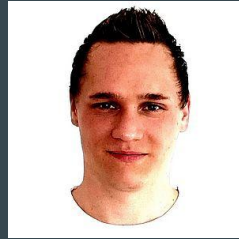
Active members



Rachel Foucard
Lead
Editing Interface UX



Lidia Demin
Lead
Content Block Creation



André Kraus
Lead
Rendering Group



Annett Jähnichen



Jonas Eberle

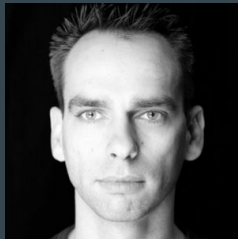


Paul Hansen

Supporters



Benni Mack



Oliver Hader



Benjamin Kott



Jo Hasenau



Kay Strobach

2. Content Block Registration API

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Concept

Content Block Registration API

The motivation:

“Defining ‘Content Elements’ in TYPO3 can be hard and the learning curve is steep. You need to learn PHP, TCA, TypoScript and Fluid and maybe other languages.”

Content Block Registration API

Goals:

- Main goal: provide an easy and reliable way to register content blocks
- Main target group: integrators, TYPO3 newcomers
- Reuse as much as possible from already existing technologies, but not at the cost of improvement
- Separate a field's view related properties from it's database related properties
- Validation of editing interface definition

Content Block Registration API

What is a content block?

“A content block is defined as ***a small chunk of information***, which is connected to a view and then rendered in the TYPO3 frontend.”

Content Block Registration API

Concept for content block registration:

- Each content block is **a separate composer package**
- TYPO3 uses a custom composer installer to place these packages inside **`typo3conf/contentBlocks/`**
- Compatible with the local package repository approach used to ship packages very specific to a single project
- Supports both ***composer and non-composer*** mode

Content Block Registration API

Directory structure of a content block

Directory / File	Mandatory?	Could be created by a generator
composer.json	x	x
ContentBlockIcon.(svg/png/gif)	x	x
EditorInterface.yaml	x	x
src/Language/Default.xlf	x	x
src/EditorPreview.html		x
src/Frontend.html		x
dist/EditorPreview.css		x
dist/Frontend.css		x
dist/Frontend.js		x

Content Block Registration API

- Editing interface configured by the ***EditorInterface.yaml***
- Field types heavily inspired by the Symfony field types
- ***Field types in editing interface != field types in DB***
- All configuration required by TYPO3 is generated during registration process:
 - Detection
 - Validation
 - Generation of TCA for editing interface
 - Generation of TCA, TypoScript and TSconfig for registration

Content Block Registration API

Possible data storage methods:

- Extending tt_content
- Custom table per content block
- Entity-Attribute-Value (EAV)
- Storing Blobs (XML/JSON)

Content Block Registration API

Current state

- **EXT:contentblocks_reg_api** released for POC
- 2 installation modes:
 - Usage of Content blocks
 - Development of the API
- Simple GUI for creating content blocks

Content Block Registration API

Advantages

- Simplifies the registration process
- GUI for Content Block creation
- Eases up the learning curve for beginners
- Usage of TYPO3 core APIs under the hood makes important areas like localization and workspaces more stable than a custom approach

Content Block Registration API

Further development

- Improving UI for content block creation
- Re-evaluating data storage method based on results from the Persistence Initiative
- Collecting feedbacks and improving processes

2. Content Block Registration API

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Demo and FAQ

Stay tuned

You find us on:

- Communication over TYPO3 SLACK: #cig-structuredcontent
- Official Initiative page:
<https://typo3.org/community/teams/typo3-development/initiatives/structured-content>
- GitHub:
<https://github.com/TYPO3-Initiatives/content-block-registration-api>
- Documentation:
<https://docs.typo3.org/p/typo3-contentblocks/contentblocks-reg-api/1.0/en-us/Index.html>