Building communities using Userpoints

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http://2bits.com

Agenda

- Introduction

- Userpoints Module

    - Features

    - Usage

- Userpoints API

- Hands on

- Conclusion

    - Questions, discussion

About 2bits

- Based in Waterloo, Ontario

- Active member of the Drupal community since 2003

- Member of security and infrastructure teams

- 24+ modules on drupal.org

- Listed on Drupal.org's service providers section

- Maintain modules that run on drupal.org (donations, feature, lists)

- Google Summer of Code mentoring (2005, 2006, 2007)

2bits Services

- Clients mainly in USA and Canada

- Subcontracting development projects

- Customization of existing modules

- Development of new modules

- Installation, upgrades

- Automated backups

- Performance tuning and optimization

About Khalid

- Developing for computers for way too long (22 years), Drupal since 2003

- Core contributions

  - Site maintenance feature

  - Logging and alerts in Drupal 6

  - Several patches

- Member of

  - Drupal security team

  - webmasters team

  - infrastructure team

- Co-founder of 2bits

- Blog at http://baheyeldin.com

- Contributed modules

  - Adsense

  - Userpoints

  - Nodevote

  - Job search

  - Favorite nodes

  - Flag content

  - Stock API and module

  - Custom Error

  - Currency

  - Image watermark

  - Site menu

  - Email logging and alerts

  - Second Life

  - Technorati

  - Click thru

  - Referral

- Commissioned by a photography and art site

- As an incentive for promoting participation

- Released to the community

Features and Benefits

- Psychological factor

- Mimics "gaming"

- Provides instant gratification

- Users often strive for more recognition, as well as competition.

- Users can be sort of tiered within the site

Functionality

- Basic package has two modules

- userpoints

  - Just an API, and management module.

- userpoints_basic

  - Basic core Drupal functionality (posting nodes, comments, ...etc.), as well as invite module

Configuration

- Point moderation

  - Whether points are to be added/subtracted in real time, or delayed until approval.

  - Prevents abuse on sites that use points as a means for getting gifts and such.

  - Under Administer -> User management -> Points

- Allows adding of points manually by the admin

- Branding of points

  - Allows calling them something else, for example "brownies", or some site specific jargon.

- Basic events
  - Posting a node
  - Each type (blog, page, story, ...etc.) can have a different value.
  - Posting a comment
  - Moderating a comment
  - No fractional points please!

Contributions

- Mini ecosystem, like views

- Written by various people for various things

- Reset

  - Resets all points for all users

  - Destructive

  - One time operation

- Retroactive

  - Only for node types and comments

- Ecommerce

  - Users earn points for purchasing from the ecommerce store.

  - Points can also be used as a payment form

- Node limit

  - Allows limiting of node creation depending on how many points a user has.

  - Can be used for subscriptions

- Referral

  - Users earn points for referring a user.

  - Users earn points for actions performed by users they referred.

  - A multiplier is used for the calculation.

- Invite

  - Interface for invite module

  - Points for inviting, and registering

- Role

  – Users join/leave roles as they gain/lose points

  – Can be used to allow access to other areas of the site, or more privileges

- Role exempt

  – Certain roles are exempted from points, e.g. admins or moderators, so they do not "compete" with regular users.

Unreleased (cont'd)

- Email notify

  – Users are notified by email when they reach a certain level of points

- Inactive expiry

  – Inactive users lose a certain number of points every preset period (can you think of banks?)

- Period expire

  - All points for all users are expired every certain period.

  - Good for contests and the like.

Userpoints API

- Simple API for modules to use

- Documented in the README.txt

- Module decides to award points at certain events.

- Modules can act on other modules awarding points

- Examples abound in the contrib directory

Userpoints hook

- hook_userpoints($op, $points, $uid, $event)

  - $op is operation type

  - $points is number of points to add (or subtract, if negative)

  - $uid is the Drupal user id of the user

  - $event is an event identifier

- 'setting'

  - Build your configuration form, and return it, and they will automatically appear in userpoints settings.

- 'points before'

  - Calls your modules (and other modules) before the points are awarded. Returning FALSE prevents points from being awarded.

- 'points after'

    - Points have been awarded, your module can take actions on that event

API function call

- **userpoints_userpointsapi**('points', $points, $uid, $event, $description)

  - Modules call this function explicitly to add/subtract points to a user.

  - Points are added (if positive) or subtracted (if negative)

- $event

  - An identifier of the event the points is being awarded for, this

  - Gets recorded in the transaction table (allows auditing, recalculating, ...etc).

  - May require events to be registered in the future.

How many?

- **userpoints_get_current_points($uid)**

  - You can call this function to know how much points a use has.

  - Returns the current number of points for that user.

- Use in themes or other modules for displaying points (e.g. below the avatar).

- Some examples on http://2bits.com

Real Life Example

- 7 am Thursday someone send me an email asking for an unreleased module, and two other custom ones to be developed.

- Replied around noon.

- Got this reply by 2pm:

Thanks to your API, it turned out much easier than expected. I was able to code all 3 by the time you responded to this email and will post them on drupal.org for you to review. Great module! :)

The future?

- Maximum ever points earned

  - field in the database already, but not presented

- Points from one user to another

  - Barter or site currency

- More than one point "pools".

- Time dimension

  - How many points for a user in the last month

The future (cont'd)

- Integration with votingAPI

    – fivestar, ...etc.

- Event registry

    – More structure and discipline for the data

- Better UI for managing points (AJAX?)

Sites

- Performancing – Tools for bloggers

  http://performancing.com

- Altiris users site – Community for Altiris users
  http://juice.altiris.com/points

- MEPIS Linux distro, Debian derived

  http://www.mepis.org/userpoints

- Poop Report – an intellectual scatology site

  http://www.poopreport.com

- Ruby Baboon

  http://www.rubybaboon.com/

Hands On

Let us see it all in action ...

Conclusion

- Questions?

- Comments?

- Discussions?