Backdrop LIVE Notes
March 2022

Let's use this document to create shared notes from each of the sessions. Type them here directly or paste them here after your session is complete. Ideally, let's try to get at least a few sentences for each session.

Feel free to add topics.

Content Author Centric UX Improvements

Explored the challenge - content authors overwhelmed with menu choices
Looked at D8 Tasty Backend - much simplified
Still at concept for B - not sure whether to backport from D8, extract from D7 distro, or can we do simpler with what we've already done in B?
Advise not to use "install profiles" as very problematic to maintain.

Links pasted in chat:
- https://tastybackend.com
- https://websupport.colorado.edu/ is a great visual of the different menu options CU configured for different roles. Standardizing on roles within a distribution allows you to collaborate on the documentation.
- We handled that with https://www.drupal.org/project/profile_module_manager and defining the permissions and menus there https://github.com/CuBoulder/express_documentation/blob/main/docs/creating_custom_bundles.md#define-permissions
- It was ported https://github.com/backdrop-contrib/role_delegation
- This leveraged https://www.drupal.org/project/secure_permissions to capture permissions as configuration outside of Features
- https://backdropcms.org/project/navbar
- Navbar is great, but it defaults to assuming that the module developers are setting permissions for roles in the same way your use case would so you end up altering it https://github.com/CuBoulder/express/blob/dev/modules/custom/site_navigation_menus/site_navigation_menus.module#L303

Backdrop Successes and Frustrations: A nonprofit's journey

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The Business of Backdrop

- Goal to facilitate so that people can make a livelihood building Backdrop sites & to finance the Backdrop project itself.
- Form a "Backdrop Business Association" (name TBD)
- Backdrop freelancers or developers need to find clients
    - People who know that they need Backdrop
    - People who know they need Backdrop type functionality, but don't necessarily know about Backdrop
- As a Backdrop business, there should be a way to give back to the community financially
- Tax implications for an international organization to donate - or an invoiced expense. Membership
- Concerns
    - We don't want to make the same mistakes that the Drupal community made
        - Having a single company with outsized influence
    - Better explanation of the need
    - Wordpress route - every module has free option and then a paid full featured version. End result, free modules are not very helpful and everything costs money.
    -
- Why would we raise money - how would it be spent?
- Business of Backdrop -
    - How do we each run our Backdrop business
    - How do we collectively promote or advance the business economy
- How do people make money from Backdrop
    - Buy charing money to build websites
    - SaaS offerings
    - Hosting services
- Drupal 8 forked the Drupal community and left 100,000's of sites stranded.
- The Backdrop CMS marketplace is not competitive
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Upgrading To Backdrop CMS From Drupal 7

Slides from this talk (with references):
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Pn5PNhW0Azbd_WMihR2HeTertQJCP09RIbfW R1xgATM

How to Upgrade
https://docs.backdropcms.org/documentation/upgrading-from-drupal-7

- Step 1: Assess your Drupal 7 site
    - review limitations & changes
    - research theme & layouts
    - research modules, make a plan
    - backdrop_upgrade_status module
- Step 2: Prepare your Drupal site
    - update to latest releases
    - remove unused content
    - remove unused modules, themes
    - backup files & database
- Step 3: Upgrade to Backdrop
    - download drush plug-in
    - download Backdrop CMS
    - download contrib modules & themes
    - restore files from Drupal
    - restore database backup
    - run update.php
    - test & enjoy

Stanford joins the Backdrop community!

Article on the same topic
https://atendesigngroup.com/articles/making-case-drupal-7-backdrop-cms-upgrade

Sassy Style! Theme and sub-theme development with Sass

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Wordpress to Backdrop

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Backdrop CMS Recipes

Backdrop "config recipes" allow you to import a batch of config files providing some functionality.

You can create a module that is nothing more than config files, and then install it to add that config without any PHP (though PHP may be used to create default content demonstrating the effect of the config recipe). Like any module, they may declare dependencies.

Tim Erickson has created two recipes available to install:
- Testimonial Recipe
- FAQ Recipe (dependency on Views Bootstrap to provide accordion effect)

Nobody else has created any Recipes yet, but this new functionality has been available for a few months (since they fixed a bug preventing config-only modules).

How do I delete a recipe? Manually. There's currently no way to undo a config recipe, or toggle it on and off.

Creating a Recipe through the UI (as with Drupal 7 Features module) is far away on the horizon. Currently the way to create a Config Recipe is to start from a clean Git repo, enable some configuration and export it, then view the diff of the config and use that as the basis to create a config-only module.

"The kind of people who know how to make them don't need them, and the kind of people who need them don't know how to make them."

Devel Generate module keeps track of dummy content and allows it to be deleted without affecting any user-created content.
The Features module got in trouble by trying to do too much, so it would be smart to keep it simple.

Jen L. says that copying the Features UI is not reasonable but there may be a simpler approach to the UI.

Joseph Flatt says we might end up with two or three different UIs for this, depending on what people want to do.

Jen L: https://github.com/backdrop-config/recipes
Very cool approach – hides Recipes from Modules view and keeps management in a separate Recipes interface.

Dianne V.: Why is this not a module? How do we describe the difference to a non-technical person?

Tim E.: The distinction was "no PHP code". But now we find that adding some PHP allows us to add functionality, so the distinction becomes somewhat arbitrary

Jen L.: What's the difference between a Module and a Recipe? It does not matter to new site builders if they are searching for FAQ functionality.

John Romine: Complicated application, a lot of custom code, using drush make, installation profile, Features module.

He used the "Profiler library" (https://www.drupal.org/project/profiler) and also used Features.

Jen L.: Recipes, unlike Features, are one-and-done. They do not need to maintain state over time and be kept in sync – that's another step and could be possible with config overrides.

Luke M.: Short of a GUI and a fully-packaged thing, it would be good to have a well-documented process to create a config-only Recipe

This requires version control – or maybe not? Jen L. points out that Backdrop already has a config comparison tool and a backup tool, and just doesn't have a way to pick and choose pieces of a config diff to apply to your project. (But Drupal config management with YAML is also all-or-nothing – only the PHP config overrides can be one-offs!)

Greg N.: It does sound like we are talking about creating a Backdrop UI for Git :)

Tim E.: Install profiles (e.g. Umami) can only be applied when installing

The person working on Paragraphs recipes is **Laryn**. He can be found in Backdrop community chat: https://backdrop.zulipchat.com

¿Cómo empezar con Backdrop?

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Bootstrap + Backdrop = Beautiful websites out of the box

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Core Development Update

Lots of discussion about Drupal EOL, and how that & PHP & MySQL releases could impact our Backdrop 2.0 timeline

Opera Theme - Demo and Discussion

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Using ProboCI For Backdrop Developer and User Testing

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Converting a Drupal 7 theme to a Layout

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Contrib Modules or Themes - Lightning Talks

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Writing your first PR for Backdrop CMS

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Organic Groups

Mix of people who know the module very well from D6 and D7, some new
Enables users to create and manage their own groups
Members can subscribe
Can have group home page with pages and posts
Blocks for members
Groups can be selective or not
Some groups are private - can't become a member unless allowed by group admin (eg. invite only)
Olaf examples - teachers' union
Some video tutorials (for Drupal 7): https://modulesunraveled.com/organic-groups-7x-2x

Another module called Group which has a Backdrop version. Comparison:
  https://drupal.stackexchange.com/questions/197618/what-are-the-features-of-the-group-module-versus-organic-group-module

OG is more interesting for B than Group. D7 version of Group is not maintained. Also,
  Backdrop needs OG for translation server on B.

Port not fully complete. Can run but still some issues with it.

Questions
Luke M - parts are ported and some not, can we go deeper and describe what's working
  and what's still to do? Is it usable?

Olaf is testing, see github.com/backdrop-contrib/og/issues/45. In D7 OG works with
  panels. Many views displays are panels but B needs adjustment to work with blocks.
Next steps in testing is to create private groups

DS - says has private groups working well - gave demo
OG access control to define public and private
Groups linked to menu
User can create groups but don't have permissions to add to menu
Can subscribe to group
Can view content. Defined to use group defaults.
Opinion is its simple and easy to work with.
Project overview
https://github.com/backdrop-contrib/og/projects/1
Testing guide
https://github.com/backdrop-contrib/og/issues/45

A few people working on it - would be good to have more input on critical issues.

Question about what it is used for
Can organise groups without need for admin. Can create structures without admin.

Not a forum, OG gives a group of people a 'website' of their own. Can put static content
  and other content like events.

Was created for groups.drupal.org - can create groups for local area and create content.
  Each group can be managed differently. Very flexible and powerful. Can define the
  groups membership criteria and type of content.

Group is also a category which has content and users. Users contributing to specific
  category.
Person can be in more than one group.

Open Atrium was a D7 distro that used OG - a sort of intranet platform.
If can get OG working, it would be strategically important to B - can open the door to a lot
   of potential.

It has potential to be an attraction for people who are heavy users and need somewhere
   to go to.

How far from a release are we?
Not stable enough for a release.
No migration path - serious errors
Ix - I'd not recommend to do a release with a state like that

DS - 2 issues that make like hard:
USer with pending status - click unsubscribe but can't remove from group - have to block
   to get out.
? Issue with Books and OG

LM - MVP shouldn't require migration

JL - It's upgrade rather than migration.

Visit issue queue

Main people working on OG don't need the module so good to have more involved that
   have an interest in seeing it go live.

Backdrop for Absolute Beginner

- Rebuildhealth.com
- Planetaryrenewal.org
- ExtraordinaryHealthcare.com

How to make BackdropCMS a more accessible tool for individuals looking to start a business.

Why not Wordpress?

- Backdrop is more flexible than Wordpress and working with Backdrop is a way of future
   proofing yourself for future growth.

CLOSING SESSION:

How did the last 36 hours go, what did we learn, what are our next steps.

Greg - his head hurts from all the ideas that have floated around for the last few days.

Curt - new to Backdrop, but think that any projects in the future are likely to be Backdrop given that Drupal 7 is no longer an option. Really likes paragraphs. Really likes Omega (Drupal 7). Looking at getting a little more serious about Backdrop CMS.

Sarvasri - Learned a lot. Learned the most from seeing example sites. Seeing what can be done based upon other examples. Will continue to study Backdrop CMS and work on his "Ultimate Guide To Backdrop CMS"

Nate - Found a lot of things that were really interesting. The discussion of a non-profits journey, trials and tribulations, was really interesting. Work being done with Backdrop CMS and Probo. DEV panel hosts 4 applications and one of them is Backdrop. Greg's company.

Steve - He has shared Backdrop to his hosting company and they have added it to their one-click install.

Luke - Very excited about the Stanford appearance at Backdrop LIVE. They bring a lot to the table. Progress on Organic Groups is a big deal. There are lots of Drupal 7 Organic Groups sites that have been orphaned. "If its Good enough for Stanford" - our new slogan?

Stanford web camp.

Nate   Stanford saved $400,000 by moving to Backdrop CMS.

Steve   Stanford is our "White House" in the sense of the White House brought a great deal of credibility to Drupal.

Jeff   His first Backdrop LIVE. Very impressed with all the work we've done. The feeds module will meet some important needs. We need a better balance between beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

Joseph   Everytime we do this he get's 100 new ideas for things to build.

Kevin - Was working on a Drupal 6 upgrade over the weekend. Grateful for all the support in Zulip.

$1200 in donations

Putting my thoughts into something more coherent... Drupal is fantastic... the way it works and the way I work complement each other... data centric for me, the be all and end all… Then I found Backdrop.... Sublime is an understatement. Thanks everyone.

Business of Backdrop CMS - some initiative to raise funds for Backdrop development
This was the fullest schedule and the most participants that we have had
Themes - (3 types of themes - frameworks, lots of config options, totally finished)
OpenForce2022 - Schedule office hours for Europe/Asia