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UNIVERSITY OF
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DSpace administration issues: the community admin patch

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Agenda

- What?
- Why/Who?
- When?
- …What's next?

Decentralization/delegation

- Community management
- Collection management – the current features are not enough
- Item management

Most of you are administrators of your University's IR... or at least you know her

...Help me find an answer!

How is the typical working day of your DSpace admin?

WHY?

quiet?

scheduled?

heavenly?

Picture from: http://www.flickr.com/photos/volk/2486399194/

Are you really sure…
or is it more like this?

WHY?

unscheduled

chaotic

too short!

Picture from: http://www.flickr.com/photos/disaster_area/3969972966/

WHY?

Can you create a new collection for my department? We have a meeting in two days and we would like to have all the presentations in the IR by today …

I made a mistake during the submission and the item has already been published. Can you fix it?

My item has been published in the wrong collection. Please, move it in the right place!

One man can't support all the IR users!

Messy!
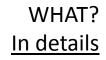
- The administrator needs help…

- More administrators could help but…

- Formally an administrator will care for specific area

- An administrator can work also on areas that are not formally assigned to him: this approach gives great flexibility but it is not appropriate for some institutions
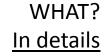
We need effective delegation functionalities!

Delegation can also allow to use a unique DSpace instance for a network of Universities or a wide research center without losing independence
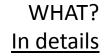
What does this mean?

WHAT?
In details

What does this mean?

What can a community admin do and what should not be allowed to do?

Picture from: http://www.flickr.com/photos/hydrojeno/3340981515/

What does this mean?

I, Tim and Mark and probably everyone here don't have a common answer to this!

What does this mean?

IMHO: A community admin can do all what a system admin can do but only if the action is related to his community
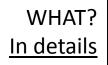
Mark: right!

TIM: at my university a community admin is not allowed to remove items, it's quite delicate! We want to reserve it only to system admins

Mark: right too!

I: Mark you can't agree wit both!

Mark: why not? Make it configurable!

Configurability

- Any functionalities can be turned off in dspace.cfg

- As default any action is allowed to "local admin"

- All the functionalities allowed to the admin of a specific content are also allowed to the admin of its wider content (i.e what a collection admin can do, can also be done by a community admin)

Community admin

- Create subcommunities and collections
- Delete subcommunities and collections
- Manage the community's policies
- Manage subcommunities admin group
- Manage collections' admin group
- Manage collections' workflow groups
- Manage collections' template item
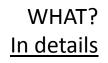- Manage collections' policies
- …

Community admin

- Remove items

- Withdraw items

- Reinstatiate items

- Manage Items policies

- Add bitstreams to items

- Delete bitstreams

- Add/Change CC License to items

Collection admin

- Manage the collection's admin group
- Manage collection's workflow groups
- Manage the collection's template item
- Manage the collection's policies
- Remove items
- Withdraw items
- Reinstatiate items
- Manage Items' policies
- Add bitstreams to items
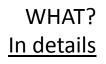- Delete bitstreams
- Add/Change CC License to items

Item admin

What is it? When to use it?

Please send me a note if you are able to answer!*

* For my boss: the item admin role was a strong requirement, therefore I haven't wasted my time! ☺

Item admin

- Add bitstreams

- Remove bitstreams

- Add/change CC License (JSPUI only)

Could it be useful in scenarios different from the "classic" Open Access repository where in-progress content need to be made available?

History...a little OS advocacy

- 2006: I wrote the first patch against DSpace 1.2... after that I updated it to version 1.3 – We have used the patch in a production system for a couple of archives
- 2007...2009: We lost the focus on this patch, since our Universities are more interested in integration with legacy systems... fortunately Tim is now aboard and his university has adopted the patch. He has fixed several bugs and has been keeping the patch up-to-date for 1.4... and 1.5 for the XMLUI
- 2009... together
- 2009-09-30 the patch has been committed, it will be included in 1.6

Lesson learned

- Less maintenance cost
- Avoid duplication efforts
- Better code and functionalities
- Save technical results when project moves out

SHARE!

Lesson learned

- It has taken quite a long time to see this patch included in the main code… why?

- It is related to "core API" and it was too big

- Its initial design what not shared so I had to wait for others to be very interested in it so to jump closely

SHARE MORE, SHARE OFTEN, SHARE EARLY!

…what's next?

- Functionalities
  - Make the access configurable to the new OAI-PMH Harvest and batch editing functionalities
  - Allow community admin to create/manage group not strictly related to their communities
  - Web configuration? Configuration on a community/collection basis?

…what's next?

- Technical details:
    - Resource Policy life cycle methods don't check authorization – responsibility is delegated to the UI
    - Some Group methods don't check authorization too – responsibility is delegated to the UI
    - Database interaction requires to turn off authoritazion during update of an item because relations with the collection have not yet been created

If you are STILL awake…

If you are STILL reading these slides…

Many thanks for your kind attention!

Special thanks to Mark Diggory and Larry Stone
for help, suggestions and nice additions.

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