THE NEW THEME LAYER IN DRUPAL 8

from Jen Lampton

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if you forget my name, just Google "Drupal developer"

MY "INITIATIVE"

(unofficial)

MY "INITIATIVE"

(unofficial)

A new theme layer for Drupal 8

THEME LAYER?

- 1) Generation of Markup:
- Template files (as close to HTML as possible)
- Preparation of data (for insertion into template files)
- Addition of assets (CSS + JS)

THEME LAYER?

- 2) System of complete overrides:
- Alteration of HTML in template files
- Alteration of data (before insertion into templates)
- Inclusion of additional assets
 (or exclusion of existing assets)

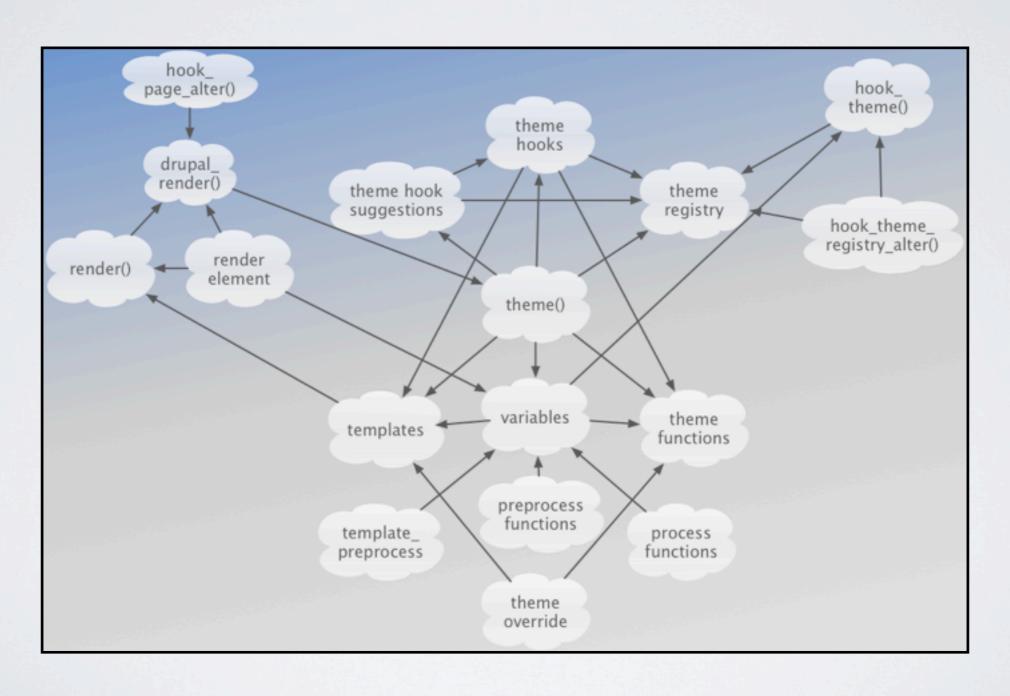
THEME LAYER?

- 3) System of partial overrides:
- Alteration of HTML in template files
- Alteration of data (before insertion into templates)
- Inclusion of additional assets
 (or exclusion of existing assets)

...but only under certain circumstances.

but, we have this now!

it looks like this (simplified)



it feels like this



for lots of reasons

Mixed data types

```
<div id="node-<?php prin $node->nid; ?>" class="<?php print $classes; ?> clearfix"<?php print $attributes; ?>>-
 <?php print render($title_prefix); ?>-
 <?php if (!$page): ?>-
   <h2<?php print $title_attributes; ?>>-
     <a href="<?php print $node_url; ?>"><?php print $title; ?></a>-
   </h2>-
 <?php endif; ?>-
 <?php print render($title_suffix); ?>-
 <?php if ($display_submitted): ?>-
                                                    <?php i ($page['featured']): '>
   <div class="meta submitted">-
                                                                                    ="section clearfix">
     <?php print $user_picture; ?>-
                                                        <?php print render($page['featured']); ?>-
     <?php print $submitted; ?>-
                                                      </div></div> <!-- /.section, /#featured -->-
   </div>
                                                    <?php endif; ?>-
 <?php endif; ?>-
```

String, Object or Array?

Different methods of printing variables

```
<div id="node-<?php print $node->nid; ?>" class="<?ph</pre>
                                                       print $classes;
                                                                           clearfix"<?php print $attributes; ?>>-
 <?php print render($title_prefix); ?>¬
 <?php if (!$page): ?>-
   <h2<?php print $title_attributes; ?>>-
     <a href="<?php print $node_url; ?>"><?php print $title; ?></a>-
    </h2>¬
 <?pt
 <?ph> print render($title_suffix);
 <?php if ($display_submitted): ?>-
                                                     <?php if ($page['featured']): ?>¬
   <div class="meta submitted">--
                                                       <div id="featured"><div class="section clearfix">
     <?php print $user_picture; ?>-
                                                         <?php print render($page['featured']); ?>-
     <?php print $submitted; ?>-
                                                       </div></div> <!-- /.section, /#featured -->-
   </div>
                                                     <?php endif; ?>-
 <?php endif; ?>-
```

print or print render()?

Two ways to override markup:

TEMPLATE FILES

THEME FUNCTIONS

```
// Remove the "Add new comment" link on the teaser page or if
// form is being displayed on the same page.-
if ($teaser || !empty($content['comments']['comment_form'])) {
    unset($content['links']['comment']['#links']['comment-add'])
}

// Only display the wrapper div if there are links.-
$links = render($content['links']);-
if ($links):-
?>-
    <div class="link-wrapper">-
        <?php print $links; ?>-
        </div>

/div>

/div>
```

When do I use what?

```
'/Sites/_drupal/drupal-8.x-dev
 find . -name *.tpl.php
./core/modules/aggregator/templates/aggregator-feed-source.tpl.php
./core/modules/aggregator/templates/aggregator-item.tpl.php
./core/modules/aggregator/templates/aggregator-summary-items.tpl.php
./core/modules/aggregator/templates/aggregator-wrapper.tpl.php
/core/modules/block/templates/block-admin-display-form.tpl.php
/core/modules/block/templates/block.tpl.php
./core/modules/block/tests/themes/block_test_theme/page.tpl.php
./core/modules/book/templates/book-all-books-block.tpl.php
./core/modules/book/templates/book-export-html.tpl.php
./core/modules/book/templates/book-navigation.tpl.php
./core/modules/book/templates/book-node-export-html.tpl.php
./core/modules/comment/templates/comment-urapper.tpl.php
./core/modules/comment/templates/comment.tpl.php
./core/modules/field/templates/field.tpl.php
./core/modules/forum/templates/forum-icon.tpl.php
./core/modules/forum/templates/forum-list.tpl.php
./core/modules/forum/templates/forum-submitted.tpl.php
./core/modules/forum/templates/forum-topic-list.tpl.php
./core/modules/forum/templates/forums.tpl.php
./core/modules/layout/layouts/static/one-col/one-col.tpl.php
./core/modules/layout/layouts/static/twocol/two-col.tpl.php
./core/modules/layout/tests/layouts/static/one-col/one-col.tpl.php
./core/modules/layout/tests/themes/layout_test_theme/layouts/static/two-col/two-col.tpl.php
./core/modules/node/templates/node-edit-form.tpl.php
./core/modules/node/templates/node.tpl.php
./core/modules/overlay/templates/overlay.tpl.php
/core/modules/search/templates/search-result.tpl.php
/core/modules/search/templates/search-results.tpl.php
/core/modules/system/templates/html.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/templates/maintenance-page.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/templates/page.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/templates/region.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/templates/system-plugin-ui-form.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/tests/modules/theme_test/templates/theme_test.template_test.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/tests/themes/test_theme/node--1.tpl.php
./core/modules/system/tests/themes/test_theme/theme_test.template_test.tpl.php
./core/modules/taxonomy/templates/taxonomy-term.tpl.php
./core/modules/user/templates/user-picture.tpl.php
./core/modules/user/templates/user.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-exposed-form.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-more.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-field.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-fields.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-grid.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-grouping.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-list.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-row-rss.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-rss.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-summary-unformatted.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-summary.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-table.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view-unformatted.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/templates/views-view.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/tests/views_test_data/templates/views-view--frontpage.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/views_ui/templates/views-ui-display-tab-bucket.tpl.php
./core/modules/views/views_ui/templates/views-ui-display-tab-setting.tpl.php
./core/themes/bartik/templates/comment-urapper.tpl.php
./core/themes/bartik/templates/comment.tpl.php
./core/themes/bartik/templates/maintenance-page.tpl.php
./core/themes/bartik/templates/node.tpl.php
./core/themes/bartik/templates/page.tpl.php
/core/themes/seven/templates/maintenance-page.tpl.php
/core/themes/seven/templates/page.tpl.php
```

HARD

Too many template files

HARDER

Way too many theme functions

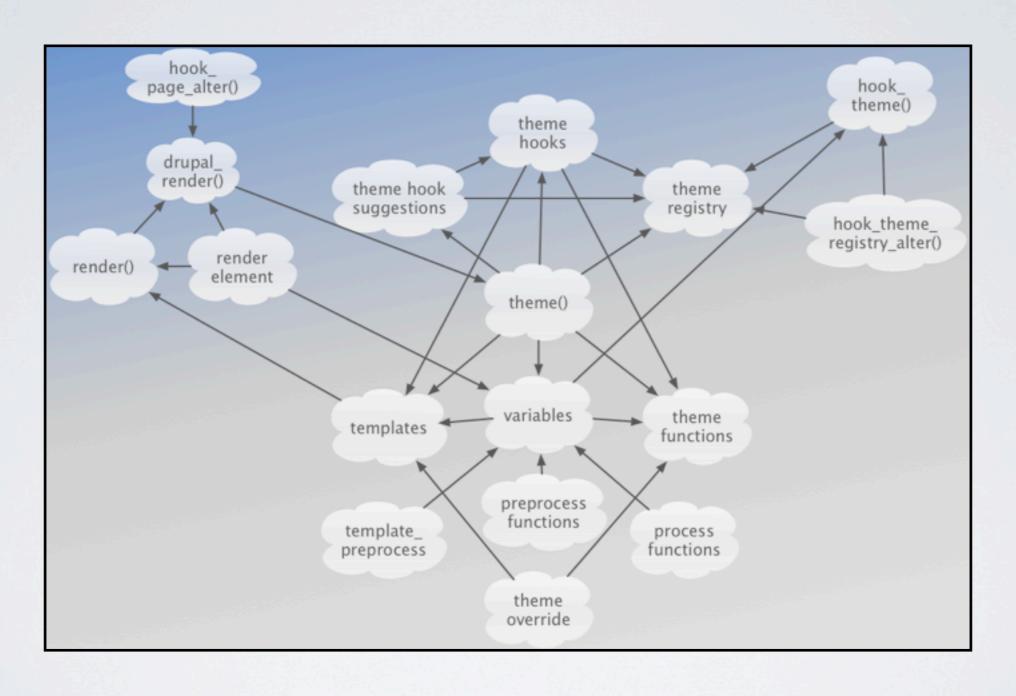
Insecure.

Really, it's insecure.

Drupal-specific



Drupalism noun Something that only exists in Drupal.



too many complex subsystems

because

- 1. Mixed data types (strings, objects & arrays)
- 2. Different methods of printing variables (print, render)
- 3. Two ways to override markup: templates & theme fns
- 4. Too many template files & Too many theme functions
- 5. Insecure
- 6. Drupal-specific
- 7. A complex mix of subsystems







Accidental Drupal 8 "initiative" leader.

Principals to guide us.

Principals to guide us

I. Start with nothing

Core default markup should strive for semantic simplicity, with few HTML elements, added only as needed

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases

We won't assume we know what people want or add features based on "What-if...?" We will think about the 90% of use cases.

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools

Give front-end experts a way to achieve specific goals; goals that apply to the remaining 10% of use cases.

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools
- 4. Consolidate

Don't make something new when something common can be used instead. (let's create a Theme Component Library).

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools
- 4. Consolidate
- 5. Visibility

You should be able to see what's going on without reading docs.

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools
- 4. Consolidate
- 5. Visibility
- 6. Consistency

Do the same things everywhere, follow patterns.

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools
- 4. Consolidate
- 5. Visibility
- 6. Consistency
- 7. Don't dumb it down

Complexity should be reduced but not obscured.

Principals to guide us

- I. Start with nothing
- 2. Build from use cases
- 3. Provide tools
- 4. Consolidate
- 5. Visibility
- 6. Consistency
- 7. Don't dumb it down
- 8. Organization should be driven by meaning and semantics over technical convenience

Consider what an element means rather than how it structurally appears. Theme developers want to see markup in templates, not abstraction.

A NEW THEME ENGINE?



TWIG

ABOUT DOCUMENTATION BLOG DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTORS



Twig Documentation

Read the online documentation to learn more about Twig.

- Introduction / Installation
- · Twig for Template Designers
- · Twig for Developers
- · Extending Twig
- · Twig Internals
- · Twig Recipes
- Coding Standards
- API
- Twig contributed extensions documentation
- License

Twig Reference

Browse the online reference to learn more about built-in features.

You can download the documentation for offline reading:





well documented

Extending Twig

Twig can be extended in many ways; you can add extra tags, filters, tests, operators, global variables, and functions. You can even extend the parser itself with node visitors.



The first section of this chapter describes how to extend Twig easily. If you want to reuse your changes in different projects or if you want to share them with others, you should then create an extension as described in the following section.

extensible

- Secure: When it comes to security, Twig has some unique features:
 - Automatic output escaping: To be on the safe side, you can enable automatic output escaping globally or for a block of code:

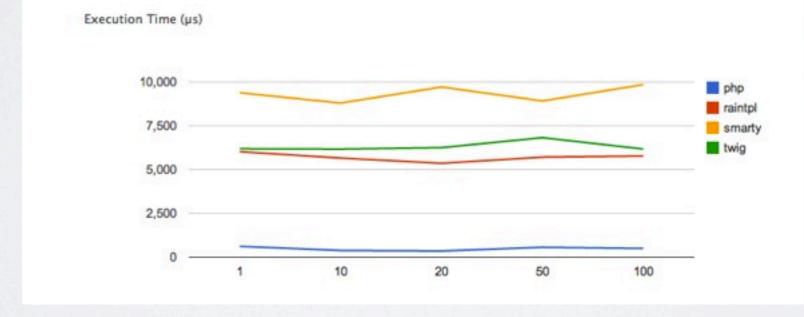
Sandboxing: Twig can evaluate any template in a sandbox environment where the user has access to a limited set of tags,
filters, and object methods defined by the developer. Sandboxing can be enabled globally or locally for just some templates:

```
{% include "user.html" sandboxed %}
```

secure

Summary (assign) package size Test tot. time tot. memory php 5.3.3-7+squeeze9 483 µs 4 KB 11.97 KB 5707 µs raintpl 2.7.0 282.77 KB 37 KB twig 1.5.1 6323 µs 715.93 KB 647 KB **smarty** 3.1.7 9336 µs 1.28 MB 971 KB

Execution Time (assign)



fast



IDE integration









recognizable syntax



by the creator of Symfony, Fabien Potencier

what does it look like?

what does it look like?

```
{% if items %}-
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}-
 {% if title %}-
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>-
 {% endif %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
   -
 {% else %}-
   -
 {% endif %}-
 {% for item in items %}-
   <li{{ item.attributes }}>{{ item.data }}
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 {% else %}-
 {% endif %}-
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% endif %}-
```

print with {{ }}

```
{% if items %}¬
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}¬
 {70 LT CLCLE 70}−
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
   ¬
 {% else %}-
   ¬
 {% endif %}¬
 {% for item in items %}-
   <li{{ item.attributes }}>{{ item.data }}
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 {% else %}-
 {% endif %}¬
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% endif %}¬
```

commands with {% %}

```
{% if items %}¬
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}¬
 {% if title %}¬
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>-
 170 enalt 703-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
                      class }}"{{ attributes }}>-
 {% else %}¬
   ¬
 TW CHAFT WL
 {% for item in items %}-
         {{ item.data }}
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 {% else %}-
 {% endif %}¬
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% endif %}¬
```

comments with {# #}

```
{% if items %}¬
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}-
 {% if title %}¬
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>-
 {% endif %}¬
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
   ¬
 {% else %}-
   ¬
 {% endif %}¬
 {% for item in items %}-
   <li{{ item.attributes }}>{{ item.data }}
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 {% else %}-
 {% e all ///
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% end f %1
```

drill down into all variables with .

```
{% if items %}¬
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}¬
 {% if title %}¬
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>-
 {% endif %}¬
 {% if type == 41' %}
   ¬
 {% else %}¬
   ¬
 {% endif %}¬
 {% for item in items %}-
   <li{{ item.attributes }}>{ item.data }
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 {% else %}¬
 {% endif %}¬
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% endif %}¬
```

```
- */
-function theme :
  $items = $var:
  Stitle = (str:
  // @todo 'type
  $type = $varia
  $list attribut
   $output = '';
  if ($items) {
     $output .=
     $num items :
     $i = 0;
     foreach ($if
       $i++;
       $attribute
       if (is ar
         if (isse
           $attr:
         $item =
       $attribute
       if ($i ==
         $attrib
       if ($i ==
         $attribu
       $output .:
```

All markup is generated in template files.

```
--- /dev/null
+++ b/core/themes/stark/templates/system/item-list.twig
00 -0,0 +1,40 00
+{#
+/**
+ * 0file
+ * Returns HTML for a list or nested list of items.
+ *
+ * Available variables:
+ *
```

- I. Mixed data types
- 2. Different methods of printing variables
- 3. Two ways to override markup
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions
- 5. Insecure
- 6. Drupal-specific
- 7. A complex mix of subsystems

does Twig help?

I. Mixed data types

does Twig help?

I. Mixed data types

All template variables are accessed consistently:

node.nid content.links

does Twig help?

I. Mixed data types FIXED

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables

Removed calls to render() from templates:

```
{{ node.nid }}
{{ content.links }}
```

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup

All theme functions become templates.

node.tpl.php becomes node.html.twig theme_table() becomes table.html.twig

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions

We're working on this right now

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure

All variables are *automatically* sanitized and most PHP functions cannot be executed in template files.

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific

does Twig help?

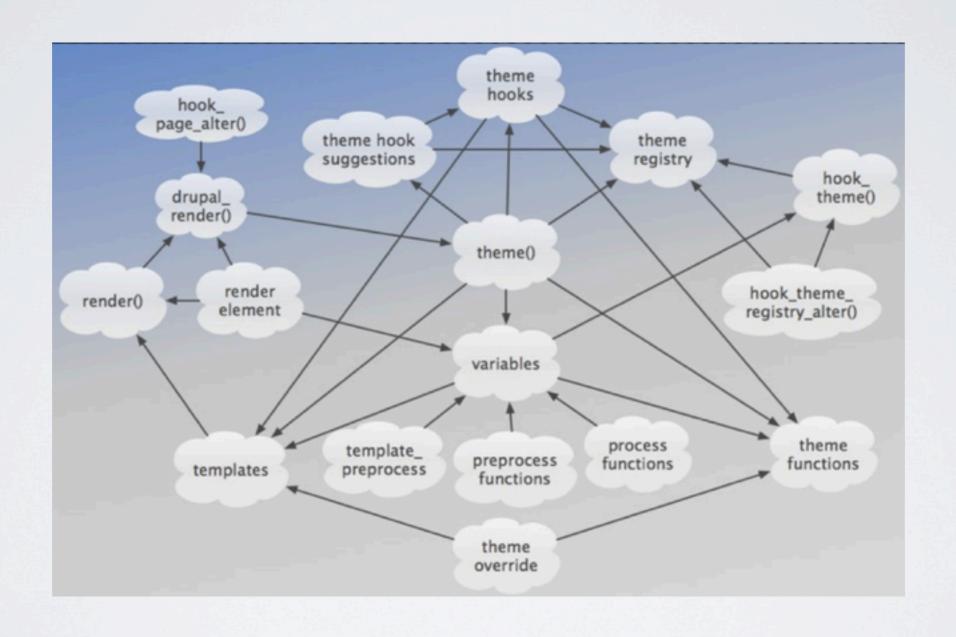
- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific

Twig is used elsewhere on the web is syntactically similar to other languages and looks a lot more like HTML.

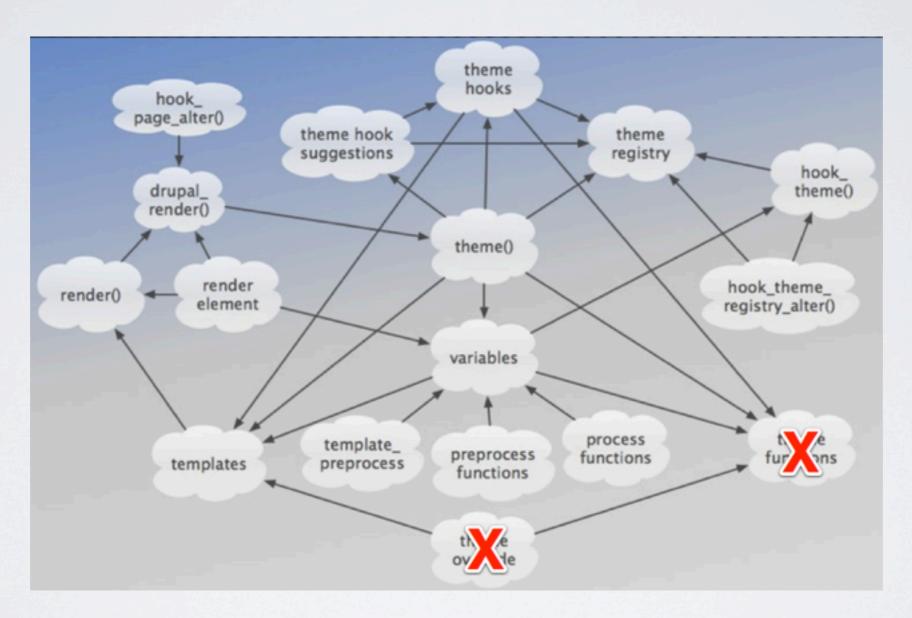
- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific FIXED

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific FIXED
- 7. A complex mix of subsystems

D7THEME LAYER

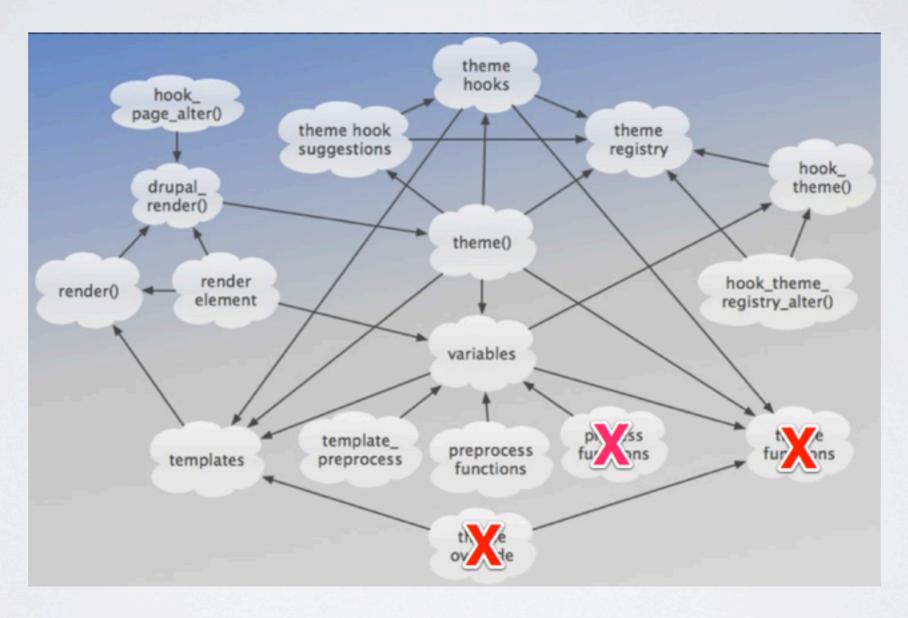


D8 IMPROVEMENTS



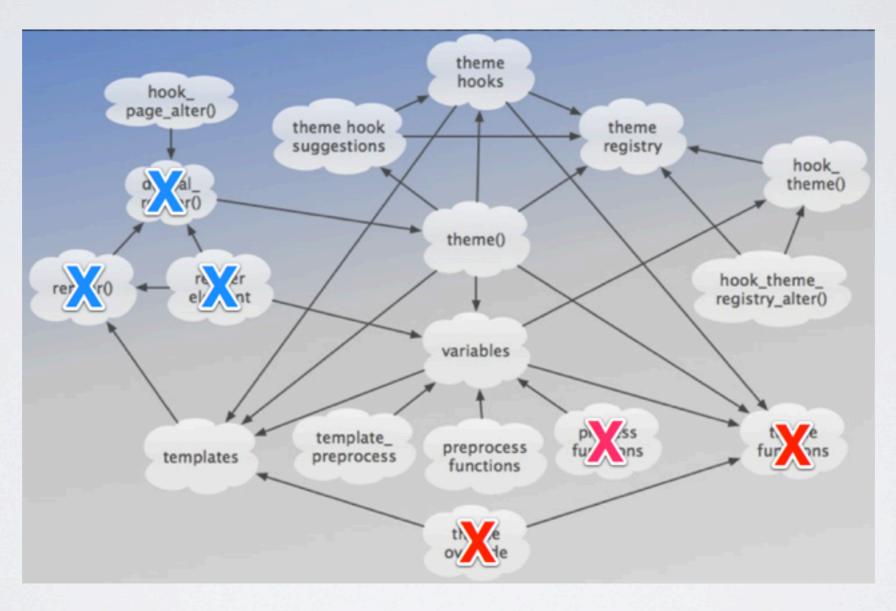
remove theme functions (and overrides) entirely.

D8 IMPROVEMENTS



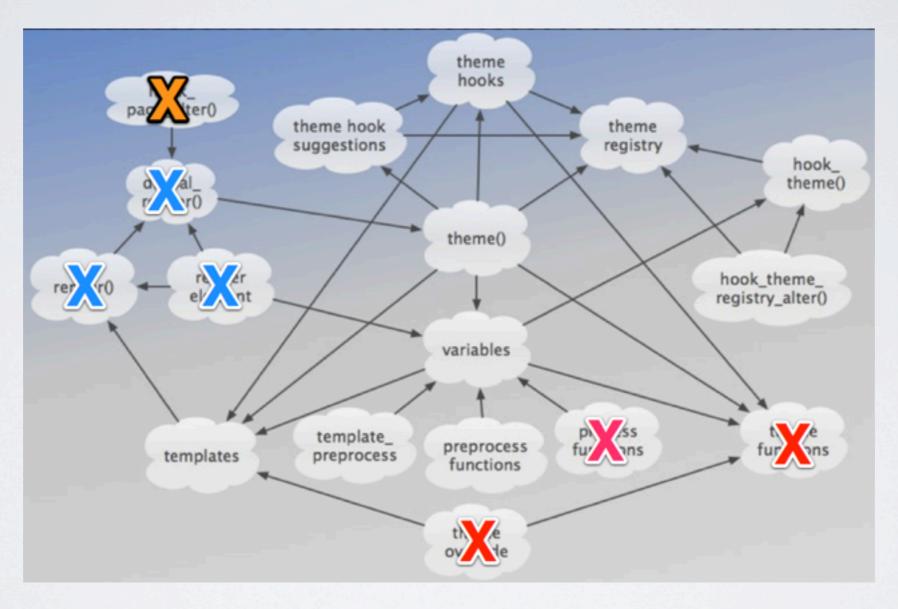
remove process.

D8 IMPROVEMENTS



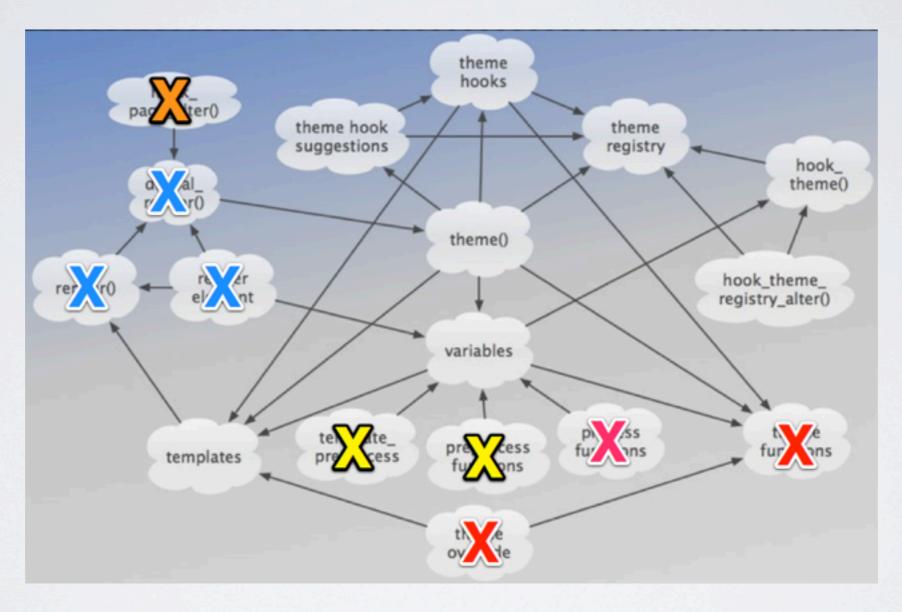
remove render.

D8 IMPROVEMENTS



remove page alter?

D9 IMPROVEMENTS



remove preprocess?

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific FIXED
- 7. A complex mix of subsystems

We can remove all theme functions, render, process & (maybe) preprocess too.

does Twig help?

- I. Mixed data types FIXED
- 2. Different methods of printing variables FIXED
- 3. Two ways to override markup **FIXED**
- 4. Too many template files & theme functions @todo
- 5. Insecure FIXED
- 6. Drupal-specific FIXED
- 7. A complex mix of subsystems @todo

does Twig help?

does Twig help?

YES!!!

less code than PHP functions

less code than PHP functions

theme_image becomes image.html.twig

TWIG

less code than PHP functions

```
function theme_username($variables) {-
   if (isset($variables['link'])) {-
        $output = $variables['link'];-
}-
   else {-
        $output = '<span' . new Attribute($variables['attributes']) . '>' . $variables['name'] . $variables['extra'] . '</span>';-
}-
   return $output;-
}-
```

theme_username becomes username.html.twig

TWIG

less code than PHP functions

```
a href="{{ url(path, options) }}"{{ attributes }}>{{ text }}</a>
```

theme_link becomes link.html.twig

```
function theme_item_list($variables) {-
 $items = $variables['items'];
 Stitle = Svariables['title'];
 Stype = Svariables['type'];-
 $list_attributes = $variables['attributes'];-
 Soutput = "':-
 if ($items) {-
   Soutput .= '<' . Stype . drupol_attributes($list_attributes) . '>':-
   $num_items = count($items);-
   foreach (Sitems as Skey => Sitem) {-
     Sattributes = array();-
     if (is_array($item)) {-
       Svalue = ";-
       if (isset(Sitem['data'])) {-
         $value .= $item['data'];-
       Sattributes = array_diff_key($item, array('data' ⇒ 0, 'children' ⇒ 0));
       // Append nested child list, if any .-
       if (isset($item['children'])) {-
         // HTML attributes for the outer list are defined in the 'attributes'
         // theme variable, but not inherited by children. For nested lists,-
         // all non-numeric keys in 'children' are used as list attributes.-
         $child_list_attributes = array();
         foreach (Sitem['children'] as Schild_key => Schild_item) {-
           if (is_string($child_key)) {-
             $child_list_attributes[$child_key] = $child_item;-
             unset($item['children'][$child_key]);
         Svalue .= theme('item_list', array(-
           'items' -> Sitem['children'],-
           'type' -> Stype,-
           'attributes' -> Schild_list_attributes,
         ));-
     else {-
       Svalue = Siten;-
     Sattributes['class'][] = ($i % 2 ? 'odd' : 'even');-
       Sattributes['class'][] = 'first';-
     if ($i == $num_items) {-
       Sattributes['class'][] = 'last';-
     Soutput .= '<li' . drupol_attributes(Sattributes) . '>' . Svalue . '
   Soutput .= "</Stype>";-
 // Only output the list container and title, if there are any list items.-
 if ($output != "') {-
   if (Stitle != ") {-
     Stitle = 'sh3>' . Stitle . 's/h3>';-
   Soutput = '<div class="item-list">' . Stitle . Soutput . '</div>';-
 return Soutput;
```

lots less code than PHP functions

```
{% if items %}-
<div class="item-list"> {# @todo remove this div #}-
 {% if title %}
   <h3>{{ title }}</h3>
 {% endif %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
   -
 {% else %}-
   -
 {% endif %}-
 {% for item in items %}-
   <li{{ item.attributes }}>{{ item.data }}
 {% endfor %}-
 {% if type == 'ol' %}-
 </01>
 {% else %}-
 {% endif %}-
</div> {# @todo remove this div #}-
{% endif %}-
```

theme_item_list becomes item_list.html.twig

Awesome template inspection.

Awesome template inspection.

```
$settings['twig_debug'] = TRUE;
```

("devel themer" in core)

Awesome variable inspection.

Awesome variable inspection.

```
{{ dump(_context) }}-
```

(devel's dpm() in core)

Template inheritance

Template inheritance

comment-wrapper.html.twig before

Template inheritance

comment-wrapper.html.twig after

Template inheritance

```
{% extends "comment-wrapper.html.twig" %}-
{% codeblock title %}-
{% end codeblock %}-
```

comment-wrapper--forum.html.twig (child template)

Possible performance gains (Much TBD)

Possible performance gains (Much TBD)

- PHPtemplate reads files from disk on every use (or stat()s them with APC)
- Twig templates are read once & compiled into classes

Possible performance gains (Much TBD)

- PHPtemplate reads files from disk on every use (or stat()s them with APC)
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Consolidating many similar templates will result in an additional gain.

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In-browser template editing is something WordPress users have been asking of Drupal for a very long time.

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We can use other open source libraries like TwigJS. (https://github.com/schmittjoh/twig.js)

2-way communication between UI and code.

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No broken Uls.

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Template files can be created first, and the Drupal site can build itself* based on the presence and location of variables in the templates.

*within reason

THE NEW THEME LAYER IN DRUPAL 8

looks pretty awesome, right?



QUESTIONS?

HELP US GETTHERE

we need your help!

we could be "done" in 1.5 weeks

http://drupal.org/node/1757550

IRC: #drupal-twig

THE NEW THEME LAYER IN DRUPAL 8

Jen Lampton ~ @jenlampton www.jenlampton.com

photo credits:

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