TECHNICAL DISCOVERY

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WHY WE NEED A TECHNICAL DISCOVERY?

Quality

Budget

Which leads to...

Better Delivery

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PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Drupal 6 site to Drupal 8 Migration.
- the original site has been online for more than 5 years now
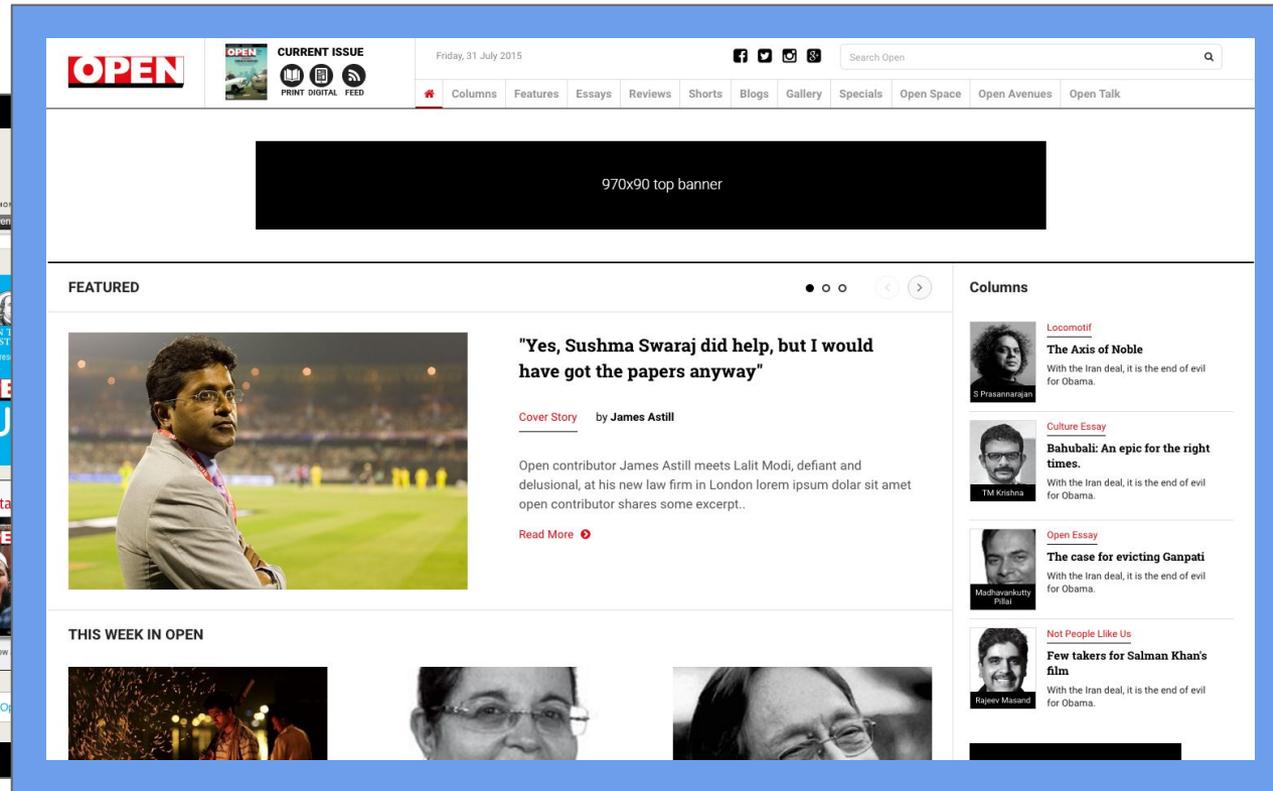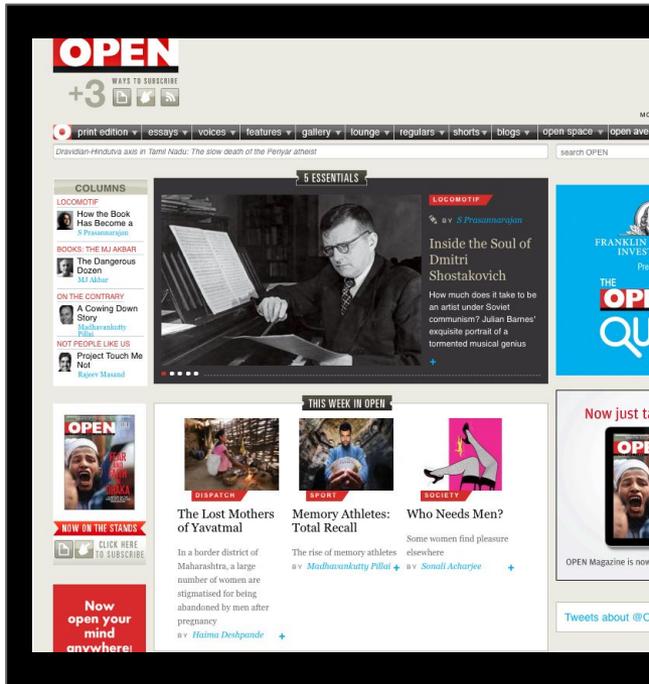- and it needed an overhaul!!

- not just migrate the site but also redefine it.
- make it future ready!

INTRODUCTION TO PROJECT

to here

move from

cue : *woahhh*

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WHAT IS A DISCOVERY

Discovery is an information gathering process that aims to generate valuable project data to ensure on-time and on-budget delivery

Prior to initiating development, Presales team to work closely with the project stakeholders and end-users with the intent to:

- identify pain-areas in the business

- Ideate and determine appropriate solutions to address each problem

- Understand and improve user interaction with the proposed system

- Determine suitable application infrastructure and architecture

- Prepare and plan project deliverables and milestones
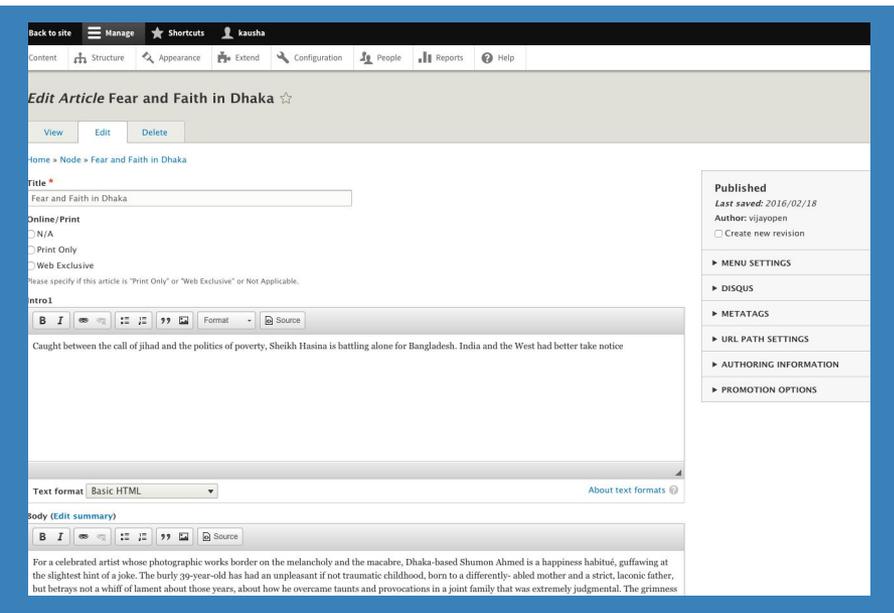
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CONVINCING THE CLIENT

- being from a big publishing media house in India, needed to be convinced about the overwhelming new features of D8. **Here is what we told them**

cue : *rapt attention*

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Better Authoring Capabilities in Drupal 8

- a neater layout/finding fields at the right places

- allowing inline edits

- edits from the blocks itself

- new field types
  - date/datetime, link, phone, email, comments etc

Better Authoring Capabilities in Drupal 8

Superior Configuration management

- import, export and synchronize the configurations between environments

- reduced maintenance cost

cue : *but! but!*

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CONVINCING THE CLIENT

Better Authoring Capabilities in Drupal 8
Superior Configuration management

Truly Mobile first approach

- in the last 5 years the growth of users spending time on mobile screens is 600% (from 0.4 hours to 2.8 hours everyday)

- we ensured that we were building for mobile and up

Reference : (http://www.smartinsights.com/mobile-marketing/mobile-marketing-analytics/mobile-marketing-statistics/)

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CONVINCING THE CLIENT

Better Authoring Capabilities in Drupal 8
Superior Configuration management
Truly Mobile first Approach

Leveraging the power of HTML5

- video and Audio Support - Magazine embracing more interactive content on the site

- availability of new tags(header,footer, nav) that help improve accessibility

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Better Authoring Capabilities in Drupal 8
Superior Configuration management
Truly Mobile first Approach
Leveraging the power of HTML5

Web Services

- exposing news content to third parties like *Medium.com* or *Scroll.in* to leverage larger audience

HOW WE APPROACHED THE ANALYSIS?

Migration

- content types available Vs used

- reduced the number of content types by a good 8 (eight)

- mapping of the fields was necessary
  - not just to capture content but also to see best practices. **Remember, the site is 5 years old!**

- re-wiring/re-shuffling needed for a lot of content

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Migration

Contributed Modules

- deadline to meet
  - Deciding which to help port and which to customize was important
  - Could not spend time in customizing everything
- modules like **DFP**, **Quicktabs**, **webform block**, **views data export** and even **nodequeue** aren't available

Migration

Custom Modules

- Existing Custom Code

  - some of the custom work done in D6 could easily be managed as the modules are now available for them. Eg, **Sharing widgets**

  - our **decision to move to D8** was based on this as there wasn't too much custom code needed to port.

How we approached the analysis?

Migration

Contrib/Custom Modules

URL Aliasing

- during migration we kept a track of old URLS

- redirects for these URLs to new URLs

- the new URLs were restructured to meet better SEO standards

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DECISIONS ! DECISIONS !

- **Features Vs Config Management**
  - both of them weren't yet stable during the time of taking the decision (More about it a little later)

- **Entityqueue Vs. Nodequeue**
  - nodequeue isn't available and entityqueue has restrictions

- **Custom Vs. Port of module**
  - more like "time Vs. value" where we can't port everything on our own
  - took help from the community and sought advice on who was porting and when he/she intend to complete it

- **People Content Type Vs Users**
  - sensible use of Drupal more than anything else

cue : *agreed!*

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HOW WE DEVELOPED?

- internal training organized for the team by devs who have been playing with D8 earlier

  - D8 basics

  - module development

- those who had worked on D7 found it easy (site building).

  - we tried covering most of it using D8's site building capabilities

- the team was actively seeking help on drupal's IR channel

  - posting/updating issues on *D.O*

- with **Twig templating engine** we can keep the template separate from the logic.

cue : *do try this at home!*

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HOW WE ENSURED QUALITY?

- basic QA practices
  - test cases - easy to do as we had an existing site as benchmark
  - acceptance criteria - reviewed by client as some of the expectations had changed
- migration related quality standards
  - making sure that every content is moved.
    - used *migrate* and *migrate drupal* (core) module
    - no Migrate UI (hopefully by 8.1 (mentioned in #Driesnote))
  - automated scripts were written to sanitize content and test approx 20K nodes
  - migration of assets along with articles (eg, images)

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HOW WAS DEPLOYMENT PLANNED?

- features
  - block configs were not supported in the alpha version
- config management (had problems with it)
  - conflicted with other module dependency
- we had to partially move the configs manually!
  - now CMI is more stable though

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- a lot of modules are not available (yet!)

- expertise in D8 low.

    - everyone is a beginner

    - lack of expertise in OOPs concepts

- not enough good articles are available for the devs to learn

- loads of research required

    - whether it's our problem or something to do with a faulty module.

    - finalising approach for a lot of features

cue : *making sense this!*

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- search
  - Apache Solr just (27th Jan) released a stable module otherwise search would have been another pain
- DFP/Ads
  - a complete module has been created to provide basic features from D7 version
- hosting
  - not everyone supports D8 at the moment.
  - which means more experimentation needed

cue : *Should.Applaud.Now*

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Thank You

Contact us

Interested in joining or knowing more about us? Feel free to reach out to us through any of these channels. Happy to help!

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