2017-03-23 DSpace 7 UI Working Group Meeting notes

Date
23 Mar 2017

Angular meeting

Attendees
- Art Lowel (Atmire)
- Andrea Bollini (4Science)
- Tim Donohue
- James Silas Creel
- Giuseppe Digilio (4Science)
- Nelson Torres
- Matteo Perelli
- William Welling

Notes
- Upcoming Travel Schedules
  - Week of March 27: Tim is out March 27-30, returning on Fri, 31st. Art & Andrea B will lead meeting
  - Week of April 3: Tim and Andrea B are at DuraSpace Summit. Art will lead meeting, Andrea B will hand over REST API updates to another 4Science staff member.
- PR updates
  - https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/71 TypeDoc Merged
  - https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/pull/72 Looks good, Art wants another tester. Tim will test on Windows (UPDATE: Tested, approved & merged)
- Need to get Travis CI setup with our ‘dspace-angular’ GitHub repository
- REST API question: We need a way to easily find the thumbnail for bitstream images. Can we link from a bitstream to its thumbnail?
  - Andrea says it seems plausible
  - Art asks if it’s also possible to make this more generic..so institutions can override or add custom links between bitstreams?
  - Andrea unsure
  - Tim notes that this sounds like additional complexity. It sounds like something to delay for now and revisit later. Nice idea, but we need basics first
- REST API question: How do we plan to present the homepage news section (which comes from a config file)?
  - Could we present this as part of the Site object? It’s almost metadata on a site.
  - Parallels noted between homepage news and the news/intro metadata on Community/Collection objects
  - Andrea suggests we consider a /configuration endpoint (or similar) on all object types (Site, Community, Collection, Item).
    - This could work for site-wide configs (like homepage) as well as other configs specific to individual objects
- William notes that work is occurring to make Angular Universal part of core Angular (and supported by core team)
  - This will simplify our dependencies… but may take some work to pull in once ready
  - Still seems to be a work in progress. Not yet stable, but something to watch.
  - Unfortunately, Universal CLI is not being brought into core team. Uncertainty about what that means for Universal CLI, if it has to be supported by a separate group
- Revisiting Spinner Service idea
  - Has now be closed out and rethought of as a Loading Service: https://github.com/DSpace/dspace-angular/issues/73
  - William notes we may want to look closer at zone.js (which has been widely adopted within Angular). It might be a better way of achieving this?

REST meeting

Attendees
- Art Lowel (Atmire)
- Andrea Bollini (4Science)
- Tim Donohue
- James Silas Creel
- Nelson Torres
- Matteo Perelli
- Mark H. Wood
- Terrence W Brady

Notes
- Revisiting Configuration notes/discussion from last 1/2 hour (see above)
  - Andrea notes that when it comes to Configuration, different configs will require different levels of access rights
    - Configs that simply tweak UI behavior would need to be “public” (it’s how a site behaves)
    - Configs specific to a Submission UI may need to be limited to submitters
• Configs specific to Administration (or security related) would need to be limited to Administrators
• Some configs would not even be surfaced through REST, if they simply are needed by the Java API (e.g. database connection information)
• Currently our new REST API does not have any security on it (as we're simply trying to create functionality rapidly)
• We need to start creating tickets regarding necessary security (and discussions like these) as reminders/blockers for the final REST API.
• PR to merge rest7 into master has been updated to re-enable Solr (and it all works). So it's ready to merge: https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/pull/1679
• Live vote. All approve
• Tim merges PR into master. This means we'll move all REST development to master.
• Other recent PRs (all since merged)
  • https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/pull/1666 (basic pagination)
  • https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/pull/1678 (HAL browser endpoints)
• Discussion about
  • DS-3533 - (Projection) Provide example code for REST object with optional/lazy-loaded properties
  • Andrea mentions having a /search endpoint on each object (with object specific filters, via annotations or similar). This would allow you to filter objects more easily to find what you need/want.
  • Lazy loading v. loading entire hierarchy (for things like hierarchical browsing). Lots of back & forth discussion
    • For Angular team, having the entire hierarchy in some situations is easier...as long as its "partial" objects (e.g. names/links)
  • Andrea mentions that we'll want to always limit the set of children returned in a hierarchy. E.g. if 20 child objects, you may return them all. But, if there are 2,000 child objects, we should limit to returning 20 at a time, paginated.
  • William asks if JSONView annotations can help here? https://spring.io/blog/2014/12/02/latest-jackson-integration-improvements-in-spring
• Feedback on REST Contract
  • Andrea would like more feedback/approval, as these are the requirements for our REST API.
  • Per the prior discussions about pagination, there's a section on pagination at: https://github.com/DSpace-labs/Rest7Contract#pagination
• Meeting Time: The 16UTC time is more difficult for those in Europe as they enter daylight saving time (next week)
  • Future meetings will now move one hour earlier to 15UTC (11am EDT).
• Wrap up: Thanks to everyone for your hard work here. Next week's meeting via Slack.
• Next Meeting: Thurs, March 30 at 15:00UTC (11am EDT) via Slack