

ZIMMER TWINS – Using drupal_system_listing() for homepage changes



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<http://www.zimmertwins.com>

About Zimmer Twins

- Created in 2005 as a show on Teletoon in Canada (Now shown on ABC in Australia and on Qubo in the States)
- Show provides starters
 - Kids create endings
- Best videos are animated, given voiceovers, and shown on television.
- Site was created in Drupal 4.6.x
 - Underwent direct upgrade to Drupal 6.x last year
- Many new features added
 - Discussing how homepage animations were updated.

Problem

- Want to change the homepage animation
 - Make changes in css on which image is shown (along with color scheme).
 - Review changes to ensure it is correct.
 - All code in subversion
 - Need someone who knows subversion and has access to the web servers to update the site frontpage.

Drupal_system_listing()

- Used in Drupal for:
 - Finding install files
 - Finding themes
 - Verifying profiles
- Used outside drupal in:
 - Embedded field module
 - ???

Drupal_system_listing()

- You provide type of file (or files) to look for (eg: .info, .install, .animation, \.(js|css))
- Provide directory to look in (eg: themes)
 - Will look in all subdirectories of (/themes, /sites/all/themes, /sites/mySite/themes) for your file pattern
 - Returns location of file
 - All values inside file
 - If 'similar' named info files found, the directory with priority is returned (eg. /sites/mySite/themes > /sites/all/themes > themes)

drupal_parse_info_file()

- Parses drupal info file format
- Returns an associative array with the values found in the file.

For Zimmer Twins

- Agreed on format how folder would be laid out:
 - Info file with background css and readable name of animation
 - Animation.swf file
 - Animation.gif file
 - Background image file
- Placed in directory called movie/frontpage
- Committed to subversion to be moved to sites.

For Zimmer Twins

- Use `drupal_system_listing`
 - `$animation_sets = drupal_system_listing('\.info$', 'movie/frontpage');`
- Use `drupal_parse_info_file()`
 - `$info = drupal_parse_info_file($animation_info->filename);`
- Add any extra information I may need (path to necessary files)
- Animations ready to be used.

Code to retrieve all animations

```
function _movie_frontpage_animations() {
  $animations = array();
  $animation_sets = drupal_system_listing('\.info$', 'movie/frontpage');
  foreach ($animation_sets as $animation_name => $animation_info) {
    $info = drupal_parse_info_file($animation_info->filename);
    if (!empty($info) && isset($info['name']) && isset($info['color'])) {
      $info['path'] = base_path() . substr($animation_info->filename, 0,
        strrpos($animation_info->filename, '/'));
      $info['background'] = $info['path'] . '/bg.gif';
      $info['flash'] = $info['path'] . '/animation.swf';
      $info['image'] = $info['path'] . '/animation.gif';
      $animations[$animation_name] = $info;
    }
  }
  return $animations;
}
```

Result

- One of many possible solutions that could have been applied in this scenario:
 - Granted full control over sets of animations on the site along with color schemes.
 - Allowed sharing animations across sites.
 - Allowed animations to get override (American version has Qubo logo as part of the animation)
 - Took me out of the picture once the animation had been added.