



An introduction to OpenCms, version 4.6

Alexander Kandzior Alkacon GbR

Member of the OpenCms Group

Zürich, March 2002



Agenda



- Overview
- Hard & Software requirements
- Basic System demonstration
- Development basics
- Advanced System demonstration
- Roadmap
- Reference Projects



OpenCms overview



- OpenCms is a Website Content Management System
- OpenCms is Open Source Software and published under the LGPL license
- OpenCms can be freely downloaded from the project's website: http://www.opencms.org
- The software is written in 100% Java
- The OpenCms development effort is coordinated by the OpenCms group and sponsored by companies
- First released as Open Source in March 2000
- Version 4.6 released February 2002



OpenCms 4.6 features



- Browser based editing
- Integrated user management
- Project based working
- Version control of content
- History of changes
- Dynamic page rendering
- Static export with "backlink" capability
- Fully database driven
- Page & element caching mechanism
- Workflow & task management
- Open module API for extensions



Soft- & Hardware requirements



- Software: Open Source to "High End"
 - e.g. Linux + Tomcat + mySQL
 - e.g. Win NT + IIS + Tomcat + MS SQL
 - e.g. Solaris + BEA + Oracle
- Hardware: High flexibility
 - Runs on a notebook computer
 - Standard configuration:
 Normal Intel PC, 1Ghz CPU, 512 MB Ram
 - Other:
 SUN Sparc or HP Unix Hardware
 Clusters, Load Balancers ...

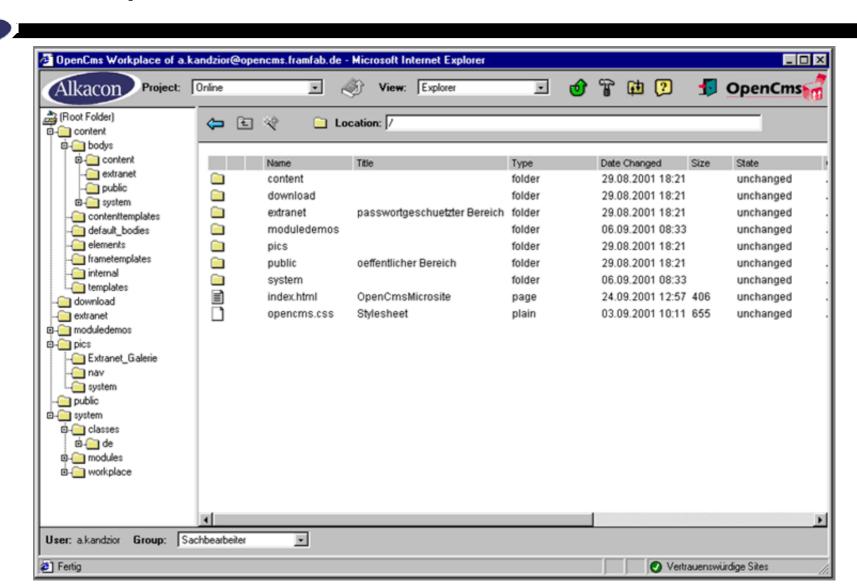




Basic System Demonstration

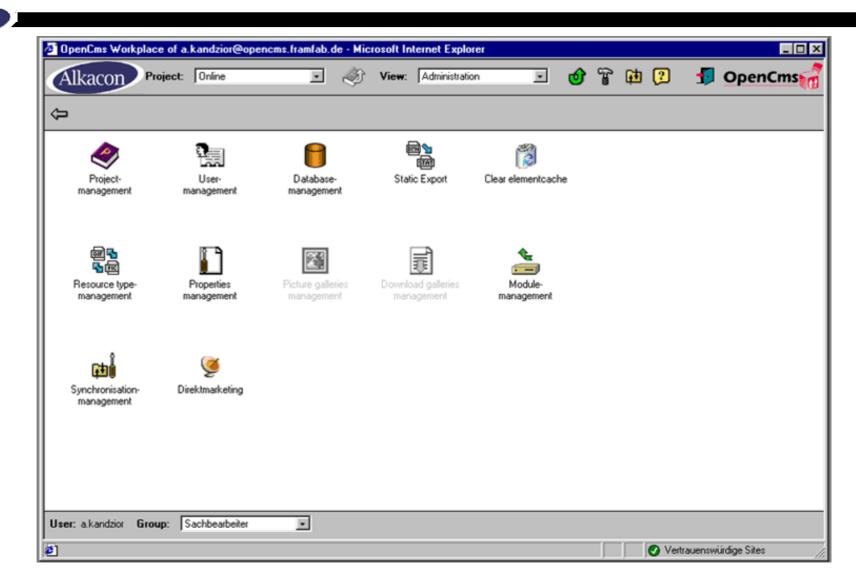


Demo Screenshot 1: The Explorer - View



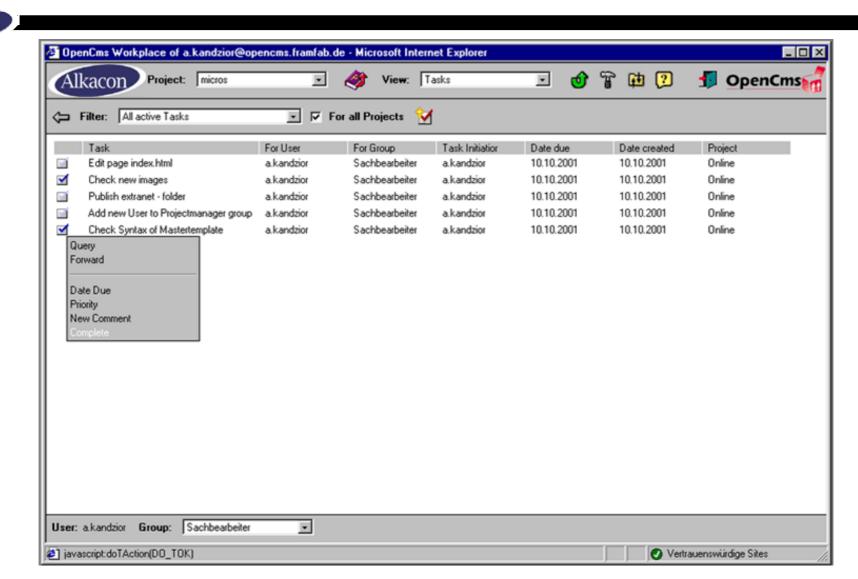


Demo Screenshot 2: The Administration - View





Demo Screenshot 3: The Tasks - View





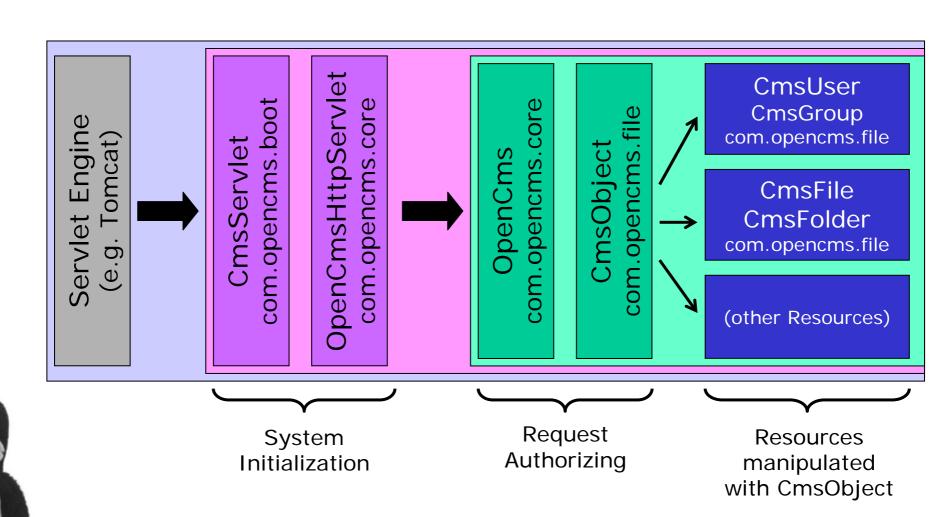
OpenCms Development



- Development in OpenCms requires knowledge in
 - HTML
 - Basic XML
 - SQL (JDBC)
 - OpenCms XML Template API
 - OpenCms Java API
- Development in general is separated in "Core" and "Module" development
- Development on a project is usually "Module" development. These modules are managed with the workplace.



Core class architecture





Page access & delivery

Alkacon

URL: http://server.name.com/opencms/opencms/somdir/somepage.html

Server ID

Servlet context (requred by Tomcat)

Handled to the servlet as a parameter

- CmsObject will be created with requesting users permission (or "Guest" if not identified)
- CmsObject will try to access the requested resource (i.e. /somedir/somepage.html)
- If sufficient permissions are available, resource will be processed according to the resource type
- 4. Output of the process is delivered back to user



OpenCms Template mechanism

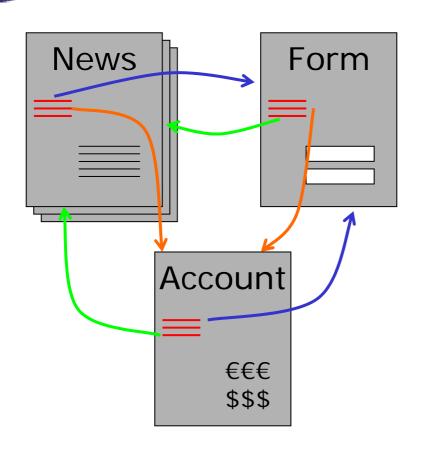


- The most common requested resource type is "page"
- Pages are constructed from several elements and sub-elements
- OpenCms uses a template mechanism based on XML (Xerces parser) to build the pages from the elements
- Dynamic functionality is created by writing Java classes that extend com.opencms.template.CmsXmlTemplate
- The Template mechanism features sophisticated caching and static export of pages



Static Export & "Backlink"





- Pages in "News" contain only static information
- Page "Form" is part of a dynamic application
- Page "Account" is dynamic and requires https security
- All 3 Pages should be based on the same templates
- OpenCms 4.6: Manages all 3 Servers with different URLs on one set of templates, automatically insuring consistent Links





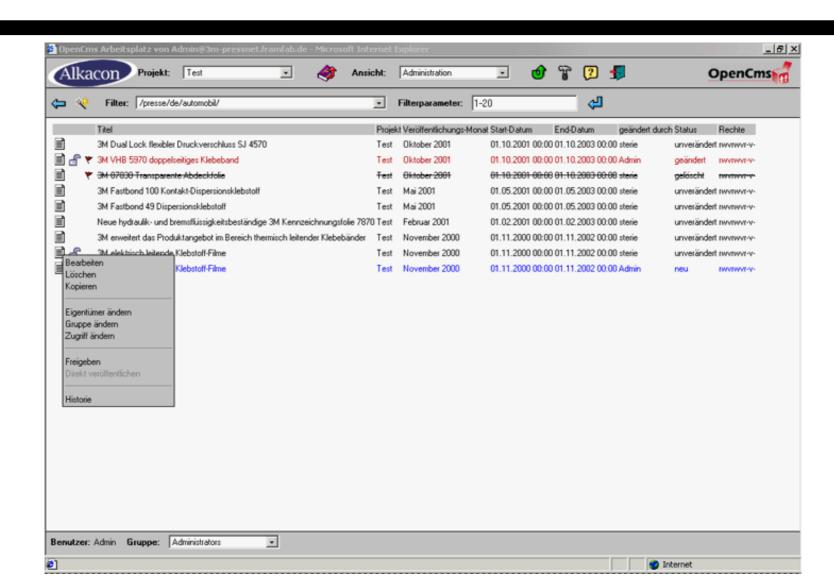
Advanced System Demonstration





Demo Screenshot 4: The Mastermodule Backoffice







Roadmap



- OpenCms Version 4.6 is the current major release
 - Master module
 - Static export with "backlink" and https
 - Tons of "issues solved";-)
- No target date for the next release is set so far
- Possible features for future releases, currently in discussion
 - Support for JSP
 - Velocity template engine
 - Lucene search engine
 - Internal link management
 - Advanced multisite configuration



Some reference projects

- BP South Africa http://www.bp.co.za
- UNICEF Netherlands http://www.unicef.nl
- HKL Baumaschinen (Industry) http://www.hkl-baumaschinen.de
- DEURAG Rechtsschutz Versicherung (Insurance) http://www.ooevp.at
- ÖVP Oberöstereich (Political Party) http://www.ooevp.at
- University of Würzburg http://www.wirtschaftsinformatik.net
- Catholic Church of Cologne http://www.erzbistum-koeln.de
- Gemadi (Multimedia Agency) http://www.gemandi.de
- Darik Radio (Bulgarian radio station) http://www.darik.net
- Secartis (IT security firm) http://www.secartis.de
- ...





Contact information:

http://www.opencms.org

http://www.alkacon.com

info@alkacon.com

