De-Hacking Drupal

Introduction

- Using Drupal since 6 came out
- Binary Feline
- Do a lot of overflow work from other shops
- Have gotten some "fun" projects to de-hack sites by others

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Topics

- Useful tools

- Code and Database

- Inter-vendor Strain

- Personal Ego

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Useful Modules

Hacked

- http://drupal.org/project/hacked
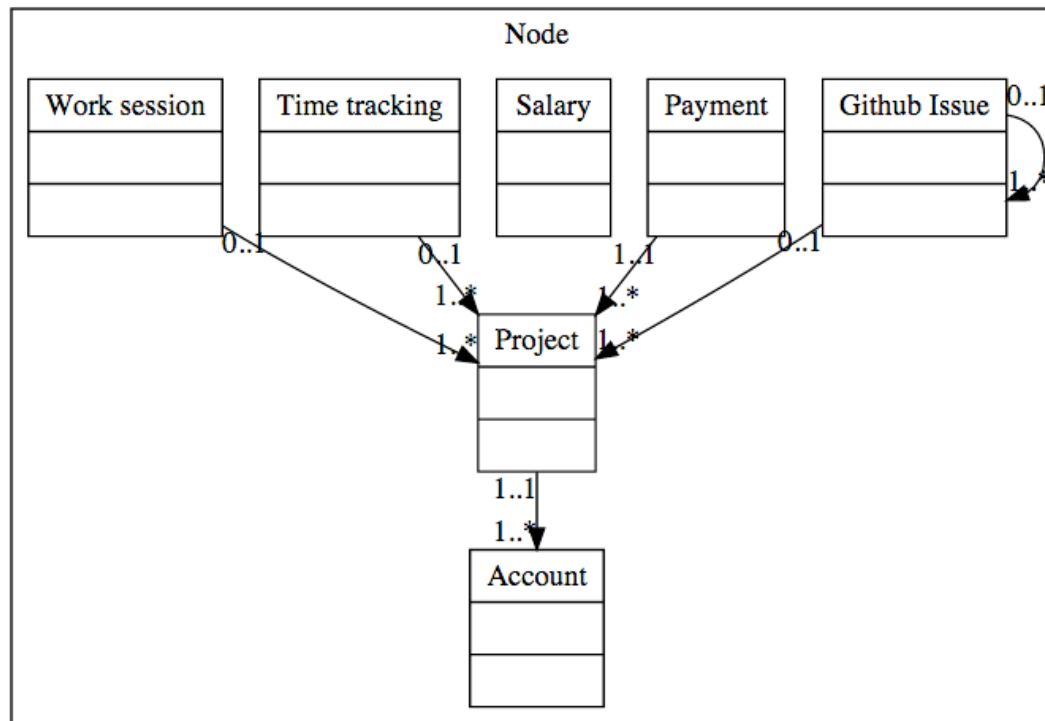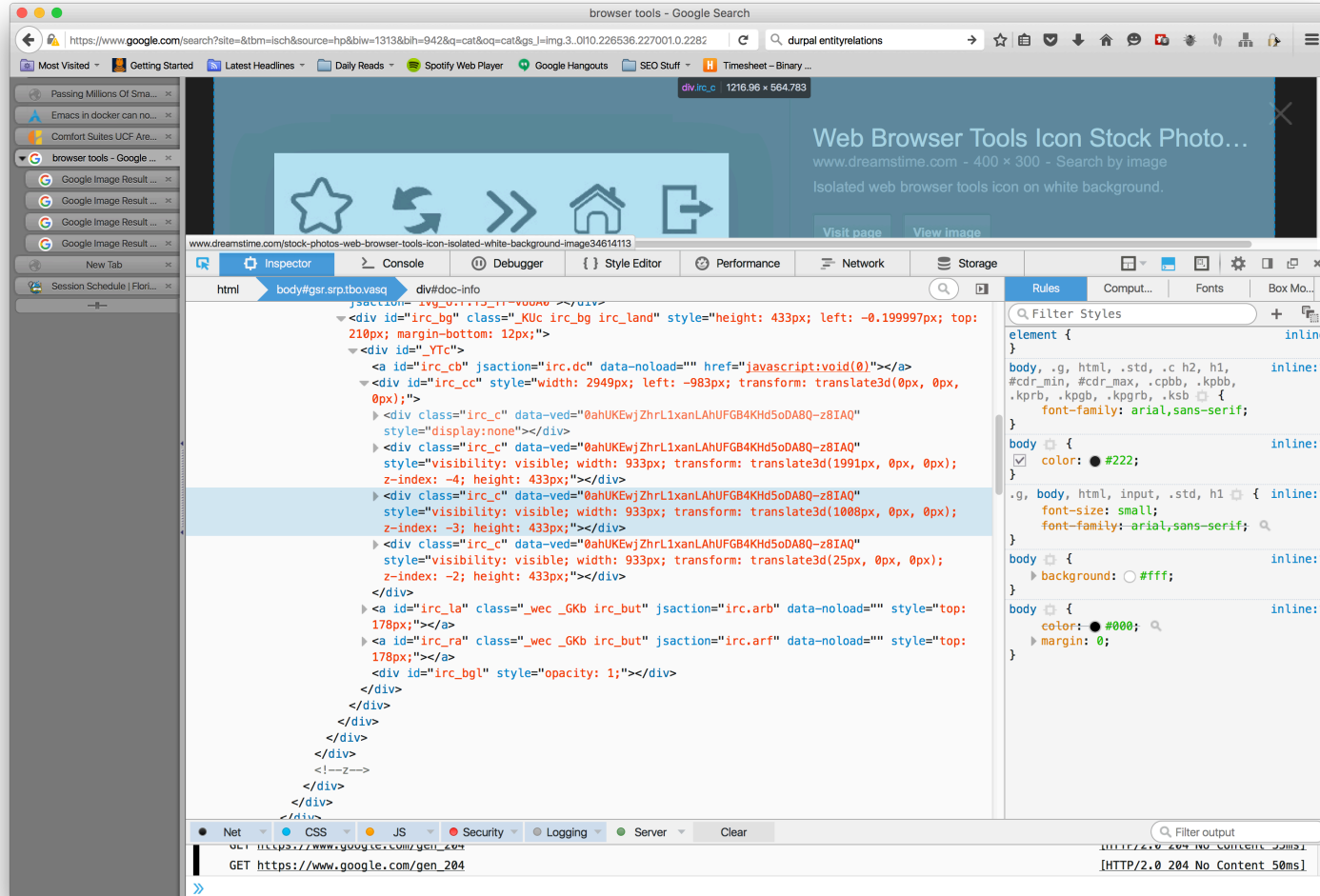- Scans all the modules and themes installed on your site, and determines if they have changed

Entity Relationships

- https://github.com/Gizra/entityrelationships

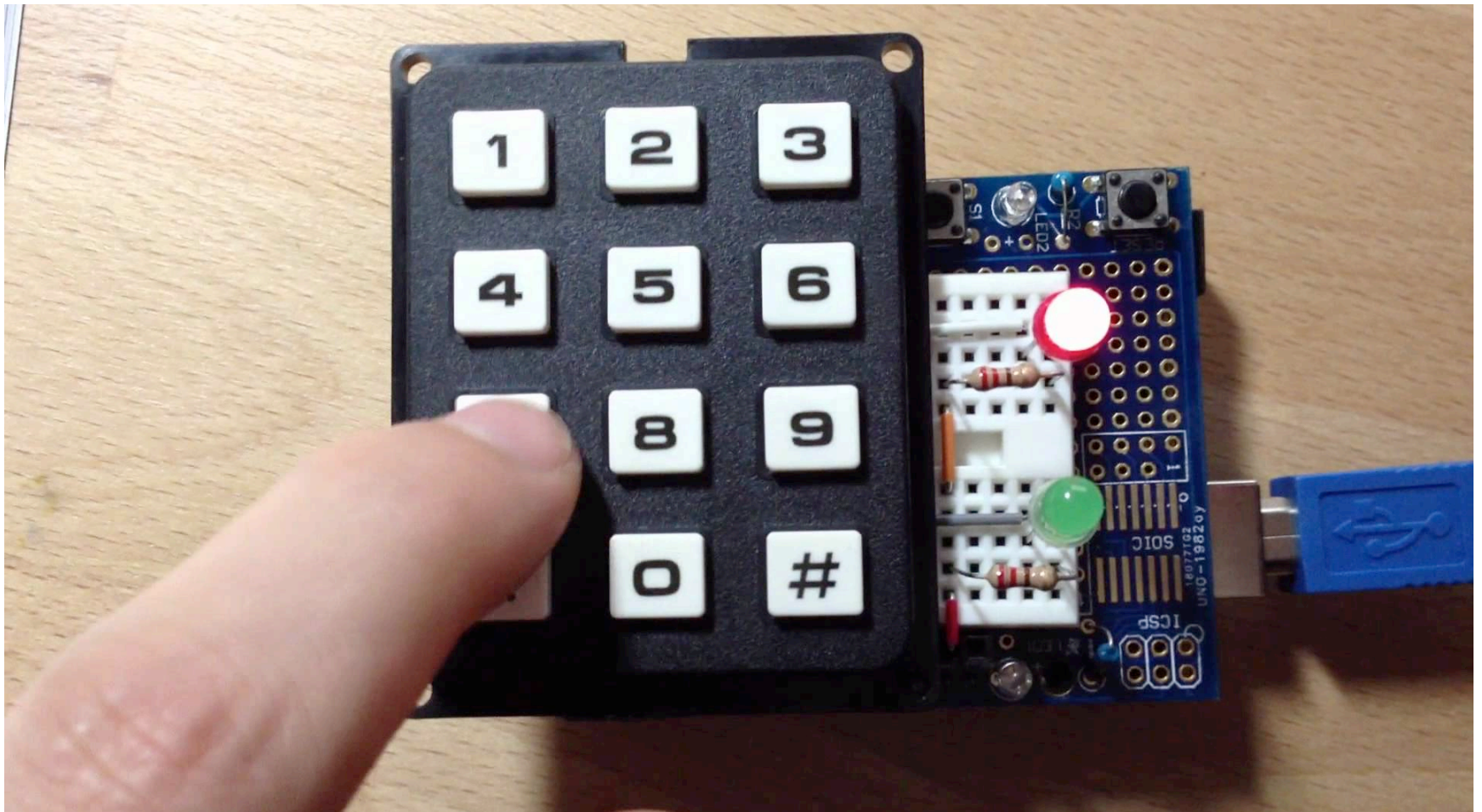# Browser Development Tools

Command Line

- diff –qr <directory-one> <directory-two>
- grep, -i, -v
- kdiff3

Code and Databases

Access and Control

Access and Control

- Do you really have the latest?

- Can you verify it yourself with hosting access?

- Who is giving it to you – someone whom you are replacing, or whose work you are re-doing?

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This Happened on Wednesday

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- I was de-hacking a site, and the client asked the previous vendor to put up a new theme
- They did, and something just was not working on my port of their new theme
- It turns out, with a timestamp of 12:17 AM that same day, they had changed a template in Drupal Commerce – not in the theme!
- Then they sent an email about how my work was incorrect

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Also This

- Also, we had a page that for some reason was showing incorrect data in a view
- The HTML lined up for the broken field
- The CSS lined up
- The page was created from a view, and in the HTML you can see which view creates a field
- Going through that view field by field and comparing it to my copy of the original I found two places in earlier fields where the Rewrite Results had been changed to change how the view appeared on the page

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The Lesson?

- You need to have access to the site you are being compared to

- Timestamps on files will let you know if code has been changed (even if "they aren't working on it")

- Admin access to the site you are being compared to is also necessary as Drupal 7 and below has configuration you need to verify in the database

Useful Hooks

- hook_form_alter, hook_form_FORM_ID_alter
  - Alter form render arrays

- hook_preprocess
  - Pre-processes themes for templates

- <mytheme>_theme_<whatever>
  - Override module themeing in your site. Sometimes it's just the best way to get the effect when under time constraints

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Inter-Vendor Strain

What Is Your Relationship

- The original developer may be gone

- In my most recent case they were still there

- The client had them verify my progress daily

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Attitude

Attitude

- Maybe they are jerking you around.
- But they are likely hurt – you are coming in to fix their bad job
- Even if they are not hurt, you must be professional
- All conversation and email – with anyone – should just state facts without casting aspersion on anyone
- This is REALLY important

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Ego

Ego

- In the worst case the previous vendor will succeed – for a time – in making you seem incompetent

- You can never let your ego take over

- State the facts and do the work

- There is a reason the client has brought you in to replace him

- In conversations with the client, never say the other guy is bad, just that Drupal is complex and his evident expertise lies elsewhere

Questions