The Power of Custom Post Types

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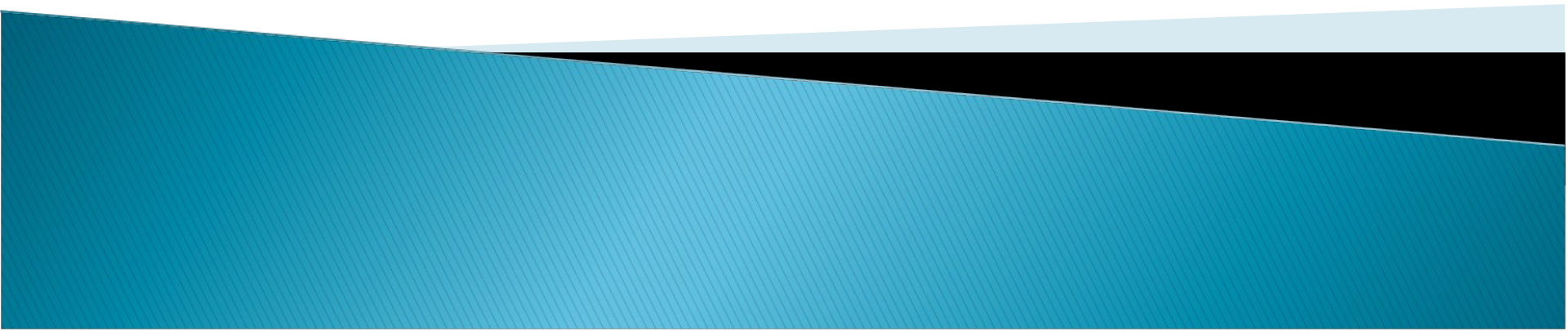


About Me

- WordPress user since 2005
- Plugin developer since 2006
  - Breadcrumb NavXT (~600k downloads)
- Administrator for Weblogs.us
- WordPress expert for Ingroup Design
- Personal site: mtekk.us

Agenda

- Motivation
- Basic Usage
- (More) Advanced Usage
- CPT Showcase (Demos)
  - bbPress
  - WP E-Commerce
  - Meteor Slides

A Problem

- Creating a site with a portfolio
  - Must keep projects separate from a news section
  - Try categories
  - Resort to “hidden” categories to keep things straight
- This doesn’t work well with plugins

Use a Custom Post Type

- (and some custom taxonomies)

What is a CPT?

- Custom Post Types (CPTs) are post types you define.
  - Posts, pages, attachments, custom menus are types WordPress defines
- Come in 2 flavors
  - Hierarchical
  - Flat

Plugins that use CPTs

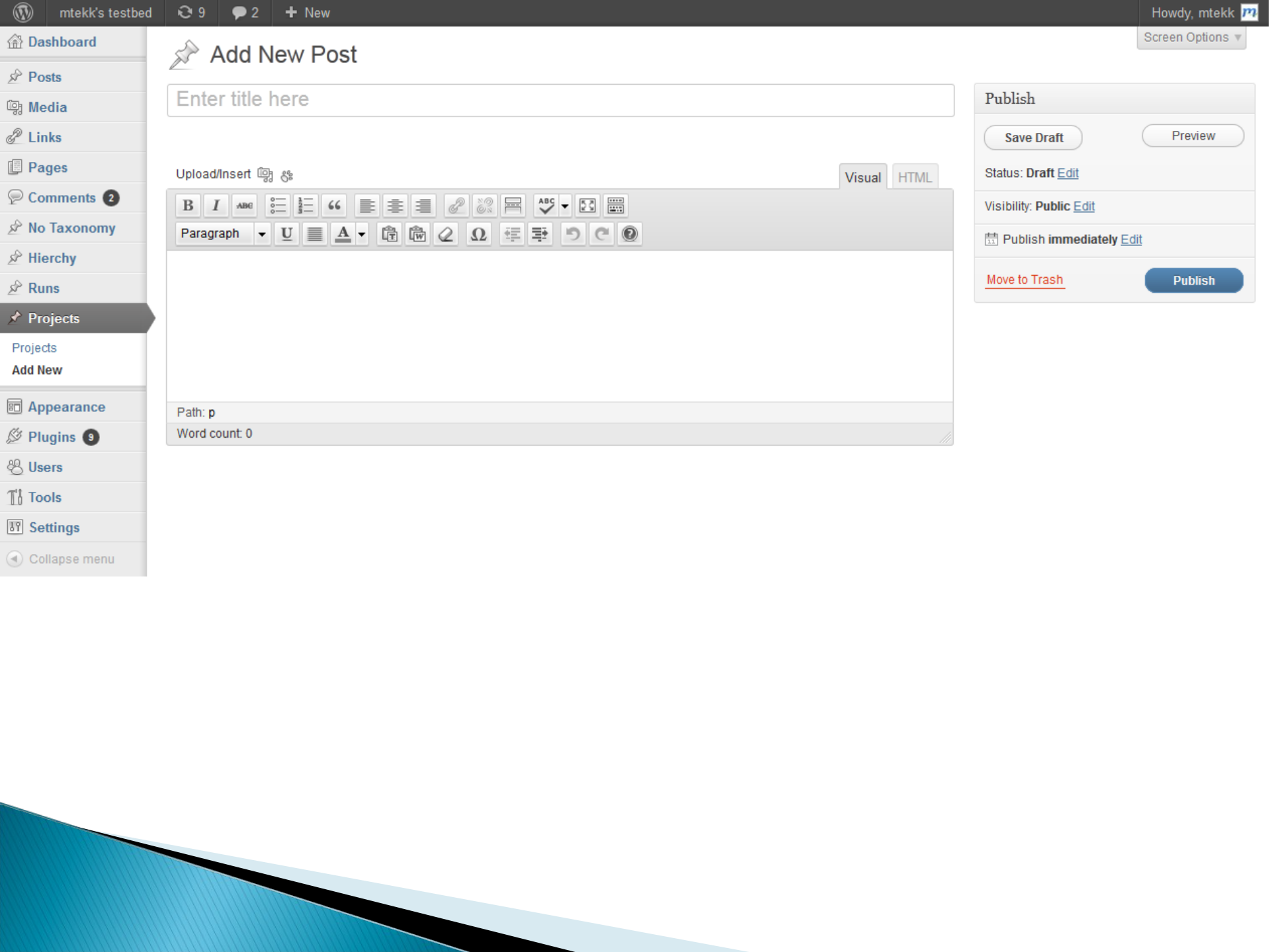
- bbPress 2.0+
- WP e-Commerce 3.8+ (GetShopped)
- Meteor Slides

How to Create a CPT

- Use register_post_type($post_type, $args);
  - $post_type is the unique post type string (20 char max, no uppercase or spaces)
  - $args is the array of arguments to customize the CPT
- Call using a hook into the init action
- Do this in a plugin
  - functions.php is not portable between themes

Example Code

```
add_action('init','create_my_project');
function create_my_project()
{
   register_post_type('project',
      array(
         'labels' =>
         array(
             'name' => __('Projects'),
             'singular_name' => __('Project')
         ),
          'public' => true,
          'has_archive' => true)
   );
}
```


mtekk's testbed
9
2
New
Howdy, mtekk
Screen Options
Dashboard
Posts
Media
Links
Pages
Comments 2
No Taxonomy
Hierchy
Runs
Projects
Projects
Add New
Appearance
Plugins 9
Users
Tools
Settings
Collapse menu
Add New Post
Enter title here
Upload/Insert
Visual
HTML
Paragraph
Path: p
Word count: 0
Publish
Save Draft
Preview
Status: Draft Edit
Visibility: Public Edit
Publish immediately Edit
Move to Trash
Publish

Naming Your CPT

- Make it unique
  - BAD: projects
  - GOOD: mtekk_projects
- Max length of 20 characters
- No:
  - s p a c e s
  - UPPERCASE
  - wp_ prefix

The $args

- Key attributes to look at:
  - labels – array of labels
  - show_ui
  - capabilities – array of permissions
  - supports – array of features
  - rewrite – array of rewrite related stuff
  - hierarchical
- Checkout the Codex for more: http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference/register_post_type

More Complex Example

```php
//Our lecture labels
$labels = array(
    'name' => __('Lectures', 'wp_courseware'),
    'singular_name' => __('Lecture', 'wp_courseware'),
    'add_new' => __('Add New', 'wp_courseware'),
    'add_new_item' => __('Add New Lecture', 'wp_courseware'),
    'edit_item' => __('Edit Lecture', 'wp_courseware'),
    'new_item' => __('New Lecture', 'wp_courseware'),
    'view_item' => __('View Lecture', 'wp_courseware'),
    'search_items' => __('Search Lectures', 'wp_courseware'),
    'not_found' => __('No lectures found', 'wp_courseware'),
    'not_found_in_trash' => __('No lectures found in Trash', 'wp_courseware'),
    'parent_item_colon' => '',
    'menu_name' => __('Lectures', 'wp_courseware')
    );
//Our lecture capabilities
$capabilities = array(
    'edit_post' => 'wptc_edit_lecture',
    'edit_posts' => 'wptc_edit_lectures',
    'edit_others_posts' => 'wptc_edit_others_lectures',
    'publish_posts' => 'wptc_publish_lectures',
    'read_post' => 'wptc_read_lecture',
    'read_private_posts' => 'wptc_read_private_lectures',
    'delete_post' => 'wptc_delete_lecture'
    );
//Assemble our post type arguments, keeping capabilities default until later
$args = array(
    'labels' => $labels,
    'public' => true,
    'publicly_queryable' => false,
    'exclude_from_search' => true,
    'show_ui' => true,
    'show_in_menu' => false,
    'menu_icon' => plugins_url('/lecture-icon-20x20.png', __FILE__),
    'capability_type' => 'lecture',
    'capabilities' => $capabilities,
    'map_meta_cap' => true,
    'hierarchical' => false,
    'supports' => array('title', 'page-attributes'),
    'taxonomies' => array('course'),
    'has_archive' => false,
    'rewrite' => false,
    'query_var' => true,
    'can_export' => true,
    'show_in_nav_menus' => false
);
register_post_type('lecture', $args);
```

Dashboard
Posts
Media
Links
Pages
Comments
Appearance
Plugins 3
Users
Tools
Settings
Courses
Collapse menu

Screen Options

Edit Lecture

Add New

How to Peel a Head of Garlic

Lecture Video

http://vimeo.com/29605182

Followup Remarks

Visual | HTML

Remember:

1. Don't use forehead to smash head of garlic

Publish

Preview Changes

Status: **Published** Edit

Visibility: **Public** Edit

Published on: **Mar 25, 2012 @ 18:21** Edit

Move to Trash | Update

Courses

All Courses | Most Used

- [x] Cooking Basics
- [ ] Advanced Cooking
- [ ] Off-Sale
- [ ] On-Sale

+ Add New Course

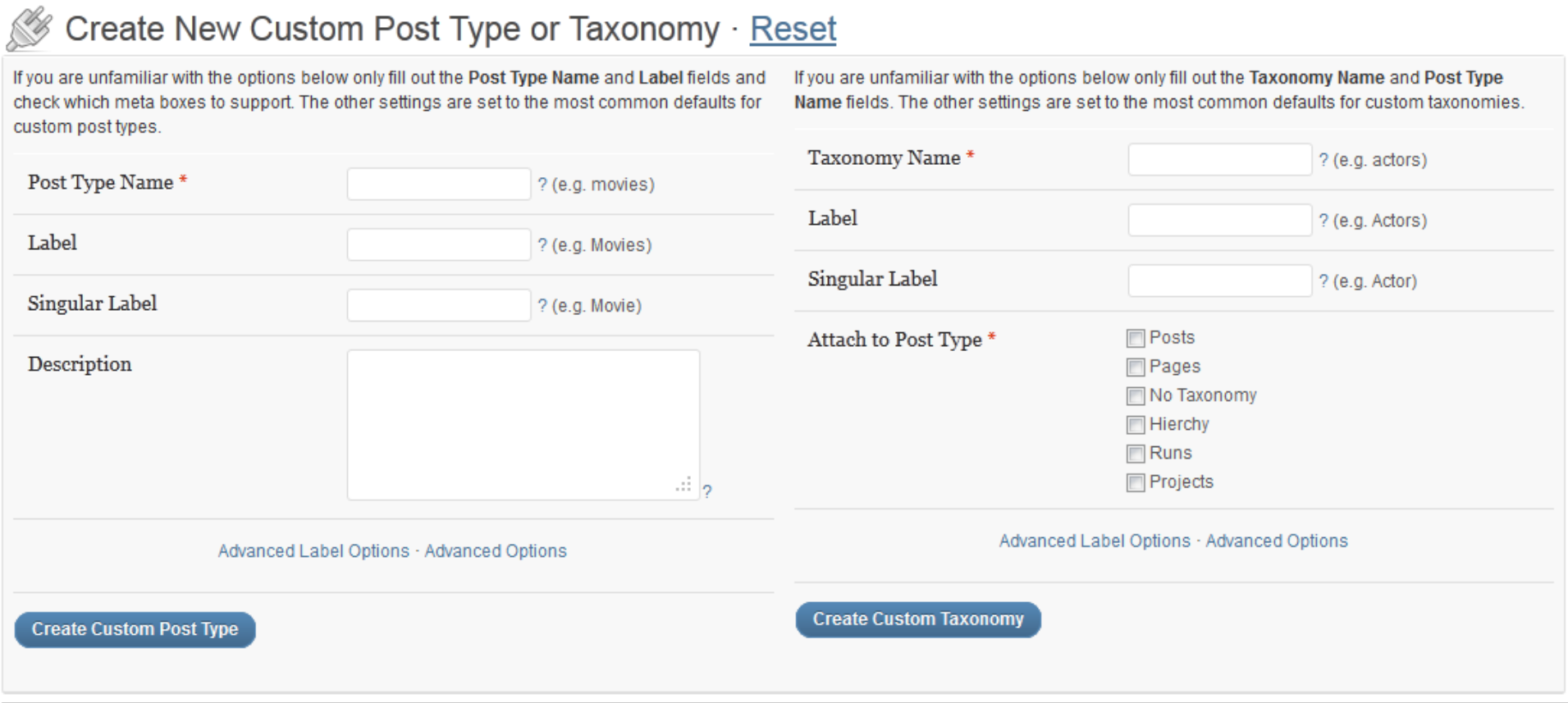
Attributes

Order

0

An Easier Way

- Custom Post Type UI
  - http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/custom-post-type-ui/



Demo

- An advanced use of CPTs and custom taxonomies

Displaying CPTs

- Templates for the frontend:
  - single-{posttype}.php (since 3.0)
  - archive-{posttype}.php (since 3.1)
- Custom WP_Query instance:
  - $projects = new WP_Query(array('post_type' => 'project', 'posts_per_page' => 10));
  - while($projects->have_posts){$projects->the_post(); /*your code here*/}
  - Can do this anywhere
  - Can use get_posts() wrapper for WP_Query

When to Use a CPT

- When for anything “post” or “page” like
- Most things that would have required a custom table in the past
  - Products for a ecommerce site
  - Events for event calendars
- When you want WordPress to do most of the heavy lifting
  - Attachments, featured images, Dashboard UI, templates, etc.

Questions?

Twitter: @mtekkmonkey

Resources

http://kovshenin.com/2010/extending-custom-post-types-in-wordpress-3-0/

http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference/register_post_type

http://codex.wordpress.org/Post_Types