



Drupal 8 & Gatsby JS

What, Why & How



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JAMstack

Javascript, APIs, Markup

HTML



JS



CSS





Why JAMstack?

- Fast page loads
- Reduced security footprint
- Lower hosting costs
- Presentation is seperated from data

Why Gatsby?

- Even faster page loads
- Next level image handling
- Data agnostic
- Progressive Web App (PWA) support out of the box
- Rich ecosystem of plugins

Why Drupal?



Drupal + Gatsby

- Drupal is excellent at modeling content and creating structured data
- Gatsby is an excellent platform for building user interfaces (UI's)
- Gatsby's developer experience is first class, especially for teams that have already embraced React
- Much of the integration between Gatsby + Drupal is solved by pre-existing plugins



What you loose



Views

- Querying data is done via JSON API Module
- No built in view filters, pagination, etc.
- Only query one entity type at a time



Web Forms + Comments

- There is no server to handle form submissions



Automatic redirect creation

- The redirect module is a no brainer on a standard Drupal site, but it won't help you in a decoupled site



Built in Authentication

- There is none

Content Preview

- Gatsby needs to build in order to see changes on the live site
- If you don't want to preview in production, you also need to add a staging environment for preview

Client-side form solutions

- Search
 - Pure client-side search, such as JS Search
 - API based search such as Aloglia (SaaS), Solr, or Elastic Search
- Comments
 - Disqus, or a similar client-side solution
- Webforms
 - TypeForm, Wufoo or another client-side SaaS offering



Preview

- The Gatsby team has rolled out their first SaaS product to solve this, Gatsby Preview

Redirects

- Create redirects in Drupal as usual. At build time, register redirects with your host
- S3: API for CRUD updates on redirects
- Netlify: Configure redirects in `_redirects` file or `netlify.toml`

What is your risk tolerance?

- Drupal has community supported solutions for just about any problem
- JAMstacks don't offer the same breadth of solutions (at least not yet)

Cutting the cord

- Have you ditched cable for streaming services? This is a similar decision
- Choose exactly what you want and cut what you don't
- But if you want a full cable replacement, the cost of each peice in aggregate might be more than cable

Gatsby + D8 might make sense when...

- Client doesn't have a large budget for hosting
- Client doesn't have a dev team to perform security updates
- Performance is a top priority
- You need to pull content from multiple sources
- You have a team of front-end devs that like working in React
- You're building an interactive app with some static content mixed in

Gatsby + D8 might not make sense when...

- Site has an extremely high node count
- Site content is updated frequently
- Site serves personalized pages for authenticated users
- Your client doesn't understand the tradeoffs associated with the JAMstack model



It's a balancing act

You have to decide if the benefits outweigh the challenges for your project

Looking to the future

- Gatsby / Drupal integration will continue to improve + develop along with Drupal's API first initiative
- Gatsby itself is a venture backed company, which means it's likely to continue innovating
- Gatsby is extremely popular right now, but that may fade over time. The concept of the JAMstack is more durable and more important

Resources

- Rain drupal distribution: <https://www.drupal.org/project/rain>
- Rain Gatsby companion: https://bitbucket.org/mediacurrent/mis_gatsby_rain/src/develop/
- Build hooks module: https://www.drupal.org/project/build_hooks
- Gatsby live preview: <https://www.drupal.org/project/gatsby>
- JSON:API Cross Bundles: https://www.drupal.org/project/jsonapi_cross_bundles/
- Infustructure examples: <https://www.mediacurrent.com/blog/drupal-behind-firewall-gatsby>



Questions?