



Hyrax Developer Support & Engagement w/ Plugins

Samvera Connect 2021 Lightning Talk

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One of the goals of the
Development Support & Engagement WG
was identifying various
Challenges for Developer Participation in
Samvera Code Implementation.

Challenges for One-off Contributions

“...creating a PR that addresses a single issue outside the scope of a larger effort.”

“... [a] lack of plug-in architecture prevents some contributions that may be helpful for others but that do not rise to the level of direct inclusion in the community code base”

Wasn't there a Plugins WG?...

Why yes, there was back in 2016 / 2017.

Could any of that work be carried forward?...

Um... maybe some of it.

The Samvera Plugins WG

produced a set of guidelines for plugin development that are still available in Github at [samvera-labs/hydra_plugins_wg](https://github.com/samvera-labs/hydra_plugins_wg).

But...

- They are very generic because the scope of “plugin” is very broad.
- Were not able to identify specific folds in the Hyrax code to plug in to.
- They didn't get much traction.

We made a plugin after the WG...

- WGBH and IU collaborated on a Hyrax Batch Ingest plugin ([samvera-labs/hyrax_batch_ingest](https://github.com/samvera-labs/hyrax_batch_ingest)).
- Tried to adhere our plugin development guidelines.
- Mostly succeeded simply by staying out of Hyrax's way
- Thus, it's usefulness as an example is limited.
- Bulkrax would be a much better example.
 - Similar concept, but done better.
 - Explore patterns Bulkrax uses to integrate smoothly with Hyrax.



Maybe don't think of a "Plugin Architecture"

- "Plugins" may vary widely in scope.
- A central, unified "plugin architecture" for all manner of plugins would be hard.
- Instead focus on good "Plugin Patterns" appropriate for the scope of what the plugin does.
- Work to ensure Hyrax has good folds in the code into which plugins can nestle cozily.

Like the Hyrax Event Bus!

- a.k.a. Hyrax::Publisher, based on Dry::Events library.
- A pub/sub model that replaces the old Hyrax.callbacks.
 - Hyrax defines events that anyone can 'subscribe' to with custom code.
 - Hyrax 'publishes' data to the events at various stages.
 - The custom code receives that data and does stuff.
- Hyrax currently has 11 Event Listeners that do stuff based on events that Hyrax 'publishes'.
- This is a great place to move forward in establishing consistent plugin patterns for future contributors.



Thanks!

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