

Re: instant Lisp web application publishing

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I see two potential problems:

– flow of control. A web app is not just a bunch of dynamic pages; it has to maintain some state (on session, db etc.) AND follow a certain flow of control (e.g. first log in the user, then show page x, than page y etc.). Making every function callable with any arguments, in any order, is going to be messy IMHO.

– debuggability/easeness of coding: (Lisp) people usually work with emacs + slime or some other kind of IDE which makes some things easier (e.g. compile or eval arbitrary forms with a keystroke, inspect objects etc...) this would not be present in a web-only development cycle.

That said, your idea is less crazy than it seems ;) but perhaps I'd organize things in a more layered fashion:

- at the core, some "essential" functions and macros such as db access, html rendering (maybe widgets library too), state/flow of control management.
- on top, an "environment" layer consisting of web-based debugger, inspector and editor (not the size of a web-emacs of course – that alone would require decades!)
- at user level, a web-development centered, dummy-friendly, lisp-based hyphenated-word-named DSL which allows to code most common webapps in itself (and of course allows experts to use the full power of Lisp if they want)

of course, all of this is HUGE. But, things can start small and grow with time... the idea of a wiki-style webapp builder entices me (click. "this action/view is not defined. You can create it now, just type the code here...").

Btw, I'm currently wasting my little spare time on yet another web framework (which sucks much more than those we have now, but it's MINE! my treasssure...), and maybe someday it will see the light of day... and, in the Design (= dreaming) Phase which precedes Implementation (= hitting the reality wall) Phase, I vaguely contemplated an idea like yours... but that bitchy rational side of my

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brain quickly dismissed it.

So... good luck with your project, if you manage to release something
I'll be happy to give advice (and maybe hack on it, if I have time...)

cheers,
Alessio "doesn't have a nickname" Stalla

Alex Mizrahi ha scritto:

Catchy title, ye?

I've got idea to implement something like that about 1.5 years ago, but
actually tried to implement it this New Year (yes, I was actually coding in