

tempuhs:

Technical overview



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Technical overview

エレベーターの中は真っ暗だ

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- tempuhs is a chronicler
- This means that it orders events by time
- Tell tempuhs when stuff started to occur and when it stopped occurring, and it will order stuff for you
- OK, sounds like a calendar, what's the point?

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- Well, simply by automating the actual ordering, tempuhs is already better than a calendar
- We'd like to think we have more RAM than most calendars too, so tempuhs can store a lot of stuff
- Copying (& therefore sharing) is arguably simpler..
- But surely any tech > a calendar – what's tempuhs going to do better than any other tech?

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- Being infinitely and infinitesimally precise
- Gracefully converting between infinite and infinitesimal precision
- Gracefully presenting infinite and infinitesimal precision and allowing navigation between them
- tempuhs is free software that anyone can research and use for anything they want!

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- OK, that's pretty cool, what else?
- Well, imagine something as powerful as Wikipedia or OpenStreetMap, but with time visualisation
- And contextual visualisation at that – “history is just an agreed upon set of lies” – tempuhs will let you jump between realities!
- Also, how about concert tips and job offers?

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- Wow! I'm convinced! Sign me up!
- Yeah, about that
- Per now tempuhs is mostly a glorified calendar that automates the hard stuff
- But we have ideas and even some implementation in place for all of the cool stuff we just mentioned

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Architecture

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- Two main parts: tempuhs and tempuhs-server
- tempuhs has the database with all data representation, and some data transformations for converting between time
- tempuhs-server is the tempuhs interface – it presents a documented RESTful API for communicating with tempuhs

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tempuhs: the whirlwind tour

- Timespans (with attributes)
- Users (with attributes)
- Roles (kind of like UNIX groups)
- Permissions (own-read-write)

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tempuhs-server: overall picture

- The scotty application that sets up requests is found in the `Tempuhs.Server` module – it's banal
- `Tempuhs.Requests` sets up all the request handlers, which are implemented in `Tempuhs.Requests.*`
- `test` and `prop` have unit and property tests respectively

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tempuhs-server: our workflow

- Write documentation (/doc) for what is needed
- Write unit tests (/test) for how it should work
- (If applicable: Write laws & properties (/prop) to guarantee that it works correctly)
- Write the necessary morphisms (/src) for it to work
- Write the actual code (/src) that makes it work

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Major libraries
→ **Scotty**

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- RESTful declarative Web applications
- Really simple
- Really fast
- Uses WAI (application interface) and Warp (Web server)

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Major libraries

→ Persistent

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- Datastore (ORM)
- Type-safe
- Data serialization
- Backend-agnostic “enough” (we use SQLite for tests & PostgreSQL for the real deal)
- Developed for Yesod, so very active

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Major libraries

→Esqueleto

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- Persistent does not offer any way to do joins
- Esqueleto gives us type-safe joins and easy-to-write SQL queries
- We are looking at using Opaleye instead, which gives us compiletime errors on ill-formed SQL queries – very cool in theory, deserves to be thoroughly explored

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Major libraries

→ Hspec

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- Unit tests
- Frontend engineers make some really silly requests sometimes – we need to make sure we catch the worst of them
- It also gives us a really nice way to specify how our functions should work, before actually writing them

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Major libraries

→ Quickcheck

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- Property testing
- Some of the stuff tempuhs does is rather complicated
- To make sure it is also correct, we formulate laws and test them
- QuickCheck is black magic

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- <https://secure.plaimi.net/works/tempuhs.html>
- <https://github.com/plaimi/tempuhs>
- <https://github.com/plaimi/tempuhs-server>