

Become an IA superstar: building essential navigation in Drupal

John Albin Wilkins

JohnAlbin, @JohnAlbin, etc.



DRUPALCON
CHICAGO
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John Albin Wilkins

JohnAlbin, @JohnAlbin, etc.

Palantiri

Top 30 code contributor to Drupal 7

Zen theme maintainer

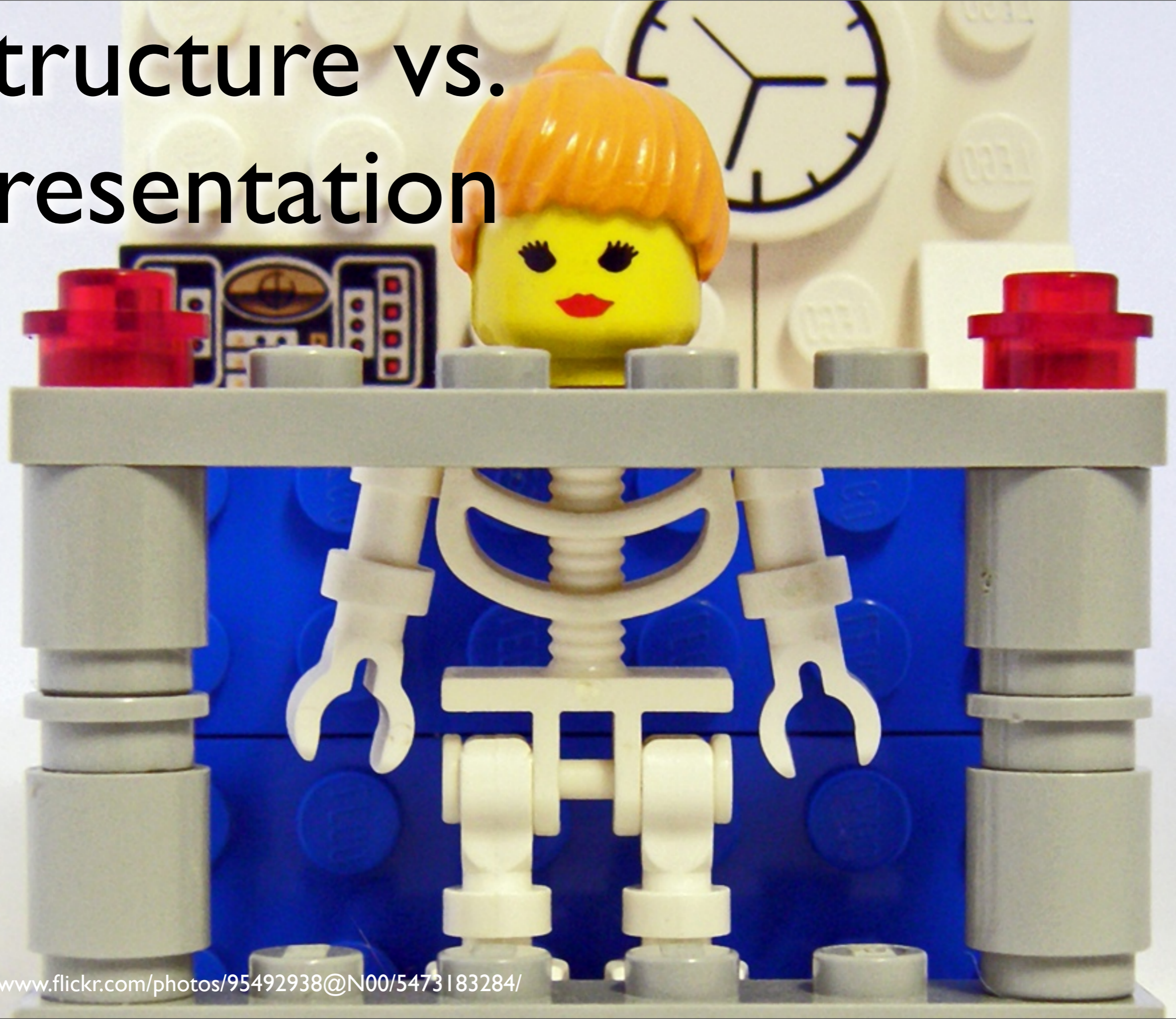
co-author of “Drupal 7 Module Development”

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/44374327@N05/4803898574/>

Patterns in IA



Structure vs. Presentation



4 basic structures of IA

Hierarchy
(Strict or
Polyhierarchy)

Database

Hypertext

Linear

A Practical Guide to Information Architecture

by Donna Spencer

<http://practical-ia.com>

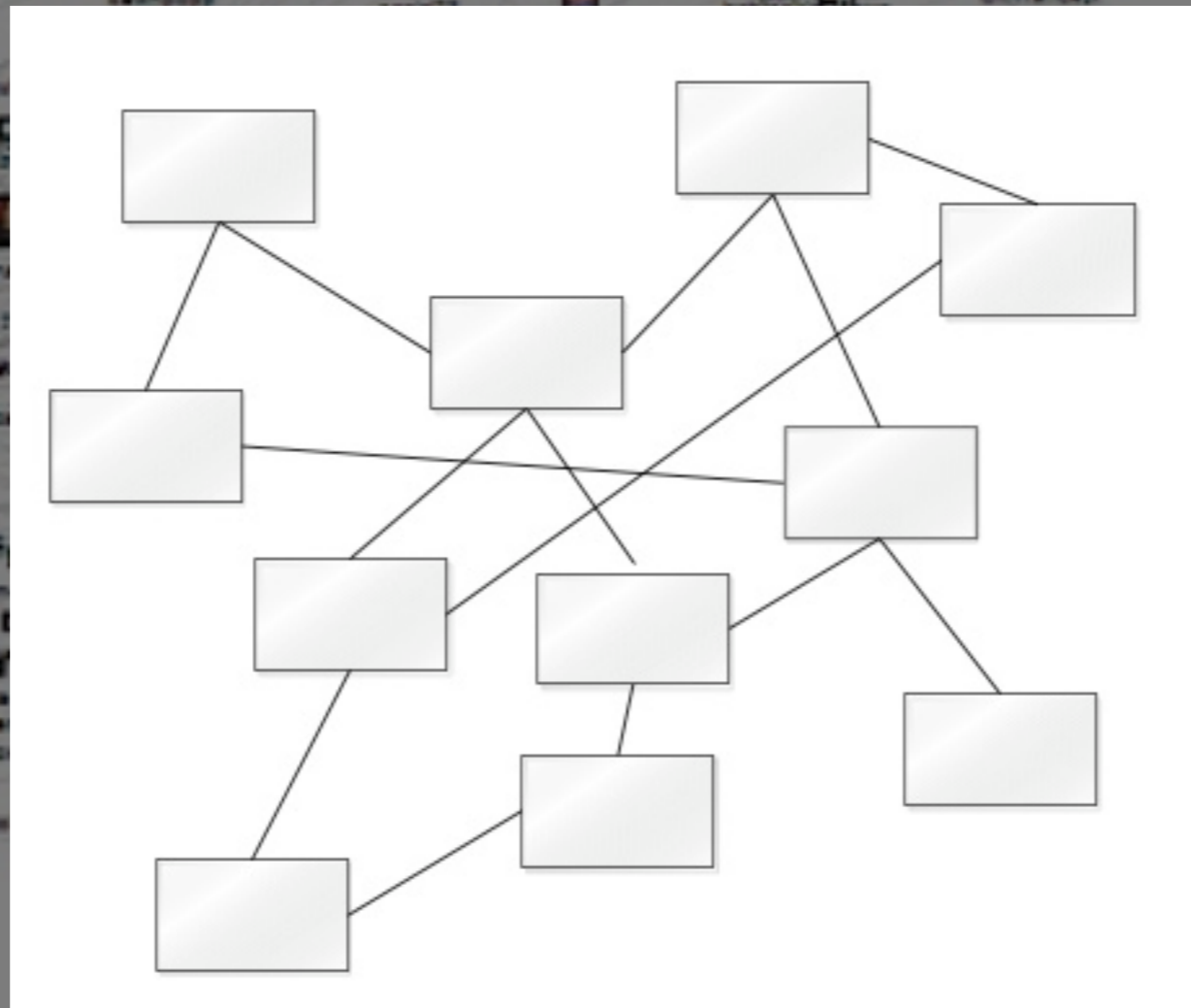
Five
Simple
Steps

A Practical Guide to

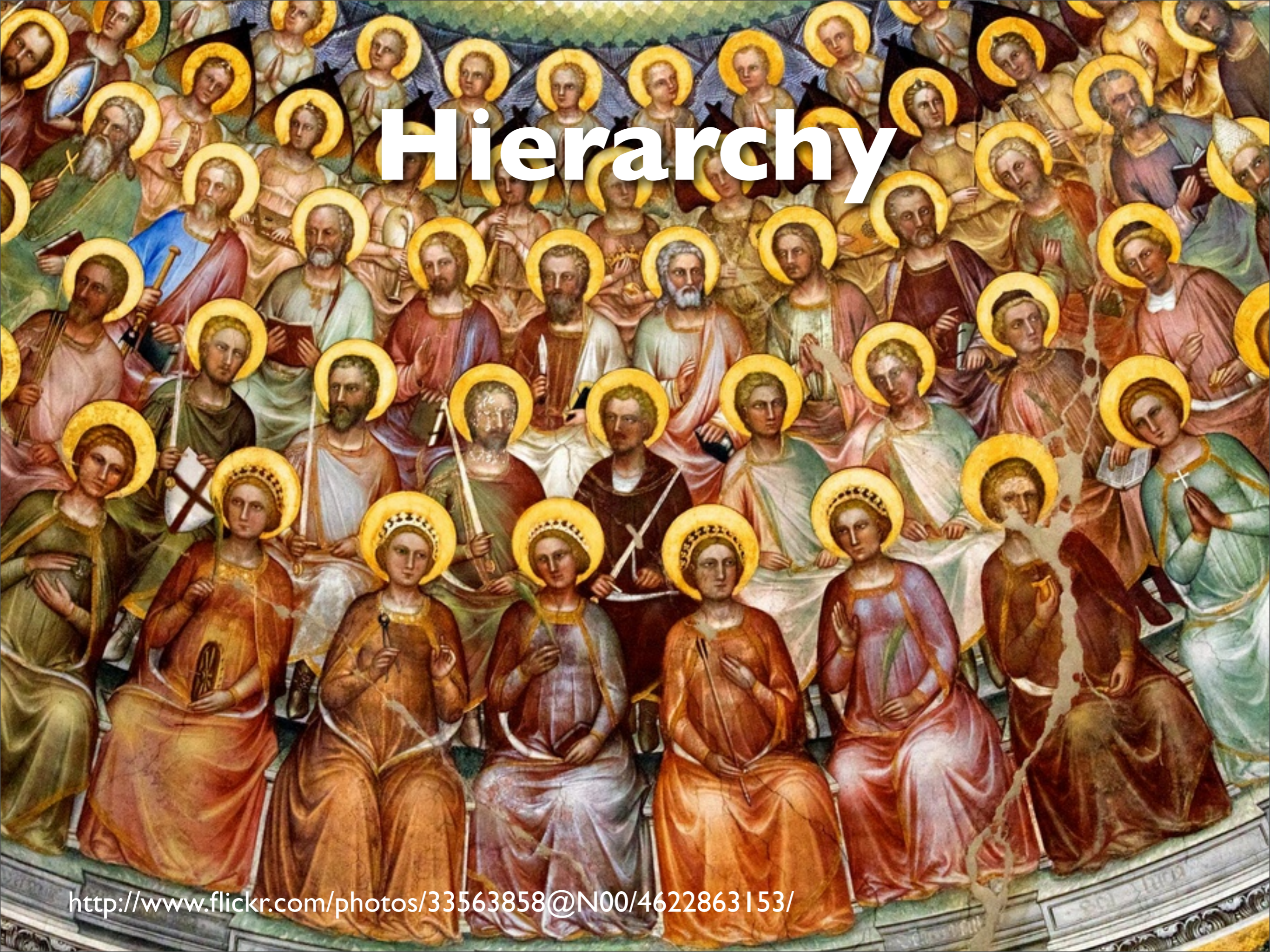
Information Architecture

by Donna Spencer

Hypertext

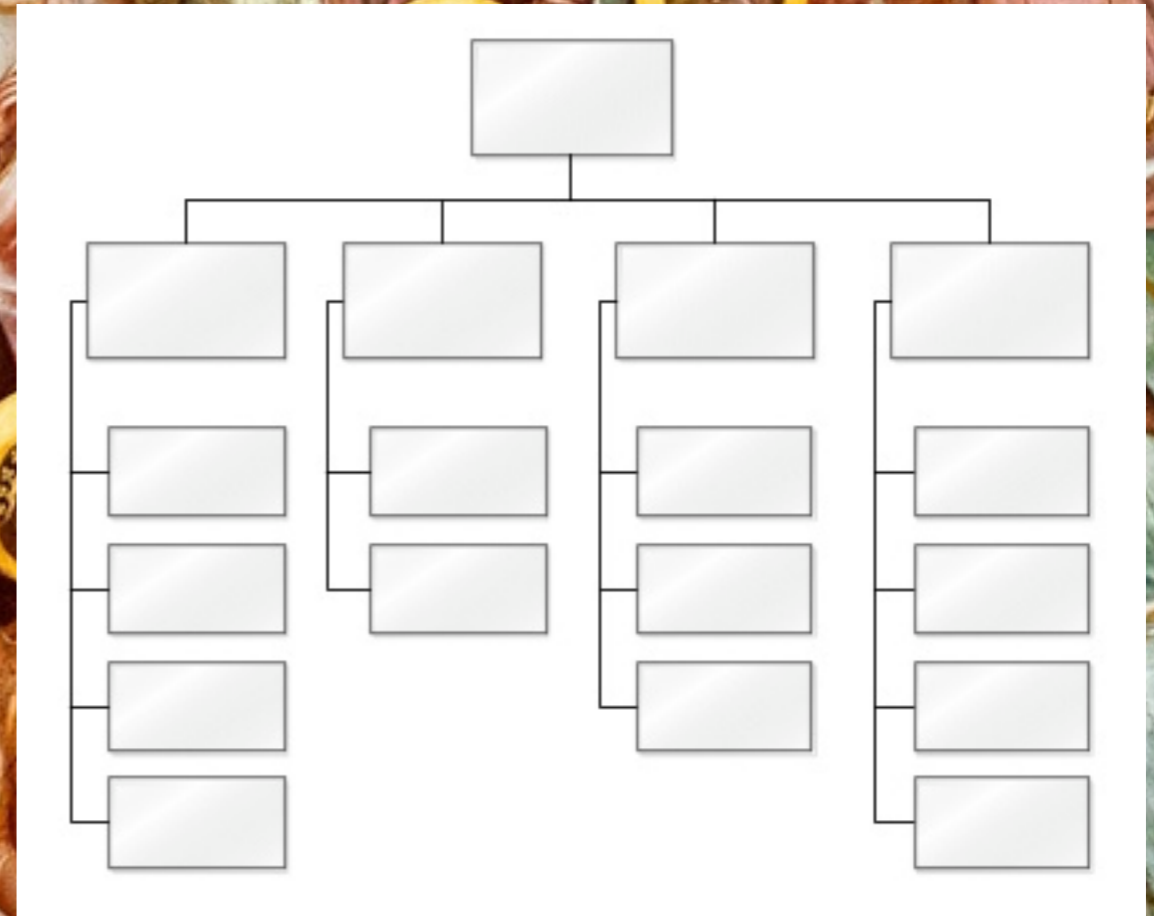


Hierarchy



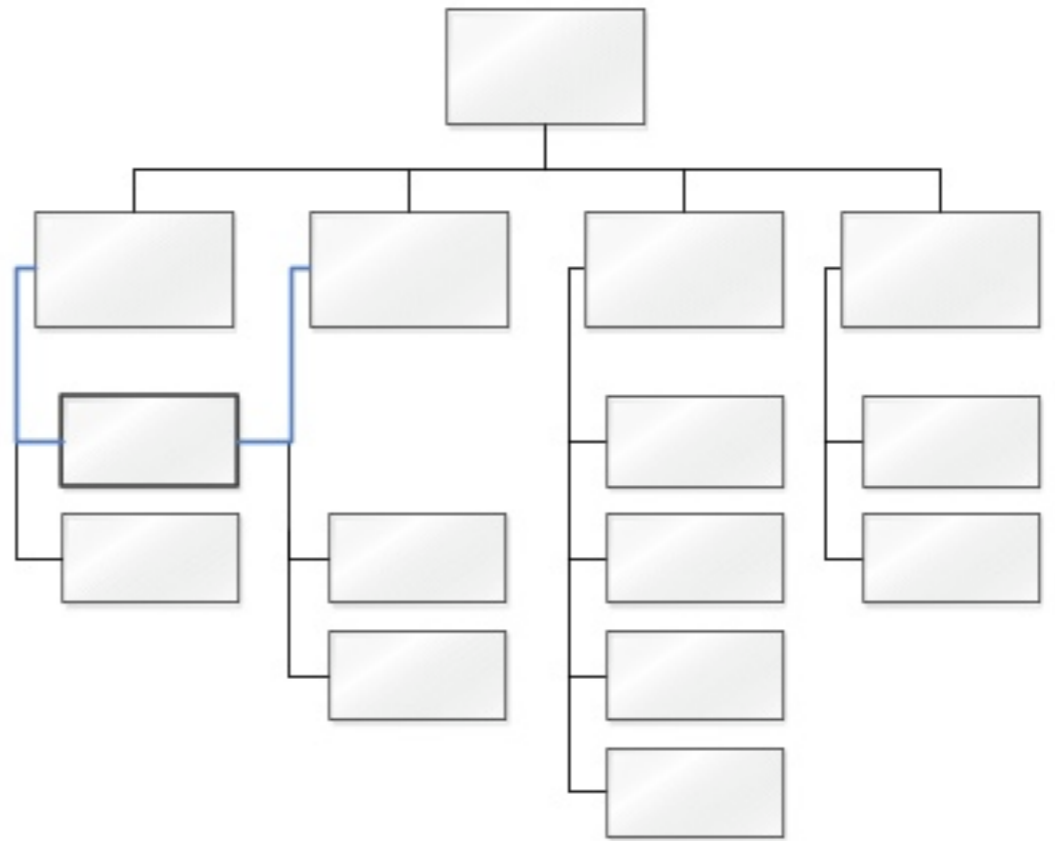
Hierarchy

**Drupal core
only supports
Strict Hierarchy**

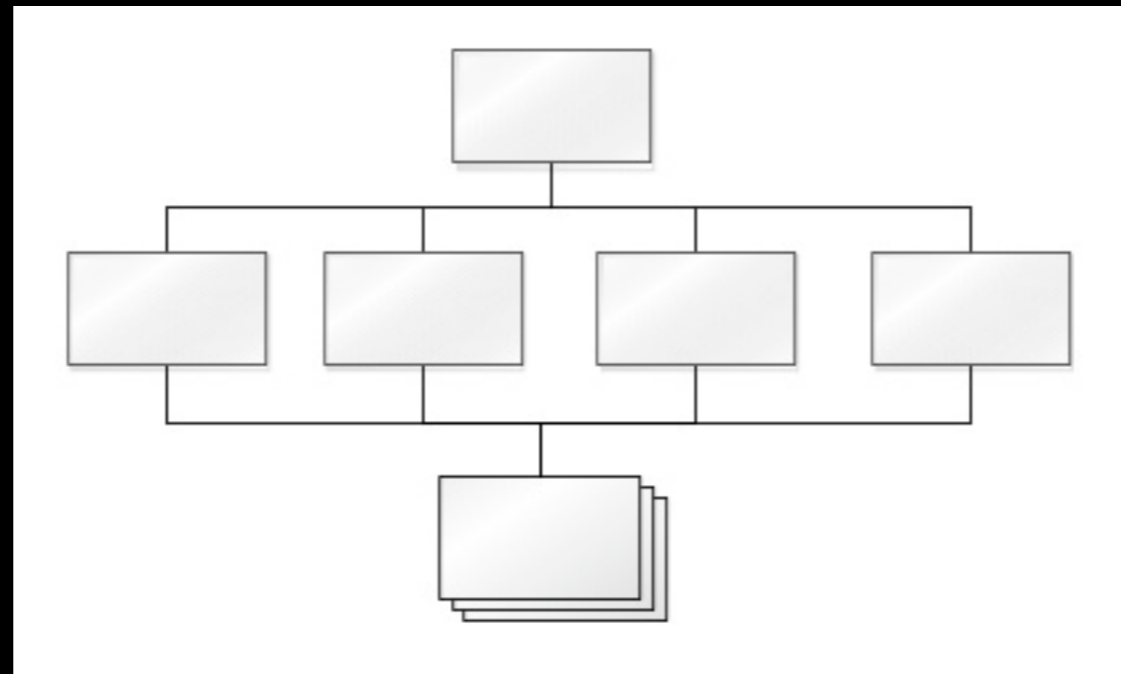


Hierarchy

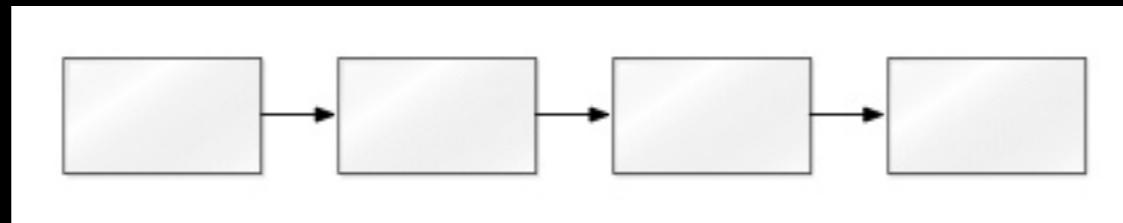
**Drupal core
gets confused with
Polyhierarchy
because the web
is “stateless”**



Database



Linear



Combinations



404 Navigation

Don't let your users get lost.

<http://drupal.org/project/navigation404>

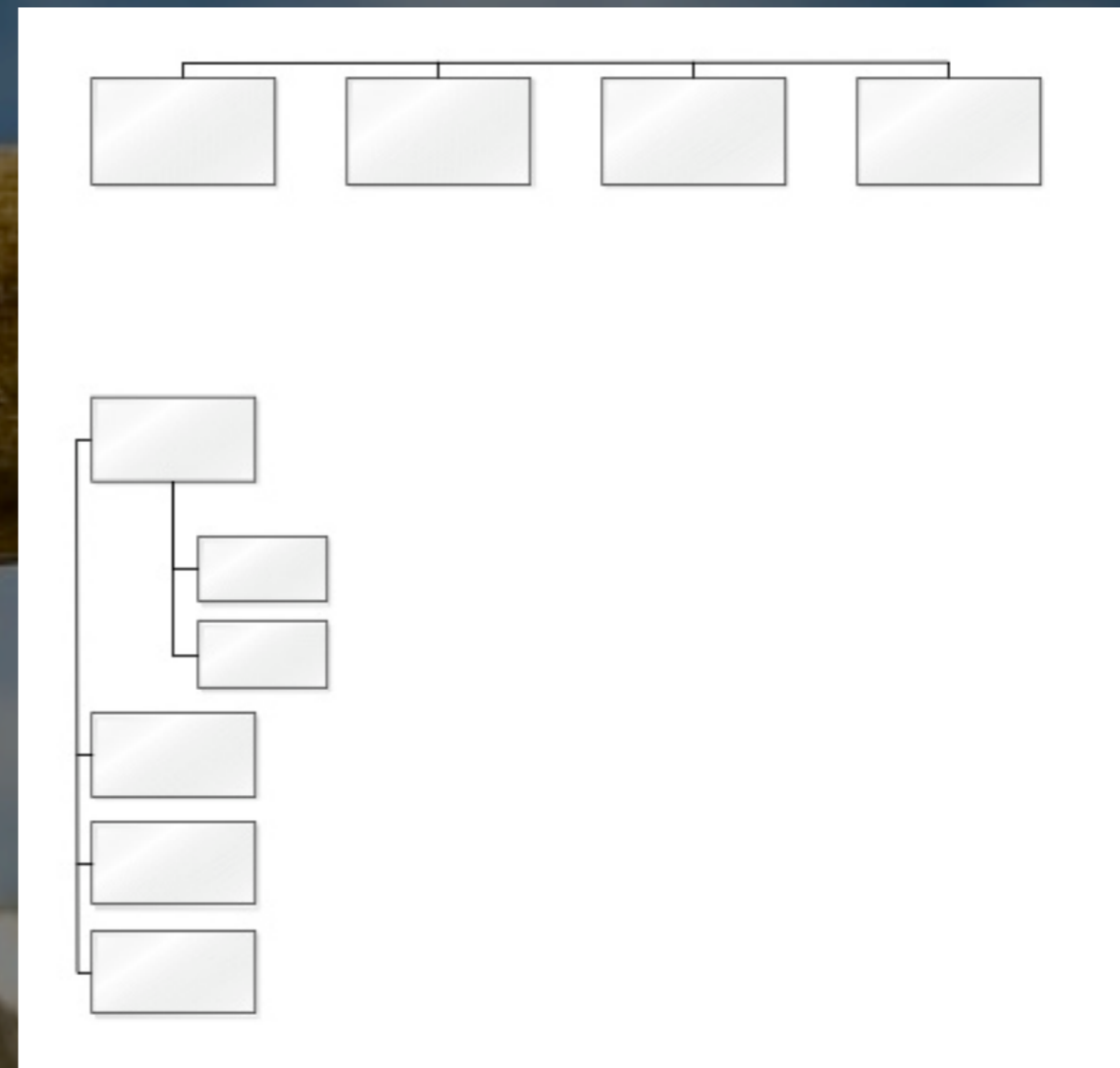
(D6 version is called "404 Blocks")

Split Navigation

Presentation of the
Hierarchy pattern

Primary links in
horizontal navbar on top

Secondary, Tertiary, etc. links
in sidebar



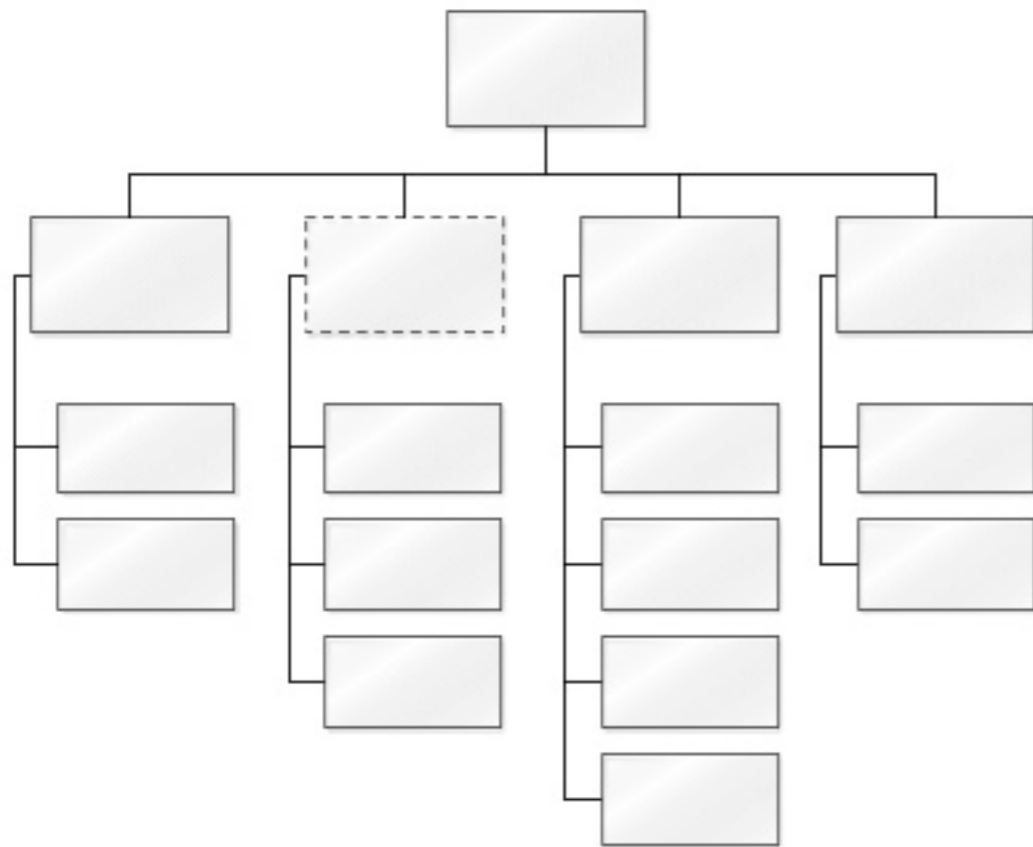


Menu block

The hidden gem of Drupal contrib.

http://drupal.org/project/menu_block

Containers



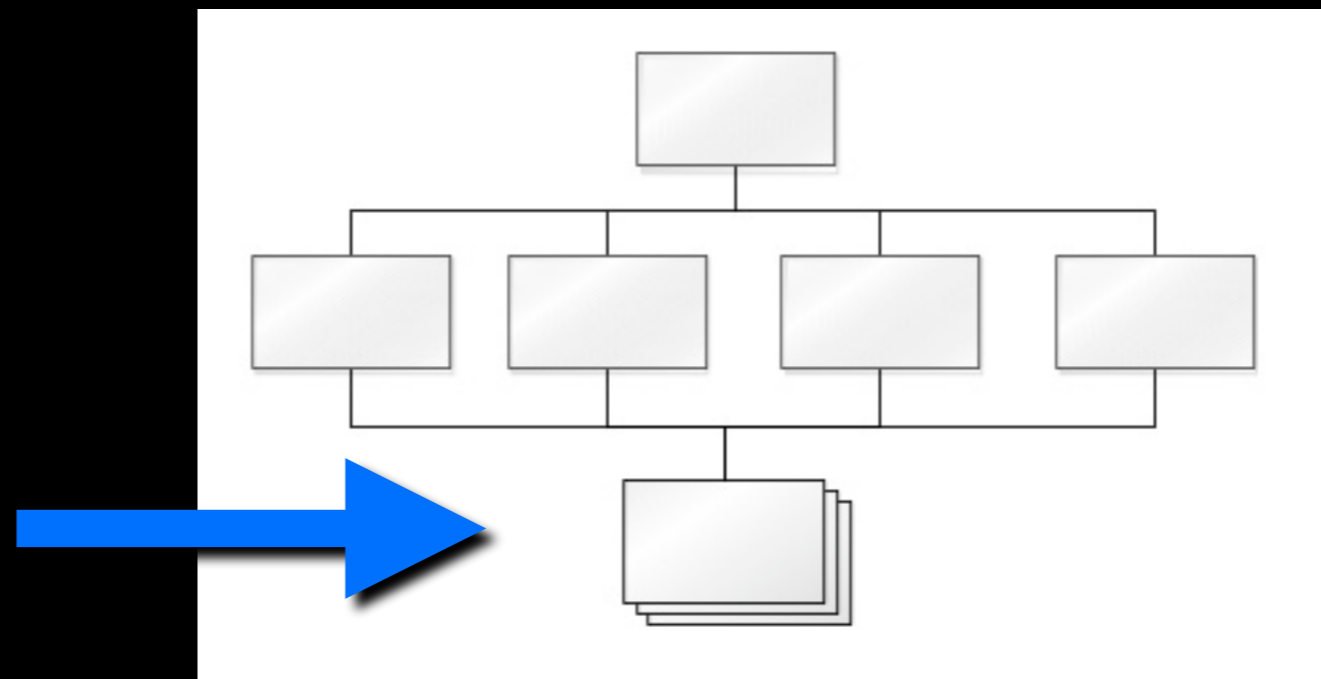
Menu item container

Used on the Drupalcon Chicago website.

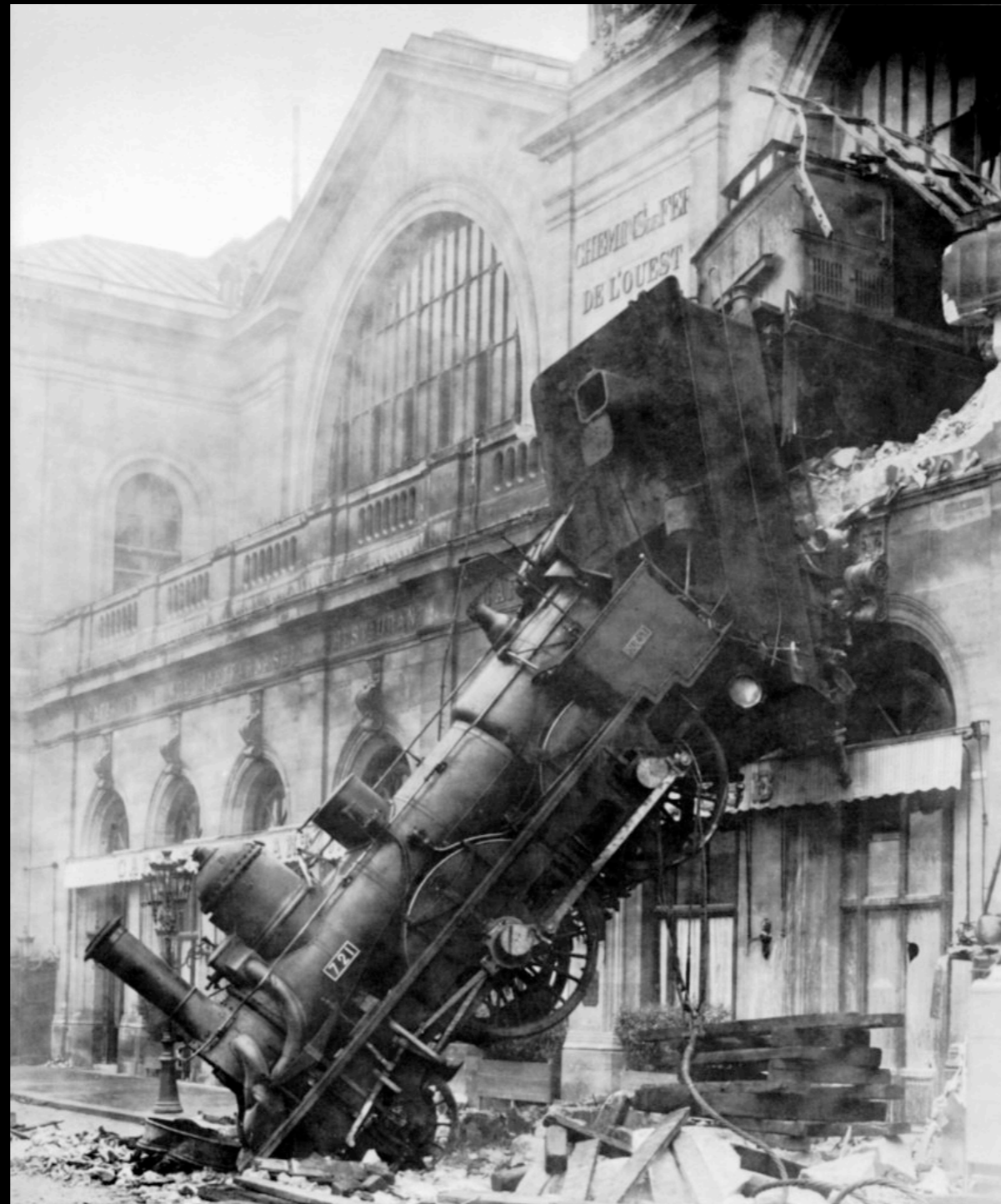
http://drupal.org/project/menu_item_container

Database

Guess what Drupal's
Hierarchy-based
menu system
does here.



Database



meijer

97 LAV-FM

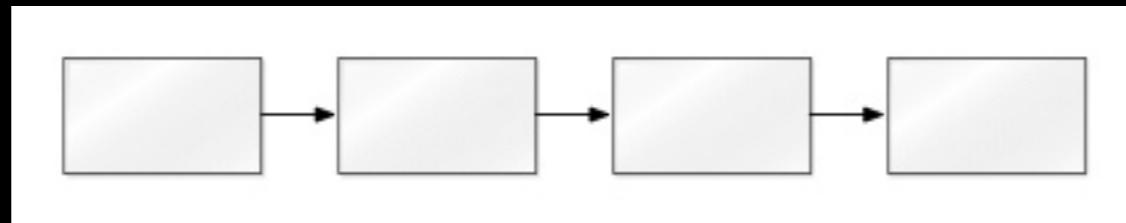
Menu Position

108

The new kid on the block.

http://drupal.org/project/menu_position

Linear



Menu position can do this too!

Mega menus

D7 port is in the works

<http://drupal.org/project/megamenu>



Using Blue Podcast

usingblue.com

What did you think?

Locate this session on the DCC website:

<http://chicago2011.drupal.org/sessions>

Click the “Take the Survey” link.

Free pony!

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