



# Drupal 8, where did the code go? From info hook to plugin

Peter Wolanin

# Here's What's In the Talk

- Background and “What’s a plugin?”
- Example of a core info hook conversion
- Simple but common plugin example:  
adding new tabs (a.k.a. local tasks)
- Configurable plugins (ConfigEntity based)
  - ▶ Adding a custom block
  - ▶ Adding a custom text filter
- Considerations for defining your own plugins

# Who Am I?

- Drupal 5, 6, 7, 8 core contributor
- Drupal Security Team
- Acquia Engineering
- Helped create some Drupal 8 plugins including SearchPlugin, MenuLinks, LocalTasks, LocalActions, ContextualLinks
- DrupalCamp NJ organizer

Photo by [amazeelabs](#), by-nc-sa



<https://www.drupal.org/u/pwolanin>

# Drupal 8 Background

I'll assume you know something about:

- The DIC/container/service container
  - ▶ The container is an object that contains instances of stateless “services” (the current request, the current user, URL generator, etc)
- The new routing system - names instead of paths.
  - ▶ a route name is just a machine name connected to a path and callbacks to provide, title, content, access etc. - like a D7 menu router
- Namespaced classes (PHP 5.3+) like  
  \Drupal\search\Plugin\Block\SearchBlock

# Plugins

- Encapsulate some re-useable functionality inside a class that implements one or more specific interfaces
- Plugins combine what in Drupal 7 was an info hook and a number of implementation hooks and possibly configuration: e.g. `hook_search_info()` and `hook_search_execute()`, etc., or `hook_block_info()` and `hook_block_view()`, `_configure()`, `_save()`
- Evolved from ctools and views plugins, but have quite different mechanisms to discover them

# Plugin Manager and IDs

- Every plugin type has a manager - registered as a service (available from the container) and used to find and instantiate the desired plugin instance(s)
- Each plugin has an ID, which may be in its definition, or generated as a derivative
- For a given plugin ID one single class will be used for all plugin instances using that plugin ID
- A plugin instance is specified by the combination of plugin ID and its configuration values, potentially coming from a ConfigEntity



“The Drop is  
always moving”

[drupal.org/node/65922](http://drupal.org/node/65922)

# 7.x: hook\_image\_toolkits()

```
/**  
 * Implements hook_image_toolkits().  
 */  
  
function system_image_toolkits() {  
  include_once DRUPAL_ROOT . '//' . drupal_get_path('module',  
'system') . '//' . 'image.gd.inc';  
  return array(  
    'gd' => array(  
      'title' => t('GD2 image manipulation toolkit'),  
      'available' => function_exists('image_gd_check_settings') &&  
        image_gd_check_settings(),  
    ),  
  );  
}
```

# 8.x: GD Image Toolkit Plugin

```
/**  
 * Defines the GD2 toolkit for image manipulation within Drupal.  
 *  
 * @ImageToolkit(  
 *   id = "gd",  
 *   title = @Translation("GD2 image manipulation toolkit")  
 * )  
 */  
class GDToolkit extends ImageToolkitBase {  
  //... more methods .../  
  
  public static function isAvailable() {  
    // GD2 support is available.  
    return function_exists('imagegd2');  
  }  
  
  //... more methods .../  
}
```

# 8.x: ImageToolkitManager

```
class ImageToolkitManager extends DefaultPluginManager {
    // ... various methods ... //

    /**
     * Gets a list of available toolkits.
     */
    public function getAvailableToolkits() {
        // Use plugin system to get list of available toolkits.
        $toolkits = $this->getDefinitions();

        $output = array();
        foreach ($toolkits as $id => $definition) {
            if (call_user_func($definition['class'] . '::isAvailable')) {
                $output[$id] = $definition;
            }
        }
        return $output;
    }
}
```

# 7.x: image\_desaturate() Function

```
/**  
 * Converts an image to grayscale.  
  
 * @param $image  
 *   An image object returned by image_load().  
  
 * @return  
 *   TRUE on success, FALSE on failure.  
  
 * @see image_load()  
 * @see image_gd_desaturate()  
 */  
function image_desaturate(stdClass $image) {  
  return image_toolkit_invoke('desaturate', $image);  
}
```

# 8.x: Image::desaturate() via Plugin

```
/**
 * Defines an image object to represent an image file.
 *
 * @see \Drupal\Core\ImageToolkit\ImageToolkitInterface
 * @see \Drupal\image\ImageEffectInterface
 */
class Image implements ImageInterface {
    //... more methods ...

    public function apply($operation, array $arguments = array()) {
        return $this->getToolkit()->apply($operation, $arguments);
    }

    public function desaturate() {
        return $this->apply('desaturate', array());
    }

    //... more methods ...
}
```

# 7.x: Operation by Function Prefix

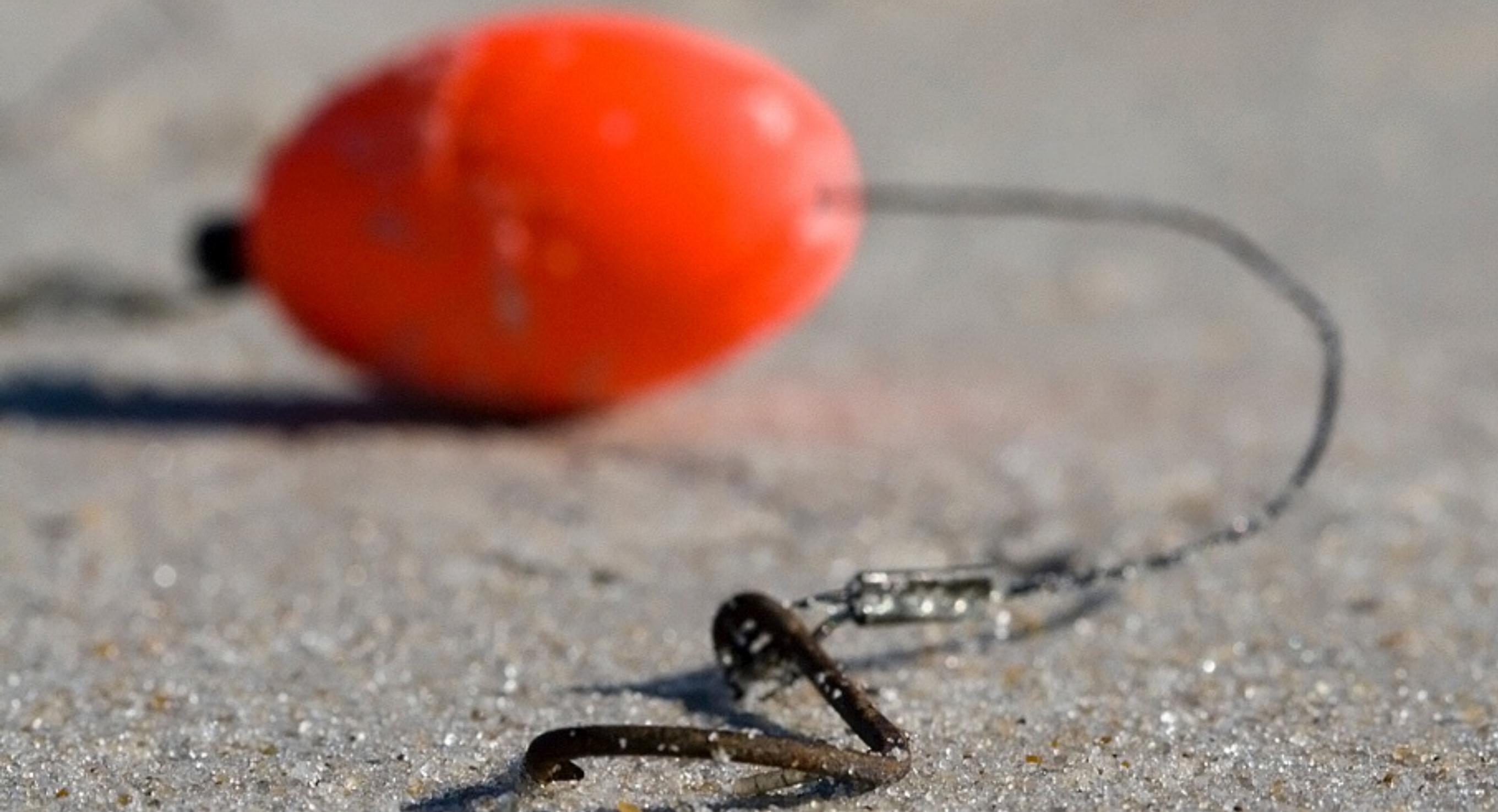
```
/**  
 * Convert an image resource to grayscale.  
 *  
 * Note that transparent GIF's loose transparency when desaturated.  
 *  
 * @param $image  
 *   An image object. The $image->resource value will be modified.  
 * @return  
 *   TRUE or FALSE, based on success.  
 *  
 * @see image_desaturate()  
 */  
  
function image_gd_desaturate(stdClass $image) {  
  // PHP using non-bundled GD does not have imagefilter.  
  if (!function_exists('imagefilter')) {  
    watchdog('image', 'The image could not be desaturated.');//  
    return FALSE;  
  }  
  return imagefilter($image->resource, IMG_FILTER_GRAYSCALE);  
}
```

# 8.x: Operations Are Also Plugins

```
/**
 * Defines GD2 Desaturate operation.
 *
 * @ImageToolkitOperation(
 *   id = "gd_desaturate",
 *   toolkit = "gd",
 *   operation = "desaturate",
 *   label = @Translation("Desaturate"),
 * )
 */
class Desaturate extends GDImageToolkitOperationBase {

  protected function execute(array $arguments) {
    // PHP using non-bundled GD does not have imagefilter.
    if (!function_exists('imagefilter')) {
      $this->logger->notice("The image could not be desaturated");
      return FALSE;
    }
    return imagefilter($this->getToolkit()->getResource(),
                      IMG_FILTER_GRAYSCALE);
  }
}
```

# What About Hooks?



# Hooks Still Have Their Place

- Most plugin managers invoke an `_alter` hook so the modules can add to or alter the plugins' definitions
- For example, `hook_block_alter()` allows you to alter the block plugin definitions
- Info hooks that simply return a data array, without associated code and logic, were not candidates to become plugins (but may have become YAML)
- Others like `hook_cron()` or `hook_entity_access()` are still present

# Plugin Discovery

- The discovery of plugins is basically the same as invoking an info hook (and, in fact, it can even be implemented that way)
- Discovery gives you an array of plugin definitions, each of which is just an array of keys and values
- The discovery process fills in defaults, such a 'provider' which is the name of the module providing the plugin
- Discovery can make derivatives (many from one) like FieldUiLocalTask - one tab per bundle

# Plugin Discovery & Config in Core

- YAML based:  
**MenuLink, LocalTask, LocalAction, ContextualLink**
- Annotation, some config, but no config entity:  
**ImageToolkit, Archiver**
- Annotation and config entity (many) including:  
**Block, ViewsDisplay, ImageEffect, SearchPlugin**
- Not a pure Plugin but uses Annotation discovery:  
**Entity (Node, User, etc.)**

# Let's Start Learning The Drupal 8.x Plugin Toolkit

# Pre-requisite: a Drupal 8 Module

- As in Drupal 7, code is provided by modules - so you need a module. You need a .info.yml file - like a .info file for Drupal 7
- You no longer need even an empty .module file
- The only remaining code in .module files are a few hook implementations: most code lives in classes

## **modules/mymodule/mymodule.info.yml**

```
name: 'My test module'  
type: module  
description: 'DrupalCon demo.'  
core: 8.x
```

# Adding Two Tabs:

For most uses, just add a YAML file listing your tabs:

## **mymodule/mymodule.links.tasks.yml**

**mymodule.list\_tab:**

**route\_name:** mymodule.list

**title:** 'List'

**base\_route:** mymodule.list

**mymodule.settings\_tab:**

**route\_name:** mymodule.settings

**title:** 'Settings'

**base\_route:** mymodule.list

Plugin  
ID

Local tasks  
reference  
a base  
route  
which  
groups  
them

# Adding Two Tabs:

Unlike Drupal 7 you don't need to jump though the hoops of a default local task, or making the paths align in a certain hierarchy

The image displays two screenshots of a Drupal administrative interface, illustrating the addition of two tabs to a configuration page.

**Screenshot 1 (Top):** The URL is `drupal-8.dd:8083/admin/config/also-mymodule/settings`. The page title is "Mymodule settings". Below the title, there are two tabs: "List" and "Settings". The "Settings" tab is highlighted. The breadcrumb navigation shows: Home > Administration > Configuration > Drupal\mymodule\Controller\MyController::settings. A black arrow points from the top right towards the "Settings" tab.

**Screenshot 2 (Bottom):** The URL is `drupal-8.dd:8083/admin/config/mymodule/list`. The page title is "Mymodule list". Below the title, there are two tabs: "List" and "Settings". The "List" tab is highlighted. The breadcrumb navigation shows: Home > Administration > Configuration > Drupal\mymodule\Controller\MyController::dolist. A black arrow points from the top right towards the "List" tab.

# LocalTask Plugins Need Routes:

Of course, those routes need to be defined or pre-existing: **mymodule/mymodule.routing.yml**

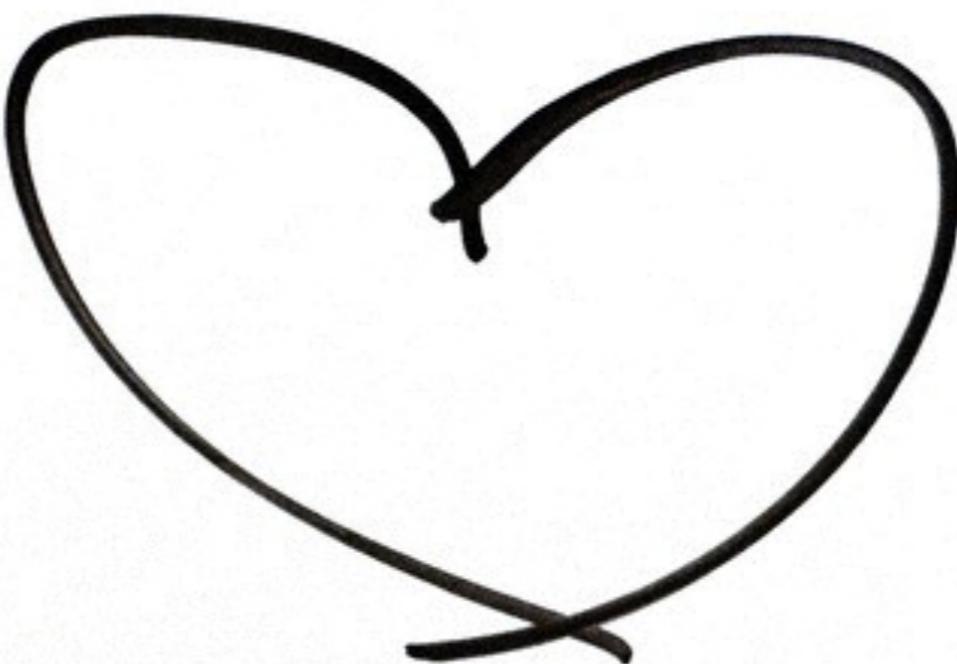
```
mymodule.list:  
  path: '/admin/config/mymodule/list'  
  defaults:  
    _controller: '\Drupal\mymodule\Controller\MyController::dolist'  
    _title: 'Mymodule list'  
  requirements:  
    _access: 'TRUE'  
  
mymodule.settings:  
  path: '/admin/config/also-mymodule/settings'  
  defaults:  
    _controller: '\Drupal\mymodule\Controller\MyController::settings'  
    _title: 'Mymodule settings'  
  requirements:  
    _access: 'TRUE'
```

# LocalTask Plugin Keys:

The plugin configuration options and defaults are on the LocalTaskManager class

```
class LocalTaskManager extends DefaultPluginManager implements LocalTaskManagerInterface {
  protected $defaults = array(
    // (required) The name of the route this task links to.
    'route_name' => '',
    // Parameters for route variables when generating a link.
    'route_parameters' => array(),
    // The static title for the local task.
    'title' => '',
    // The route name where the root tab appears.
    'base_route' => '',
    // The plugin ID of the parent tab (or NULL for the top-level tab).
    'parent_id' => NULL,
    // The weight of the tab.
    'weight' => NULL,
    // The default link options.
    'options' => array(),
    // Default class for local task implementations.
    'class' => 'Drupal\Core\Menu\LocalTaskDefault',
    // The plugin id. Set by the plugin system based on the top-level YAML key.
    'id' => '',
  );
}
```

your  
g  
mix



# The New Block



# Blocks as Plugins

- Each custom block is defined in code as a class
- When the admin places the block into a region in a theme, a configuration object is created to track that setting
- The config object is a ConfigEntity - it's an abstraction on top of CMI (storing your Drupal configuration in YAML files) - it makes it convenient to list, load, etc. using entity functions.
- Drupal can easily list the active block instances
- Note - you don't need to worry about the config!

# Blocks Implementation

- Blocks implement the  
`\Drupal\Core\Block\BlockPluginInterface`
- If you extend the abstract  
`\Drupal\Core\Block\BlockBase` class then  
all you need to implement is the `build()` method
- `build()` is basically the same as  
`hook_block_view()` in Drupal 7
- For example, I added to my module  
`\Drupal\mymodule\Plugin\Block\MyBlock`

# Side Note - PSR-4

- When I add the Block to my module:  
\Drupal\mymodule\Plugin\Block\MyBlock
- This is at the corresponding file path (under the Drupal root directory):  
modules/mymodule/src/Plugin/Block/  
MyBlock.php
- Note that the class name and the path match up under src/
- This mapping of class name to path is how the class can be automatically found and loaded

```
/**  
 * Provides a block with 'Mymodule' links.  
 *  
 * @Block(  
 *   id = "mymodule_my_block",  
 *   admin_label = @Translation("Mymodule block")  
 * )  
 */  
  
class MyBlock extends BlockBase {  
  public function build() {  
    return [  
      'first_link' => [  
        '#type' => 'link',  
        '#title' => $this->t('Mymodule List'),  
        '#url' => Url::fromRoute('mymodule.list'),  
      ],  
      'second_link' => [  
        '#type' => 'link',  
        '#title' => $this->t('Mymodule Settings'),  
        '#url' => Url::fromRoute('mymodule.settings'),  
      ],  
    ];  
  }  
}
```

Home » Administration » Structure

Block placement is specific to each theme on your site. Changes will not be saved until you click Save.

Demonstrate block regions (Bartik)

BLOCK	CATEGORY	REGION
Header	<a href="#">Place block</a>	
Site branding	System	Header
Primary menu	<a href="#">Place block</a>	
Main navigation	Menus	Primary menu
Secondary menu	<a href="#">Place block</a>	
User account menu	Menus	Secondary menu
Highlighted	<a href="#">Place block</a>	
Status messages	System	Highlighted
Featured top	<a href="#">Place block</a>	

# Blocks Admin Page Has a New Function: Place block

# Blocks

# Admin

# Page Has a

# New

# Function:

# Place block

The screenshot shows a 'Place block' modal dialog box. At the top left is a search bar containing the text 'my'. Below the search bar are three tabs: 'BLOCK', 'CATEGORY', and 'OPERATIONS'. Under 'BLOCK', there is one item: 'Mymodule block'. Under 'CATEGORY', there is one item: 'My test module'. In the 'OPERATIONS' tab, there is a single button labeled 'Place block'. Both the search bar and the 'Place block' button are highlighted with a red rectangular border.

Block layout ↗

### Configure block

Block description: Mymodule block

**Title \***

Mymodule block Machine  
name: mymoduleblock [Edit]

Display title

**Visibility**

**Content types**  
Not restricted

**Pages**  
Not restricted

**Roles**  
Not restricted

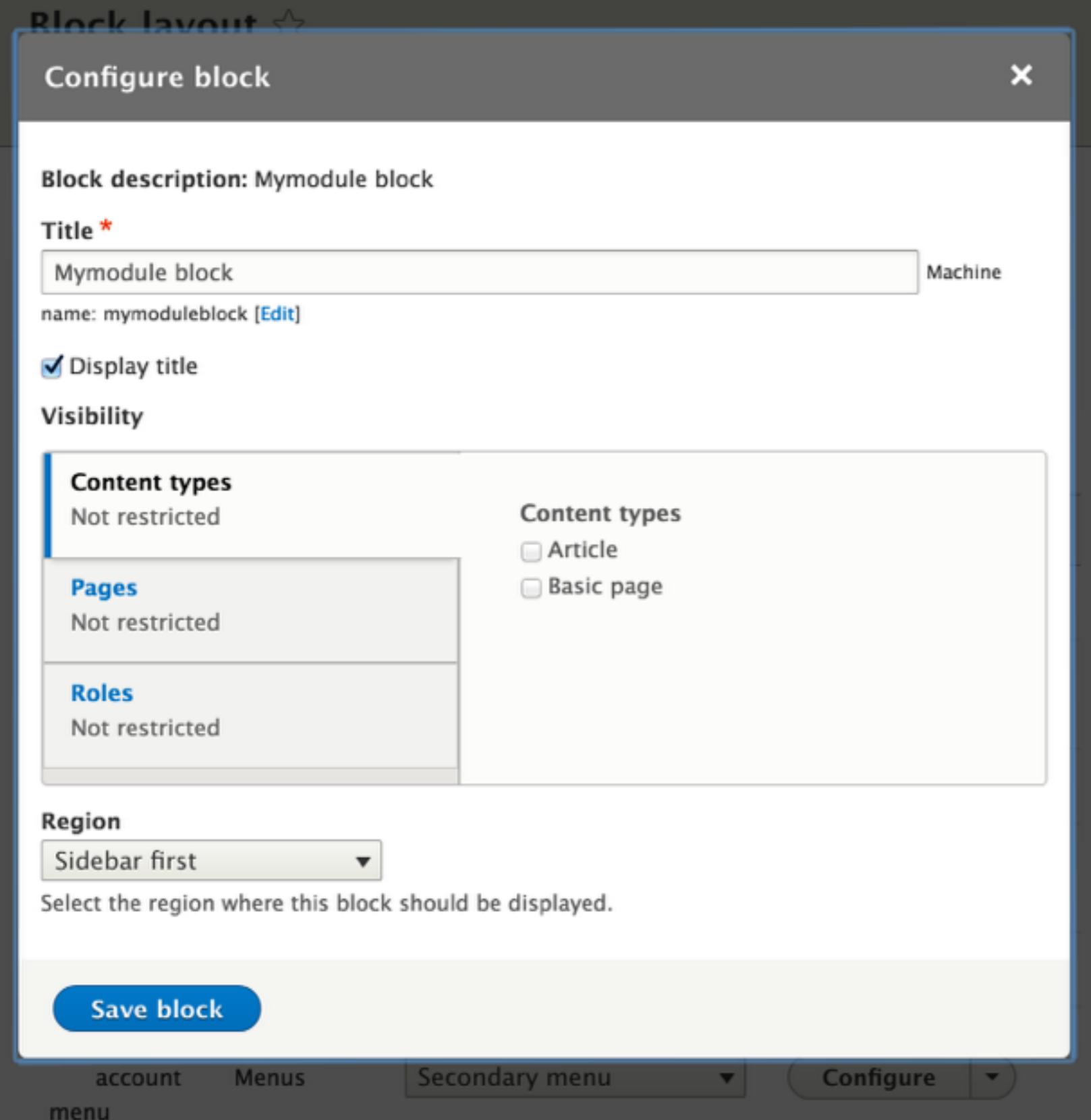
**Region**

Sidebar first ▾

Select the region where this block should be displayed.

**Save block**

account Menus Secondary menu Configure



# Save the Block to Create a New Plugin Instance



# Drupal 8 local

Home

Mymodule block

[Mymodule List](#)

[Mymodule Settings](#)

## Welcome to Drupal 8 local

No front page content has been created yet.

[Add content](#)



Search



# Block Hook to Plugin Comparison

## Drupal 7.x

`hook_block_info()`

`hook_block_view($delta)`

?

`hook_block_configure($delta)`

?

`hook_block_save($delta, $edit)`

## Drupal 8.x

`BlockManagerInterface::  
getDefinitions()`

`BlockPluginInterface::  
build()`

`BlockPluginInterface::  
access(AccountInterface $account)`

`BlockPluginInterface::  
blockForm($form, $form_state)`

`BlockPluginInterface::  
blockValidate($form, $form_state)`

`BlockPluginInterface::  
blockSubmit($form, $form_state)`

# Block Discovery and Annotations

- Each Plugin type must be in the expected class namespace for your module - for blocks:  
namespace Drupal\mymodule\Plugin\Block;
- Most core plugins have a custom annotation class - you have to use the right one for your plugin
- The annotation class provides both a documentation of the possible keys in the plugin definition and default values
- There is also a generic Plugin annotation class

```
/**  
 * Defines a Block annotation object.  
 *  
 * @Annotation  
 */  
class Block extends Plugin {  
    /**  
     * The plugin ID.  
     *  
     * @var string  
     */  
    public $id;  
  
    /**  
     * The administrative label of the block.  
     *  
     * @var \Drupal\Core\Annotation\Translation  
     *  
     * @ingroup plugin_translatable  
     */  
    public $admin_label;  
  
    //... more properties .../  
}
```

# Filtering Text

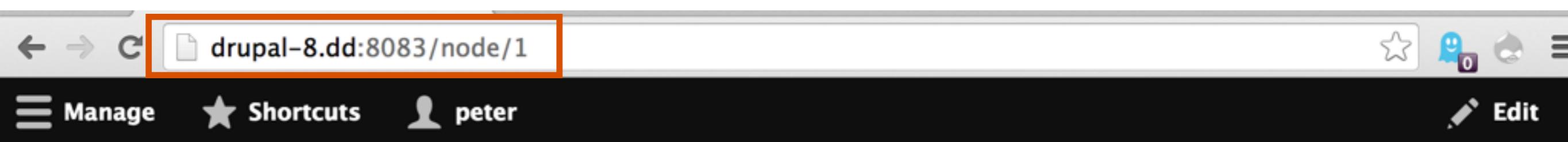


# 7.x Info Hook

```
/**
 * Implements hook_filter_info().
 *
 * @ingroup project_issue_filter
 */
function project_issue_filter_info() {
  $filters['filter_project_issue_link'] = array(
    'title' => t('Project issue to link filter'),
    'description' => t('Converts references to project issues
      (in the form of [#12345]) into links.'),
    'process callback' => '_project_issue_filter',
    'tips callback' => '_project_issue_filter_tips',
    'cache' => TRUE,
  );
  return $filters;
}
```

# 8.x Plugin With Annotation

```
/*
 * Provides a filter to format a node ID as a link.
 *
 * @Filter(
 *   id = "mymodule_node_link",
 *   module = "mymodule",
 *   title = @Translation("Format a node ID as a link")
 * )
 */
class NodeLinkFilter extends FilterBase {
  public function process($text, $langcode) {
    $regex = '(?:(?<!\\w)\\[(#\\d+(:-[\\d\\.]+)?)\\](?!\\w))|...';
    $callback = function($matches) { ... };
    $text = preg_replace_callback("/$regex/", $callback, $text);
    return new FilterProcessResult($text);
  }
  // ... more code ...
  public function tips($long = FALSE) {
    return $this->t('Node ID numbers (ex. [#12345]) turn into
links automatically.');
  }
}
```



The main content area has a blue header with the text "Drupal 8 local" and the Drupal logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with a "Home" button, which is currently active and highlighted in light blue. The main content area features a search bar on the left with a placeholder "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. In the center, there is a large heading "First test post" above a text block that says "Here's a 1st node.". Below the heading are three buttons: "View", "Edit", and "Delete".

This view of the page is identical to the one above it, showing the "First test post" and the "Here's a 1st node." text block with its associated "View", "Edit", and "Delete" buttons.

← → C drupal-8.dd:8083/admin/config/content/formats

Back to site Manage Shortcuts peter

## Text formats and editors ☆

Home » Administration » Configuration » Content authoring

Text formats define how text is filtered for output and how HTML tags and other text is displayed, replaced, or removed. **Improper text format configuration is a security risk. Learn more on the [Filter module help page](#).**

Text formats are presented on content editing pages in the order defined on this page. The first format available to a user will be selected by default.

+ Add text format

NAME	TEXT EDITOR	ROLES	OPERATIONS
Basic HTML	CKEditor	Authenticated user,Administrator	Show rowweights <a href="#">Configure</a> ▾

drupal-8.dd:8083/admin/config/content/formats/manage/basic\_html

← → C drupal-8.dd:8083/admin/config/content/formats/manage/basic\_html

Back to site Manage Shortcuts peter

Images larger than these dimensions will be scaled down.

### Enabled filters

Limit allowed HTML tags and correct faulty HTML

Display any HTML as plain text

Convert line breaks into HTML (i.e. <br> and <p>)

Convert URLs into links

Format a node ID as a link

Align images

Uses a data-align attribute on <img> tags to align images.

Caption images

Uses a data-caption attribute on <img> tags to caption images.

Restrict images to this site

Disallows usage of <img> tag sources that are not hosted on this site by replacing them with a placeholder image.

Correct faulty and chopped off HTML

Track images uploaded via a Text Editor

Ensures that the latest versions of images uploaded via a Text Editor are displayed.

### Filter processing order

← → C drupal-8.dd:8083/node/2/edit ⭐ 0 🔍

Home Manage Shortcuts peter

**Body (Edit summary)**

<p>Let me tell you about [#1]</p>

**Text format** Basic HTML ▾

[About text formats](#) ?

- Allowed HTML tags: <a href hreflang> <em> <strong> <cite> <blockquote> <code> <ul type> <ol start type> <li> <dl> <dt> <dd> <h2 id> <h3 id> <h4 id> <h5 id> <h6 id> <p> <br> <span> <img src alt height width data-entity-type data-entity-uuid data-align data-caption>
- Node ID numbers (ex. [#12345]) turn into links automatically.
- You can align images (data-align="center"), but also videos, blockquotes,

**Author:** peter

Create new revision

▶ MENU SETTINGS

▶ URL PATH SETTINGS

▶ AUTHORING INFORMATION

▶ PROMOTION OPTIONS

← → C drupal-8.dd:8083/node/2

Manage Shortcuts peter Edit

My account Log out

Drupal 8 local

Home

Home

Search

A second post

View Edit Delete

Let me tell you about [First test post](#)

Tools

drupal-8.dd:8083/node/1

# Creating Your Own Plugins

- You want to upgrade your module to Drupal 8 and it defined an info hook or had a ctools plugin type
- Use annotation based discovery by default
- It keeps the meta-data together with the class and is suited for typical plugin types where the actual class (code) is different for each plugins
- YAML discovery is good for a case like local tasks where the vast majority use a common class, but a few will implement a different one (for example, to provide a dynamic title)

# Plugin and General 8.x Resources

- Demo code used for this presentation:  
[drupal.org/sandbox/pwolanin/2087657](http://drupal.org/sandbox/pwolanin/2087657)

- *Converting 7.x modules to 8.x*  
[drupal.org/update/modules/7/8](http://drupal.org/update/modules/7/8)

- *Plugin API in Drupal 8*  
[drupal.org/developing/api/8/plugins](http://drupal.org/developing/api/8/plugins)

- *Why Plugins?* [drupal.org/node/1637614](http://drupal.org/node/1637614)

- *Unraveling the Drupal 8 Plugin System*  
[drupalize.me/blog/201409/unravelling-drupal-8-plugin-system](http://drupalize.me/blog/201409/unravelling-drupal-8-plugin-system)

# Drupal 8 Features I Mentioned

- Widespread use of interfaces makes it easier to replace almost any implementation
- Tabs are grouped regardless of path hierarchy
- Route name rather than system path is unique
- Multiple routes can serve the same path (HTML vs. JSON or GET vs. POST)
- YAML as a standard for config and data files
- Multiple instances of the same block
- Each block instances has a config entity

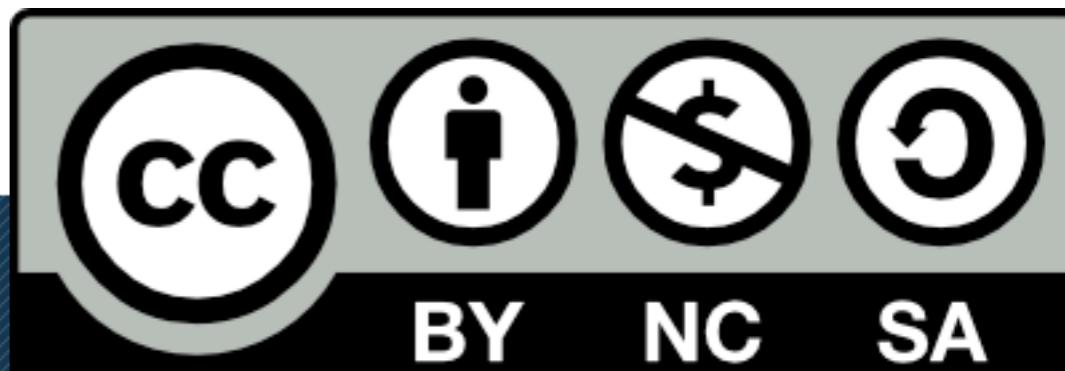
# To Sum It Up

- Plugins are a way to combine the discovery of available functionality with the actual implementation of the functionality
- In Drupal 7, the combination of an info hook and multiple other hook functions (potentially in different files) served the same purpose
- When defining your own plugins, use Annotation-based discovery unless you have a very clear reason for a different type

This presentation is © 2016, Acquia, Inc.

Licensed:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>





How Was It? ~ Please evaluate:

[events.drupal.org/node/8702](http://events.drupal.org/node/8702)

---

~~~~~  
Thank you!