



Silva: content management system

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Why Silva CMS is suitable for large organizations:

- extensive group/permissions support
- excellent multisite/templating capabilities
- editorial review workflow
- paid support options
- content storage in clean XML format

Runs on the same underlying technology as Plone. Focus is on website management, rather than "community" functions like discussion forums, wikis, etc. There is a blogging extension.

Funding for Silva originally from Erasmus university in Rotterdam for their university website.

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich

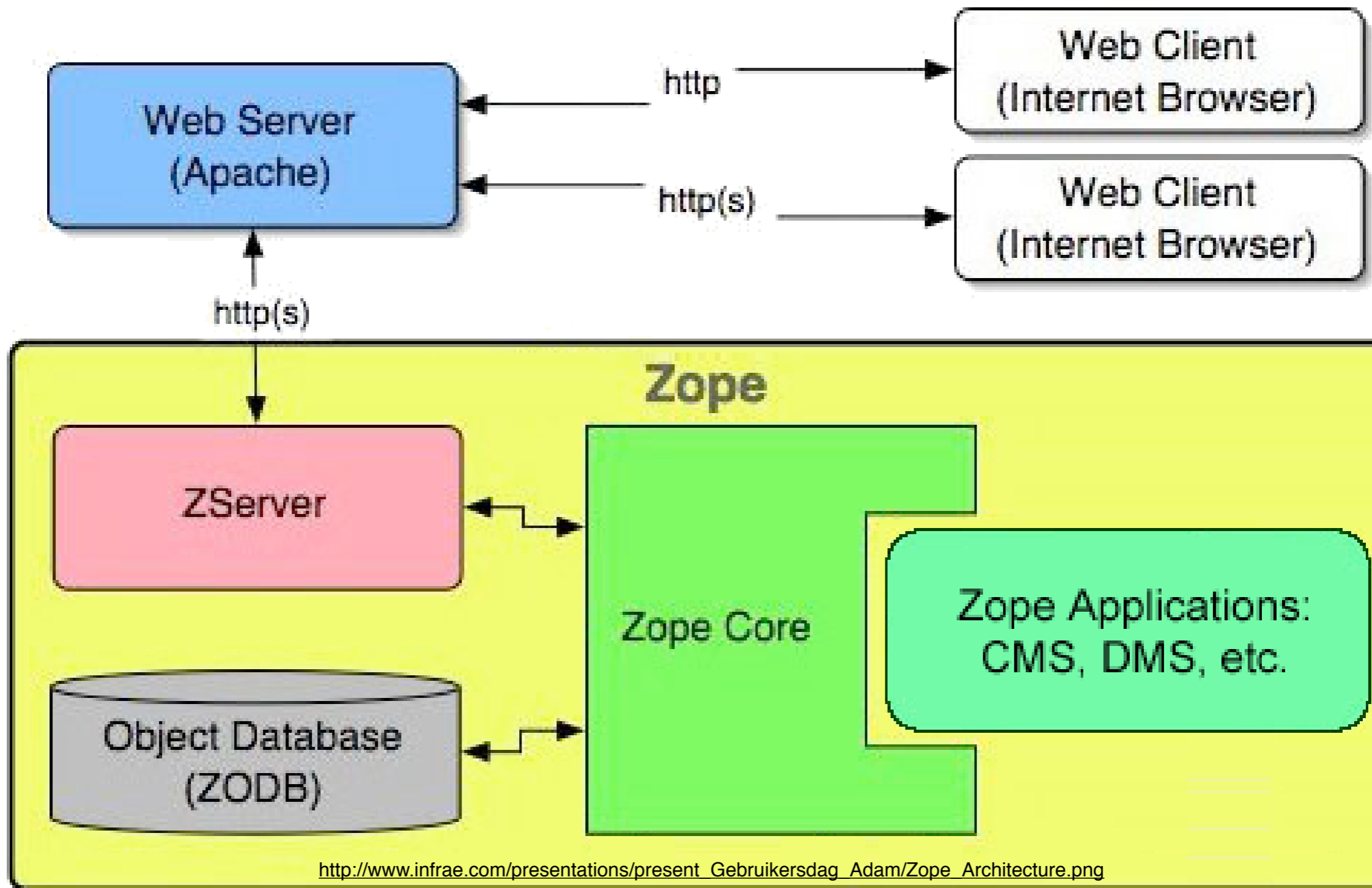
Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration

University College London (20k staff students)

Berlin National Public Library

Erasmus uses the XML-based content as source for print publications as well as for the website.

Silva CMS is powered by Zope, an open-source web application server.



affords a great deal of power, flexibility, but also complexity if you're not already familiar with zope. In order to skin our site, i had to learn the Zope way of templating, using TAL: Tag Attribute Language

Joomla templates are a mix of HTML with PHP statements.

```
div id="mysite-container">
  <div id="mysite-title">
     <!-- title -->
  <div id="mysite-header">
    <!-- header background image in css -->
  </div> <!-- header -->
  <div id="mysite-content">
    <div id="mysite-left-column">
      <?php mosLoadModules ('left', "-2" ); ?>
    </div> <!-- left column -->
    <div id="mysite-middle-column">
      <div id="mysite-stories">
        <?php mosMainBody(); ?>
      </div> <!-- mysite-stories -->
    </div> <!-- mysite-middle-column -->
    <div class="cleaner">
      &nbsp;
    </div> <!-- cleaner -->
    <div id="mysite-footer">
      <?php include_once( $GLOBALS['mosConfig_absolute_path'] . '/includes/footer.php' ); ?>
      <div class="mysite-newsfeed">
        <?php mosLoadModules ('bottom', "-2" ); ?>
      </div> <!-- newsfeed -->
    </div> <!-- footer -->
  </div> <!-- content -->
</div> <!-- container -->
center>
/center>
/body>
```

A fairly standard HTML page with PHP statements standing in for the dynamic content. Joomla wraps most of the dynamic content into big functions, which is convenient, but aggravating if you want to change the output that those functions produce.

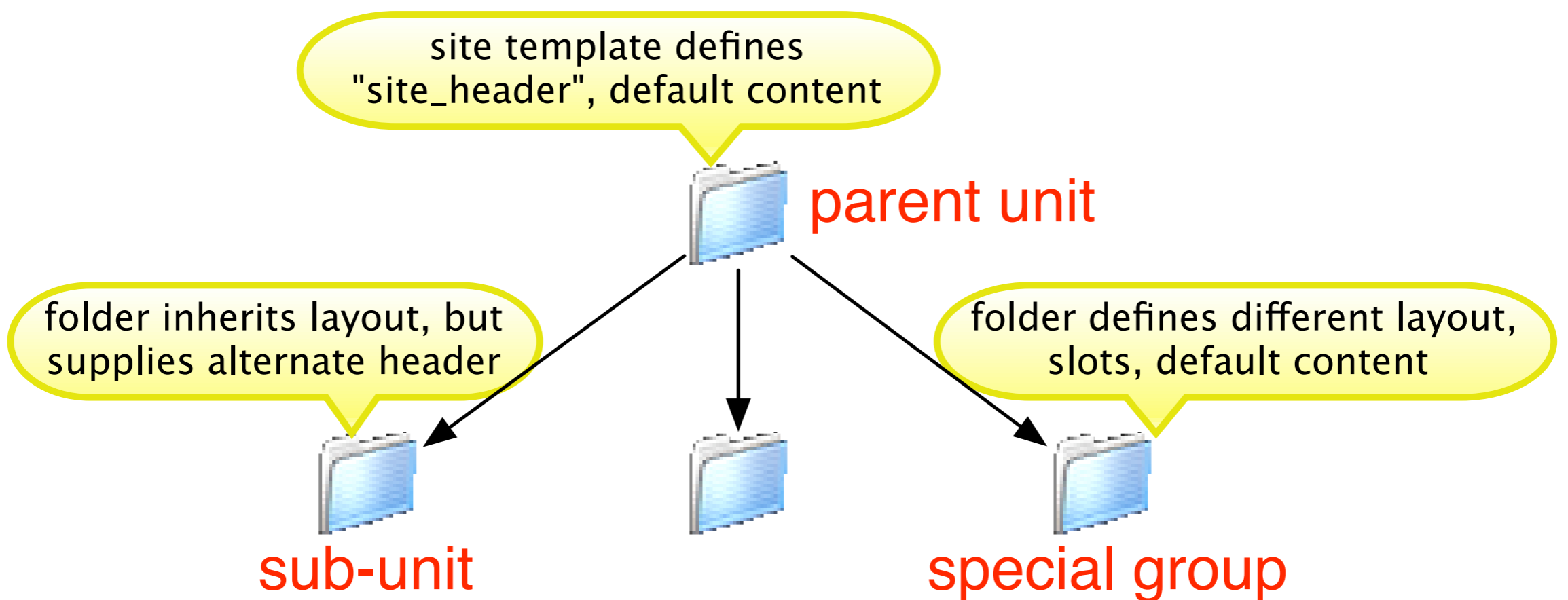
Joomla content functions generate tables -- if you don't want that, you have to change the code in the modules

Silva/Zope uses TAL-based templates. TAL templates are themselves valid XML documents.

```
</head>
<body metal:define-slot="body">
<img width="193" height="44" border="0" alt="Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences" style="float:1
<h1 style="margin-top:1px;margin-bottom:1px;">Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts & Sciences</h1>
<div>College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</div>
<metal:block define-slot="header">
<!-- Start header slot -->
  <div id="header">
    <metal:block define-slot="top_navigation">
<!-- Begin top_navigation slot -->
  <tal:block tal:condition="exists:python:here.get_breadcrumbs()[1]">
    <tal:block define="publication here/get_publication; public_tree python:publication.get_public_tree(0);cu
      <ul id="primary">
        <li><a tal:content="publication/get_title_or_id" tal:attributes="href string:${publication/absolu
          <tal:block condition="public_tree" repeat="tree_object public_tree">
            <tal:block define="
top_category_item python: tree_object[1];
title top_category_item/get_short_title;
current_category_tree python: top_category_item.get_public_tree(0);
is_current_topcat python: title == current_top_category;
">
          </li>
          <a tal:content="title" tal:attributes="href string:${top_category_item/absolute_url}/
        </li>
```

looking at new tags, and extensions to existing tags. Took a while to wrap my head around this. Since the template itself is valid XML, easy (nearly required) to write code that will validate. The API to Zope/Silva functionality is fairly low level, so a high degree of customization is possible.

Silva provides robust templating with absolute separation of presentation and content.



you define layout slots and default content at folder level, child folders and pages inherit. System is designed to allow local content override independent from local layout override.

Other notable Silva features

- Automatic Table of Contents/Linking
- content reuse
- mail me when this page changes
- extensions for news, calendaring, RSS
- form management

Silva edit demo