Why Active Records sucks

- By Kore Nordmann
- PHP Unconference Hamburg
  - 26.04.2008

About me

- Kore Nordmann

- Studying computer science at the University Dortmund

- Working for eZ systems on eZ components

- Maintainer and / or Developer in multiple open source projects: Image_3D, KaForkI, ezcGraph, Torii, Busimess, WCV, ...

Active Record is...

- *„An object carries both data and behavior. Much of this data is persistent and needs to be stored in a database. Active Record uses the most obvious approach, putting data access logic in the domain object. This way all people know how to read and write their data to and from the database."*

  – Martin Fowler

Common usage

RDBMS:

ID	AutorID	Title	Text
…			
…			
…			
…			
23	null	PHP Unc...	A great C...
…			
…			
…			
…			

```php
<?php

class myArtice extends activeRecordBase {
    protected $id;
    protected $authorId;
    protected $title;
    protected $text;
}



$article = new myArticle();
$article->title = 'PHP Unconference';
$article->text  = 'A great conference!';
$article->save();
```

Example model

Conclusion

- The golden way of web develoment?

- Matches 99% of potential applications?

Versioning

- Multi-column-index

Status

- Multi-column-index

Translations

- Multi-column-index

Variants

- One table per hierachy
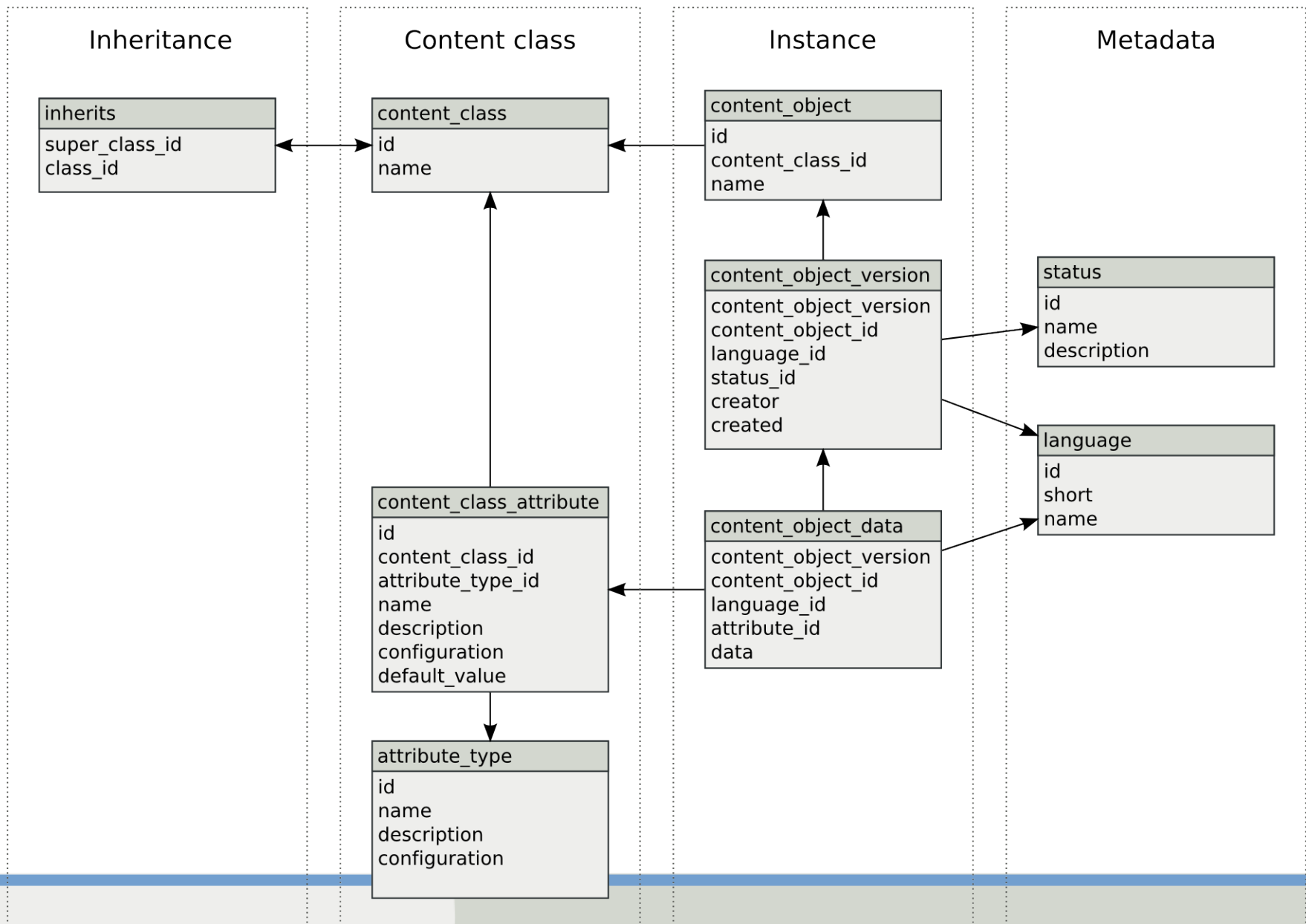
Hierachy

- Variant based custom handling

Searching

- Custom index

Better solutions?

Generic schema

Inheritance

inherits
super_class_id
class_id

Content class

content_class
id
name

content_class_attribute
id
content_class_id
attribute_type_id
name
description
configuration
default_value

attribute_type
id
name
description
configuration

Instance

content_object
id
content_class_id
name

content_object_version
content_object_version
content_object_id
language_id
status_id
creator
created

content_object_data
content_object_version
content_object_id
language_id
attribute_id
data

Metadata

status
id
name
description

language
id
short
name

Document based DBMSs

- CouchDB
  - Random schemaless JSON structures
  - Views may filter data
    - Just ECMAScript functions
- SimpleDB

Conclusions?

- Now its time to kill the speaker.

The end

- Thanks for listening

- Ressources

  - http://www.agiledata.org/essays/mappingObjects.html

  - http://kore-nordmann.de/blog/why_active_record_sucks.html