



# Integrating Social Apps with Content Driven Sites using Apache Rave and Spring HMVC

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# Agenda

- Slightly different scope of this presentation
  - Brief introduction to Apache Rave
  - Rave features, components and roadmap
  - Rave Spring HMVC extension
  - Rave JCR back-end and content services
  - Demo
  - Status and architectural choices
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner consisting of several overlapping, curved lines in red, yellow, and grey, sweeping upwards and to the right.

# Scope of this presentation

## Providing content driven sites with Apache Rave ...

- takes more time and work than anticipated
- requires more dynamics than out-of-the-box Spring MVC (as used by Rave) is capable of
- is implemented through a custom Rave extension called Spring Hierarchical MVC (HMVC)
- but for now still is only available as the Rave sandbox module
- will need thorough community evaluation before adoption

# Scope of this presentation

Thus:

- I cannot (yet) show truly content driven sites with Rave
- but I will demo a dynamic HMVC based page layout and rendering
- and highlight some architectural choices to be made for further usage and/or integration in Rave

# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

- Started March 2011 in the Apache Incubator
- Graduated as Top Level Project March 2012
- A lightweight web and social mashup engine
- A highly customizable Java platform for widgets, gadgets and personalized content
- Targets websites and mobile devices for (social) services, intranet and extranet solutions

# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

## Quick impressions

The screenshot displays the Apache Rave web application interface. At the top, a dark header bar says "Hello Ate Douma, welcome to Rave!". Below this is a navigation menu with "Home", "Team", "Project", and "Marketing".

The main content area is filled with several widgets:

- Twitter:** A widget showing a tweet from AteDouma: "Thanks Jasha, we sure will! RT @jasha: Everyone @ApacheCon have fun this week (60 minutes ago from web in reply to jasha)".
- Geolocation:** A widget titled "Geolocation" with the text "This widget demonstrates how to use geolocation with the user's current location. The widget will remember the user's current location." It includes a "post!" button and a map showing the location "ApacheCon EU, Sinsheim" on "Mon Nov 05 2012 11:24:25 G".
- Languages:** A widget titled "Ohloh Apache Rave Languages" showing a pie chart of programming languages used: Java (65%), XML (15%), JavaScript (8%), and 6 Other (12%).
- Ohloh Apache Rave Stats:** A widget showing statistics: Total Lines of Code: 50,124; Active Contributors: 19; Commit Activity Timeline: 5 year commit count.
- Youtube:** A widget showing a video titled "Testing Apache Rave with JBehave".
- Google News:** A widget displaying news articles such as "IDC report: Tablet market grows nearly 50 percent" and "Missing gamma rays were abducted by light from the first stars".

On the right side, there are additional navigation links: "Widget Store", "Admin Interface", and "Logout".

# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

## Quick impressions

[Add new widget](#) [Back to Rave](#) [Admin interface](#) [Logout](#)

**Showing 21 - 25 of 34 widgets**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

[Add to Page](#) **Ohloh Apache Rave Stats**  
Author: Ohloh

Ohloh is an open source network that connects people through the software they create and use. Ohloh gadgets provide detailed statistics about open source software projects and developers....

**Rate:**  
0 0   
[I like it](#) [I dislike it](#)

[Add to Page](#) **Open Views Demo**  
Author: Erin Noe-Payne

A demo gadget to show open views popups in action....

**Rate:**  
0 0   
[I like it](#) [I dislike it](#)

[Add to Page](#) **OpenAJAX Hub Publisher**  
Author: Apache Shindig

OpenAJAX Hub publisher gadget from Shindig...

**Rate:**  
1 0   
[I like it](#) [I dislike it](#)

[Add to Page](#) **OpenAJAX Hub Subscriber**  
Author: Apache Shindig

Search in widget store

 [Search](#)

By Category:

[My Widgets](#) [All Widgets](#)

☰
**Rave admin interface - Users**

The user profile has been removed

[Home](#)

[Users](#)

[Widgets](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Categories](#)

**Showing 1 - 5 of 14 results**

1 2 3 >

[Search](#)

Username	Email	Account enabled
ate	ate@apache.org	true
canonical	canonical@example.org	true
george.doe	george.doe@example.org	true
jane.doe	jane.doe@example.com	true
janeldap	janeldap@example.com	true

1 2 3 >

Add New User

[+ Add user](#)

# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

## Quick impressions

Rave admin interface - Widgets
Back to Rave Logout

[Home](#)

[Users](#)

[Widgets](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Categories](#)

**Showing 1 - 5 of 34 results**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

>

Search Options...

Choose Type...

published

Title	Type	Status
<a href="#">Activity Streams</a>	OpenSocial	published
<a href="#">Album Viewer</a>		
<a href="#">Current Schedule</a>		
<a href="#">Favorite Websites</a>		
<a href="#">freeder</a>		

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

>

Rave admin interface - Widget detail
Back to Rave Logout

[Home](#)

[Users](#)

[Widgets](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Categories](#)

[← Back to widgets](#)

## Album Viewer

### Edit widget data

Field marked with \* are required

Title \*

Location (URL) \*

Type \*  OpenSocial  W3C Widget

Description \*

Featured

Disable Widget

Disable Widget Message

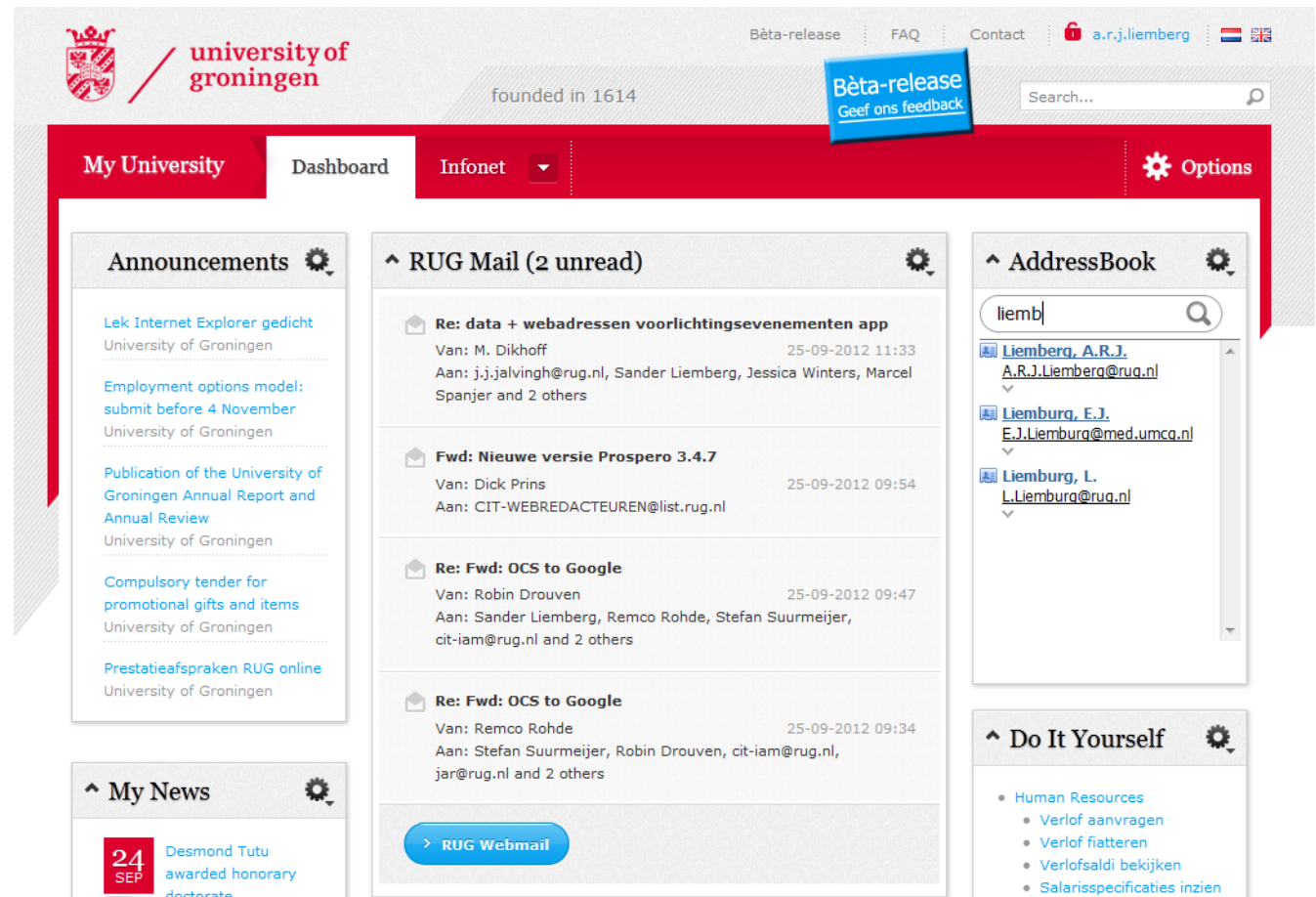
Status



# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

Example: In production at University of Groningen (NL)

My University portal, 45K users (student + staff)



The screenshot shows the 'My University' portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'My University', 'Dashboard', and 'Infonet' tabs. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Announcements:** Contains links for 'Lek Internet Explorer gedicht', 'Employment options model: submit before 4 November', 'Publication of the University of Groningen Annual Report and Annual Review', 'Compulsory tender for promotional gifts and items', and 'Prestatieafspraken RUG online'.
- RUG Mail (2 unread):** A list of email notifications:
  - Re: data + webadressen voorlichtingsevenementen app** (25-09-2012 11:33)
  - Fwd: Nieuwe versie Prospero 3.4.7** (25-09-2012 09:54)
  - Re: Fwd: OCS to Google** (25-09-2012 09:47)
  - Re: Fwd: OCS to Google** (25-09-2012 09:34)
- AddressBook:** A search bar with 'liemb' and a list of contacts: 'Liemberg, A.R.J.', 'Liemberg, E.J.', and 'Liemberg, L.'.
- My News:** A section with a date '24 SEP' and the text 'Desmond Tutu awarded honorary doctorate'.
- Do It Yourself:** A section with links for 'Human Resources', 'Verlof aanvragen', 'Verlof fatteren', 'Verlofsaldi bekijken', and 'Salarisspecificaties inzien'.

# Brief introduction to Apache Rave

Example: In production at University of Groningen (NL)

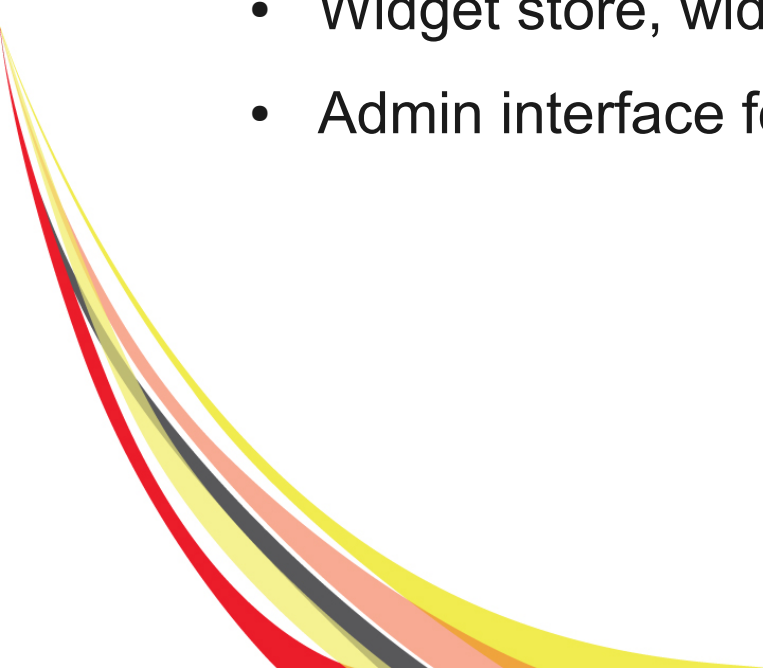
My University portal, 45K users (student + staff)

The screenshot shows the 'My University' dashboard with the following elements:

- Header:** University of Groningen logo, navigation links (Beta-release, FAQ, Contact), user profile (a.r.j.liemberg), and a search bar.
- Navigation:** 'My University', 'Dashboard', 'Infonet', and 'Options' (gear icon).
- Main Content:**
  - ACLO Reservations:** A widget for making reservations for ACLO activities. It includes an 'Add to Page' button, a 'Rate' section with thumbs up/down, and shows 42 users.
  - AddressBook:** A widget for looking up employee contact information. It includes an 'Add to Page' button, a 'Rate' section, and shows 1,022 users.
- RUG Planner:** A calendar widget showing a weekly schedule from Monday to Friday. It features a grid with time slots and various events such as 'Google Halved', 'U Groningen bijpraten', 'Surfnet Expertmeeting Opensocial', and 'Atwezig'.
- Right Sidebar:** A list of links for administrative tasks like 'verlofsan bekijken', 'Salarisspecificaties inzien', and 'Declaraties'. It also includes an 'Instellingen' button.
- My Tools:** A section with a gear icon containing links to various tools like 'Huisstijl', 'Bars', 'Nestor', 'Progress', 'Ocasys', 'X en Y schijf', 'Metis', and 'RefWorks'.

# Rave features, components and roadmap

## Features

- Skinnable, Twitter Bootstrap UI
  - Mobile and desktop view
  - User profile page, friends connections
  - Page management, personalization, page sharing
  - Widget store, widget rating, commenting
  - Admin interface for security, widgets, preferences
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, curved lines in red, yellow, and grey, sweeping upwards and to the right.

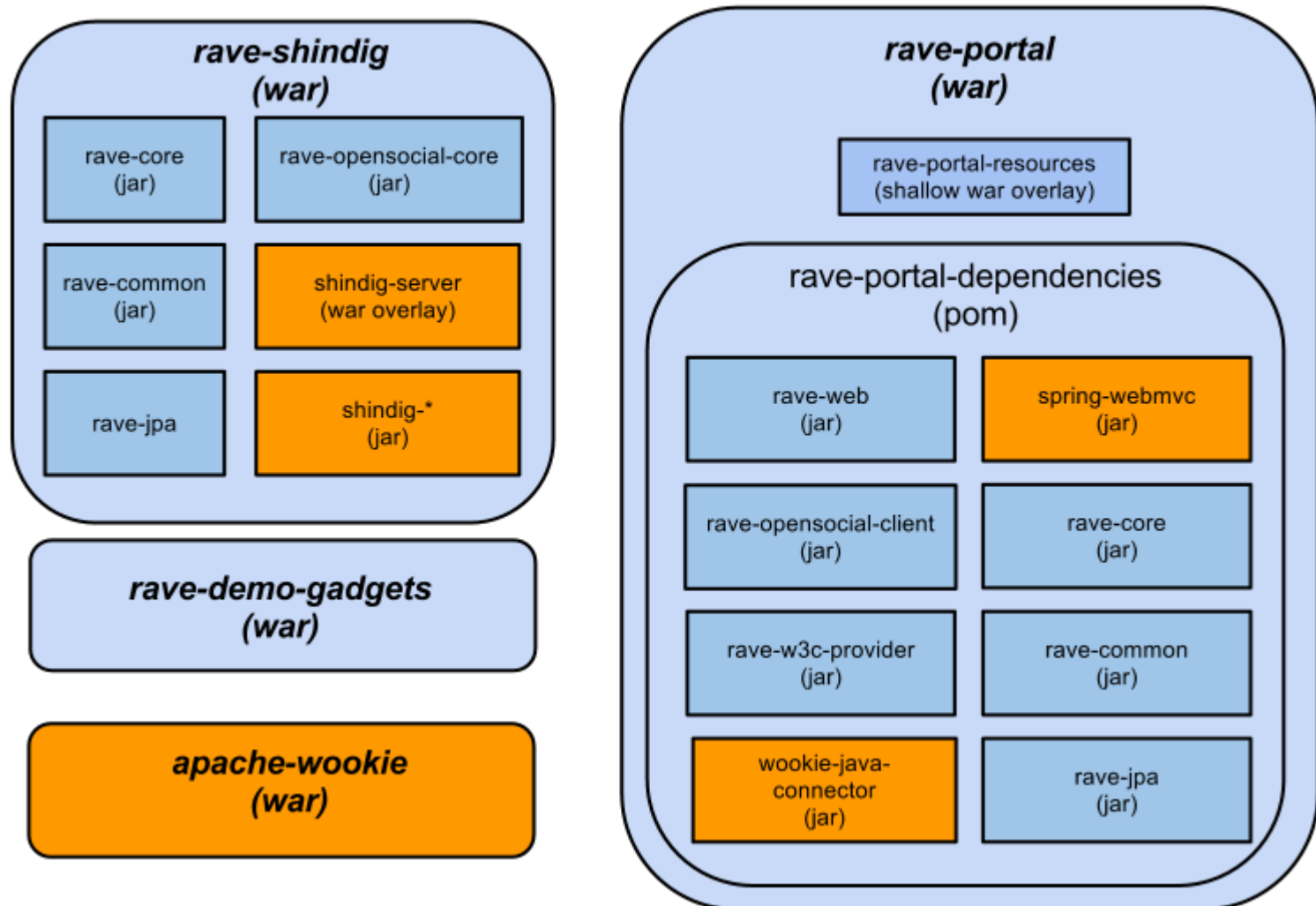
# Rave features, components and roadmap

## Features

- Spring Security, JPA, LDAP, OpenID, SAML2, OAuth
- Pluggable persistence model, Apache OpenJPA
- Generalized Rave Widget model, OpenSocial, W3C, ...
- Basic inter-widget communication, OpenAJAX Hub
- Spring MVC, Spring MVC, Apache Tiles, REST APIs
- Apache Shindig (OpenSocial), Apache Wookie (W3C Widgets)

# Rave features, components and roadmap

## Rave components and deployment model



# Rave features, components and roadmap

## Roadmap and desired features

- Multiple persistence back-ends, MongoDB\*, JCR\*\*
- Improved user page model, spaces, security
- More and extended social capabilities
- Enhanced inter-widget communication
- More enhanced front-end customizations
- Dynamic site, page layouts and templates\*\*
- Freemarker templates support\*\*
- Dynamic web content, resources, images, etc.\*\*

\* *Rave mongo branch, go see the  
“Mongo, its all the Rave” presentation later today, by Matt Franklin*

\*\* *Rave content-services sandbox, topic of this presentation ☺*

# Rave Spring HMVC extension

Current front-end render model ('plain' Spring MVC):

- @RequestMapping annotated controller methods  
*note: since Spring 3.1+ the primary supported usage*
- ties the URL mapping **at compile time** to the method
- the mapped method is responsible for the full data model needed for every render element on the page,  
**it needs to be aware of the full page requirements**
- Uses Apache Tiles templating to **map and wrap** the controller method View to a full page layout

# Rave Spring HMVC extension

## Limitations of standard Spring MVC:

- Controllers cannot be runtime mapped to other URL routes: no runtime route (re)mapping support
- Front-end linking to (other) controllers is 'hard-wired'
- Controllers needs to be 'all knowing' of the page requirements: modifying page structures and layouts may impact changes to many/all controllers
- DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) is difficult: many controllers duplicate logic (like for menu handling)
- Tiles templates difficult to manage and 'tweak' when you need changes on specific pages only



# Rave Spring HMVC extension

## Hierarchical MVC:

- HMVC is a known\* pattern you'll find applied by most portal engines and many CMS driven websites
- Frameworks like alloy and kohana (PHP) are based on it, also our Hippo CMS site framework
- It allows building and rendering a page through a set of loosely coupled controllers, instead of only one
- Child controllers only are responsible for their own fragment functionality and may be reused across pages, or even multiple times within the same page
- Pages themselves become reusable building blocks

\* <http://techportal.inviqa.com/2010/02/22/scaling-web-applications-with-hmvc/>

# Rave Spring HMVC extension

The Rave Spring HMVC extension features:

- external 'route' mapping to wire pages or services
- external hierarchical page structure mapping *named* fragments to controllers
- page fragment inheritance and merge, custom properties and render/template “viewName” configuration
- mapping definitions in XML or JCR/JSON, auto-reload on changes
- wire HandlerInterceptor(s) to specific routes and/or fragments
- a `@Routed` controller annotation to distinguish from `@Controller`
- standard `@RequestMapping` or extra `@Named` annotation to map controller methods in a route->page->fragment URL context
  - reverse route and name (path) or id based url-mapping support

# Rave Spring HMVC extension

## Example routes and page fragment definitions:

```
<route path="/" component="/userPage" referenceId="homeRoute"/>
<route path="/page/view/{pageId}" component="/userPage" referenceId="pageRoute"/>
<route path="/person/{username:.*}" component="/userProfile" referenceId="userProfileRoute"/>
<route path="/person/id/{userid:.*}" component="/userProfile"/>
```

```
<pageFragment name="userProfile" interceptors="userProfile" extends="extended">
  <property name="topnav.userProfile">true</property>
  <pageFragment name="body" viewName="pages/userprofile/page-body">
    <pageFragment name="form" viewName="pages/userprofile/page-form"
      controller="org.apache.rave.portal.web.mvc.controller.UserProfileFormController"/>
    <pageFragment name="tabs" viewName="layouts/person_profile"/>
    <pageFragment name="content" viewName="pages/userprofile/page-content"/>
  </pageFragment>
</pageFragment>
```

```
<pageFragment name="extended" viewName="pages/userpage/page" extends="standard">
  <pageFragment name="header" viewName="pages/userpage/page-header"/>
</pageFragment>
```

```
<pageFragment name="standard" viewName="pages/userpage/page">
  <pageFragment name="header" viewName="pages/header"/>
  <pageFragment name="footer" viewName="pages/footer"/>
</pageFragment>
```

# Rave JCR back-end and content services

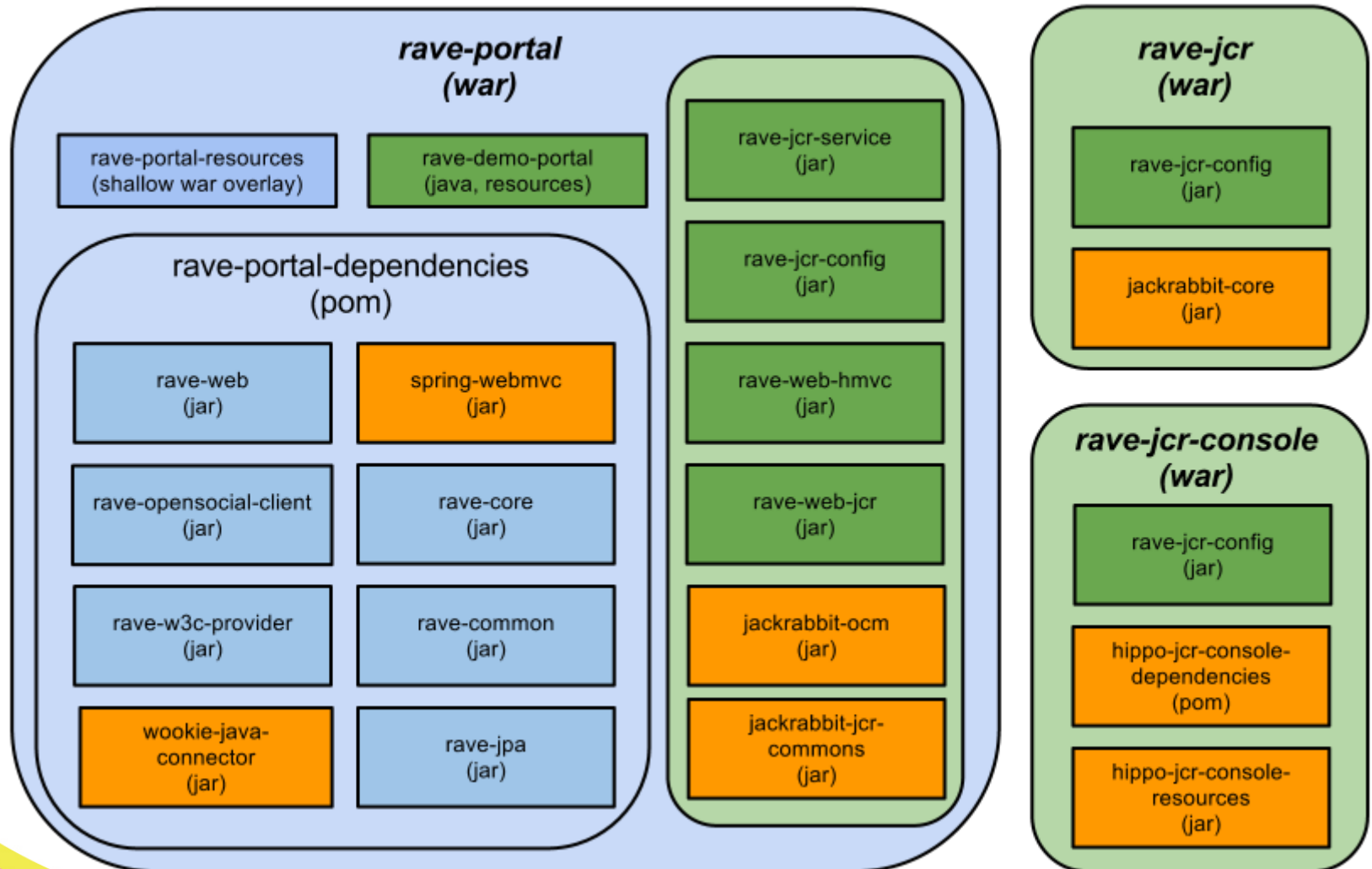
## Features:

- extends Rave to dynamically manage and retrieve content, markup, resources, images, etc.
- custom and extendable content domain models mapped to a hierarchical Java Content Repository (JCR), Apache Jackrabbit
- leverages jackrabbit-ocm POJO bean persistence manager
- provides JCR back-end for Rave Spring HMVC configurations
- content bootstrapping and import/export in JSON format
- JSP/Freemarker tags
- optional JCR Web Console for development and administration\*

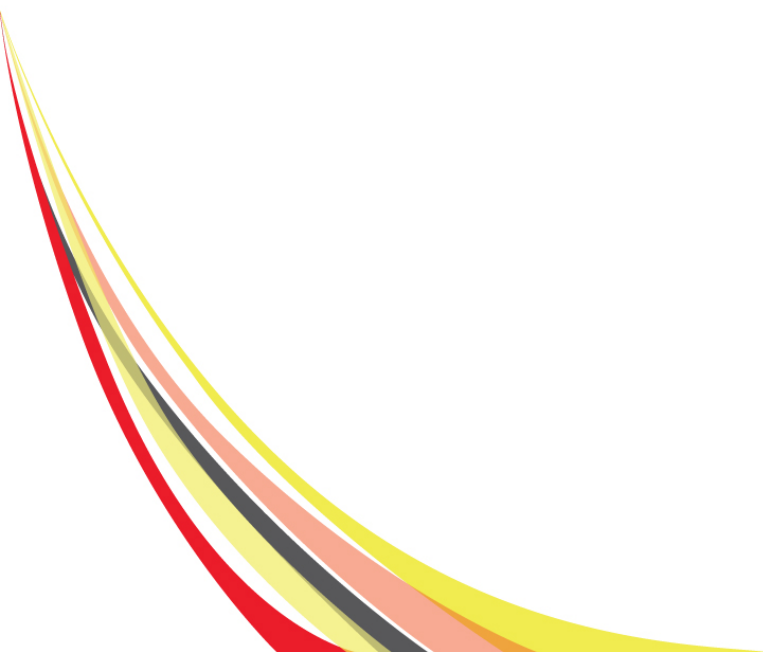
*\* using and extending the open source (Apache License) Hippo JCR Console*

# Rave JCR back-end and content services

## Rave content services components and deployment model



# *Demo*



# Status and architectural choices

## Rave Spring HMVC status:

- it already works, but more extensive use-cases most likely will bring up more challenges
- can be used concurrently with 'standard' Spring MVC, allows for gradual migration, but how practical is that?
- current implementation was discussed with and reviewed by Rossen Stoyanchev, Springsource architect for SpringMVC, and he is interested in this solution, but ...
- using and implementing a HMVC based *solution* is different from what Spring developers are accustomed to, even if on API level there is hardly any difference
- it depends on current Spring MVC behavior, alignment with newer Spring versions is not ensured
  - is or should using Spring MVC be the (only) solution?

# Status and architectural choices

## Rave JCR back-end and content services status:

- (very) basic level of functionality now is available and working
- bringing this to production quality level, and scalable, will require much more effort
- will also need more advanced features build on top (content workflow, versioning, type editing, security, etc.)
- not everyone will need (or want) this, should it remain optional?
- there are other JCR based solutions available who already have these advanced features, albeit not readily usable within the ASF
- should Rave invest in and depend on this heavily, or maybe leave it to the community to integrate on this level themselves?



# Thank you for your attention

## Apache Rave

- <http://rave.apache.org>
- <http://rave.apache.org/mailling-lists.html>
- <http://rave.apache.org/source.html>
- <http://rave.apache.org/downloads.html>