

Introduction to the Gen3 Frontend Framework

Gen3 Community Forum 1 November 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CENTER FOR TRANSLATIONAL DATA SCIENCE







The Agenda



- Introduction
- Presentation
- Q&A
- Topics for future Gen3 Community Events



Gen3 Frontend Framework

Gen3 Data Commons: Current UI Windmill/data-portal





Windmill strengths and weaknesses

GEN3

Strengths

- Highly configurable
- Can support a wide variety of different commons
- Tightly coupled with Gen3 services

Weaknesses

- Monolithic architecture and deployment
- Difficult to extend and configure
- Project/Business logic embedded in the code
- Inadequate support for data movement between pages
- Complex development environment

Gen3 Frontend Framework



Introducing the Gen3 Frontend Framework

- Replacement for Gen3 data-portal
- Address frontend limitations
- Improved development experience and user experience
- Updated technology stack
- Enhancing:
 - Custom content and applications development
 - Performance
 - Deployment and maintenance

Overview



- Provide functions to access Gen3 services
- Introduce concept of Context
- Analysis Tool Framework
- Standardize Components
- Upgraded tech. stack
- Simpler custom custom pages

Gen3 Frontend Framework



Context



- The concept of the user's context is a powerful feature of the Gen3 Frontend Framework
- Context provides pages and tools with information about:
 - Active cohort
 - Selected studies
 - Active analysis tool
 - AuthN/AuthZ
- Context is available to all pages and analysis tools



Framework Technology Stack



- NextJS for full-stack web applications
- React as the UI framework
- Redux-toolkit and SWR
- Written in Typescript (with JavaScript compatibility)
- Theming and styling with Tailwind CSS
- Mantine.dev for component library









Framework Modules



- Framework is divided into 2 npm packages and a template
 - Core module @gen3/framework
 - Frontend module @gen3/frontend
 - Gen3 data commons web application template
- Goals:
 - Reduce code complexity
 - Abstract UI interactions
 - Support customization
 - Simplify deployment

Core Module: @gen3/framework



- Provides a data interface to Gen3 services independent of components
- Manages user's context: cohort, selected studies, files, and analysis tools
- Allows future features: user's command history
- Access to Gen3 services via "hooks"
- Abstracted API calls for simplified data retrieval
- Designed to isolate frontend components/web service from Gen3 API changes

Gen3 Frontend Framework



Analysis Tool Framework (ATF)



- Supports the development of custom analysis tools
- Connect to:
 - Gen3 services
 - 3rd-party APIs
 - Other data sources
- Uses context to filter tools that can be applied to current data selection
- Frontend:
 - Support to register apps as plugins
 - Analysis tool page

Frontend Module: @gen3/frontend



• Standard Gen3 pages:

- Discovery
- Exploration
- Data Dictionary
- 0 ...
- Theming and configuration functions
- Gen3 components build using mantine components
- Uses Gen3 services/data via @gen3/framework hooks

Gen3 Frontend Framework



Commons Specific Code



- Commons Specific code is implemented as a functions that:
 - Retrieve
 - Transform
 - Render
- Gen3 Feature accept a function *hook* to override default behavior
- Default hooks are implemented to provide standard behavior
- Tables/charts can be customized by registering custom Cell and Chart components
- Planned provide templates and Developer documentation



Data-portal:

- Discovery page reads data from the Gen3 Metadata Service
- Pulls data from MDS and/or Aggregate MDS
- The complexity/variety of metadata makes configuration complex
- All metadata is loaded into the client to support search

Gen3 Frontend Framework:

- Developers pass a function (e.x. hook) to discovery page to load data/transform data
- Enables data transformation logic to be commons specific

Discovery Page Data Hook Example





Cell Renderer Example

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New Features



- Common location for storing selection: My Data Library
- Analysis tool plugins
- Static content
- Custom pages
- Custom content via markdown
- Context
- Updated site navigation and new UI design
- 508 compliant







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NextJS Application Framework



- NextJS application server for Gen3 commons
- Frontend module implements standard Gen3 Features
- Supports access-controlled pages and page sections
- Analysis tool registration with the ATF
- Enables complex site navigation and middleware support

Site Configuration



- Built into @gen3/frontend
- Current support: file-based configurations
- Future: database-stored configurations/introspection
- Separate configuration file for each page/application
- Backward compatibility with data-portal but with new capabilities
- Planned: Web-based configuration and validation in the pipeline
- Planned: hybrid data-portal/Gen3FF



Data-commons Web Application Framework



• Data common is a git repository:

- configuration
- \circ icons
- custom code and pages
- content
- Addition pages can be added as NextJS pages, slugs, or Markdown
- Registered Analysis Tools

Gen3 Frontend Framework



Custom Content and Analysis Tools



- Enable simple way to add commons-specific content
- Addition of custom pages via React JSX or TSX
- Markdown support
- More complex pages:
 - Custom components
 - Analysis tool built using React and Gen3 modules

Color Theming



Color tokens based on USWDS:

- Primary •
- Secondary
- Accent
- . . .

Command line tool to create:

- 10 shades per color token •
- accent 508 compliant contrasting • color accent-w

Color tokens are used exclusively in Gen3 front end components/pages

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Color Palettes

GEN₃

base

chart

utility

The following theme colors are are currently available in this Gen3 Data Commons.

base	max	lightest	lighter	light	base	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
primary	max	lightest	lighter	light	primary	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
secondary	max	lightest	lighter	light	secondary	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
accent	max	lightest	lighter	light	accent	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
accent-warm	max	lightest	lighter	light	warm	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
accent-cool	max	lightest	lighter	light	cool	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
chart	max	lightest	lighter	light	chart	vivid	dark	darker	darkest	min
utility	link	success	warning	error	emergency	info	categoryl	category2	category3	category4

Development Environment



- Local development using Gen3 Helm charts for Gen3 Services
- Commons site runs as a NextJS development server
- Support development features:
 - hot reloading,
 - debugging w/breakpoints
- Plan to support debug commons
- Provide sample helm configurations and tools to run local development environment

Status and Roadmap



Current:

- Discovery Page
- Query Page
- Login
- Profile
- Basic theming
- Configuration



Conclusion



- Gen3 frontend framework overcomes current portal limitations
- Enriched user experience
- Easier development and deployment
- Many options for customization
- Facilitates complex data analysis workflows

Acknowledgements



• Speakers

- Robert Grossman Center for Translational Data Science, University of Chicago
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- Claire Rye New Zealand eScience Infrastructure
- Plamen Martinov Open Commons Consortium
- Michael Fitzsimons Center for Translational Data Science, University of Chicago



Questions