
Twyne

Release 0.29.0-4-gb81318a

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Sep 11, 2021

CONTENTS:

1	Installing and upgrading	3
1.1	Prerequisites	3
1.2	Downloading	3
1.3	Upgrading	4
2	Configuration	5
2.1	Uploaded files	5
3	Posts	7
3.1	ID	7
3.2	Date	7
3.3	Author	7
3.4	Title	8
3.5	Body	8
3.6	Location	8
3.7	User group	8
3.8	File	8
3.9	Original URL	8
3.10	Replies	8
4	Tags	9
4.1	Wikidata	9
5	Syndications	11
5.1	Copy to Wikimedia Commons	11

Welcome to the **user manual for Twyne**, an open-source web-based content management system that is based around the traditional blog format of chronological posts that can contain writing, photographs, and lots of metadata. Twyne aims to operate within the [indieweb](#), a philosophy of website architecture that prioritises openness, interoperability, and a sense of personal control for people running their own websites.

This user manual is aimed at people running Twyne for their own websites. It covers installation, configuration, and general usage. Any questions about anything in here should be asked on the [issue tracker](#) on Github (to do this, you will need a Github user account, which is free). For any question that you ask, we will endeavour to fix up the manual to make it clearer about that topic.

INSTALLING AND UPGRADING

1.1 Prerequisites

To install Twyne, you need the following:

1. a web server with PHP 7.3 or above;
2. MariaDB (10.3 or above) or MySQL (5.7 or above)
3. command-line access to that server;
4. the [Git](#) version control system; and
5. the PHP package manager, [Composer](#).

1.2 Downloading

First, clone the latest version of the source code into a non web-accessible location on your server:

```
git clone https://github.com/samwilson/twyne.git /var/www/twyne
```

Create a new database and grant access to it to a new user. Add the details of this database and the user's credentials to the `.env.local` file in the `DATABASE_URL` key:

```
DATABASE_URL=mysql://user_name:password@127.0.0.1:3306/db_name
```

Then install the application with the included script, which checks out the latest version and installs all dependencies with Composer:

```
/var/www/twyne/bin/deploy.sh prod /var/www/twyne
```

Next, set up your web server to serve the `public/` directory as the root of the new web site. For Apache, this could be something like the following:

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName example.org
  RewriteRule ^/(.*)$ https://example.org/$1 [L,R=permanent,QSA]
</VirtualHost>
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName www.example.org
  RewriteRule ^/(.*)$ https://example.org/$1 [L,R=permanent,QSA]
</VirtualHost>
```

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```
<VirtualHost *:443>
  ServerName example.org
  DocumentRoot /var/www/twyne/public/
  SetEnvIf Authorization "(.*)" HTTP_AUTHORIZATION=$1
  <Directory "/var/www/twyne/public/">
    RewriteRule ^index\.php$ - [L]
    RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
    RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
    RewriteRule . /index.php [L]
  </Directory>
</VirtualHost>
```

Where `example.org` is replaced by your own domain name.

Your new Twyne site should now be live. Navigate to the home page, and continue the set-up process as detailed in the *Configuration* section of this manual.

1.3 Upgrading

Upgrading is as simple as re-running the `deploy.sh` script. This will checkout the latest version of the code, install dependencies, and update the database as required. This script can be run automatically on a daily or weekly basis (as a Cronjob or Scheduled Task, for instance).

Prior to Twyne 0.30.0, location data was not read from any uploaded files that had GPS data in them (i.e. usually photographs). To retrospectively add this data, run

```
./bin/console twyne:extract-gps
```


CONFIGURATION

All the important parts of configuration of a Twyne site happen in the `.env.local` file. The minimum that should be set are as follows:

```
APP_SECRET=a-long-random-string
APP_MAIL_SENDER=admin@example.org
APP_LOG_RECIPIENT=admin@example.org
MAILER_DSN=smtp://username:password@smtp.gmail.com
```

Other configuration (that is likely to be changed occasionally during the normal operation of the site) happens on the Settings page, accessible via the main menu.

2.1 Uploaded files

There are two options for file storage: the local filesystem, and S3-compatible object stores (such as those from AWS, Digital Ocean, OVH, Dreamhost, etc.).

The local filesystem is the default, and files will be stored in the `var/app_data/` directory. This location can be changed via `.env.local`:

```
APP_FS_DATA_DIR=/path/to/your/data_dir/
```

To use S3-compatible storage, set the following environment variables:

```
APP_FS_DATA_STORE=aws
APP_FS_AWS_REGION=
APP_FS_AWS_ENDPOINT=
APP_FS_AWS_BUCKET=
APP_FS_AWS_KEY=
APP_FS_AWS_SECRET=
```

Uploaded files will have various derivative files created for them, such as thumbnails of images. These files will be stored in the `var/app_temp/` directory by default. This directory can be changed in `.env.local`:

```
APP_FS_TEMP_DIR=/path/to/your/tmp_dir/
```

The temporary directory contains only files that will be regenerated as required (hence the name ‘temporary’; these are however long-lived files). There is no need to back up this directory.

POSTS

Posts are the core data structure of Twyne, forming a chronological series of writing and uploaded files. At their most basic, they have an author, a date and time, and a title or body. These and Posts' other attributes are explained in full below.

In addition to these attributes, Posts can also have *Tags* and *Syndications*.

3.1 ID

Each Post has an integer identifier, which forms part of its URL. For example, Post 123 has a URL of `https://example.org/P123`.

The P does not form part of the ID, but is added in many contexts to help distinguish Post IDs from other IDs such as those of Tags. Anywhere that a Post ID can be entered (for example, in the reply-to field), both the prefixed and un-prefixed forms are acceptable, and will be normalized to the prefixed form.

3.2 Date

Dates and times are stored in the UTC timezone, but can be entered in whatever timezone you prefer. They will be displayed in the user's timezone (when the site is viewed in a web browser; for other contexts such as RSS feeds, UTC is used).

3.3 Author

A Post must have an author (even if that author is the ever-prolific "anon."). A site's default author can be set with the `APP_MAIN_CONTACT` environment variable, which is a reference to the ID of whichever Contact should be the default (usually this is the first user, which is created at install-time).

3.4 Title

Titles are short unformatted strings. A Post does not have to have a title, in which case it will be displayed slightly differently in post lists and on its own page. Titles do not have to be unique.

3.5 Body

The body of a Post is the main, possibly multi-paragraph, text that is formatted according to Twyne's Markdown syntax.

3.6 Location

GPS coordinates can be saved for any Post. A link to the Wikimedia Geohack tool will be provided, as a map-pin emoji, for example: .

3.7 User group

A Post is only viewable a single User Group. By default this is the "Public" group.

Note that Users can be in multiple groups.

3.8 File

A Post can have an attached file, which can be an image (JPEG, PNG, or GIF format), or PDF.

When uploading a file such as a JPEG that has embedded GPS coordinates, the Post's Location field will also be set (if it doesn't already have a location).

3.9 Original URL

If a Post is being syndicated from another site, it will have a link back to its canonical location on that site.

3.10 Replies

A Post can be in [reply](#) to another post. Often, that other post will be a syndication from another site. Replies in Twyne are similar to what are called 'comments' in other blogging systems (such as WordPress).

On any Post page there is a 'reply' link, which goes to a new-post form with the "In reply to" field already filled in.

Tags are the primary way of grouping Posts together by topic; each Post can have any number of Tags. Each Tag has its own page (with a URL of the form /Txx, where xx is the Tag's ID) and on that page it has a title (which must be unique), and optional description (which uses the same syntax as Post bodies).

A Tag's page has a list of Posts, which is paginated if there are more than ten posts. The first page has a URL of the form /Txx and subsequent pages /Txx/page-n (where n is 2 or greater). The layout of each post is the same as for the chronological listings of posts.

4.1 Wikidata

Tags can also be linked to [Wikidata](#) items. This is the way to show that a Tag's topic is *the same as* the concept represented by the Wikidata item. For example, a Tag with a title of "Douglas Adams" would have the Wikidata item ID of "Q42". Only one Tag can be linked to each Wikidata item. Adding a Wikidata link to a Tag adds a metadata table to the Tag's page, showing all the relevant metadata from the Wikidata item. If a row in the metadata table refers to another Tag that is also linked to Wikidata, then the value displayed will be a link to that Tag.

Wikidata items can be [merged](#) (when multiple are accidentally created for the same concept), but this doesn't affect the linkage from Twyne. The only change will be that the new ID for the item will be displayed in the metadata table; no data in the database is changed, because the old ID will remain on Wikidata as a permanent alias for the new one.

The metadata from Wikidata is fetched up every time someone views a Tag's page, and is cached for two weeks. The cache can be cleared (forcing it to fetch the latest data) by running the following CLI command:

```
./bin/console cache:pool:clear cache.app
```


SYNDICATIONS

Syndications are Twyne’s implementation of the [POSSE](#) idea from the indieweb: to *Post on one’s Own Site, and Syndicate Elsewhere*. This means that a Post is first created on the Twyne site, and once it’s saved it’s then posted to other sites and linked back to the canonical version on the Twyne site. The Syndication data is saved against the Post, as a URL and label pair. The label can be anything, and is often the name of the site on which the Syndication has been saved.

For example, a short one-sentence post with no title might be made in Twyne and then tweeted in Twitter. The tweet would have the content of the post and its URL. After the tweet has been made, and has been given its own URL, that URL (and the label ‘Twitter’) will be added as a Syndication on the original post in Twyne.

Because syndicating to other sites is so common, Twyne tries to make this as easy as possible. For instance, when first saving a Post it may be simplest to click ‘Save and keep editing’, in order to remain in the editing form while you switch over to the other site in a separate tab, and then come back to save the new Syndication URL and label. Or, for Wikimedia Commons, there is a special exporting system that makes it much more streamlined to upload a file to that repository (along with all its metadata, and a link back to the Twyne site). This is explained below.

Other quick methods of adding Syndications are planned. If you have any ideas, please open an issue on Github.

5.1 Copy to Wikimedia Commons

For syndicating files to [Wikimedia Commons](#), you first need to become familiar with what Commons is, and what sorts of files are wanted on the project. It’s best to make your [first contributions](#) via the Upload Wizard, rather than directly from Twyne, so you get an idea of how things generally work. Then, if you do want to set up the quick-upload-from-Twyne, you need to [create a Bot Password](#). Enter your site’s name in the “Bot name” field (in the “Create a new bot password” section) and grant it the following permissions:

- Edit existing pages
- Create, edit, and move pages
- Upload new files
- Upload, replace, and move files

After saving the new Bot Password, it will give you a username and password. These need to be added to your `.env.local` file:

```
APP_COMMONS_USERNAME=Your_Username@Bot_Name  
APP_COMMONS_PASSWORD=TheBotPassword123ABC
```

Now, when editing a Post, a link to ‘Copy to Wikimedia Commons’ will appear below the syndications table. Clicking this will take you to a form that shows a preview of the file, and fields for all the required metadata. The full wikitext of the page can be modified at this point, along with the Structured Data [caption](#) and the [depicts](#) statements. For more information about how to use each of these elements, please read the Commons documentation.