

twitter

**...in Drupal**

**What** that means

**How** we did it

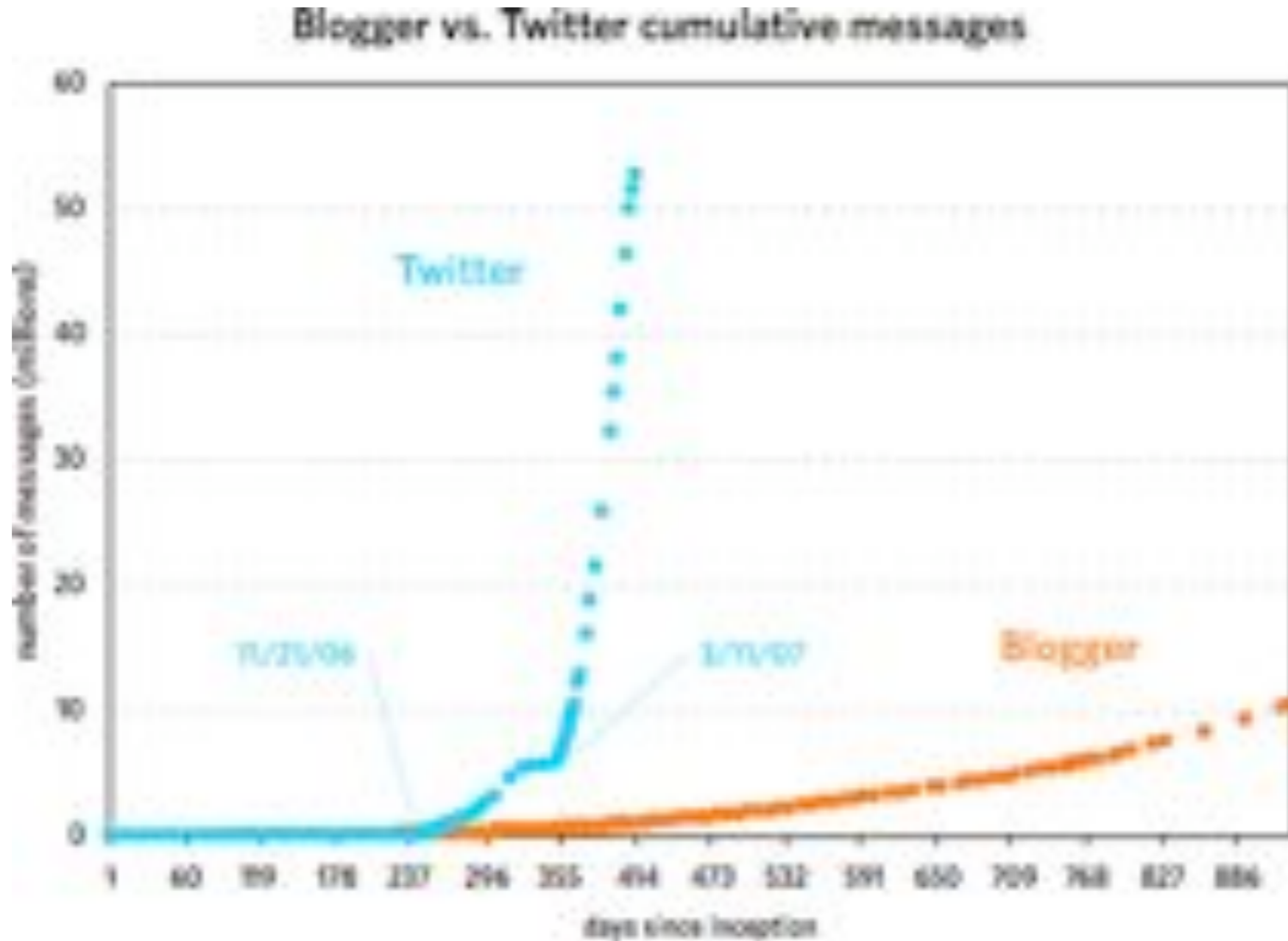
**Why** you shouldn't

# So... what is Twitter?

- **Streamlined** info flow
- 140 character messages
- Just your **friends**
- ...And **eighty jillion** users



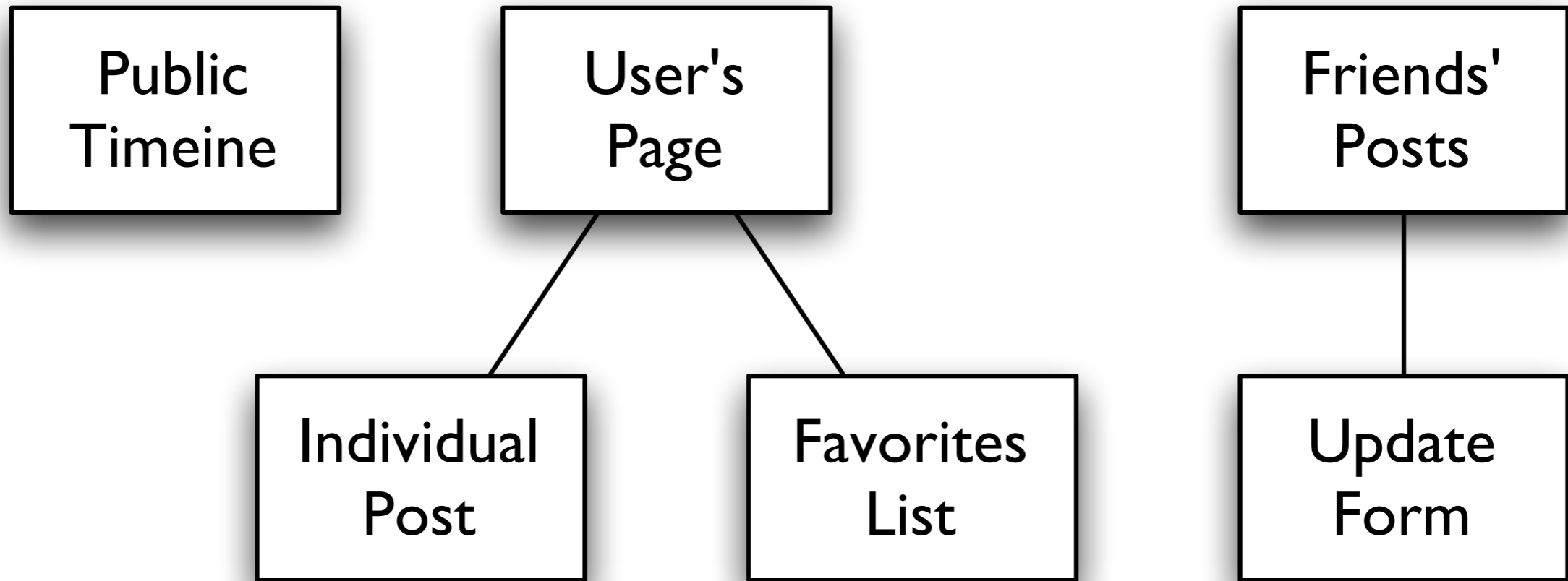
# Twitter is growing.



# Twitter is simple.

The image shows a screenshot of the Twitter homepage. At the top left is the Twitter logo. To the right is a navigation bar with links for Home, Profile, Find People, Settings, Help, and Sign out. The main content area is titled "What are you doing?" and features a text input field containing "Check this out... I'm posting on Twitter!". Below the input field is a "Latest" tweet from "twitterjic" stating "It's not really obvious until you start looking at it, but Twitter's HTML is pretty janky." followed by an "update" button. Below this are three tweets: one from "wilshiple" about Gabe's wife, one from "NameCheap" asking about candlelight processions in Mexico, and another from "NameCheap" announcing winners for a contest. At the bottom is a tweet from "LizaK" about the start of a contest. On the right side, there is a user profile for "eaton" with 107 following, 515 followers, and 1,580 updates. Below the profile are navigation tabs for Home, @Replies, Direct Messages (62), Favorites, Everyone, and Following (with an "add" link and a grid of user avatars).

# No, really. Simple.



# What can users do?

- **Post** an update
- **Follow** a user
- **Bookmark** a post
- ...
- **Profit!**



# Why rebuild Twitter?

- “Sandboxed” communication
  - Integration into a larger site
  - The simplicity challenge
- 
- Because it was there



# What hath Drupal wrought?

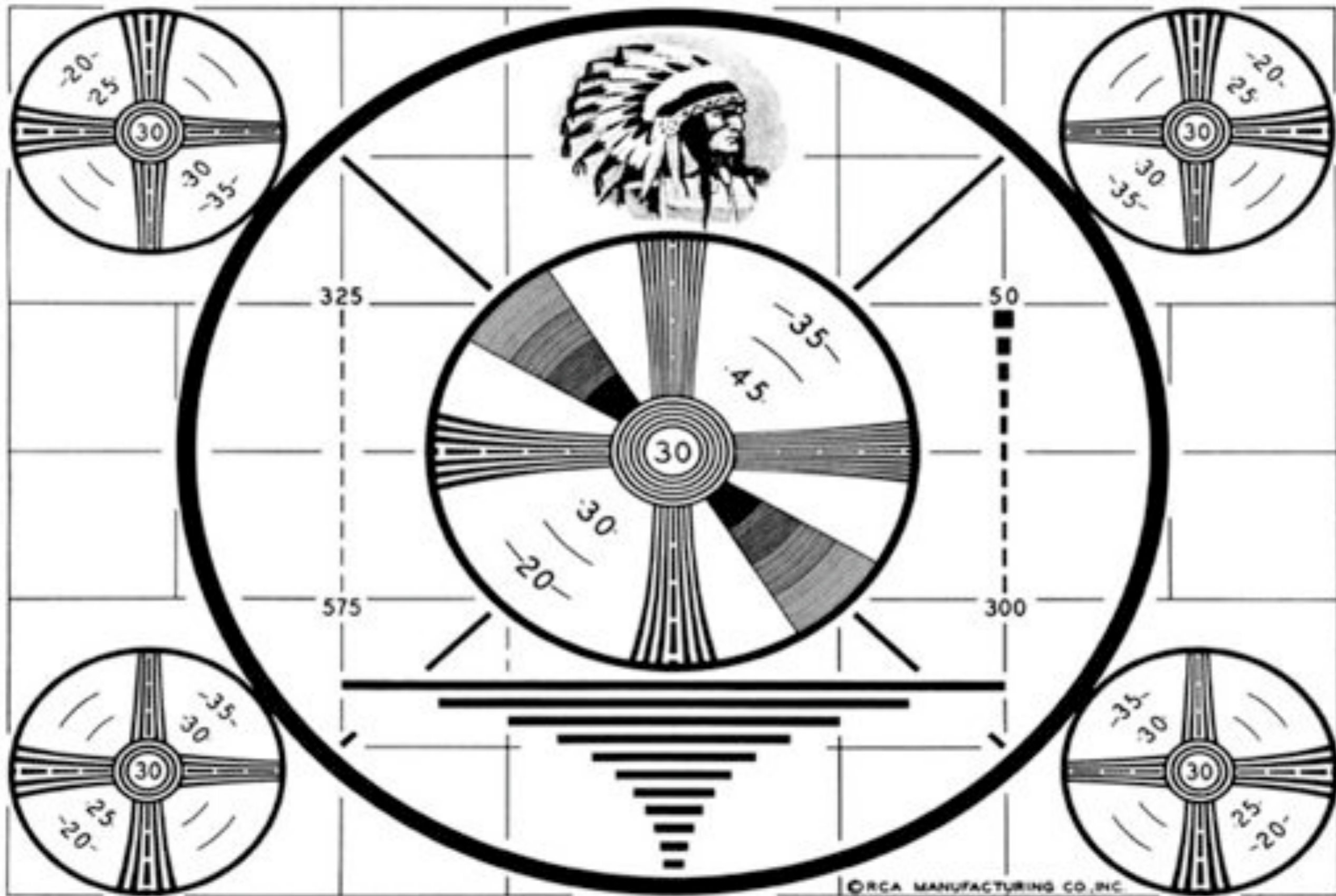
- The **actions** (*post, follow, favorite*)
- The **views** (*timeline, friends, favorites*)
- The **Simple**<sup>TM</sup>
- ...In **24** man-hours.



# What hathn't Drupal wrought?

- Some layout details
- The **SMS** (*SMS module*)
- The **API** (*Services module*)
- The **Community** (*magic*)



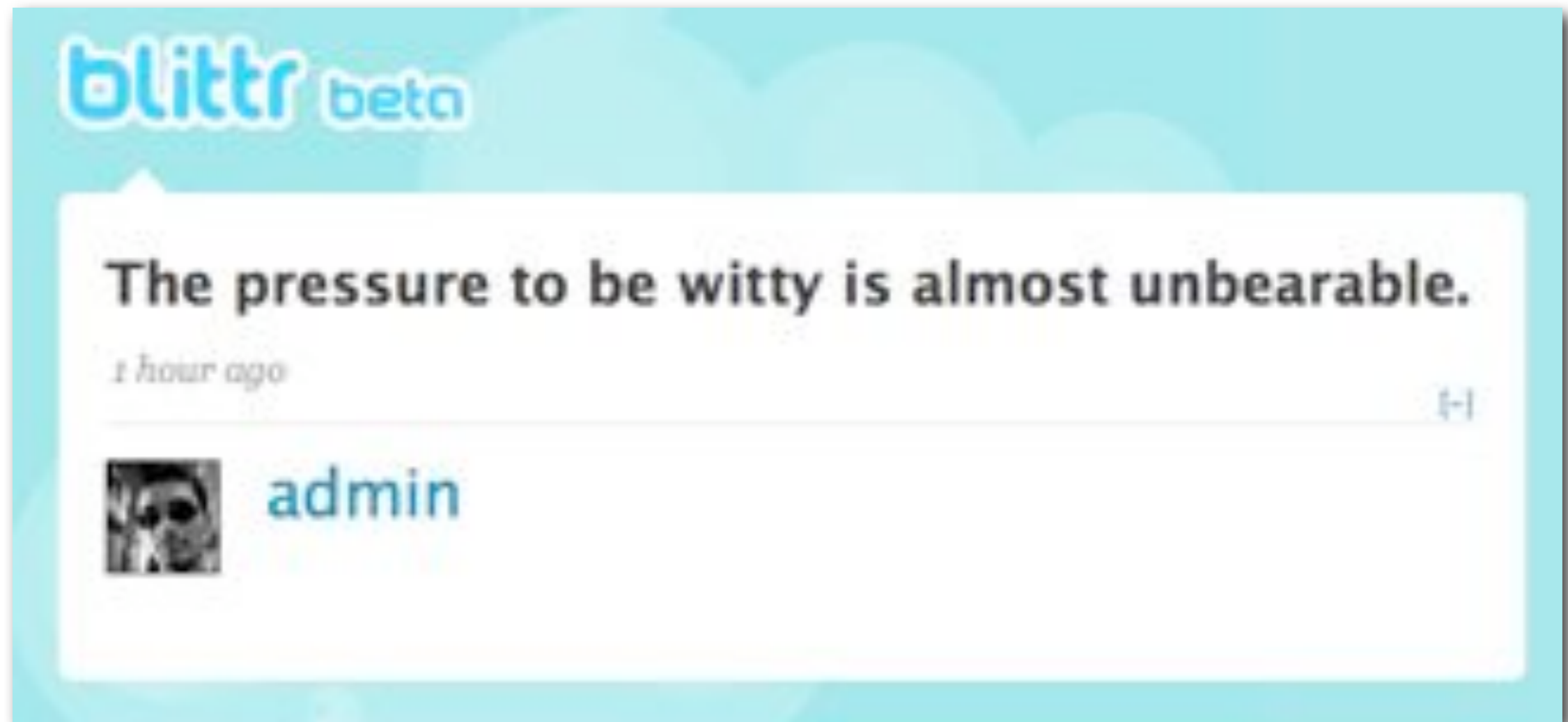


# What did we just see?

- **One** content type
- **Two** flags
- **Four** helper modules
- **Five** views
- **200** lines of custom PHP
- **One** custom theme



# The content type



- No title, no options: just a body field.
- Custom page.tpl.php in the theme

# The sidebar

- Two blocks
- Defined by module
- 50-60 lines of PHP
- Faster, but brittle

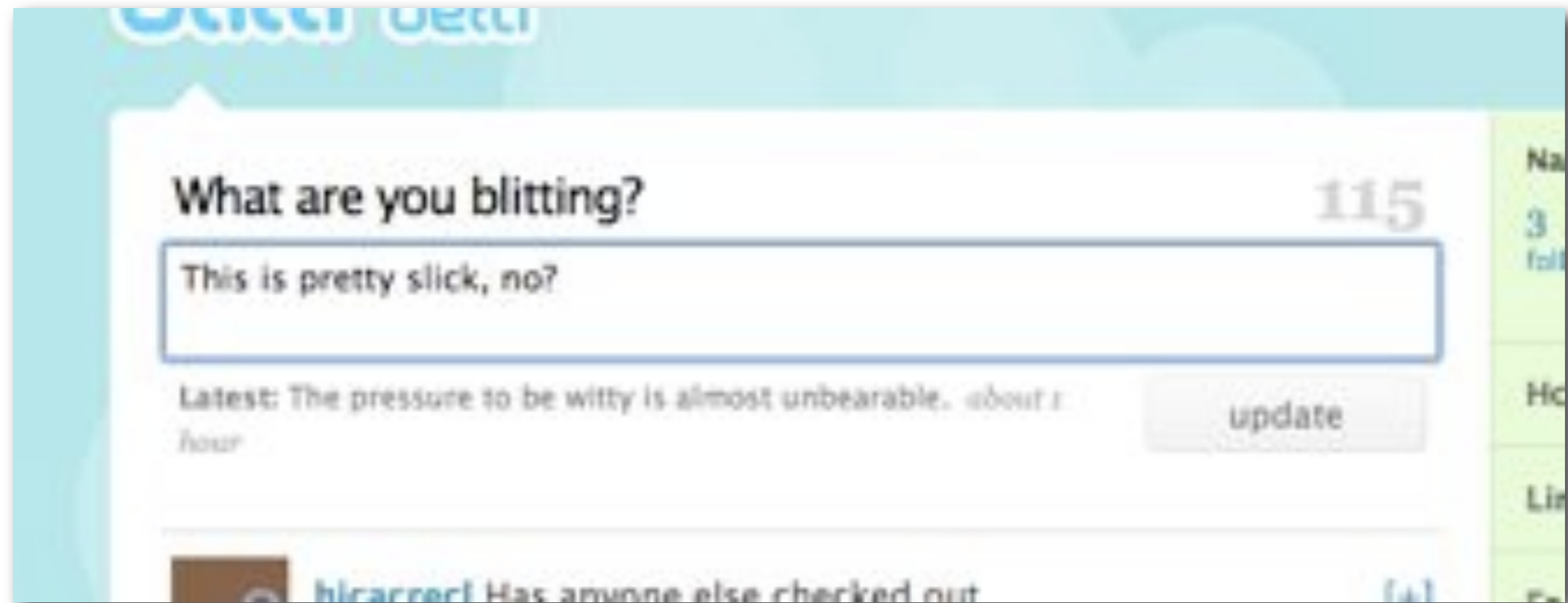


# Friends and favorites



- “Following” flag
- “Favorite” flag
- Works cleanly with Views

# The update form



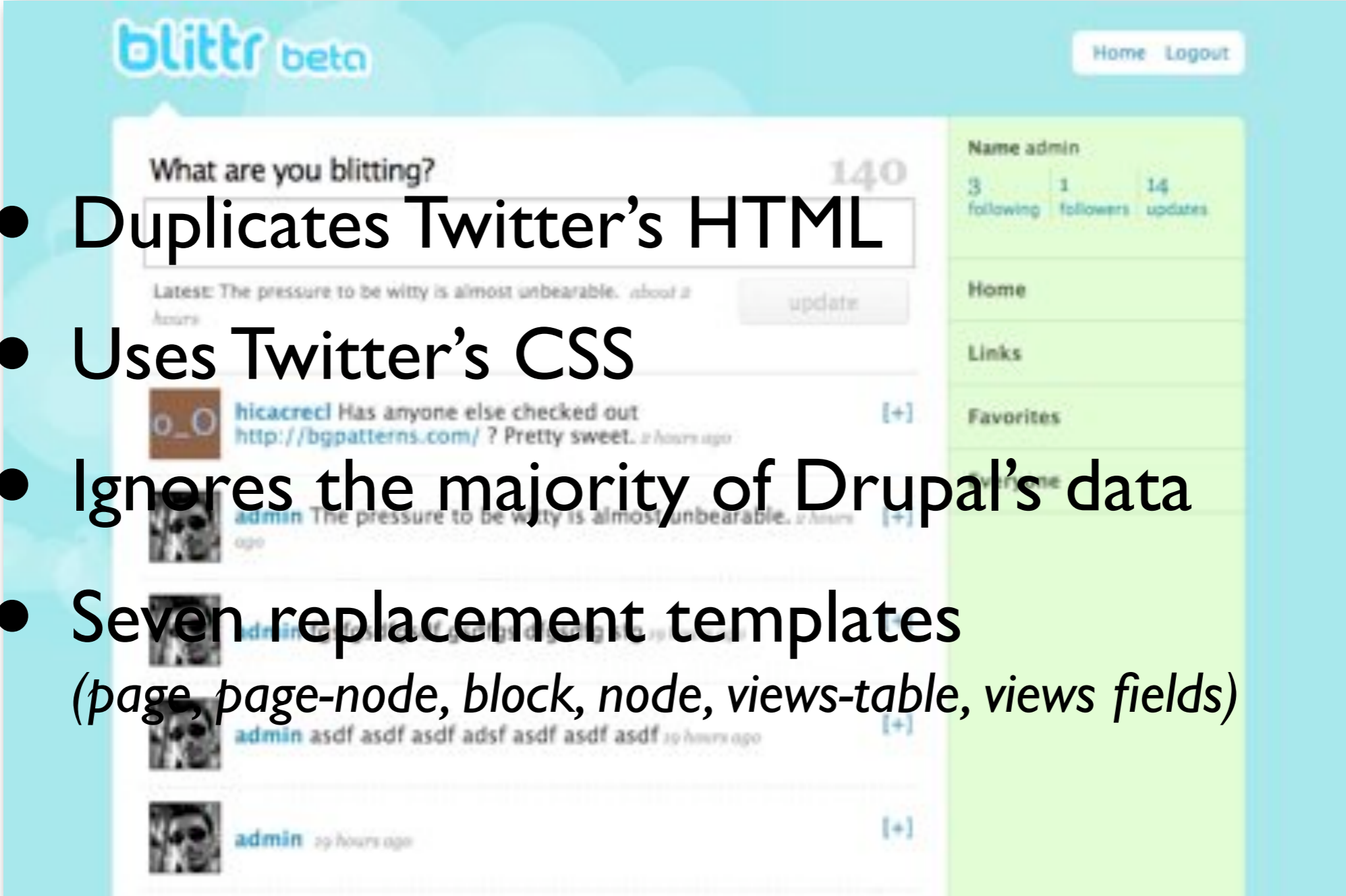
- Custom form in our module
- Simple validation
- Twitter's Javascript

# The listing pages



- Views module
- `blittr.com/[list-style]/[username]`
- Filtered by Flags

# The look and feel!



The screenshot shows the 'blittr beta' web interface. At the top left is the logo 'blittr beta'. At the top right are links for 'Home' and 'Logout'. The main content area features a text input field with the placeholder 'What are you blitting?' and a character count of '140'. Below the input is a text area containing the text 'Latest: The pressure to be witty is almost unbearable. about 2 hours ago' and an 'update' button. The feed below shows several posts from users, including one from 'hicacrecl' with a link to 'http://bgpatterns.com/? Pretty sweet. 2 hours ago' and another from 'admin' with the text 'The pressure to be witty is almost unbearable. 2 hours ago'. On the right side, there is a user profile for 'admin' showing '3 following', '1 followers', and '14 updates'. Below the profile are links for 'Home', 'Links', and 'Favorites'.

- Duplicates Twitter's HTML
- Uses Twitter's CSS
- Ignores the majority of Drupal's data
- Seven replacement templates  
(*page, page-node, block, node, views-table, views fields*)

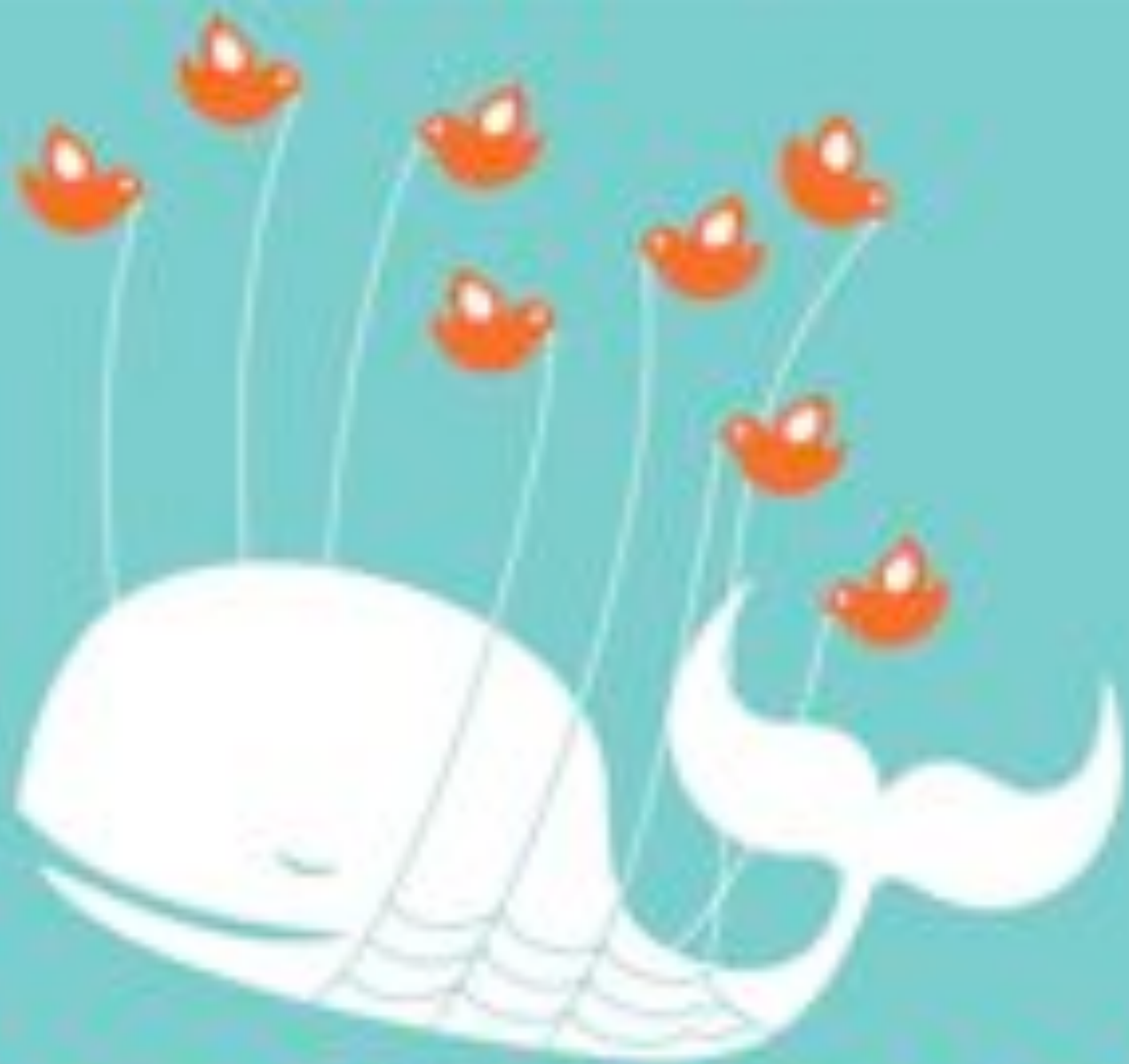
# The other bits

- SMS Framework module
- Services module
- Mobile theme
- Personal CSS skins
- Privacy



**Yay!**

**This was a  
Terrible Idea**



Drupal is **not**  
(just) a framework

Drupal's mastery curve  
can be **steep**

Drupal is **not**  
an island

**Drupal is**  
**a powerful tool**

Re-use the  
**techniques**

Don't rebuild Twitter...  
in **any** system!