



**Proposed solution for PLIP 'Use real names instead of usernames'
(Ticket #9305)**

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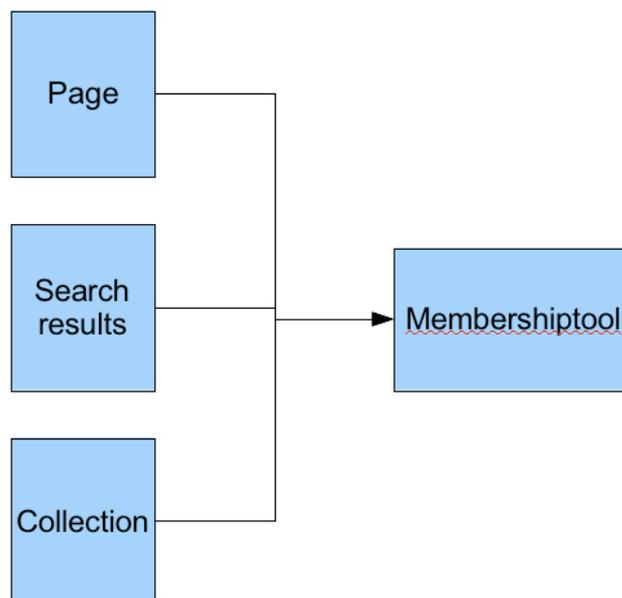
1. How it works now

Now there are different ways how types get the full-name of a member to render inside a template.

For example, a ATDocument uses `document_byline.pt` (from `plone.app.layout`), which calls a method in `content.py` which calls the `membershipTool`. The `membershipTool` has a datastructure which contains member information, such as `fullname`. The `membership` call wakes up the object(s).

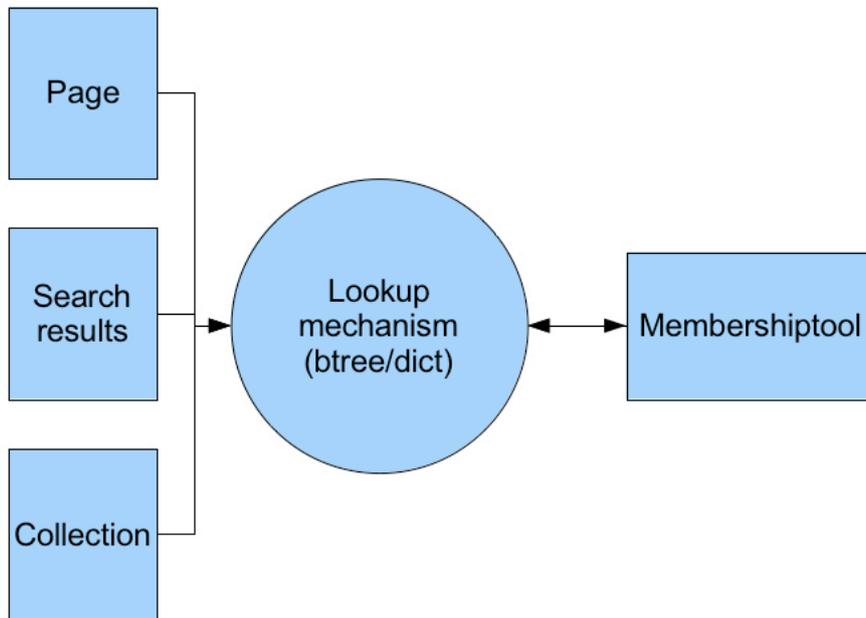
A collection, which uses `folder_listing.pt` (In `CMFPlone/skins/plone_contents`) uses a call directly from the template to get the `membershiptool` and get the `fullname` information (by using `getMemberInfo()`). We believe this can be expensive (time-wise) if you have a listing of a large quantity of items. Everytime the `membershipTool` is called. There is a caching mechanism in `membershipTool` but still it sounds time consuming.

If you look at the searching in plone, `search.pt` for example (In `CMFPlone/skins/plone_forms`), this displays the search results and uses the `Creator` (username) to display the author of a item. `Creator` comes from the `portal_catalog` and is 'fast'. There must be a reason why there is no `membershipTool` call here to get the `fullname`. We believe it will slow down Plone so much it was never implemented.



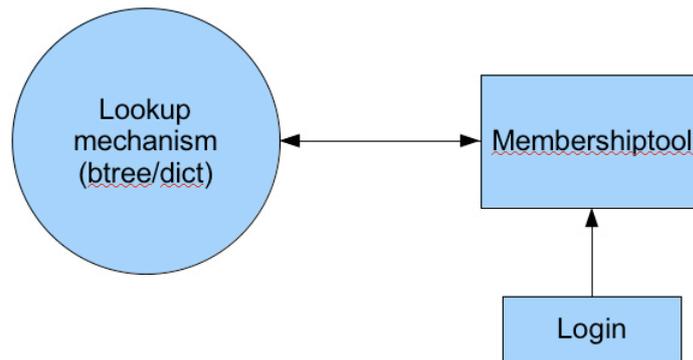
2. Idea: Lookup mechanism

We have an idea for a solution to display the full-name in the listings/search/collections in the form of a 'lookup'. Make a lookup mechanism for storing 'loginname – full name' combinations. This mechanism can be in the form of a BTreefolder or dictionary (persistant), and uses loginname as key and the full-name as value. If the loginname is not available, membershipool will be used to fill the lookup storage. All the templates (or browser views) can get the values not from the membershipool but directly from this lookup mechanism:



2.1 Username / full-name syncing

The problem with this lookup mechanism is that it must be in 'sync' with the real username/full-name combinations. To ensure this will be synced, we have to create extra functionality in the membershipTool, which will store the fullname in the lookup storage if needed (prevent writing to ZODB). This happens when the membershipTool is called. If you use an external Authentication plugin, such as LDAP, the membershipTool also gets called and the names are synced.



3. Impact/changes

This idea has some impact on the Plone code. A lot of templates have to be changed, so that they use the lookup mechanism instead of the membershipTool for the full-name lookup.

Most of the templates use the method: `getMemberInfo()` to get the full-name. A new method has to be implemented in the membershipTool which gets the full-name from the lookup mechanism.

This method has to be called in the templates / browser view classes. In Plone 3.3 this are approximately 40 files.