

# Workflow in Core...as a Field



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**Drupal**

# Background: workflow.module

Allows you to add arbitrary states to nodes or comments.

BUT:

- .Can't have >1 workflow per entity
- .Workflow limited to only nodes and comments
- .Tries to do too much (scheduling, for example)
- .Workflows not exportable/importable
- .No transition labelling
- .User interface causes baldness
- .I could go on and on...



# Problem

- Meanwhile, Core continues to use a hard-coded workflow.
- Wouldn't it be awesome if we had simple, reliable, understandable workflow support in core?
- If core used a default workflow that you could easily expand without paradigm-shifting?



# Solution: Workflow State field in core

Page [Edit](#) [Manage fields](#) [Manage display](#)

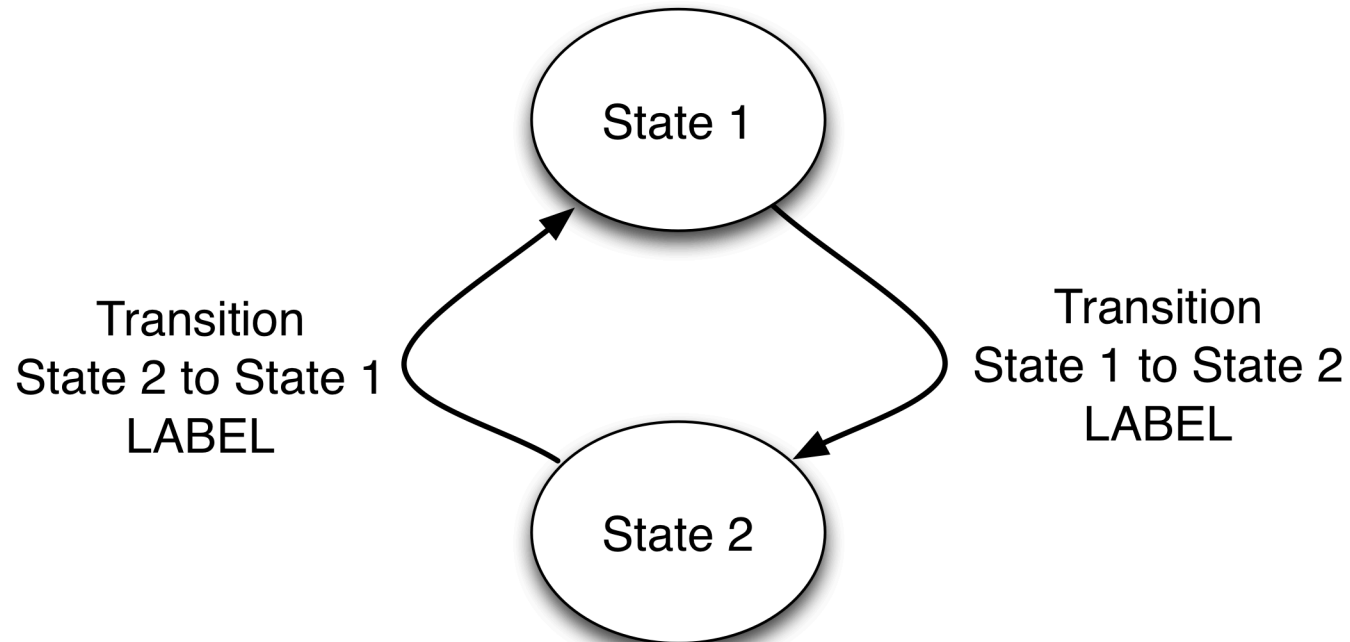
| Label  | Name   | Field   | Widget   | Operations                                  |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| <a href="#">+</a> Title  | title  | Node module element.  |  |   |
| <a href="#">+</a> Body   | body   | <a href="#">Long text and summary</a>   | <a href="#">Text area with a summary</a>   | <a href="#">edit</a> <a href="#">delete</a> |
| <a href="#">+</a> <input type="text" value="Workflow"/><br>Label | field_ <input type="text" value="workflow_state"/><br>Field name (a-z, 0-9, _) | <input type="text" value="Workflow state"/> <a href="#">↕</a><br>Type of data to store. | <input type="text" value="Check boxes/radio buttons"/> <a href="#">↕</a><br>Form element to edit the data. |   |

[Save](#)

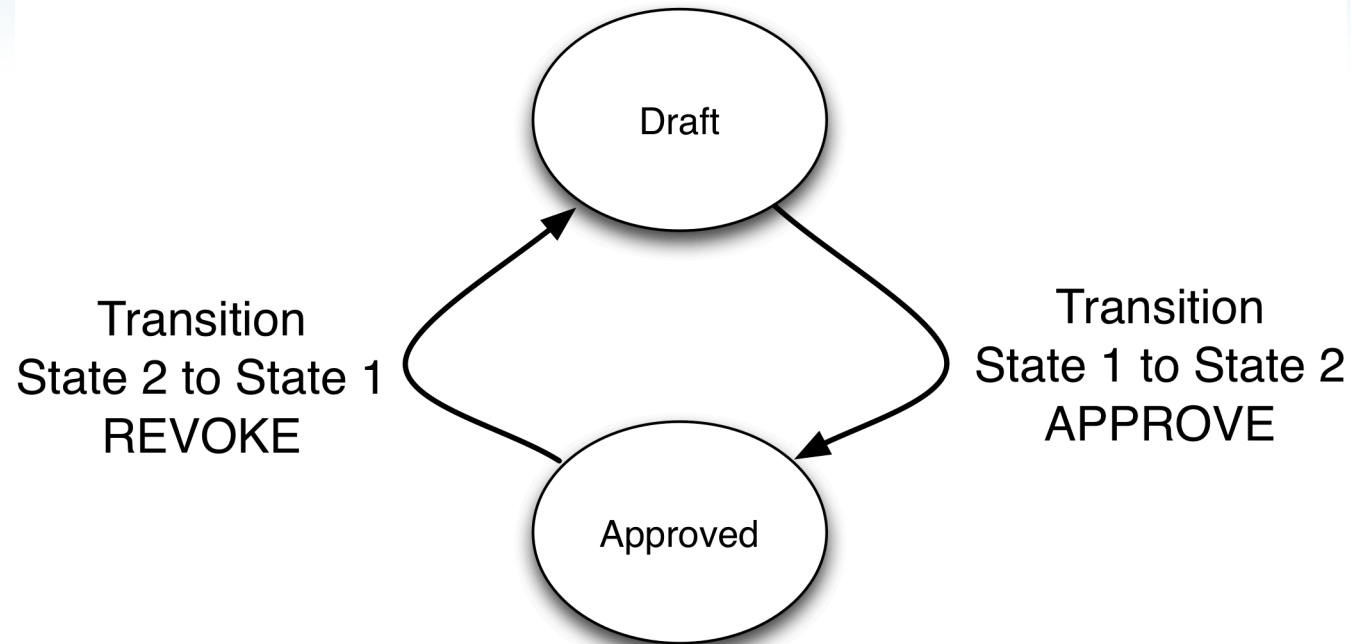
- Field provides simple state machine
- Attaches to any entity
- Prebuilt workflows for easy usage



# Generic state machine



# A less abstract example



Transition labels become buttons on entity editing UI



# Challenges

- User interface
- Same-state transitions
- People will want access control
- User interface for that gets, uh, ugly
- State changes are events (unify support for Actions/Triggers and Rules)
- Keep scope simple



# Plan of action

- Develop workflow 7.x-1.x as a Field
- Solicit help with user interface
- Leverage import/export capabilities (ctools exportables? Features? UUID support?)

