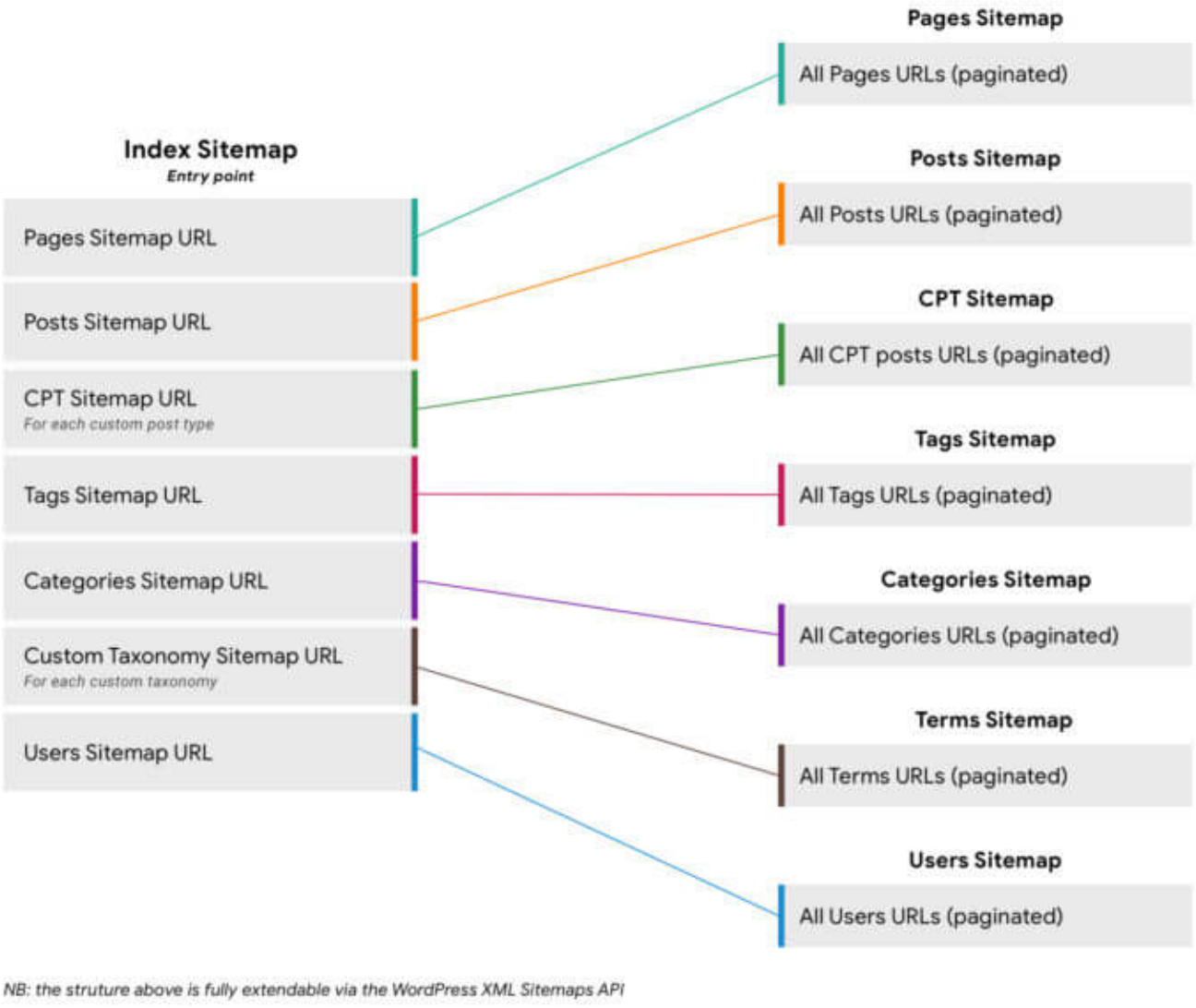
Yoast, Google devs propose XML Sitemaps for WordPress Core

The inclusion of XML Sitemaps as a WordPress Core feature has been proposed by a group of Yoast and Google team members as well as other contributors. In addition to a basic XML Sitemap, the proposal also introduces an XML Sitemaps API that would extend functionality for developers and webmasters.



The proposed XML Sitemaps structure. Image sourced from Make WordPress Core.

What it'll include. The proposal states that XML Sitemaps will be enabled by default, allowing for indexing of the following content types:

- Homepage.
- Posts page.
- Core post types (Pages and Posts).
- Custom post types.
- Core taxonomies (Tags and Categories).
- Custom taxonomies.
- Users (Authors).

It's worth keeping in mind that your WordPress site's automatically generated robots.txt file will also reference your sitemap index.

What it won't include. Although the proposed feature will include the majority of WordPress content types and meet search engine minimum requirements, the initial integration will not cover image, video or news sitemaps, XML Sitemaps caching mechanisms or user-facing changes such as UI controls that exclude individual posts or pages from the sitemap.

The XML Sitemaps API. Here's how the API will let you manipulate your XML Sitemaps:

- Provide a custom XML Stylesheet.
- Add extra sitemaps and sitemap entries.
- Add extra attributes to sitemap entries.
- Exclude a specific post, post type, taxonomy or term from the sitemap.
- Exclude a specific author from the sitemap.
- Exclude specific authors with a specific role from the sitemap.

Why we should care. Sitemaps facilitate indexing by providing web crawlers with your site's URLs. If implemented, this might mean one less third-party plugin that brands and webmasters have to rely on for their SEO efforts. As a WordPress Core

feature, we can expect wider compatibility and support than we might get from third-party solutions.

Poorly optimized plugins can also slow down your site, which can have a negative impact on your organic traffic. This default option from WordPress may not replace plugins like Yoast SEO because they often include other features in addition to XML Sitemaps, but its availability has the potential to provide us with more flexibility over which plugins we install.

About The Author



George Nguyen is an Associate Editor at Third Door Media. His background is in content marketing, journalism, and storytelling.
http://feeds.searchengineland.com/~r/searchengineland/~3/87OLX4gyp1w/yoast-google-devs-propose-xml-sitemaps-for-wordpress-core-318112