

Graphcool as a foundation of Authory's automated content repository for journalists

Authory is a service that provides journalists with a single point of access to all of their published content. Instead of keeping lists of links to all their articles and fearing paywalls or broken web pages, Authory creates a central place for journalists to access their work. As a definitive collection of writers' journalistic output, the service also provides a unified and simple way to easily follow the journalists you like most. Learn more [here](#).



REQUIREMENTS

- **ZERO COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BACKEND**
- **POWERFUL EXTENSIBILITY**
- **EFFORTLESS SCALING**
- **NO VENDOR LOCK-IN**

RESULTS

- **COMPLEX SYSTEM OPERATING AT SCALE**
- **CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE PERFORMANCE OF THE SYSTEM**

It all starts with an idea - with a few clicks and minimal effort a journalist can have a central repository of their published work. As with most seemingly simple things, however, behind this unassuming front is the work of a complex system. In this case, one powered by Graphcool. Providing a lightweight backend that brings with it the benefits of modern technologies and approaches, it serves as the foundation of the entire product the Authory team has built.

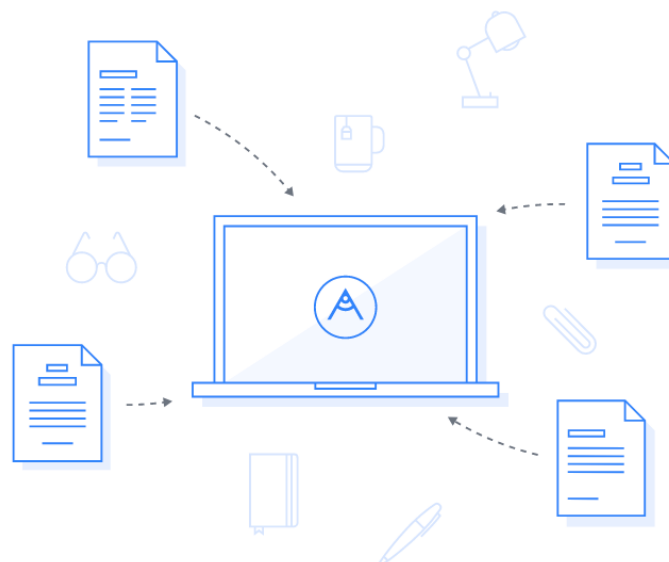
The heart of a complex system

The Authory team wholeheartedly embraces the micro services approach customary in modern software development. Instead of a monolithic system, powering Authory are a myriad of small systems, many of which are completely external. At the center of it is Graphcool with its extensive serverless function capabilities and integrations. Right from the start, just as an author signs up, Graphcool springs into action calling the Diffbot API to begin gathering content that has already been published online. In the meantime, Graphcool coordinates services such as Mailgun and Intercom to send a welcome email and otherwise engage the user.

Once Diffbot completes gathering content, the Algolia API is called to make all of the author’s work searchable. Finally, to ensure a user friendly and seamless purchasing experience, the Graphcool Stripe integration provides flexible payment processing to make sure that the Authory team is fairly rewarded for their work.

Graphcool also enables active collaboration between teammates and not just the various system components. As a remote team working across multiple time zones, getting out of sync is a danger the Authory team was well aware of. Here too Graphcool proved to be the winning choice. The global GraphQL type-system ensured that the team was always on the same page. “The frontend team would, for example, add new fields to the system without breaking any of the existing work”, says Emanuel, the lead backend developer. This allowed parallel work streams to develop independently, while still staying in sync.

“We wanted a modern backend with minimal overhead”, Eric Hauch, Founder and CEO



[Go to profile →](#)

Building for the future

Eric Hauch, the founder and CEO, mentions vendor lock-in as a primary concern when selecting tools for his team.

With Graphcool this fear is abated quickly. At the core of the platform is GraphQL - a technology developed by Facebook that is open-source. In addition, the Graphcool team actively supports the open-source community. Major parts of the platform are either built using open-source libraries or are open-source themselves for the community to benefit from. This gives Eric the comfort to make Graphcool the foundation of Authory's product.

The expertise of the Graphcool team allows Authory to also benefit from a variety of modern technologies and approaches. This applies, first and foremost, to the effortless scaling Graphcool users get out of the box. As a managed backend, the work to support any scenario is on the shoulders of the Graphcool team. Another powerful feature is extensive support for serverless functions that Authory leverages to orchestrate the various parts of their system. Finally, with a diverse set of built-in integrations as well as the ability to write custom ones, the Authory team is confident that Graphcool will continue to be a core component of their product even as it evolves in unpredictable ways.

Results

Authory's vote for Graphcool as a foundation of their system is a win-win for both the users and the team. For the users the getting started experience is effortless and the entire product delightful to use. For the team it takes away many of the headaches associated with building complex systems while providing a rock-solid groundwork for their product. In the end, it gives Eric the peace of mind that, whatever the future needs of his team, Graphcool is the right choice. As Eric says: "For anyone building for the long-term, Graphcool is a no-brainer".

About Graphcool

Graphcool is a flexible backend platform enabling developers to focus on what matters most - building applications that exceed the users' expectations. Battle-tested by thousands of projects, Graphcool focuses on building a platform that is reliable, extensible, and provides unparalleled developer experience. Learn more [here](#).