



Quick answers to common problems

Drupal 6 Panels Cookbook

Over 40 recipes to harness the power of Panels for building attractive Drupal websites

Bhavin (Vin) Patel

[PACKT] open source 
PUBLISHING community experience distilled

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BIRMINGHAM - MUMBAI

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I would like to thank Mark Hemphill and the School of Business Administration at the University of Prince Edward Island for first exposing me to Drupal and open source ideals, and to everyone I've had the pleasure of working with since.

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Preface

To date, Drupal is the most popular enterprise-level CMS. It now powers thousands of popular websites on the Internet. Most of the pages of your Drupal website will follow the general layout defined by your theme, which is normally a header section on the top, a footer at the bottom, left and/or right sidebars, and a content section in the middle. However, a few pages of your website need to have a different layout. This is where Panels come into the picture. Panels allow you to create sections and many possible layouts.

Do you want to make custom Drupal pages and impressive front page layouts? And more importantly, do you want to know how to make them without coding? Just keep reading!

What this book covers

Chapter 1, Getting Started, explains what Panels are and why we should use them. This chapter gives an introduction to Panels and helps you to set up Panels on your Drupal code base. It details all of the steps required to get Panels up and running.

Chapter 2, Changing Panel Interface, as the name suggests will help you build Panels through the Panels User Interface. The chapter teaches the basics of Panels, such as creating a clone of a layout page, adding menus to Panels, and using contexts. We also make impressive layouts taking examples of well-known Internet websites using Panels.

Chapter 3, Theming for Panels, helps us dive further and use CSS for Panels so that we can customize the look and feel of individual Panels within the page.

Chapter 4, Implementing Panels, is a chapter centered on building website looks with Panels. It shows you how to create a custom front page for a website. It gives insight to creating a node edit form with a Panel and also the process of generating a node override within Panels. It also gives you knowledge for using Mini panels.

Chapter 5, Panels with Organic Groups, shows how Panels work with Organic Groups to give a multisite functionality. The power of Panels helps the user to generate individual pages for each user or a group.

Chapter 6, Panels with CCK, is where you will learn how to use custom Content types with Panels. Create your own Content type and display the nodes of the Content type in Panels.

Chapter 7, Advanced Profile Kit, guides you in generating powerful User Profiles with Panels and the Advanced Profile Kit to boost up your next social media project on Drupal.

Chapter 8, Panels-related Modules, is where we will stop and see some interesting modules mash up with Panels such as creating language panels for multilingual websites, making Facebook-type messages, and creating a form within a Panel.

Chapter 9, Views, shows how we can use Views as a wonderful combination with Panels to create powerful features. In this chapter, we cover recipes to make a dynamic news update site and to make video Panels.

Chapter 10, Creating a Travel Website Using Panels, helps build a multifunctional travel website using Panels. We start from creating the wireframes, making custom Content types, generating views for each Content type, and then making Panels to display the dynamic content. The chapter itself is a crash course in generating a powerful dynamic website in a matter of hours not days!

In the *Appendix* to this book, you will find the chapter-wise list of modules used in the recipes.

What you need for this book

Knowledge of running a Drupal site is essential. Basic HTML, PHP, and JavaScript knowledge is a prerequisite for the book. But don't worry, you will be provided step by step explanations throughout the book. You will find this book very easy to follow.

Who this book is for

This book is for Drupal developers who want to enhance the attractiveness of their website and make it impressive.

Conventions

In this book, you will find a number of styles of text that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles, and an explanation of their meaning.

New terms and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, in menus, or dialog boxes for example, appear in the text like this: "Paste the copied content into the **Import data** box and click on **Import**."



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1

Getting Started

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Setting up Ctools and Panels
- ▶ Upgrading from Panels 2 to Panels 3.0
- ▶ Adding a custom Panels page
- ▶ Adding a custom Panels node
- ▶ Adding Mini panels
- ▶ Managing pages via the Panels dashboard

Introduction

Panels-[Pan-I]- A distinct portion, section or division.

Same as the dictionary meaning, Drupal Panels are distinct pieces of rectangular content that create a custom layout of the page—where different Panels are more visible and presentable as a structured web page. Panels is a freely-distributed, open source module developed for Drupal 6. With Panels, you can display various content in a customizable grid layout on one page. Each page created by Panels can include a unique structure and content. Using the drag-and-drop user interface, you select a design for the layout and position various kinds of content (or add custom content) within that layout.

Panels integrates with other Drupal modules like Views and CCK. Permissions, deciding which users can view which elements, are also integrated into Panels. You can even override system pages such as the display of keywords (taxonomy) and individual content pages (nodes).

In the next section, we will see what the Panels can actually do, as defined on [drupal.org](http://drupal.org/project/panels):
<http://drupal.org/project/panels>.

Basically, Panels will help you to arrange a large content on a single page. While Panels can be used to arrange a lot of content on a single page, it is equally useful for small amounts of related content and/or teasers. Panels support styles, which control how individual content's panes, regions within a Panel, and the entire Panels will be rendered. While Panels ship with few styles, styles can be provided as plugins by modules, as well as by themes:

- ▶ The User Interface is nice for visually designing a layout, but a real HTML guru doesn't want the somewhat weighty HTML that this will create. Modules and themes can provide custom layouts that can fit a designer's exacting specifications, but still allow the site builders to place content wherever they like.
- ▶ Panels include a pluggable caching mechanism: a single cache type is included, the 'simple' cache, which is time-based. Since most sites have very specific caching needs based upon the content and traffic patterns, this system was designed to let sites that need to devise their own triggers for cache clearing and implement plugins that will work with Panels.



A cache mechanism can be defined for each pane or region with the Panel page. Simple caching is a time-based cache. This is a hard limit, and once cached, it will remain that way until the time limit expires. If "arguments" are selected, this content will be cached per individual argument to the entire display; if "contexts" are selected, this content will be cached per unique context in the pane or display; if "neither", there will be only one cache for this pane.

- ▶ Panels can also be cached as a whole, meaning the entire output of the Panels can be cached, or individual content panes that are heavy, like large views, can be cached.
- ▶ Panels can be integrated with the Drupal module Organic Groups through the `#og_Panels` module to allow individual groups to have their own customized layouts.

- Panels integrates Views to allow administrators to add any view as content. We will discuss Module Integration in the coming recipes.



Shown in the previous screenshot is one of the example sites that use Panels 3 for their home page (<http://concernfast.org>). The home page is built using a custom Panels 3 layout with a couple of dedicated Content types that are used to build nodes to drop into the various Panels areas. The case study can be found at: <http://drupal.org/node/629860>.

Getting Started

Panels arrange your site content into an easy navigational pattern, which can be clearly seen in the following screenshot. When you are done reading this book, you would be able to create a complex layout like this one:



There are several terms often used within Panels that administrators should become familiar with as we will be using the same throughout the recipes. The common terms in Panels are:

- ▶ **Panels page:** The page that will display your Panels. This could be the front page of a site, a news page, and so on. These pages are given a path just like any other node.
- ▶ **Panels:** A container for content. A Panel can have several pieces of content within it, and can be styled.
- ▶ **Pane:** A unit of content in a Panel. This can be a node, view, arbitrary HTML code, and so on. Panes can be shifted up and down within a Panel and moved from one Panel to another.
- ▶ **Layout:** Provides a pre-defined collection of Panels that you can select from. A layout might have two columns, a header, footer, or three columns in the middle, or even seven Panels stacked like bricks.

Setting up Ctools and Panels

We will now set up Ctools, which is required for Panels. "Chaos tools" is a centralized library, which is used by the most powerful modules of Drupal Panels and views. Most functions in Panels are inherited from the chaos library.

Getting ready

Download the Panels modules for the Drupal website: <http://drupal.org/project/Panels>.

You would need Ctools as a dependency module, which can be downloaded from: <http://drupal.org/project/ctools>.

How to do it...

1. Upload both the files, Ctools and Panels, into `/sites/all/modules`. It is always a best practice to keep the installed modules separate from the "core" (the files that install with Drupal) into the `/sites/all/modules` folder. This makes it easy to upgrade the modules at a later stage when your site becomes complex and has too many modules.

- Go to the modules page in admin (**Admin | Site Building | Modules**) and enable Ctools, then enable Panels. Go to permissions (**Admin | User Management | Permissions**) and give site builders permission to use Panels.

Chaos tool suite			
Enabled	Name	Version	Description
☒	Bulk Export	6.x-1.1	Performs bulk exporting of data objects known about by Chaos tools. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled)
☒	Chaos tools	6.x-1.1	A library of helpful tools by Merlin of Chaos. Required by: Bulk Export (enabled), Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example (disabled), Page manager (enabled), Panels (enabled), Views content panes (disabled), Mini panels (enabled), Panel nodes (enabled)
☐	Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example	6.x-1.1	Shows how an external module can provide ctools plugins (for Panels, etc.). Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled), Panels (enabled), Page manager (enabled), Advanced_help (missing)
☒	Page manager	6.x-1.1	Provides a UI and API to manage pages within the site. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled) Required by: Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example (disabled)
☐	Views content panes	6.x-1.1	Allows Views content to be used in Panels, Dashboard and other modules which use the CTools Content API. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled), Views (missing)

- Enable the **Page manager** module in the Chaos tools suite. This module enables the page manager for Panels.
- To integrate views with Panels, enable the **Views content panes** module too. We will discuss more about views later on.
- Enable Panels and set the permissions.
- You will need to enable Panel nodes, the Panel module, and Mini panels too (as shown in the following screenshot) as we will use the same in our advanced recipes.

Panels			
Enabled	Name	Version	Description
☒	Mini panels	6.x-3.1	Create mini panels that can be used as blocks by Drupal and panes by other panel modules. Depends on: Panels (enabled), Chaos tools (enabled)
☒	Panel nodes	6.x-3.1	Create nodes that are divided into areas with selectable content. Depends on: Panels (enabled), Chaos tools (enabled)
☒	Panels	6.x-3.1	Core Panels display functions; provides no external UI, at least one other Panels module should be enabled. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled) Required by: Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example (disabled), Mini panels (enabled), Panel nodes (enabled)

7. Go to administer by module in the **Site building | Modules**.

Panels
Dashboard
Settings

Create new...

Panel page
Panel pages can be used as landing pages. They have a URL path, accept arguments and can have menu entries.

Panel node
Panel nodes are node content and appear in your searches, but are more limited than panel pages.

Mini panel
Mini panels are small content areas exposed as blocks, for when you need to have complex block layouts or layouts within layouts.

Manage mini panels...
There are no mini panels.
[Go to list](#)

Manage pages...

Taxonomy term template	Edit	Enable
Node add/edit form	Edit	Enable
User contact	Edit	Enable
User profile template	Edit	Enable
Node template	Edit	Enable

[Go to list](#)

8. Here, you find the Panels User Interface.

There is more

Chaos tools suite includes the following tools that form the base of the Panels module. You do not need to go into the details of it to use Panels but it is good to know what it includes. This is the powerhouse that makes Panels the most efficient tool to design complex layouts:

- ▶ **Plugins**—tools to make it easy for modules to let other modules implement plugins from `.inc` files.
- ▶ **Exportables**—tools to make it easier for modules to have objects that live in database or live in code, such as 'default views'.
- ▶ **AJAX responder**—tools to make it easier for the server to handle AJAX requests and tell the client what to do with them.
- ▶ **Form tools**—tools to make it easier for forms to deal with AJAX.
- ▶ **Object caching**—tool to make it easier to edit an object across multiple page requests and cache the editing work.
- ▶ **Contexts**—the notion of wrapping objects in a unified wrapper and providing an API to create and accept these contexts as input.
- ▶ **Modal dialog**—tool to make it simple to put a form in a modal dialog.
- ▶ **Dependent**—a simple form widget to make form items appear and disappear based upon the selections in another item.
- ▶ **Content**—pluggable Content types used as panes in Panels and other modules like Dashboard.

- ▶ **Form wizard**—an API to make multi-step forms much easier.
- ▶ **CSS tools**—tools to cache and sanitize CSS easily to make user input CSS safe.

How it works...

Now, we have our Panels UI ready to generate layouts. We will discuss each of them in the following recipes.

The Panels dashboard will help you to generate the layouts for Drupal with ease.

Upgrading from Panels 2 to Panels 3.0

If you are using Panels 2 on your site, you need to upgrade your site to Panels 3.0.

The best way to use Panels is to pair it with the Page Manager from the Chaos Tools Suite, and use its interface for creating Panels pages. This completely replaces the Panels Pages module from Panels 2. If you used an earlier beta version, the Page Manager used to be known as delegation. If you are upgrading from Panels 2, and the Ctools module is already in the tree but not enabled, it will be automatically enabled for you. This is the best way to upgrade from Panels 2.



Please ensure that you are using Ctools 1.0 along with this, and not a beta version! Earlier versions of Ctools will not work with Panels 3.0!

Page Manager introduces the concept of Variants, which are different ways that a page can be displayed. For many uses, you will have only one variant. However, if you want a page to look different based upon the data being displayed (for example, you want story nodes displayed differently from article nodes), or permissions of the user (you may want an administrator to see something different from a regular user, or a logged-in user to see something different from a logged-out user), then you will add additional variants to a page. You will use the **selection rules** to determine which variant a user sees. Remember that the first variant that passes the selection rules will be used, so be sure to put the most specific rules first and the more general rules later. You can put a variant with no rules at all in the end and it will serve as a default.

Getting ready

These are the basic steps for upgrading from Panels 2 to Panels 3 on Drupal 6:

- ▶ Back up your site before you begin
- ▶ Disable your Panels module

How to do it...

1. If you have any Panels exported, 'in code', please override them. The upgrade can only update the Panels you have in the database.
2. Delete all old Panels module files from the `sites/all/modules` directory.
3. Unpack the new Panels files & Chaos tools files in `sites/all/modules`.
4. Enable Chaos tools, including the Page Manager module.
5. Run `update.php`.
6. Enable all Panels modules (and Views Content Panes if you use views in your Panels).

After following these steps, Panels 3 should be working properly on your system. Make sure you upgrade on a test site before you upgrade on the live site however, because there may be unforeseen issues.

Adding a custom Panels page

We start our initial recipe by creating the "Test" page.

Getting ready

Go to the Panels UI From admin through **Module | Panels**. In the Panels Dashboard, select create **Panels page**.

How to do it...

1. In the **Pages** section of Panels, type in the administration title of the page. Here, we will type **test**. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it.
2. Type in the machine name as the same, **test**. It is the machine readable name for this page. It must be unique.

3. Type **Test panel page** in the administrative description. It is a description of what this page does for administrative use.

Pages
List
Add custom page
Import page

Basic settings » Choose layout » **Panel content**

▼ Display settings

Title type:
Manually set ▼

Title:

The title of this panel. If left blank, a default title may be used. Set to No Title if you want the title to actually be blank.

Middle column

Back
Finish

4. Put **test** in the **Path**.

Pages
List
Add custom page
Import page

Administrative title:

The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it.

Machine name:

The machine readable name of this page. It must be unique, and it must contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores. Once created, you will not be able to change this value!

Administrative description:

A description of what this page is, does or is for, for administrative use.

Path:

The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and !name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/foo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard!/input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form.

☐ Make this your site home page.
To set this panel as your home page you must create a unique path name with no % placeholders in the path. The current site home page is set to /node.

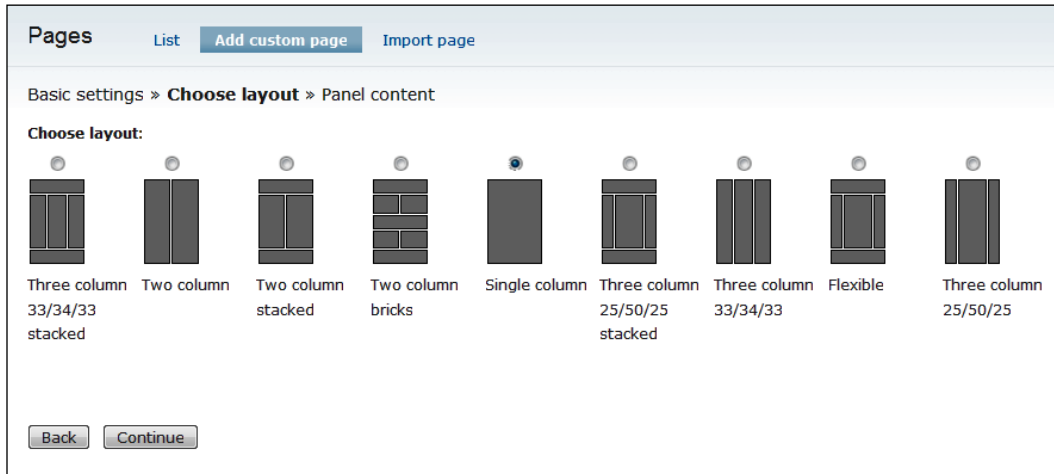
Variant type:
Panel ▼

Optional features:

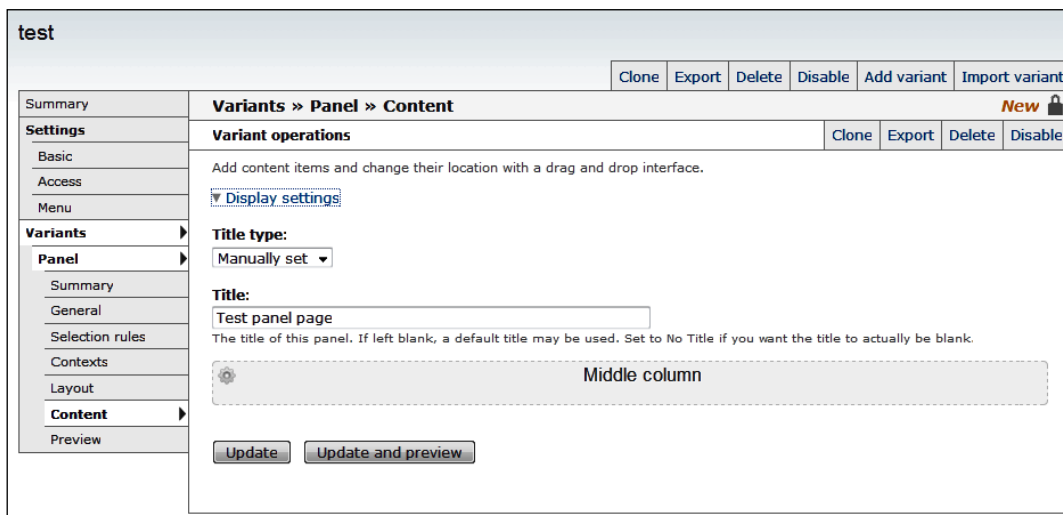
☐ Access control
☐ Visible menu item
☐ Selection rules
☐ Contexts

Check any optional features you need to be presented with forms for configuring them. If you do not check them here you will still be able to utilize these features once the new page is created. If you are not sure, leave these unchecked.

5. Leave the home page and optional features as they are for now.
6. In the layout Panels, select the **Single column** for now as shown in the following screenshot:



7. In **Title type**, select **Manually set** and in the **Title** put **Test panel page**:



8. Here comes the real magic of Panels—the core Panels with all options, select update and preview.

test

Clone Export Delete Disable Add variant Import variant

Summary Variants » Panel » Preview New

Settings Variant operations Clone Export Delete Disable

Basic Get a preview of what this variant will look like.

Access

Menu

Variants

Panel

Summary

General

Selection rules

Contexts

Layout

Content

Preview

The page has been updated. Changes will not be permanent until you save.

You have unsaved changes to this page. You must select Save to write them to the database, or Cancel to discard these changes. Please note that if you have changed any form, you must submit that form before saving.

Save Cancel

9. The blank page preview is now created, select save.

test

Clone Export Delete Disable Add variant Import variant

Summary Summary

Settings Get a summary of the information about this page.

Basic Test Panel page

Access

Menu

Variants

Panel

Summary

General

Selection rules

Contexts

Layout

Content

Preview

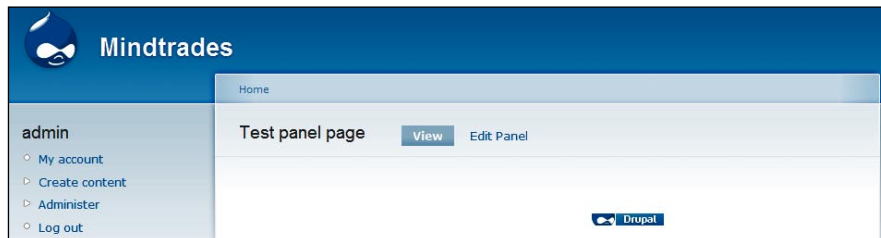
Storage	Normal	
Status	Enabled	Disable
Path	/test	Edit
Access	This page is publicly accessible.	Edit
Menu	No menu entry	Edit

Panel Clone Export Delete Disable

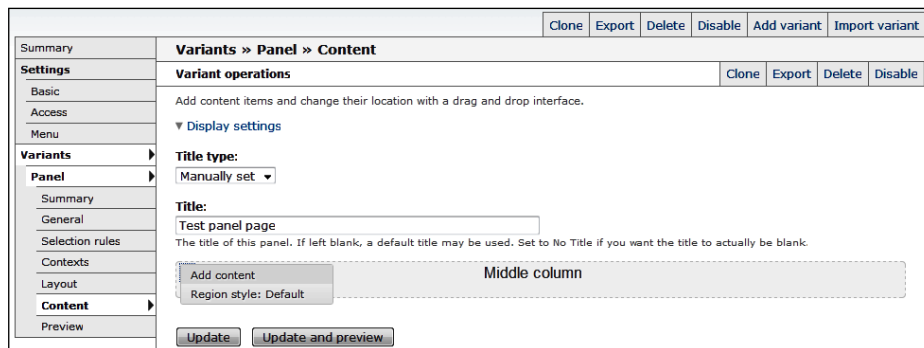
Storage	Normal	
Status	Enabled	Disable
Selection rule	This panel will always be selected.	Edit
Layout	Single column	Change layout Edit content Preview

» Add a new variant

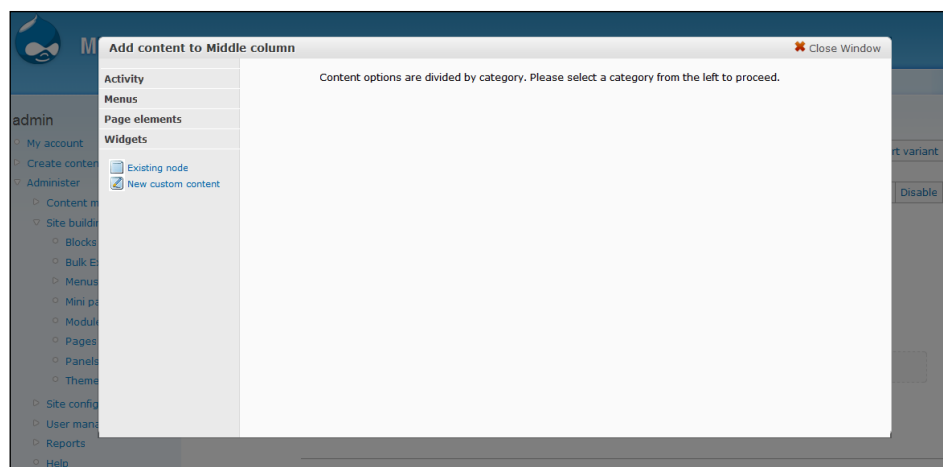
10. The summary page will show you all the properties of our test page created via Panels. Let's see it.



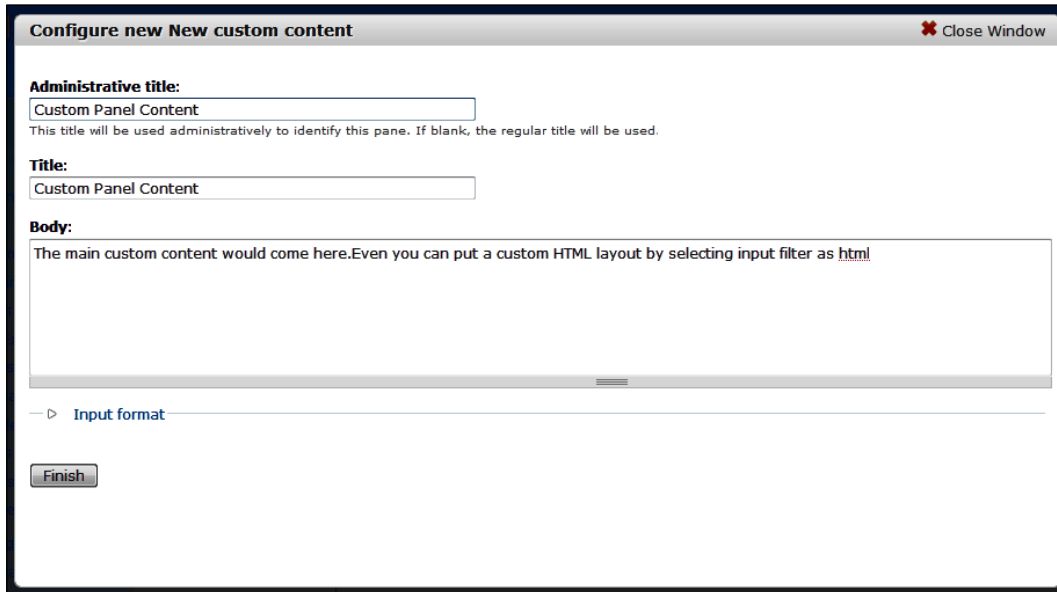
11. Here is the blank page where we can now create the content as we like. We can even put our custom content here. Go to **Edit Panel | Content** and select the gear in the middle column.



12. Select **Add content** and then select **New custom content** as shown in the following screenshot.

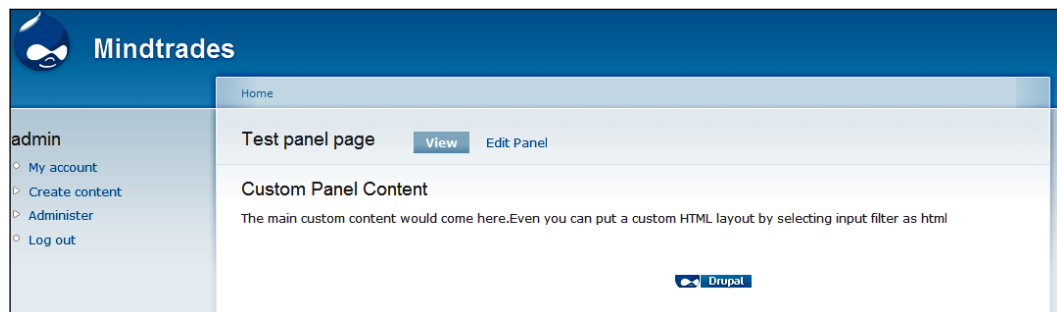


13. Type in the information, as shown in the following screenshot, and click on **Finish** and then update and then save.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Configure new New custom content" with a "Close Window" button in the top right corner. The form contains three main sections: "Administrative title:" with a text input field containing "Custom Panel Content" and a note below it stating "This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used."; "Title:" with a text input field also containing "Custom Panel Content"; and "Body:" with a large text area containing the text "The main custom content would come here.Even you can put a custom HTML layout by selecting input filter as [html](#)". Below the text area is a horizontal line with a dropdown menu currently set to "Input format". At the bottom left of the dialog is a "Finish" button.

14. Here is your custom page by Panels:



How it works

Panels provide such flexibility that you can create a completely different page on your website, which would be different from the main template. Such functionality are often required when you develop complex sites with a lot of data.

Adding a custom Panels node

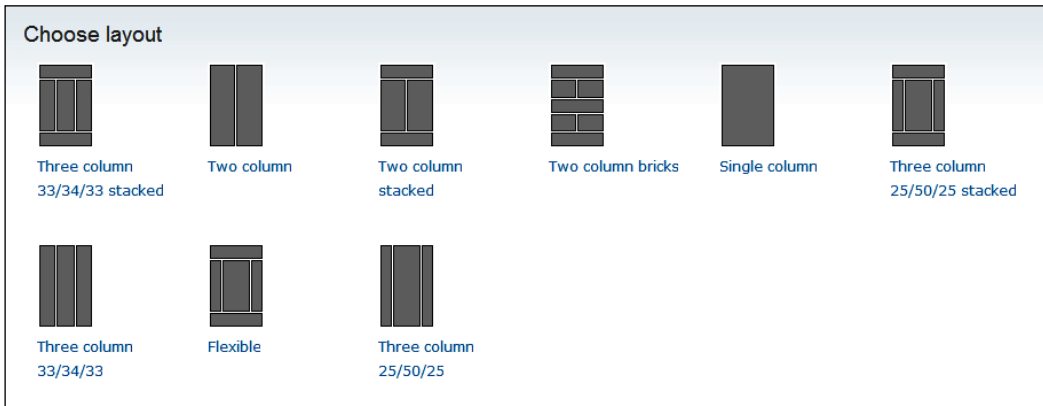
We will now create a custom node using Panels. Panel nodes are node content and appear in your searches, but are more limited than Panel pages.

Getting ready

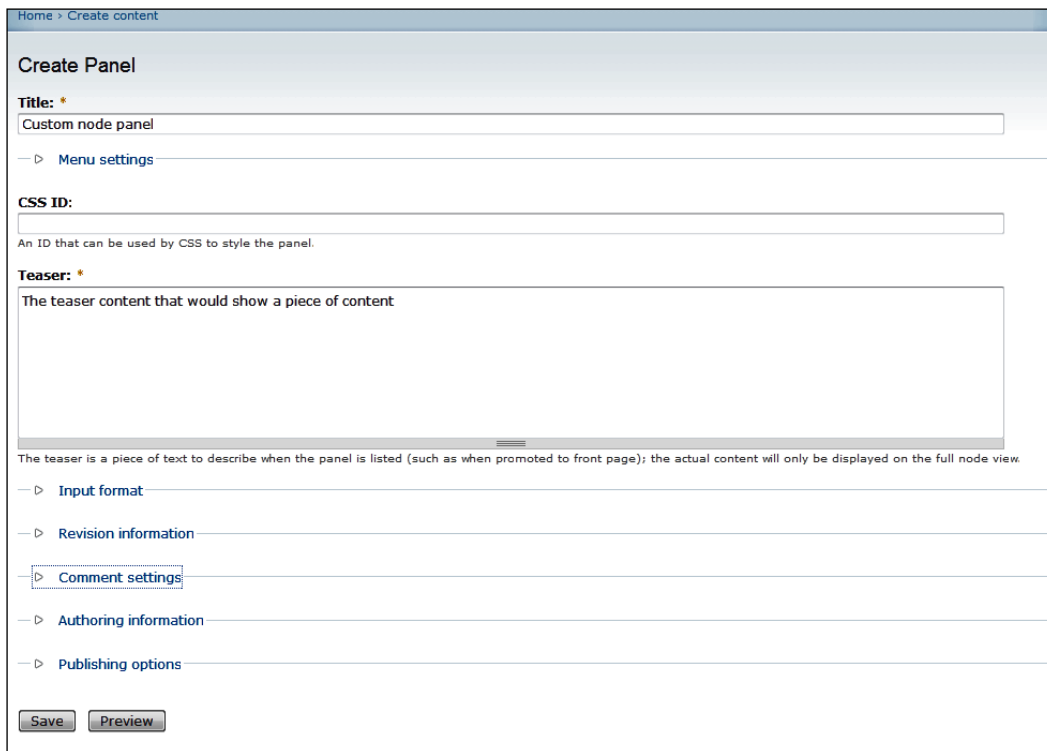
We need to go to the Panels Dashboard as we did in the previous recipe.

How to do it...

1. Select **Panel node**.
2. Select **Single column** again:

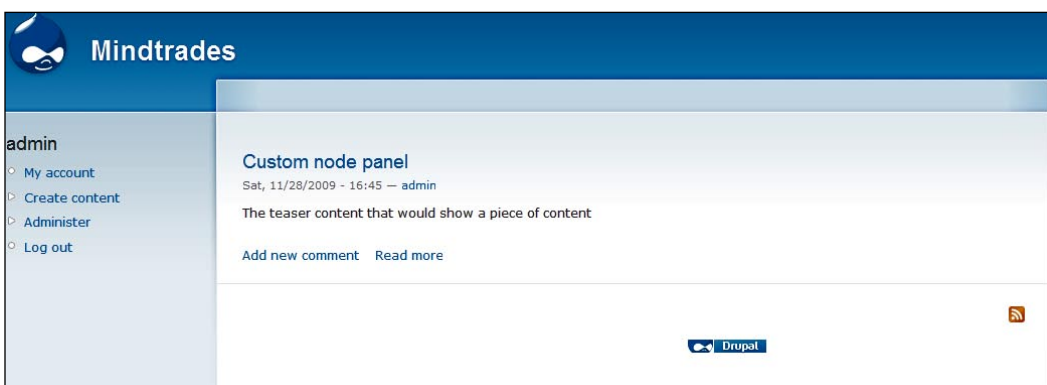


3. This opens a node page of Drupal but with a custom CSS tag too, which we will discuss later in the CSS recipe. Click on **Save**:

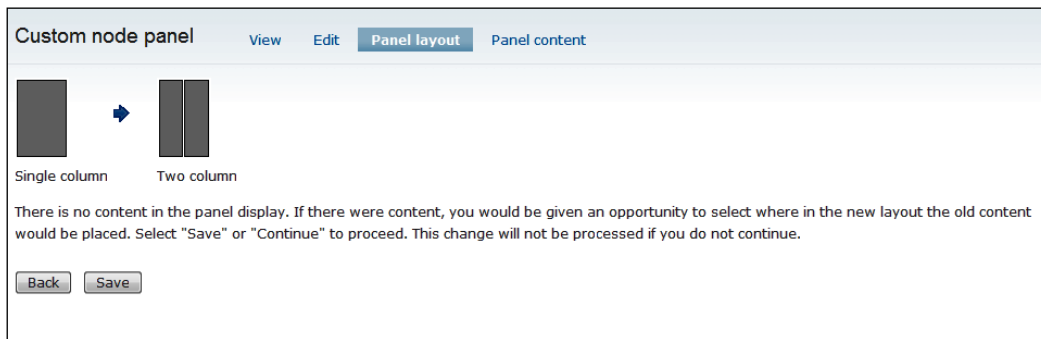


The screenshot shows the 'Create Panel' form in a Drupal application. The form has a title field with the value 'Custom node panel'. Below the title is a 'Menu settings' section. The 'CSS ID' field is empty, with a note: 'An ID that can be used by CSS to style the panel.' The 'Teaser' field contains the text 'The teaser content that would show a piece of content'. Below the teaser is a note: 'The teaser is a piece of text to describe when the panel is listed (such as when promoted to front page); the actual content will only be displayed on the full node view.' There are several expandable sections: 'Input format', 'Revision information', 'Comment settings' (which is expanded), 'Authoring information', and 'Publishing options'. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Preview' buttons.

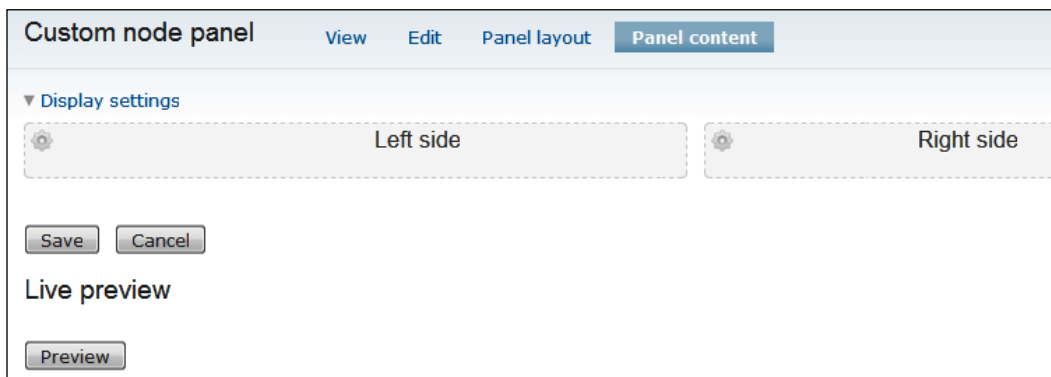
4. As we kept the default settings of the node, the node is promoted to the front page of our Mindtrades application:



5. Note that this is the same way we create a normal node, but there is a vast difference when we create a node by Panels. By making a node via Panels, we have full flexibility to change the content and even use custom HTML and CSS. This can be made clear by using a simple example for this custom node. Let's divide this node in two parts. Suppose there was a need on the website to put more content in a presentable form.
6. Go to Custom node panel and edit, select **Panel layout**.
7. Now select **Two column**:



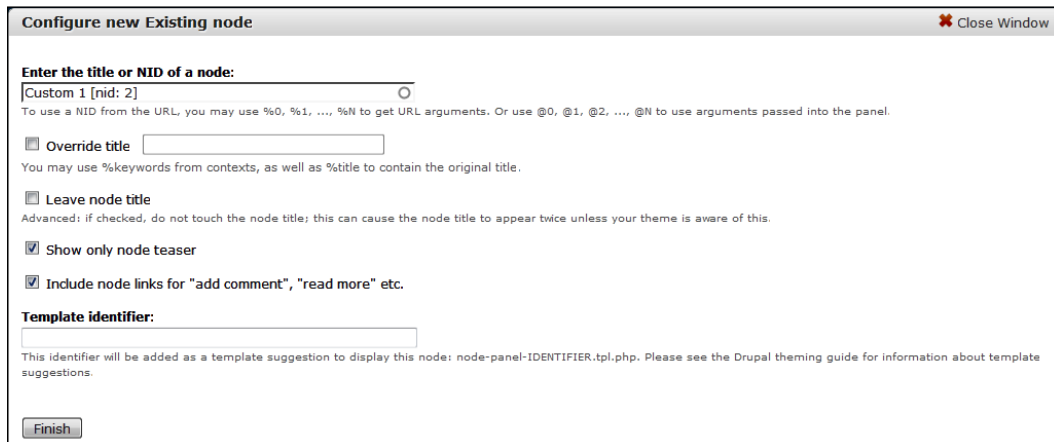
8. This shows now that you are making a transition from a single column to double column. Select **Save**.
9. Now, go to **Panel content** and we will see two columns. Voilà! It's easy with Panels.



10. Now, we'll add content to both the columns, the **Left side** and the **Right side** as discussed in the previous recipe. We will use the existing nodes.
11. We will now need to create two independent nodes say **Custom 1** and **Custom 2**. Create two stories and do not promote to front page. Disable comments on each story.

Getting Started

- Now, select the gears of each side and add the content. You will find an auto-content activated when you type in **Custom1** at Title of the node as shown in the following screenshot.



Configure new Existing node Close Window

Enter the title or NID of a node:
Custom 1 [nid: 2] ○
To use a NID from the URL, you may use %0, %1, ..., %N to get URL arguments. Or use @0, @1, @2, ..., @N to use arguments passed into the panel.

☐ **Override title**
You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.

☐ **Leave node title**
Advanced: if checked, do not touch the node title; this can cause the node title to appear twice unless your theme is aware of this.

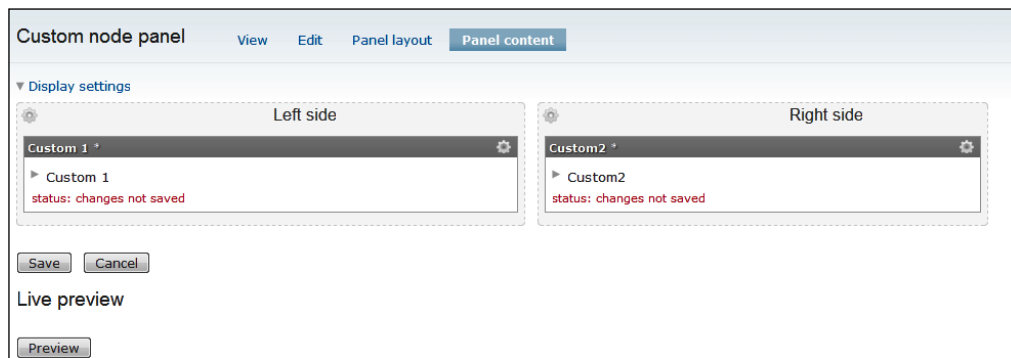
☒ **Show only node teaser**

☒ **Include node links for "add comment", "read more" etc.**

Template identifier:
This identifier will be added as a template suggestion to display this node: node-panel-IDENTIFIER.tpl.php. Please see the Drupal theming guide for information about template suggestions.

Finish

- Now, you will see both the contents on the node.



Custom node panel View Edit Panel layout Panel content

▼ **Display settings**

Left side

Custom 1 *

Custom 1

status: changes not saved

Right side

Custom2 *

Custom2

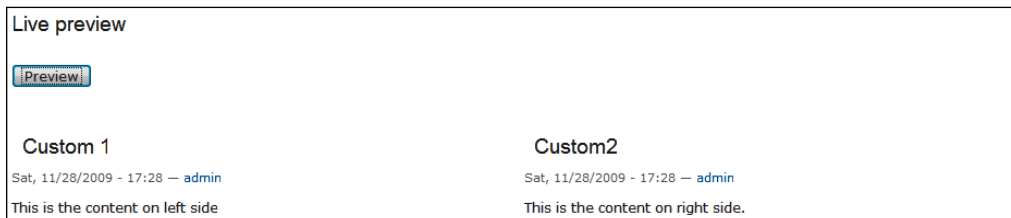
status: changes not saved

Save **Cancel**

Live preview

Preview

- Save it and preview.



Live preview

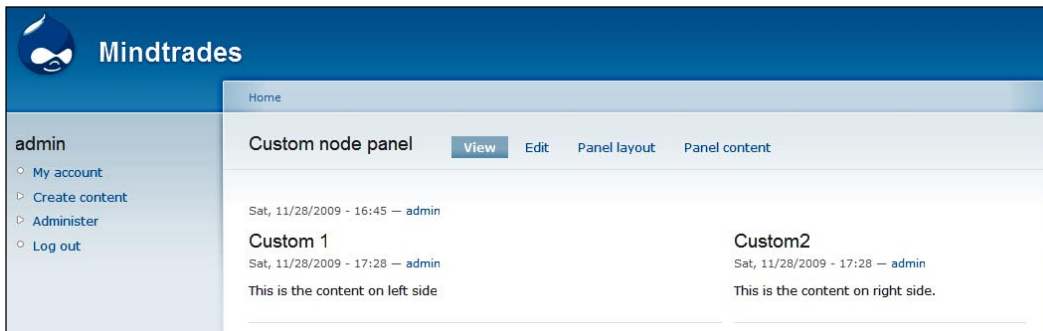
Preview

Custom 1
Sat, 11/28/2009 - 17:28 — admin
This is the content on left side

Custom2
Sat, 11/28/2009 - 17:28 — admin
This is the content on right side.

See your work now on the main page.

15. So here is what your Custom node will look like. You can put images as well as custom HTML too:



How it works...

See how beautifully Panels arranges the content now. Even the code behind is streamlined, so that your page loads faster. Let's see the code behind the **Custom1** node, indeed, a neat code for such a great functionality that can dynamically change the entire look of your node or a portion of your site. Each content in the pane is a separate `<div>` tag.

```
<div class="content clear-block">
  <div class="Panels-display Panels-2col clear-block">
    <div class="Panels-Panels Panels-col-first">
      <div class="inside"><div class="Panels-pane">
        <div class="admin-links Panels-hide">
          <ul class="links"><li class="update first last"><a href="/
drupal/node/2/edit?destination=node%2F1">Edit node</a></li>
</ul>      </div>

        <h2 class="pane-title">Custom 1</h2>

        <div class="pane-content">
          <div id="node-2" class="node">

            <h2><a href="/drupal/node/2" title=""></a></h2>
            <span class="submitted">Sat, 11/28/2009 - 17:28 — <a href="/
drupal/user/1" title="View user profile.">admin</a></span>

            <div class="content clear-block">
              <p>This is the content on left side</p> </div>
```

Adding Mini panels

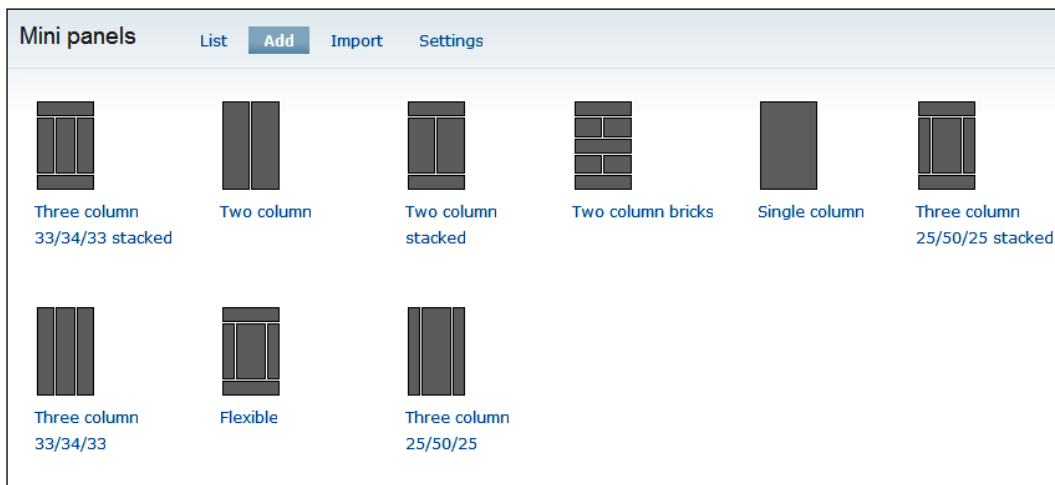
As defined on drupal.org, **Mini panels** are a layout mechanism for blocks. It won't take long using Panels before you get to a point when you want Panels inside of Panels or Panels that can be used as a block. That is exactly what Mini panels does. You can create a small Panel here with various pieces of content and then put it inside of a Panels-page or Panels-node.

Getting ready

We need to be on the Panels dashboard.

How to do it...

1. Select **Mini panels**.



2. Select **Single column**.

Settings

Mini panel title:

The title for this mini panel. It can be overridden in the block configuration.

Mini panel name:

A unique name used to identify this panel page internally. It must be only be alpha characters and underscores. No spaces, numbers or uppercase characters.

Mini panel category:

The category that this mini-panel will be grouped into on the Add Content form. Only upper and lower-case alphanumeric characters are allowed. If left blank, defaults to 'Mini panels'.

Layout

Single column

Middle column

Empty

3. Add the title, name, and category as shown in the previous screenshot. Use the Panels name with underscores.

Create new...

Panel page
 Panel pages can be used as landing pages. They have a URL path, accept arguments and can have menu entries.

Panel node
 Panel nodes are node content and appear in your searches, but are more limited than panel pages.

Mini panel
 Mini panels are small content areas exposed as blocks, for when you need to have complex block layouts or layouts within layouts.

Manage mini panels...

Mini Panel	Edit
------------	----------------------

[Go to list](#)

Manage pages...

Taxonomy term template	Edit	Enable
Node add/edit form	Edit	Enable
User contact	Edit	Enable
User profile template	Edit	Enable
Node template	Edit	Enable
test	Edit	Disable

[Go to list](#)

4. Once you add the mini panels, the Dashboard changes as shown in the following screenshot, showing the manage mini Panels.

5. As we will use node as the context, click save and proceed.

Required contexts

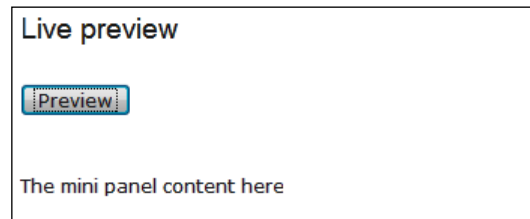
	Operation
Node	Add required context
Save and proceed	

Contexts

	Operation
Node	Add context
Relationships	

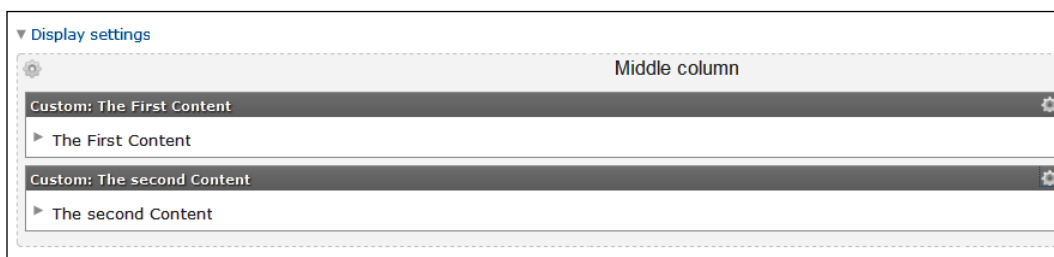
Getting Started

6. We add a custom content by clicking on the gear as discussed earlier.
7. Do a live preview:



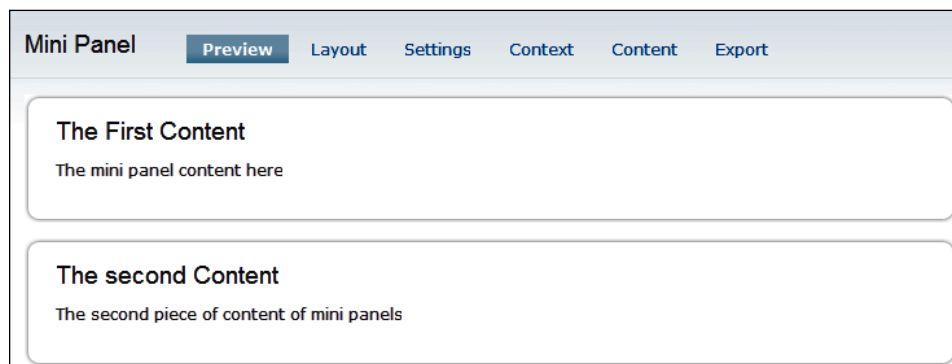
Now, we will see the real advantage of Mini panels, as we add a second content and change the layout.

Note that each content has a gear on the right-hand side that governs the properties of that content.



8. Click on Display settings and then select the layout as rounded corners on each pane.

Now, go to the Panels Dashboard and do a Preview.



This is the wonder that Mini panels does for your content.

So, Mini panels can be used to create Panels within Panels. In this recipe, I have shown how to use a single column mini panel. But, for complex website layouts, you can use more columns and add any number of content in each.

Managing pages via Panels Dashboard

We can manage all the pages created by Panels via the Dashboard. This becomes extremely useful when your site has many pages created via Panels.

Getting ready

Once again, we need to be in the Panels Dashboard.

How to do it...

1. We can manage all our Panels pages from the Dashboard. Here, we can see the test page that we created earlier in the node page recipe.

Manage pages...		
Taxonomy term template	Edit	Enable
Node add/edit form	Edit	Enable
User contact	Edit	Enable
User profile template	Edit	Enable
Node template	Edit	Enable
test	Edit	Disable
Go to list		

- Click on **Go to list**. You will be able to see our test page here in custom-type Panels:

Pages [List](#) [Add custom page](#) [Import page](#)

Type: <All> Storage: <All> Enabled: <All> Search:

Sort by: Enabled, title Order: Up [Apply](#) [Reset](#)

Type	Name	Title	Path	Storage	Operations
System	term_view	Taxonomy term template	/taxonomy/term/%term	In code	Edit Enable
System	node_edit	Node add/edit form	/node/%node/edit	In code	Edit Enable
System	contact_user	User contact	/user/%user/contact	In code	Edit Enable
System	user_view	User profile template	/user/%user	In code	Edit Enable
System	node_view	Node template	/node/%node	In code	Edit Enable
Custom	page-test	test	/test	Normal	Edit Disable

[» Create a new page](#)

- You will be able to sort the pages by Type, Storage (even up to the code level), and Title.
- Click on **Edit** for our **test** Panels page.

test [Clone](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [Disable](#) [Add variant](#) [Import variant](#)

Summary [Settings](#) [Access](#) [Menu](#) **Variants** [Panel](#) [Summary](#) [General](#) [Selection rules](#) [Contexts](#) [Layout](#) [Content](#) [Preview](#)

Summary

Get a summary of the information about this page.
Test Panel page

Storage	Normal
Status	Enabled Disable
Path	/test Edit
Access	This page is publicly accessible. Edit
Menu	No menu entry Edit

Panel [Clone](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [Disable](#)

Storage	Normal
Status	Enabled Disable
Selection rule	This panel will always be selected. Edit
Layout	Single column Change layout Edit content Preview

[» Add a new variant](#)

This shows the Panels UI for the page "test", which we will cover in our UI recipe.

See also...

- *Understanding the Panels UI in Chapter 2*

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2

Changing Panel Interface

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Understanding the Panels UI (User Interface)
- ▶ Setting the basic layout of the page
- ▶ Cloning a page layout
- ▶ Creating Access rules for the page
- ▶ Providing a visible menu to the page
- ▶ Adding a custom CSS to a Panel
- ▶ Using Contexts in Panels
- ▶ How to make layouts for dynamic websites using Panels
- ▶ Organizing the content of the page
- ▶ Checking the layout by preview

Introduction

In the earlier chapter, we learned the basics of Panels and getting things done the Panel way. It is very important to be well versed with the Chapter 1 recipes to understand all other recipes throughout the book.

In this chapter, we will dive inside the Panel's UI (User Interface) to actually create layouts and settings of a page using Panels.

Understanding the Panels UI

Panel's user interface is pretty easy to understand. Let's make a page using this interface.

How to do it...

1. Let's select the **test** page from our Panels Dashboard as shown in the following screenshot by clicking on **Edit**:

The screenshot shows the Panels Dashboard with two tabs: 'Dashboard' and 'Settings'. The 'Dashboard' tab is active. On the left, under 'Create new...', there are three options: 'Panel page', 'Panel node', and 'Mini panel', each with a brief description. On the right, under 'Manage pages...', there is a table listing various page templates and their corresponding 'Edit' and 'Disable' actions.

Manage pages...	
Node template	Edit Disable
test	Edit Disable
Page Layout	Edit Disable
Page Layout	Edit Disable
Menus Page	Edit Disable
Layouts	Edit Disable

2. This is what your Panels UI will look like:

The screenshot shows the Panels UI for the 'Test' page. The breadcrumb trail at the top is 'Home > Administer > Site-building > Pages'. The page title is 'Test'. On the right, there are buttons for 'Clone', 'Export', 'Delete', 'Disable', 'Add variant', and 'Import variant'. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Summary' tab selected. The main content area shows the 'Summary' tab with a 'Summary' section and a 'Panel' section. The 'Summary' section has a 'Storage' field set to 'Normal', a 'Status' field set to 'Enabled' with a 'Disable' button, a 'Path' field set to '/test' with an 'Edit' button, an 'Access' field set to 'This page is publicly accessible.' with an 'Edit' button, and a 'Menu' field set to 'No menu entry' with an 'Edit' button. The 'Panel' section has a 'Storage' field set to 'Normal', a 'Status' field set to 'Enabled' with a 'Disable' button, a 'Selection rule' field set to 'This panel will always be selected.' with an 'Edit' button, and a 'Layout' field set to 'Single column' with 'Change layout', 'Edit content', and 'Preview' buttons. At the bottom, there is a link to 'Add a new variant'.

We will understand the **Summary** page first and then go deep to each setting of the page, recipe wise, to have a complete hands on, on the Panels interface. The **Summary** section has the properties for the entire Panel page, while the **Variants** section is the Panels section or Panels content within the Panel page, which itself can be divided into many sections.

3. The Panels UI is the core of Panels. Panels and every setting of all the Panels are configured using this interface.

In the **Summary** page, the first property is **Storage**, which is **Normal** by default. If we want a custom Panel page and we import it from code, the storage changes to **Overridden**. If you do not wish to use the Panel, it can be disabled by clicking the **Disable** link to the right-hand side of the **Status** property.

4. The **Path** property shows the actual path of the page on the server.
5. The **Access** option shows the access levels of the page, as to whom would the page be viewable. This would be based on the roles you create on your Drupal project.

Settings » Access

Access rules are used to test if the page is accessible and any menu items associated with it are visible.

Title	Description	
User: permission	Logged in user has "access comments"	 

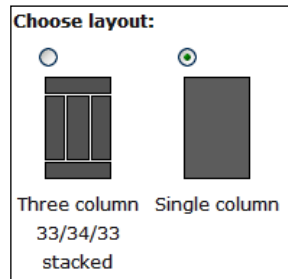
☒ All criteria must pass.
☐ Only one criteria must pass.

6. The **Menu** property lets you add a link to your Panel to an existing menu. This will be demonstrated later.
7. The next section is **Panel**, where we generate the actual content of the Panel.

This comes into the variant section. It is here that we split the Panel properties from the main Panel page.

1. The **Panel** section shows the selection rules, which are the same as access rules. The access rules are relative to the entire Panel page whereas the selection criteria is relative only to the Panels area within the Panel page. This allows us to make flexible content access permissions.

- The **Layout** shows the selected Panel layout. Here, in **test** page it is a **Single column**.



How it works

In this recipe, we got familiar with the Panels User Interface. In the coming recipe, we will learn more about the layouts.

Setting the basic layout of the page

Let's create a Panel layout using Panels. For example, let's create a "My Information" page. This page will have three columns: the left column will contain information about the website owner and how is he known as; the middle column will contain the basic profile; and the right column will contain links and contact information.

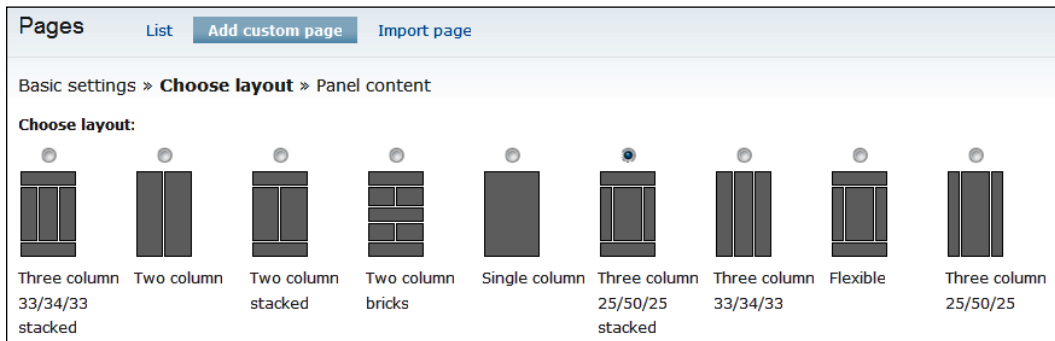
Getting ready

First, go to the Panels Dashboard and create a new page.

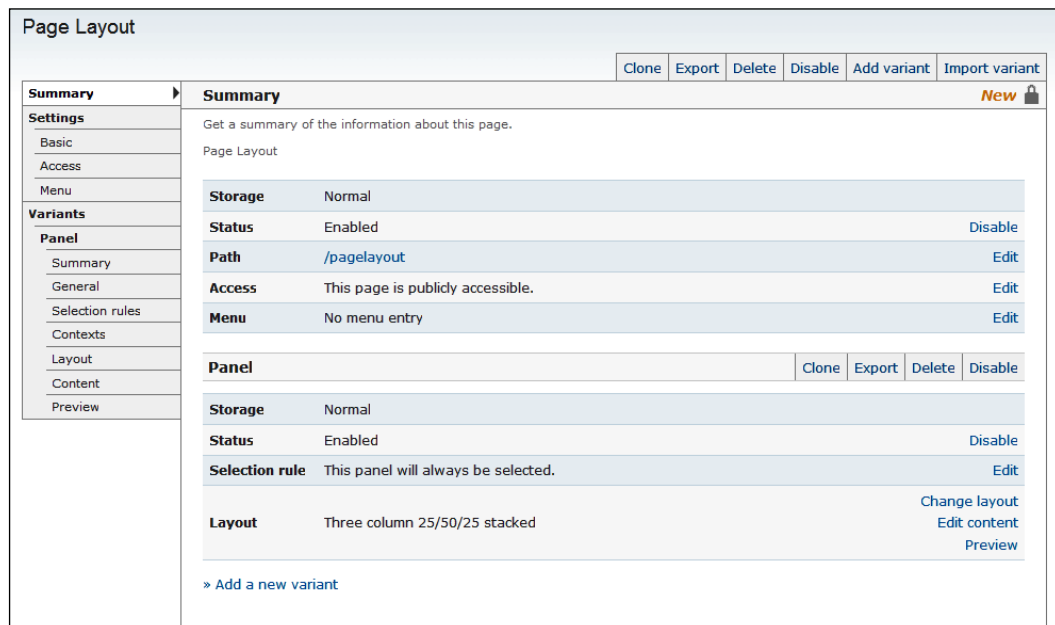
How to do it...

- Let's set the Panel name to **pagelayout**.
- Set the **Administrative title** to **Page Layout**.
- Set the **Path** to **pagelayout**.

- Select the **Three column 25/50/25 stacked** option as shown in the following screenshot. In this layout, the left and right columns will occupy 25 percent of the width, and the middle column will occupy the remaining 50 percent.



- Set the Page **Title** as **My Information** and save.
- This brings us to the Panels UI.



7. In the **Menu** tab, select **Normal menu entry**. In the **Menu** drop down, choose **Navigation**. When we select a normal menu entry, the default menu selected for Drupal is visible. If no menu is selected, the Panel page is displayed without any menu.

8. Now, let's add some content to the page. Click on the **Content** tab at the UI. It's time to think about what we want in our **My Information** page. Let's list what we want where. Let's presume we want our information in the middle, Profile on the left, some links on the right, and perhaps some contact information below them.
 - ❑ Left: your information
 - ❑ Middle: Profile (Resume)
 - ❑ Right: Links, Contact Information
9. Click on the gear in the **Left side** pane.
10. Type the name in the **Title** field, and the description in the **Body** field. Here, we keep the name as **John Smith**.
11. Repeat Step 9 and add the next content as **I am also known as**.
12. Now, for the Profile text. Click on the gear sign in the **Middle column** pane. Again, click on **New custom content**. Add the title and your brief profile.
13. For the **Title** field, fill in **Sr Web Architect**. Then, type in the about text into the **Body** field. Click on **Finish** when you are done.
14. Finally, to add some contact information, click on the gear sign in the **Right side** pane, and click on **New custom content**.

15. Type **Contact Information** into the **Title** field, and type some contact information in the **Body** field. The content organized on the Panel page will look similar to the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows the 'Page Layout' configuration page in Drupal. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Content' selected. The main area is titled 'Variants » Panel » Content' and includes a 'New' button. Below this, there are 'Variant operations' (Clone, Export, Delete, Disable) and a message: 'The page has been updated. Changes will not be permanent until you save.' The 'Display settings' section shows 'Title type' set to 'Manually set' and 'Title' set to 'My Information'. The layout is visualized with a 'Top' section, a 'Left side' column containing 'Custom: John Smith' and 'Custom: I am also', a 'Middle column' containing 'Custom: Sr Web Architect', and a 'Right side' column containing 'Custom: Links I like' and 'Custom: Contact'. A 'Bottom' section is also present. 'Update' and 'Update and preview' buttons are at the bottom.

16. Save the page layout and go to the link from your Panels UI. You will see a page similar to the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows the 'My Information' panel on the Mindtrades website. The panel is titled 'My Information' and has 'View' and 'Edit Panel' buttons. It is organized into three columns: 'John Smith', 'Sr Web Architect', and 'Links I like'. The 'John Smith' column contains a paragraph about John Smith and a section 'I am also known as' with the text 'I am also known as Drupal Architect by many of my friends'. The 'Sr Web Architect' column contains a paragraph about Sr Web Architect. The 'Links I like' column contains a list of links: 'Drupal', 'Rails', 'Mollom', and 'Contact Information'. The 'Contact Information' section contains the address: 'Mindtrades Inc, 18 Lightwood drive, Toronto'.

How it works...

We have now started using the Panels UI to generate regions for our custom Panels page. We are able to generate very elegant looking layouts for our custom page using the UI.

Cloning a page layout

We did create a page layout in the previous recipe. Now, we will clone the same layout to show how easily we can replicate layouts across the site.

Getting ready

The first step always will be to go to the Panels dashboard. Always select the page you need to clone.

Select **Edit** on the **Page Layout** page, which we created earlier.

How to do it...

1. Select the **Clone** tab on the UI.

The screenshot shows the 'Page Layout' clone interface. At the top, there's a title 'Page Layout' and a set of action buttons: 'Clone', 'Export', 'Delete', 'Disable', 'Add variant', and 'Import variant'. Below this is a sidebar with a 'Summary' section and a 'Variants' section. The main content area is titled 'Clone' and contains the following fields and instructions:

- Page name:** A text input field.
- Administrative title:** A text input field with the value 'Page Layout'.
- Path:** A text input field with the value 'pagelayout'.
- Clone variants:** A checkbox that is checked.

Below the 'Clone variants' checkbox, there is a note: 'If checked all variants associated with the page will be cloned as well. If not checked the page will be cloned without variants.' At the bottom of the form is a 'Clone' button.

2. Type in title **PageLayoutClone**.
3. In **Administrative title**, type **Page Layout Clone**. In the path, put **pagelayoutclone**, so that it creates another page.

4. Check **Clone variants**. If checked, all variants associated with the page will be cloned as well. If not checked, the page will be cloned without variants.
5. Click on **Clone**.

Page Layout

Clone
Export
Delete
Disable
Add variant
Import variant

Summary

Settings

Basic

Access

Menu

Variants

Panel

Summary

General

Selection rules

Contexts

Layout

Content

Preview

Clone

Make a copy of this page

Page name:

Enter the name to the new page It must be unique and contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores.

Administrative title:

The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it.

Path:

The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and !name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/foo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard!/input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form. You cannot use the same path as the original page.

☒ **Clone variants**
If checked all variants associated with the page will be cloned as well. If not checked the page will be cloned without variants.

Clone

6. This creates the same clone of our **pagelayout** page.

Mindtrades

Home

admin

- My account
- Create content
- Administer
- Log out

My Information
View
Edit Panel

Bhavin Patel

Bhavin Patel is a Drupal Web Developer Based in Toronto. Equipped with a powerful blend of features, Drupal supports a variety of websites ranging from personal weblogs to large community-driven websites.

I am also known as
 I am also known as Drupal Architect by many of my friends

Sr Web Architect

Results-oriented lead architect with a focus on delivering high-quality code and products in high traffic environments. Enthusiastic about building new products and services. Proven leadership ability; capable of keeping a team focused on the tasks and deadlines at hand. Solves immediate crises with solutions that will fit for the long-term. Nine years of experience in the Internet industry, specializes in ROR(Ruby on Rails)/LAMP technologies. Hands-on experience with all aspects of building large-scale, high-availability applications application development, n-tier architecture, frameworks, data interchange, security, on-line commerce, database administration, replication, and optimization, server administration, open source software, and quality assurance. Stays up to date with best practices.(and still learning.. {all new technologies.})

Links I like

- Drupal
- Rails
- Mollom

Contact Information

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How it works...

This recipe is extremely useful when your site has similar layouts and contents for various pages. You can just clone a page and then do some minor changes in the cloned page to make a new page.

It really is a fantastic tool when it comes to managing complex sites with similar layouts and huge data.

Creating Access rules for the page

We will now generate custom access rules for our pages.

Getting ready

Select the test page from UI or create your own new custom page.

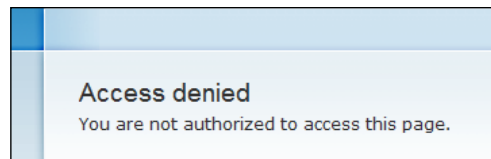
How to do it...

1. Go to the **Access** tab on the left-hand side menu of the Panels UI:

The screenshot shows the 'test' page in the Panels UI. On the left is a sidebar menu with sections: 'test' (selected), 'Settings' (with sub-items: Summary, Basic, Access, Menu), 'Variants', and 'Panel' (with sub-items: Summary, General, Selection rules, Contexts, Layout, Content, Preview). The 'Access' tab is selected in the 'Settings' section. The main content area is titled 'Settings >> Access' and contains a description: 'Access rules are used to test if the page is accessible and any menu items associated with it are visible.' Below this is a table with two columns: 'Title' and 'Description'. The table is currently empty, with a message 'No criteria selected, this test will pass.' Below the table is a dropdown menu set to 'PHP Code' with an 'Add' button next to it. At the bottom, there are two radio buttons: 'All criteria must pass.' (which is selected) and 'Only one criteria must pass.' An 'Update' button is located at the bottom right of the configuration area.

2. You will be able to see three options in the criteria:
 - ❑ **PHP Code**—used for creating custom access rules.
 - ❑ **User: permission**—to set the access rules of a User defined in your website to be true for the page.
 - ❑ **User: role**—to set the access rules of a role defined in your website to be true for the page.

- Let's select the **User: permission** here in this case for a clear understanding. Check **All criteria should pass** and click on **Add**.
- We now add that the logged in user here has access to comments.
- Now, when you look in the summary of the page, you will find something like this:
Access: Accessible only if Logged in user has "access comments". So, if the logged in user has permission to view comment, then and then only, the user would be able to see the page.
- Now, we log in as an anonymous user who does not have permission to see comments and see this:



There's more...

- This recipe is more towards roles and permissions. However, you can create custom permissions on Panel pages with PHP code snippets. This can be done by adding a small PHP snippet. Suppose, you want to show the Panel only to the administrator. Go to the selection rules and select add **PHP Code**:

Variants ▶ Panel ▶ Summary General Selection rules ▶ Contexts Layout Content Preview	specified below) will be used. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Title</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">No criteria selected, this test will pass.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PHP Code ▼</td> <td>Add</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> ☒ All criteria must pass. ☐ Only one criteria must pass.	Title	Description	No criteria selected, this test will pass.		PHP Code ▼	Add
Title	Description						
No criteria selected, this test will pass.							
PHP Code ▼	Add						

- Put an administration description and in the PHP code, write the following code. Access will be granted if the following code is true:

```
global $user;
return (bool) $user->uid;
```

To display only to anonymous users, use the following snippet:

```
global $user;
return !(bool) $user->uid;
```

Providing visible menus to the page

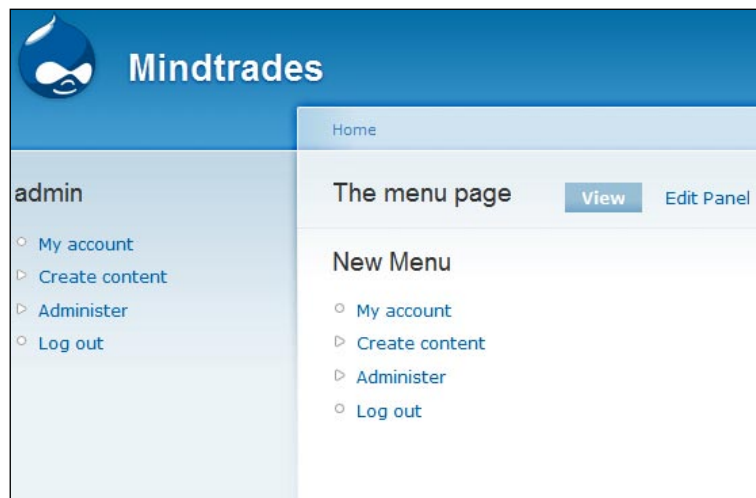
Let's make a menu for our Panel's page.

Getting ready

Create a new Panel page, say menupage, using the Panels Dashboard. Now, we will override our navigation menu only for this particular page (a single column page).

How to do it...

1. Go to the **Menu** page and from the Panel UI select **Menu**.
2. Select **Menu tab**.
3. Update and save.
4. In the UI, select **Content** and select the gear in middle column, then select **Add content** followed by **Menus**.
5. Select the **Navigation** menu and write override title as **New Menu**.



6. So, we created a separate navigational menu into our Panel page.
7. We can put in Primary links and Secondary links too in the same manner.
8. We can include a custom menu if we define a customized menu. The customized menu too then will be displayed in the list.

There's more...

This was to include a menu within the content, but what if we want to play around with the main menu in our Panel page? Let's see that:

1. Click on the **Edit** link on your **Menu Page**.
2. If you select **No menu entry** (as shown in the following screenshot), you will not see the main navigational menu on your Panel page.

3. The navigational menu disappears as shown in the following screenshot:

4. Select **Normal menu entry**, and the menu will appear as normal.

Adding custom CSS

We will now add custom CSS to our Panels page, which will override the basic CSS of the template for only the selected Panel.

Getting ready

Create a new Panel page from the UI. Here, we take the earlier created **test** page.

How to do it...

1. Select the page from the Panels UI.
2. Go to the **General** tab from the left-hand side of the UI menu.
3. Check **Disable Drupal blocks/regions** to disable all regions displayed in the theme. Note that some themes support this setting better than others. If in doubt, try with stock themes to see. Here, we disable the Drupal block to see how pure CSS can be implemented.
4. Now, we enter a basic CSS: `p {color:red;text-align:center}`.

Change general settings about this variant.

Administrative title:

Administrative title of this variant.

☒ **Disable Drupal blocks/regions**
Check this to have the page disable all regions displayed in the theme. Note that some themes support this setting better than others. If in doubt, try with stock themes to see.

CSS ID:

The CSS ID to apply to this page

CSS code:

```
p {color:red;text-align:center}
```

Enter well-formed CSS code here; this code will be embedded into the page, and should only be used for minor adjustments; it is usually better to try to put CSS for the page into the theme if possible. This CSS will be filtered for safety so some CSS may not work.

5. Click on **Update** and then save.

- Go to the **Content** tab and add another content in our Middle column using the gears:

Configure New custom content ✖ Close Window

Administrative title:

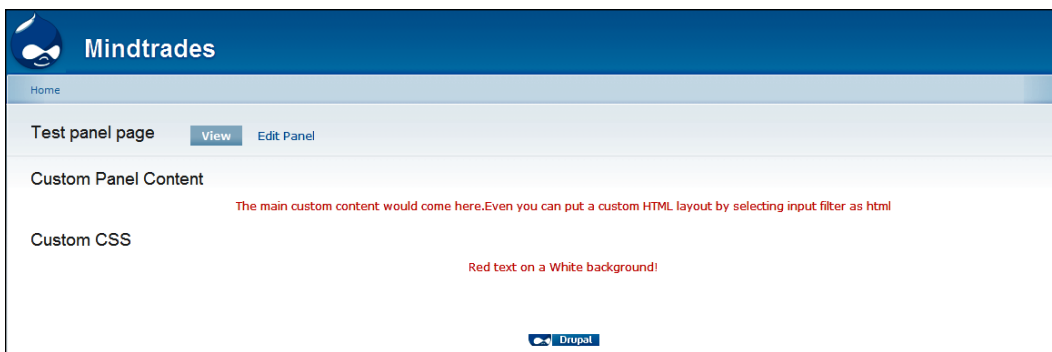
This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used.

Title:

Body:

[Input format](#)

- Name it as **Custom CSS** and we put in some content with the attribute `<p>` to check our implemented CSS.



- Update and save, and check the page now.
- See that there are no blocks on the page, and that the page is available for full customization.
- With a little knowledge of CSS, you can make a custom page with this.
- We also see that, even the `<p>` tag of the earlier created content (one that was already present – Custom Panel Content), is also changed to our implemented CSS.
- You can also create a custom CSS ID in the main template for the entire Panel and then refer to the ID in the CSS ID box available in the **General** tab.

How it works...

Using this recipe, we can now create an entirely different looking page than the main template. This becomes very handy when you design websites that have many different sections that need a different look but also have the main layout of the page.

There are examples and suggested sections in each column depending on the type of website. This will build up a general idea of how you can build a complex website by using Panels.

Using contexts in Panels

According to Earl Miles (the creator of Panels), Context is defined as: In Panels, Context is lingo for a wrapper around any significant object. By default, Panels supports 'Node', 'Taxonomy term' (and terms as mentioned above), 'Taxonomy vocabulary', and 'User' as contexts.

These contexts can get into a display in more than one way; right now, there are three ways in which a panel page can acquire a context:

1. **Via arguments:** Under the **Advanced** tab in Panel pages, there is a list of possible arguments. Once added to the page, the argument is converted to a context, and this context becomes available for panes to use. Also, arguments can be selective; the node ID argument can restrict itself to a node type. If the node ID given is not a node of one of these types, no context will be created (and the argument can tell the system to 404 or just let it pass and the Panel will run without that context).
2. **Simply added:** Under the **Advanced** tab (currently, in -dev only and will be in Alpha14), there is a **Group a Context** section. Clicking **Add** on one will bring up a dialog, where a specific object is selected. For example, when adding the node context, the pop up will provide the auto complete to select a node by title or nid.
3. **By relationship:** Once a context is in a page via any method, more contexts can be added by relationship. For example, if I have a 'node', I can extract one or more 'term' contexts from it by the obvious relationship. Also, I can come up with another node via 'book parent'. I can come up with a user reference from a node too, by getting the author. Once CCK integration is in place (currently, it is not), I can come up with nodes via node references and users via user references.

Once you have contexts in the system, this allows Panel panes to appear that require contexts. For example, there is a 'node content' pane that simply renders a node. Without a node, it can't do anything; this context is required. If a node context isn't in the system, you won't even see this as an option. But once the display has a node context available, Panels will allow you to add the node context pane. Even better, if you happen to have multiple node contexts, in the pop up to add the pane, you can choose which node context to render.

Getting ready

Based upon the little understanding that you would have gotten reading about Contexts, we will now create one.

Create a Panel page using UI. We will also need some content to play around with. So, we create one node **Story1** (Story).

How to do it...

1. Create a page, **Context**, and keep it single column.
2. In the Panel UI, go to **Contexts**:

3. Select **Node** and then **Add context**:

4. Add the node ID of the node you created as story. It is the node ID that you will be able to see in the URL or even find at the Content section in your administration panel. Click on **Save**.
5. In the **Relationships**, select **Node author** and then click on **Add relationship**.

Add relationship "Node author"

Creates the author of a node as a user context.

Node:

Identifier:
Enter a name to identify this relationship on administrative screens.

Keyword:
Enter a keyword to use for substitution in titles.

6. Click on **Save**. This creates a relationship between our node and the node author that we would later use in our Panels. Update and save.

Contexts Page

[Clone](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [Disable](#) [Add variant](#) [Import variant](#)

Summary	Variants » Panel » Contexts		New
Settings	Variant operations		Clone Export Delete Disable
Basic	Add additional context objects to this variant that can be used by the content.		
Access	The page has been updated. Changes will not be permanent until you save.		
Menu			
Variants			
Panel			
Summary			
General			
Selection rules			
Contexts			
Layout			
Content			
Preview			

Summary of contexts

Context	Node
Context 1	Keyword: %node %node:uid --> Author UID %node:nid --> Node ID %node:vid --> Node revision ID %node:title --> Node title %node:type --> Node type
From "Node"	Node author Keyword: %user %user:uid --> User ID %user:name --> User name

Contexts

Contexts	Operation
Node	Add context

Relationships

Relationships	Operation
Node author	Add relationship

7. Now, we need to create the content based upon our context that we have created.
8. Go to the **Content** tab.

9. Put the **Title** as **Context Demonstration**.
10. Select the gear in the **Middle column**.

Contexts Page

Clone Export Delete Disable Add variant Import variant

Summary	Variants » Panel » Content
Settings	Variant operations Clone Export Delete Disable
Basic	Add content items and change their location with a drag and drop interface.
Access	▼ Display settings
Menu	
Variants	Title type:
Panel	Manually set ▼
Summary	Title:
General	Context Demonstration
Selection rules	The title of this panel. If left blank, a default title may be used. Set to No Title if you want the title to actually be blank. You may use substitutions in this title.
Contexts	— ▸ Substitutions
Layout	
Content	
Preview	

Update Update and preview

11. Select **Add content**, and in the **Node** tab select **Node content**.

Configure new Node content Close

Node:
Node ▼

☐ **Override title**
You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.

☐ **Leave node title**
Advanced: if checked, do not touch the node title; this can cause the node title to appear twice unless your theme is aware of this.

☒ **Link title to node**
Check here to make the title link to the node.

☒ **Show only node teaser**

☒ **Treat this as the primary node page**
This can affect title rendering and breadcrumbs from some node types.

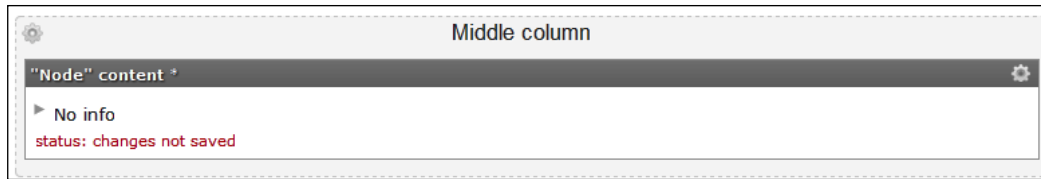
☒ **Include node links for "add comment", "read more" etc.**

☒ **No extras**
Check here to disable additions that modules might make to the node, such as file attachments and CCK fields; this should just display the basic teaser or body.

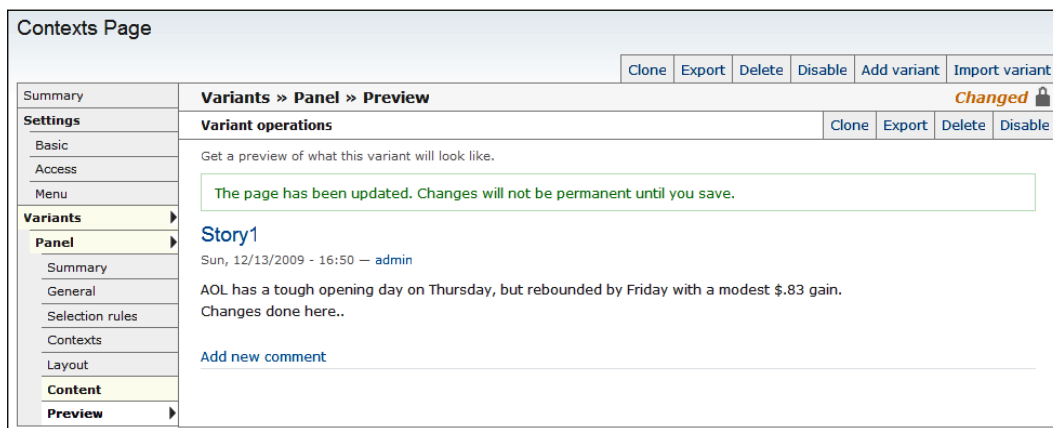
Template identifier:
This identifier will be added as a template suggestion to display this node: node-panel-IDENTIFIER.tpl.php. Please see the Drupal theming guide for information about template suggestions.

Changing Panel Interface

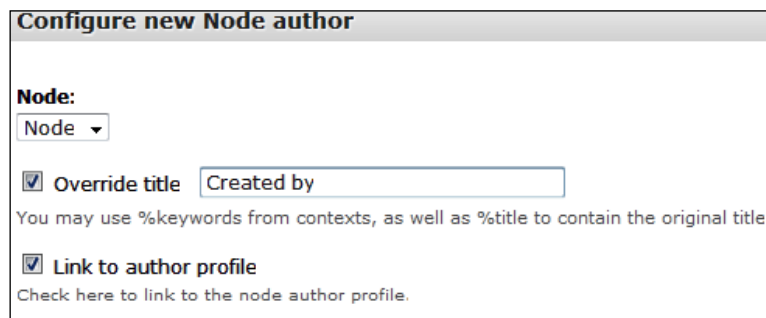
- Click on **Save**.



- Click on **Update** and preview. As you see, this pane does not show the actual content, but the Content type actually.



- The Node **Story1** is displayed in the pane.
- Now, we will actually use contexts; we will now create a new content, and as we have specified a relationship in the context, the node will be available into the Panels.
- Go to **Contents** and select the gear. Select **Node** and then **Node Author**.
- Override title by **Created by**. Check **Link to author profile**. Update and preview.



Making layouts for dynamic websites using Panels

This will be a recipe that'll introduce you to the layouts available in the Panels UI. Depending on what sort of website you are making, you can select the best suitable one.

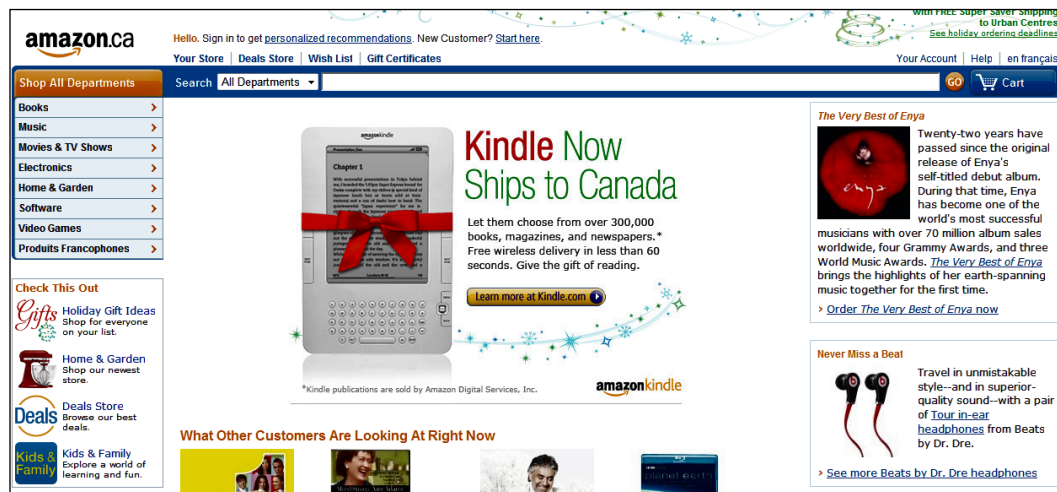
This will be an exercise recipe that'll help you to visualize almost any complex website fitted comfortably in your Panels' layout. Let's do it!

Once you are familiar with this, you will be able to use Panels in all your complex Drupal projects.

We will take top websites on the Internet and try to clone the layout as an exercise to practice Panels layout.

For e-commerce websites

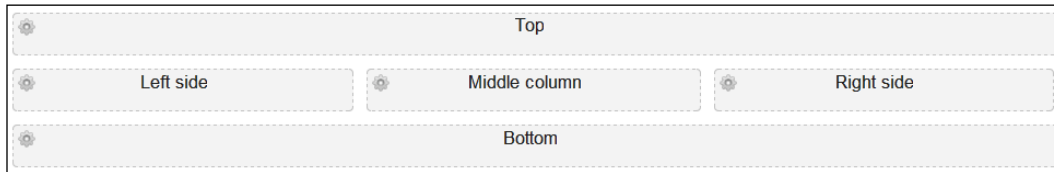
E-commerce websites have a lot of products and many categories. Imagine we are building an e-commerce website and we would like to make the layout similar to say Amazon.com (as shown in the following screenshot):



- ▶ To make this layout, we can use the **Three column 33/34/33 stacked** layout
- ▶ The **Top** section can have the logo and advertisement
- ▶ The **Left side** will have the navigation menu and the “Check this Out” or “Latest” section and “Features and Services”

Changing Panel Interface

- ▶ The **Middle column** will have Featured products of different categories
- ▶ The **Right column** can have discounted products and the one that sells the most
- ▶ The **Bottom** will have secondary links and secondary menus



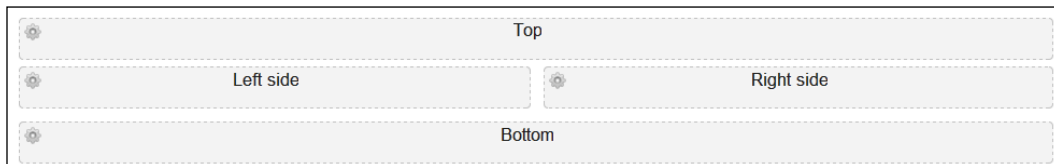
This is a suggested layout that many major e-commerce websites including Amazon follow and you can definitely create a website like that using Panels!

As an exercise, you can fit the Amazon.com layout into our Panels layout. Give it a try and see that it matches perfectly.

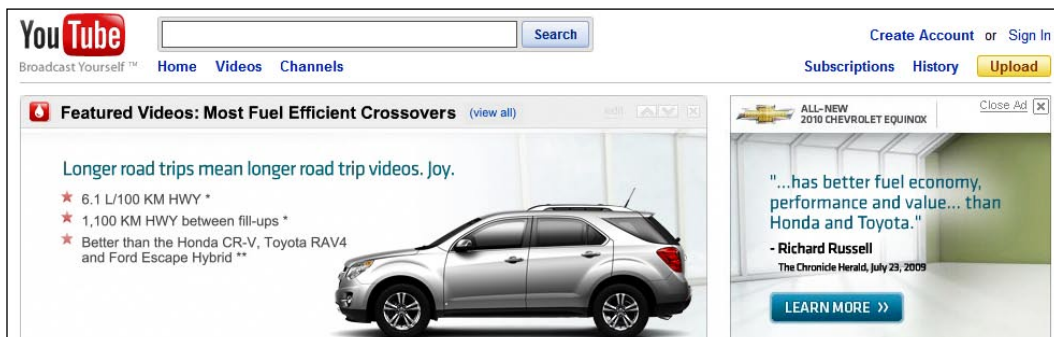
For media websites

Let's now select a layout for a media website. Let's consider YouTube as an example.

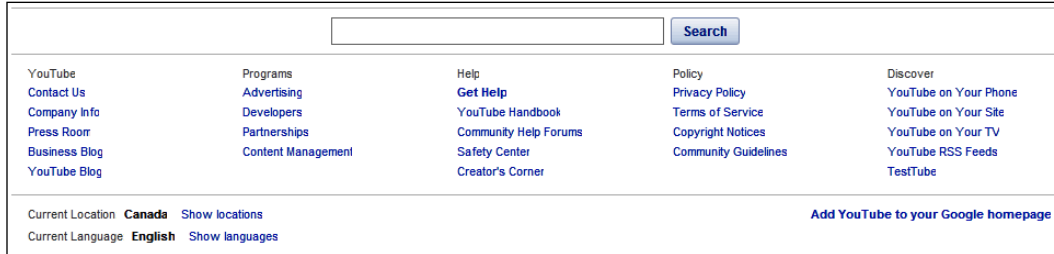
- ▶ Select the **Two column stacked** layout as follows:



- ▶ We will put the Logo, Search, and Primary menu in the **Top** section
- ▶ Featured video/photos on the **Left side**
- ▶ What's new and Latest on the **Right side**



- Search and Secondary menu and Secondary links in the **Bottom** part



For content-based sites and blogs

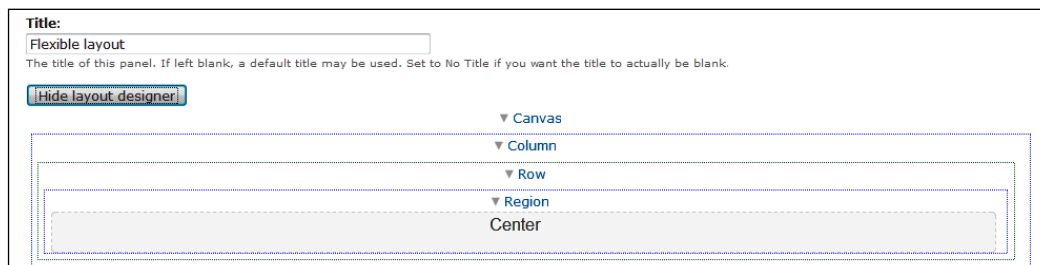
Let's take an example of a content-based site. The Suggested layout for such websites would be three column 33/34/33:



- You can select other layouts too depending on the volume of content on the website, but this layout can prove most ideal as seen on top blogs and content-based sites on the Internet
- All the three columns will have Posts category-wise
- And, additionally, the **Left side** will have the logo and all the three columns will have links at the bottom
- So, here each column will have multiple contents as we created earlier in our recipes and all can be sorted out as per requirement

For flexible layouts

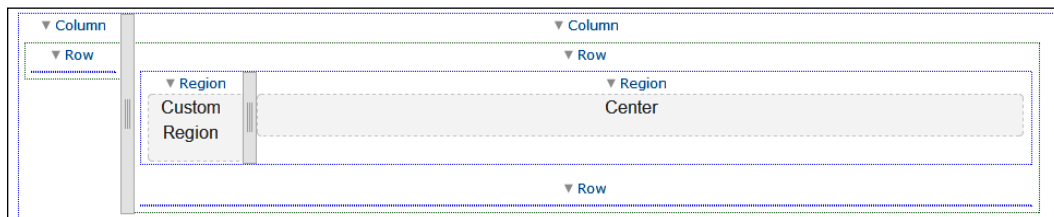
One of the best features of Panels is the flexible layout. If you are making a custom site and you need to define your layout, use the flexible layout in Panels. It has an amazing tool known as **layout designer**.



Changing Panel Interface

This tool will let you make a custom layout. It is very easy to use. You can click on **Column** to define columns. Click on **Row** to define rows.

By making different combinations of rows and columns, you can even nest columns within rows and rows within columns.

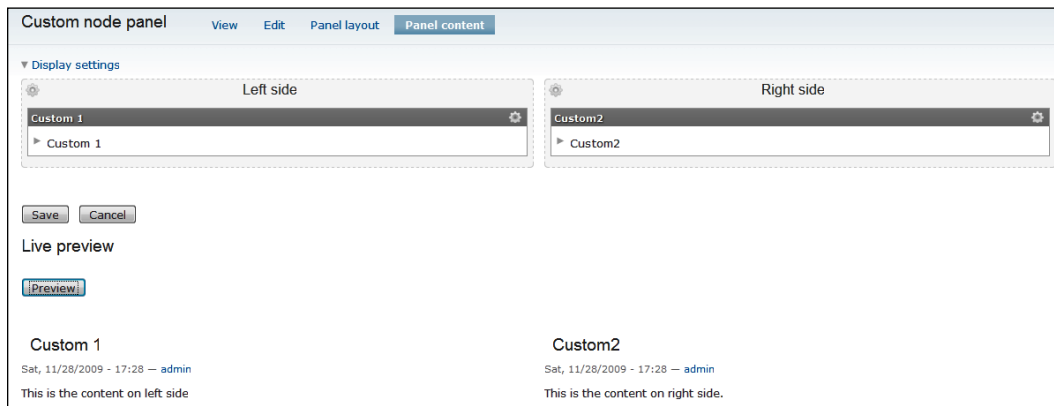


Using the live preview (best practices)

While making the layouts for a website, there is a need to change the layout many times until you finalize. Before committing your layout to the Drupal Panels database, we can always do a live preview before even saving it. If we are not satisfied, we can change it multiple times.

How to do it...

1. We have already used this in our recipes, but it is an essential part when adding Panels. Select a page you need to edit.
2. Select the **Panel content** tab on top and do a live **Preview**:



How it works...

This practice is very helpful when you need to change your layout and test your layouts on the fly even before saving.

3

Theming for Panels

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ How to embed CSS in panes
- ▶ Adding ID/class in Panels UI and target theme
- ▶ Applying styles to regions
- ▶ Creating a flexible design layout

Introduction

Using Panels puts the power of configuring layouts and selecting styles more in the hands of the Drupal administrator.

The major advantage of using CSS with Panels is modularity and reusability.

Let's see a beautiful example of a Panels website. I take <http://socialistworker.org> as the example here. This site makes extensive use of Panels. This site has been taken for demonstration purpose only.

The screenshot shows the SocialistWorker.org website. The layout is organized into several distinct panels:

- Header Panel:** Contains the site logo, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links like HOME, RECENT, THIS WEEK, E-MAIL ALERTS, RSS, DONATE, GET INVOLVED, ABOUT US, and CONTACT US.
- Left Sidebar Panel:** A vertical list of categories and authors, including DEPARTMENTS (War and Antiwar, Economy, National, International, Opinion), KEY TOPICS (Health care, Economic crisis, LGBT rights, etc.), and MAIN PAGES (Home, Recent, This Week, etc.).
- Main Content Area:**
 - Top Section:** A notice about a two-week holiday break from publishing, followed by a call to support the site.
 - Left Column:** A featured article titled "The road from 'Yes we can' to 'No we won't'" by Alan Maass, discussing the political climate under Obama.
 - Right Column:** A section titled "TOP ARTICLES OF 2009" featuring a photo of a protest and an article "A tale of two cities" by Leela Yelleseetty, contrasting the wealthy and poor in Seattle.
- Right Sidebar Panel:**
 - A large blue box with the text "Give a gift to SOCIALIST WORKER.org" and a "Donate now!" button.
 - A section titled "SW.ORG COLLECTIONS" listing various topic collections.
 - A "FEATURED VIDEO" section showing a man speaking at a podium.

In the case of SocialistWorker.org, several custom Panels were defined, which the editors can choose from when laying out their home page each day, with subtle variations on the size of the leading story, column widths, and so on.

- ▶ Uses Panels 2—front page is entirely drag-and-drop, using Panels 2.
- ▶ Editors lay out tomorrow's front page in advance using a draft. A draft Panel for tomorrow's front page exists, so the editors can lay it out in advance.

Using the combination of powerful Panels UI and custom CSS, a distinct looking web design can be created. The example site that we took as a case study can be generated effortlessly using the Panels UI.

We can generate such layouts by using flexible layouts as we have seen in a past recipe, and apply individual CSS to Panel panes as we will demonstrate in this chapter.

Embedding CSS in Panels UI

Panels can be used effectively to produce high-end Web front pages as well as complex layouts.

Getting ready

Let's create a new Panel page using Panels UI.

How to do it...

1. Set the **Administrative title** as **Css Theming**.
2. Put **Css_Theming** as the **Machine name**. Generally, machine names are lowercase in Drupal.
3. Add the description and path, as shown in the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows the 'Css Theming' panel configuration page. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Summary', 'Settings', 'Basic', 'Access', 'Menu', 'Variants', 'Panel', 'Summary', 'General', 'Selection rules', 'Contexts', 'Layout', 'Content', and 'Preview'. The main content area is titled 'Settings >> Basic' and contains the following fields:

- Administrative title:** A text field containing 'Css Theming'.
- Machine name:** A text field containing 'Css_Theming'.
- Administrative description:** A large text area containing 'Css Theming'.
- Path:** A text field containing 'http://mindtrades.com/drupal/csstheming'.

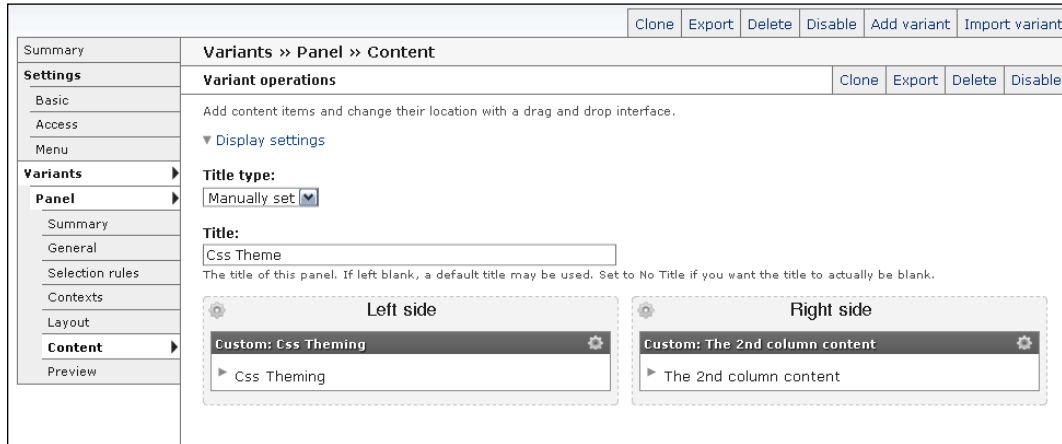
Below the 'Path' field, there is a checkbox labeled 'Make this your site home page.' and a note: 'To set this panel as your home page you must create a unique path name with no % placeholders in the path. The current site home page is set to /node.'

4. Go to the **General** tab.
5. Now, we come to the embed CSS part, Let's define our **CSS ID** as **cool-panel**. Don't include # here.
6. Let's make a simple CSS for our Panel as defined here. This will make a custom Panel with a width of 600px, aligned centered, central, with a grey color and a red, dashed border.
7. The code is:

```
#cool-panel{
width:600px;
margin-left: auto;
margin-right: auto;
background-color:#DDD;
color:#000;
font-family:helvetica,arial,sans-serif;
font-size:1em;
border-style:dashed;
border-color:red;
border-width: 2px;}
```

		Clone	Export	Delete	Disable	Add variant	Import variant
Summary	Variants » Panel » General						
Settings	Variant operations						Clone Export Delete Disable
Basic	Change general settings about this variant.						
Access	Administrative title:						
Menu	Panel						
Variants	Administrative title of this variant.						
Panel	☒ Disable Drupal blocks/regions						
Summary	Check this to have the page disable all regions displayed in the theme. Note that some themes support this setting better than others. If in doubt, try with stock themes to see.						
General	CSS ID:						
Selection rules	cool-panel						
Contexts	The CSS ID to apply to this page						
Layout	CSS code:						
Content	<pre>#cool-panel{ width:600px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; background-color:#DDD; color:#000;}</pre>						
Preview	Enter well-formed CSS code here; this code will be embedded into the page, and should only be used for minor adjustments; it is usually better to try to put CSS for the page into the theme if possible. This CSS will be filtered for safety so some CSS may not work.						
	Update						

8. Select a two-column layout:



9. Let's put some content in each column, and then update and save.



10. This gives us our custom CSS Panel with styles applied to the entire Panel pane.

How it works...

This way we made a custom CSS-based Panel by embedding the code within the Panels UI. This is helpful when we need to make small changes to Panels and also when we want complete flexibility on how our Panel looks.

This is a simple example that shows you how you can embed CSS. You can make complex layouts by generating your own CSS and using existing nodes in each column with pictures that make your Panels more beautiful and presentable.

Adding ID/class in Panel UI and target theme

We will now demonstrate how to add a CSS ID class in the Panel and define the class in the theme CSS stylesheet.

Getting ready

Create a new Panel page using the Panel UI. In the last recipe, we made use of embedded CSS. Now, we will dive into making use of the base theme's `style.css` stylesheet. This gives us more flexibility when you design a complex site and need the styles to be called from the stylesheet.

How to do it...

1. Let's first put the same CSS that we created in the last recipe into our theme's `style.css`. My favorite is the Garland theme that ships with Drupal. So, let's put the same CSS ID in the `style.css`. This is normally not a good practice (to hack the core Garland theme) and we are doing it here only for demonstration purposes.
2. Put the same code as in the previous recipe in your `/themes/garland/style.css` file.
3. Create a new page using Panel UI. I have named it as **External Css**, as shown in the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows the Drupal Panel UI for a page named "External Css". The interface includes a sidebar with a "Settings" menu and a main content area with "Settings >> Basic" configuration options. The "Administrative title" is set to "External Css", the "Machine name" is "externalcss", and the "Path" is "http://mindtrades.com/drupal/externalcss". There is a checkbox for "Make this your site home page" which is currently unchecked.

External Css	
Clone Export Delete Disable Add variant Import variant	
Summary	Settings >> Basic
Settings	Edit name, path and other basic settings for the page.
Basic	Administrative title: External Css The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it. Machine name: externalcss The machine readable name of this page. It must be unique, and it must contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores. Once created, you will not be able to change this value! Administrative description: Using External CSS A description of what this page is, does or is for, for administrative use. Path: http://mindtrades.com/drupal/externalcss The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and %name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/foo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard/%input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form. ☐ Make this your site home page. To set this panel as your home page you must create a unique path name with no % placeholders in the path. The current site home page is set to /node.
Access	
Menu	
Variants	
Panel	
Summary	
General	
Selection rules	
Contexts	
Layout	
Content	
Preview	

- | External CSS | | Clone | Export | Delete | Disable | Add variant | Import variant |
|-----------------|---|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------------|----------------|
| Summary | Variants » Panel » General | | | | | | |
| Settings | Variant operations | | | | | Clone | Export |
| Basic | Change general settings about this variant. | | | | | | |
| Access | | | | | | | |
| Menu | | | | | | | |
| Variants | | | | | | | |
| Panel | | | | | | | |
| Summary | | | | | | | |
| General | <p>Administrative title:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Administrative title of this variant.</p> <p>☐ Disable Drupal blocks/regions
Check this to have the page disable all regions displayed in the theme. Note that some themes support this setting better than others. If in doubt, try with stock themes to see.</p> <p>CSS ID:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>The CSS ID to apply to this page</p> <p>CSS code:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 100px;"></div> <p>Enter well-formed CSS code here; this code will be embedded into the page, and should only be used for minor adjustments; it is usually better to try to put CSS for the page into the theme if possible. This CSS will be filtered for safety so some CSS may not work.</p> | | | | | | |
| Selection rules | | | | | | | |
| Contexts | | | | | | | |
| Layout | | | | | | | |
| Content | | | | | | | |
| Preview | | | | | | | |

-

This recipe shows how we can make custom Panels using the external CSS. We used the main theming stylesheet in this case to theme our Panel.

The administrators should use the main stylesheet to define the major design of the panels and use embedded CSS to refine each panel in detail.

59

Applying styles to a region

In the previous recipe, you learned how to add custom CSS to an entire Panel. You can also add custom CSS (and IDs and classes) to individual regions. This is a very robust and modular way to add styling to regions across several panels without duplicating lots of CSS.

The major difference here would be that now we will apply our **cool-panel** CSS ID to each region instead of the entire Panel to have a better understanding.

Getting ready

Create a new Panel page using the Panels UI.

How to do it...

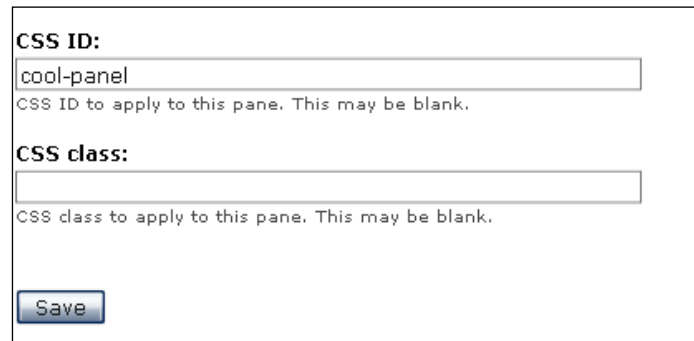
1. Let's create a two-column Panel as a node.
2. In the Panels UI, create a Panel node and select two columns.
3. Name it as **Regional CSS**.



4. Now, click on the gear on the **Left side** pane and create a custom content pane. Name it as **leftside**.

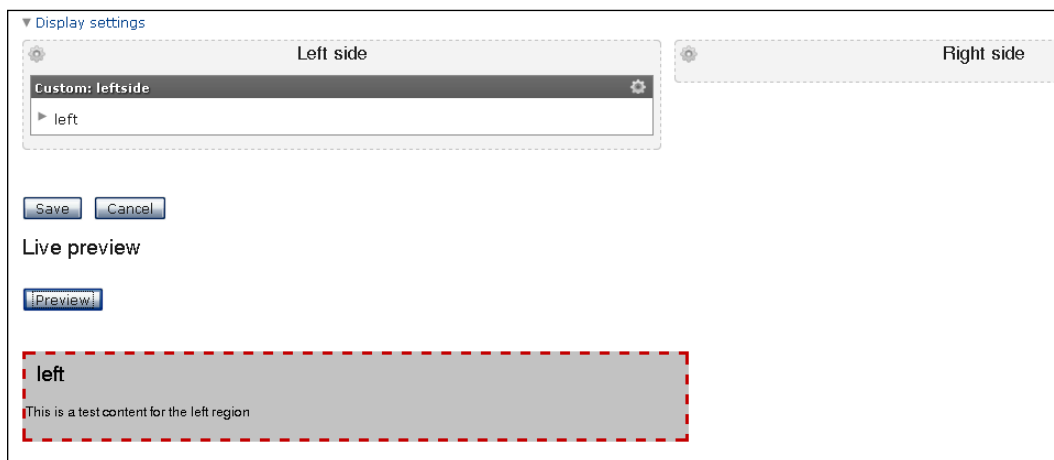


- Click on the gear in **leftside** and go to **CSS Properties**. Enter the **CSS ID** as shown in the following screenshot:



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "CSS Properties". It has two input fields: "CSS ID:" with the value "cool-panel" and "CSS class:" which is empty. Below each field is a small text note: "CSS ID to apply to this pane. This may be blank." and "CSS class to apply to this pane. This may be blank." respectively. At the bottom left is a "Save" button.

- Do a live preview. You can now see that we have our custom region on a node.



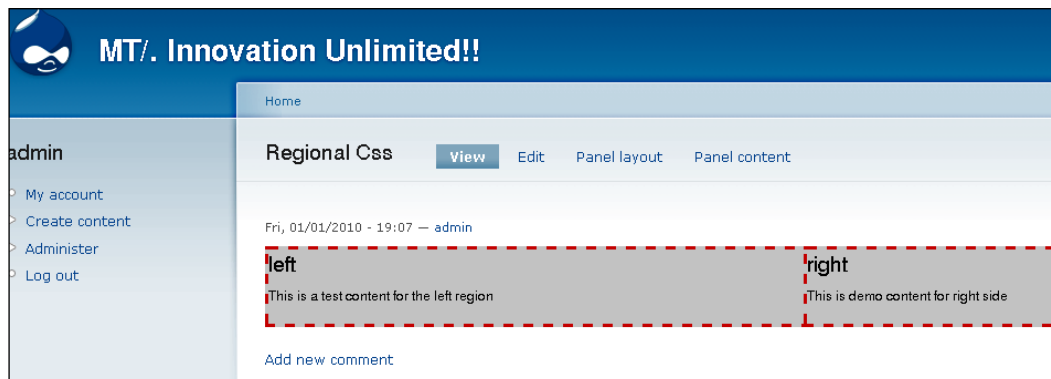
The screenshot shows a "Display settings" window. At the top, there are two tabs: "Left side" and "Right side". The "Left side" tab is active, showing a configuration area with a gear icon, a dropdown menu set to "Custom: leftside", and a list containing "left". Below this are "Save" and "Cancel" buttons. Underneath is a "Live preview" section with a "Preview" button. At the bottom, there is a live preview of the "left" region, which is a gray rectangle with a red dashed border. Inside the rectangle, the text "left" is visible, and below it, a smaller text says "This is a test content for the left region".

- Repeat steps 4-7 for the **Right side** too but using a different class and save.

8. Do a live preview now:

The screenshot shows the 'Display settings' window for a panel. It has two main sections: 'Left side' and 'Right side'. Each section has a 'Custom' dropdown menu. Under 'Left side', the 'Custom: leftside' dropdown is set to 'left'. Under 'Right side', the 'Custom: rightside' dropdown is set to 'right'. Below these sections are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons. A 'Live preview' section contains a 'Preview' button. At the bottom, a live preview area shows two gray rectangular regions. The left region is labeled 'left' and contains the text 'This is a test content for the left region'. The right region is labeled 'right' and contains the text 'This is demo content for right side'. Both regions are outlined with a red dashed border.

9. We now have defined a custom node with CSS applied to each region of the node.



How it works...

This recipe shows that we can go to the micro level and even can customize each region within an individual node.

Creating a flexible design layout

We will now use the flexible layout to generate a layout similar to SocialistWorker.org, our case study.

Getting ready

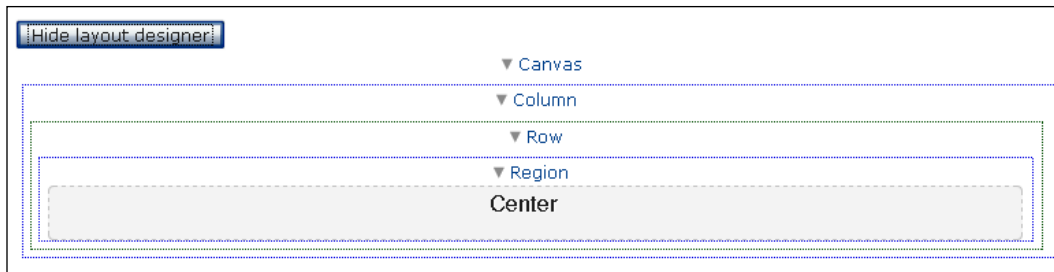
Create a Panel page named **Flexible layouts**.

The screenshot shows the 'Flexible Layouts' configuration page. On the left is a sidebar menu with 'Settings' expanded, showing 'Basic', 'Access', 'Menu', and 'Variants'. Under 'Variants', 'Panel' is selected, with sub-items: 'Summary', 'General', 'Selection rules', 'Contexts', 'Layout', 'Content', and 'Preview'. The main content area is titled 'Settings » Basic' and includes buttons for 'Clone', 'Export', 'Delete', 'Disable', 'Add variant', and 'Import variant'. It contains fields for 'Administrative title' (set to 'Flexible Layouts'), 'Machine name' (set to 'FlexibleLayouts'), and 'Administrative description' (a large text area). At the bottom, the 'Path' is set to 'http://localhost/drupal/flexiblelayout'.

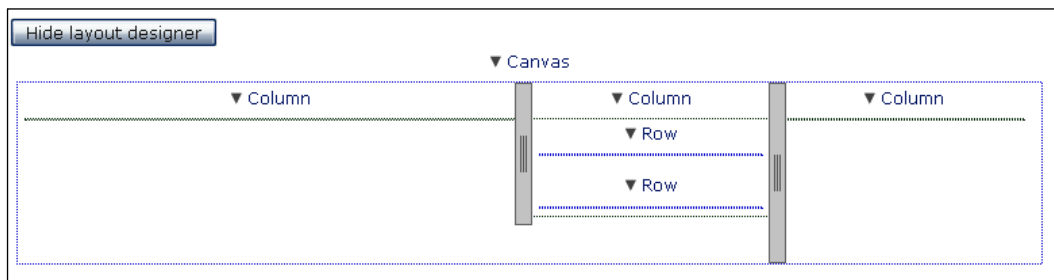
How to do it...

1. Select the **Flexible** layout while making the Panel page.
2. In the Panels UI, select **Show layout designer**. You will be able to hide the designer as well, as shown in the following screenshots:

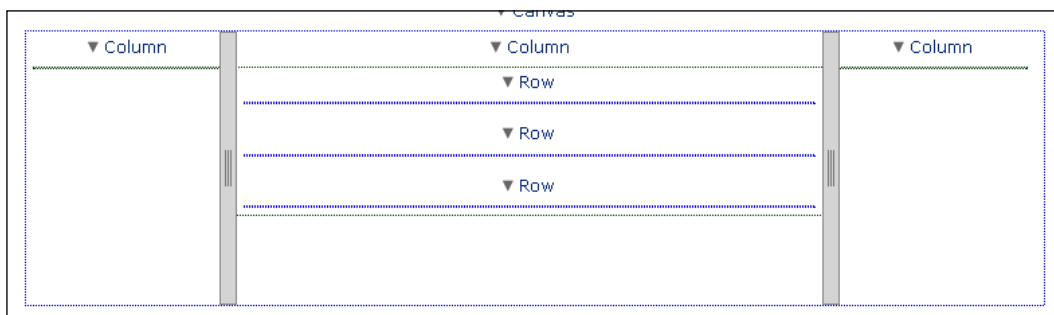
This screenshot shows the 'Variants » Panel » Content' configuration page. The sidebar menu has 'Content' selected under 'Variants'. The main area has buttons for 'Clone', 'Export', 'Delete', 'Disable', 'Add variant', and 'Import variant', along with a 'New' button and a lock icon. Below these are 'Variant operations' buttons (Clone, Export, Delete, Disable) and a description: 'Add content items and change their location with a drag and drop interface.' There is a 'Display settings' link. The 'Title type' is set to 'Manually set'. A 'Title' field is present. A 'Show layout designer' button is highlighted. Below it, a dashed box contains the word 'Center'.



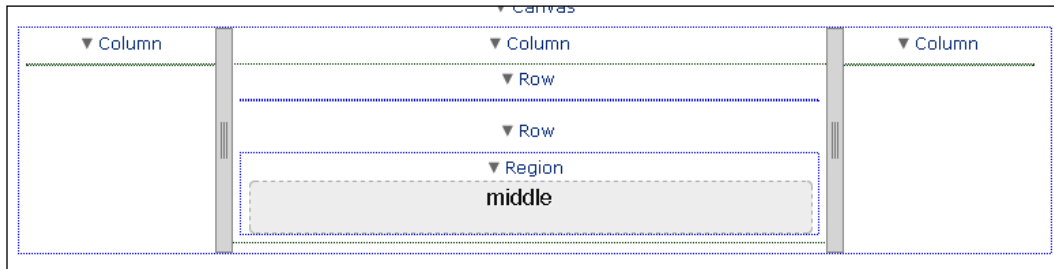
3. Now, if you study the layout of SocialistWorker.org, you see that it has three columns. The middle column has two rows and the second row has two columns.
4. So, let's create the layout using the layout designer.
5. Select **Canvas** and add a column to the left.
6. Select **Canvas** and add a column on the right. You should now have a layout similar to the following screenshot:



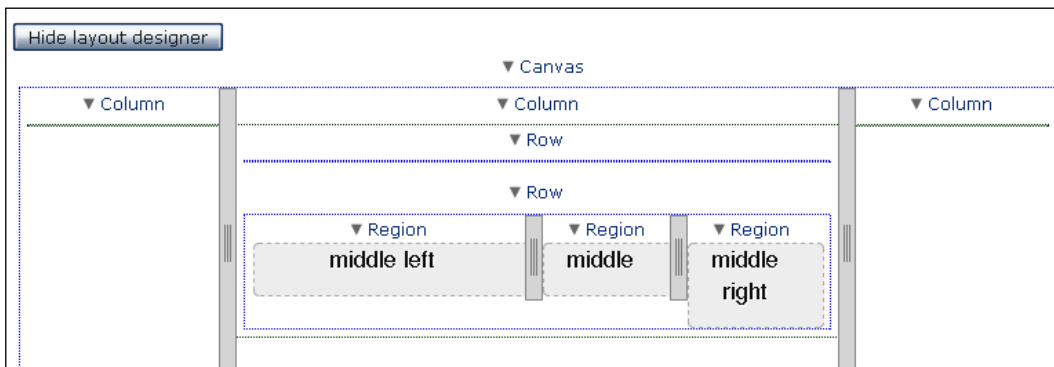
7. See the sliders and move them to make our layout.
8. Keep the left region and right region at **20%** each. The middle region will fill the remaining **60%**.
9. Update the layout.



10. In the center region, go to the second row, create a region, and name it **middle**.

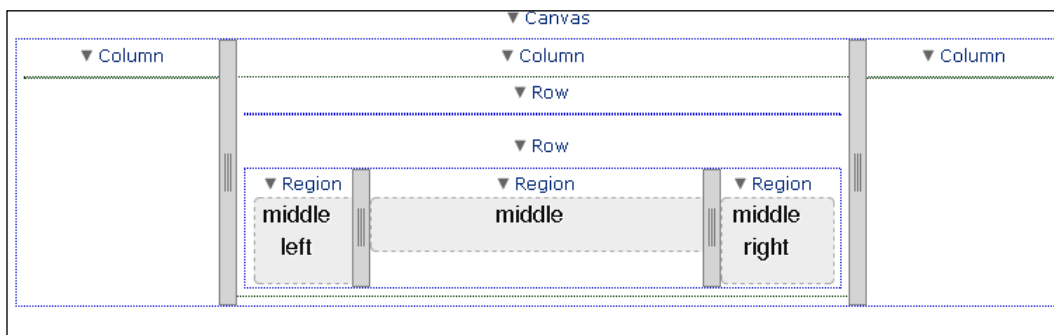


11. Now, you will be able to add regions on the left- and right-hand sides to the left of middle and to the right of middle, making the second row with three columns. Name them as **middle left**, **middle**, and **middle right**.

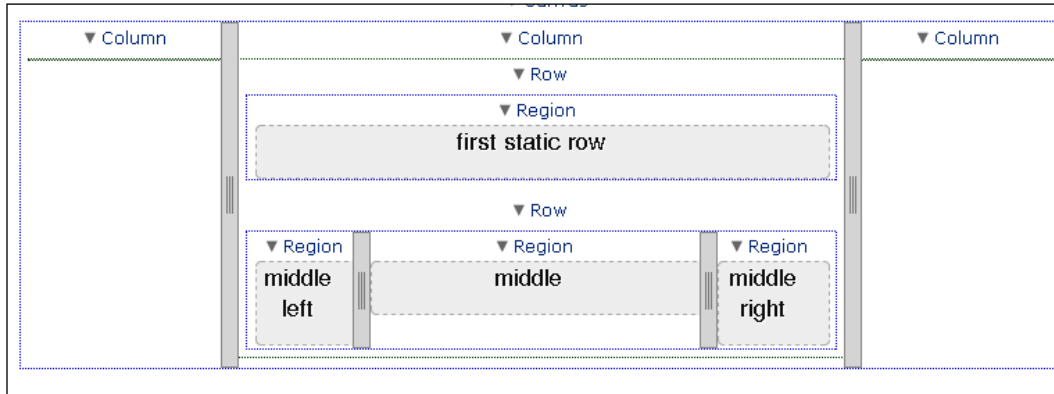


Remember: You can always delete a region, if you go wrong while editing or accidentally mess up.

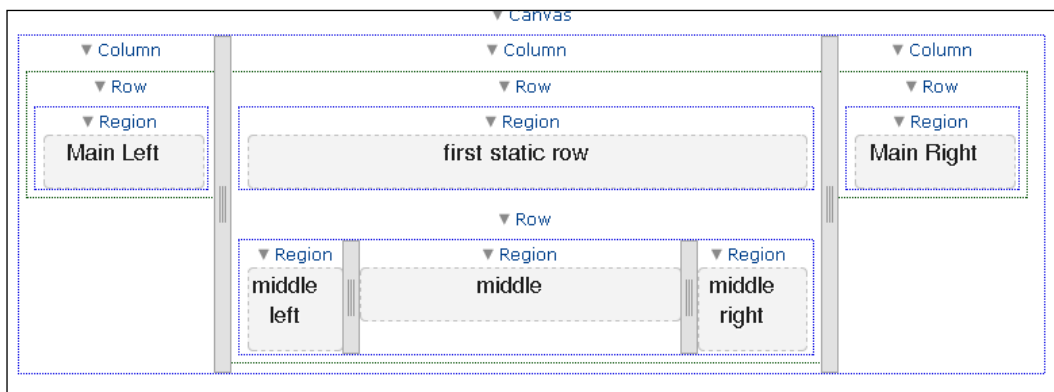
12. Slide the pane to fix the region's width. Keep **middle** at the middle as 60%.



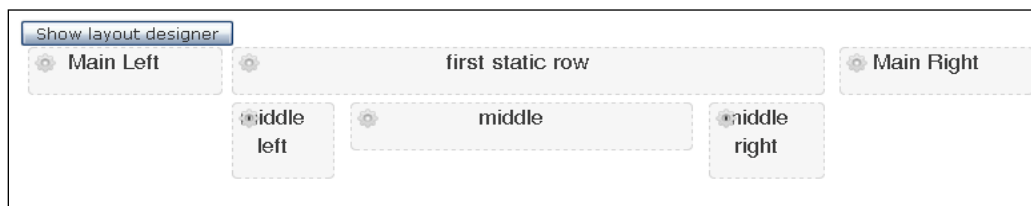
13. Don't forget to add a region in the first row. Name it as **first static row**.



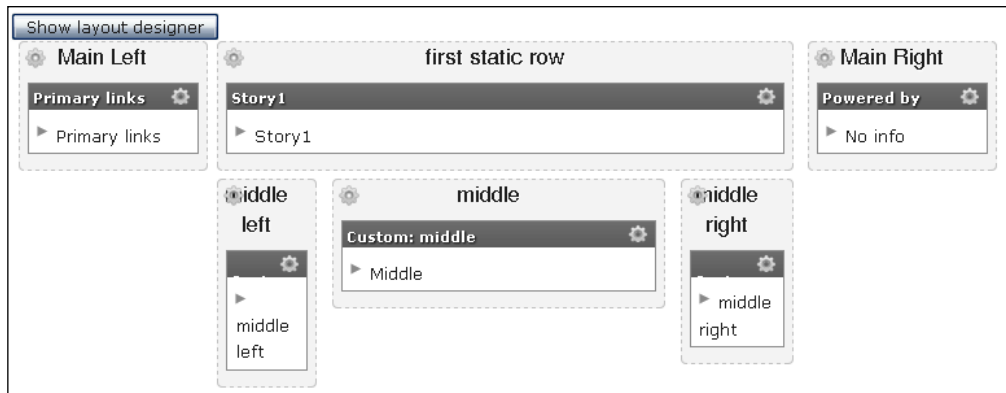
14. Now, in each Main Left and Main Right add a row. Then, add a region to each now. Name these as **Main Left** and **Main Right** respectively as shown in the following screenshot:



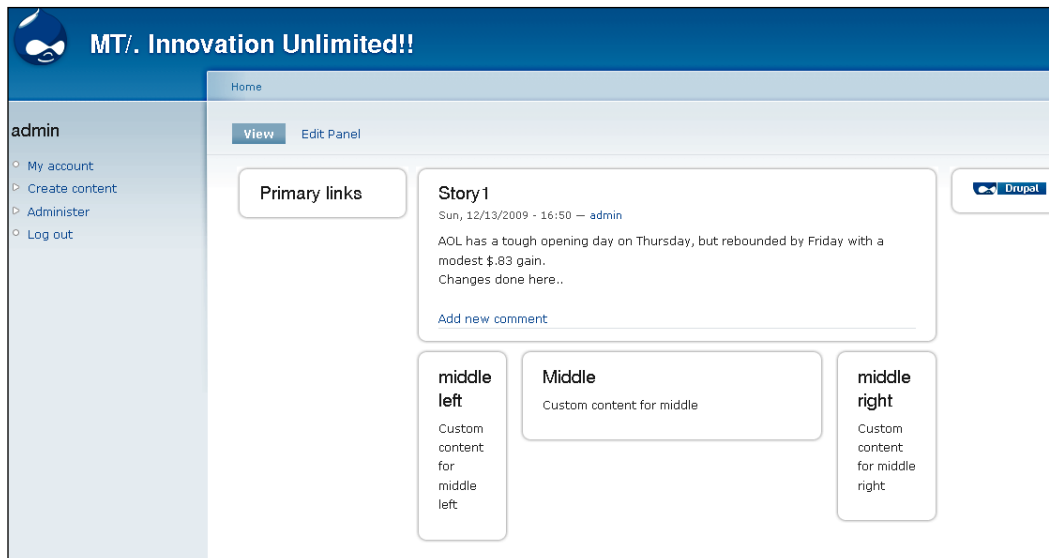
15. Update and save.
16. And we now see the finished layout that we have created as per our case study. We will assume that the header and footer will be provided by part of the main theme.



17. Click on the gear in the **Main Left** region. Click on **Add content**. From **Menus**, choose **Primary links**.
18. Click on the gear in the **Main Right** region. Choose the **Powered by Drupal** widget.
19. Click on the gear in the **first static row** region. Here, we will add a node, called **Story1**.
20. In the middle left, middle, and middle right regions, we will create custom content. In the original case of SocialistWorker.org, Views have been added to these regions.

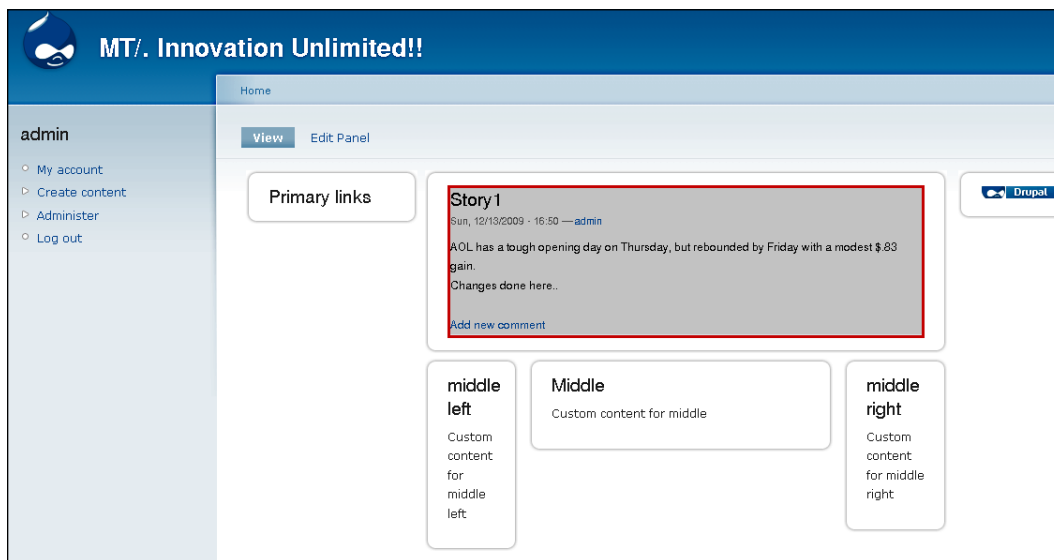


21. To spice things up, let's add rounded corners to the content. Go to each content item's gear now, and change the style to **Rounded corners**.
22. Save and see the flexible layout we just created.



23. Now, let's add custom CSS to one region—to the **Story1** node in the **first static row** region.
24. Add this CSS code in the **General** tab of the Panel UI:

```
#custom-story {#custom-story{
margin-left: auto;
margin-right: auto;
background-color:#DDD;
color:#000;
font-family:helvetica,arial,sans-serif;
font-size:1em;
border-style:solid;
border-color:red;
border-width: 3px;}
```
25. In **Story1**, click on its gear, and go to **CSS Properties** and add **custom-story** as the **CSS ID**.



How it works...

By using the Flexible layout along with CSS, we can make micro-level changes in the page layout.

4

Implementing Panels

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Making a new front page using Views and Panels
- ▶ Creating a node override
- ▶ Overriding a node edit form
- ▶ Using Panels with feeds
- ▶ Using Mini panels

Introduction

This is a chapter centered on building website looks with Panels. We will create a custom front page for a website and a node edit form with a Panel. We will also see the process of generating a node override within Panels and take a look at Mini panels.

Making a new front page using Panels and Views (for dynamic content display)

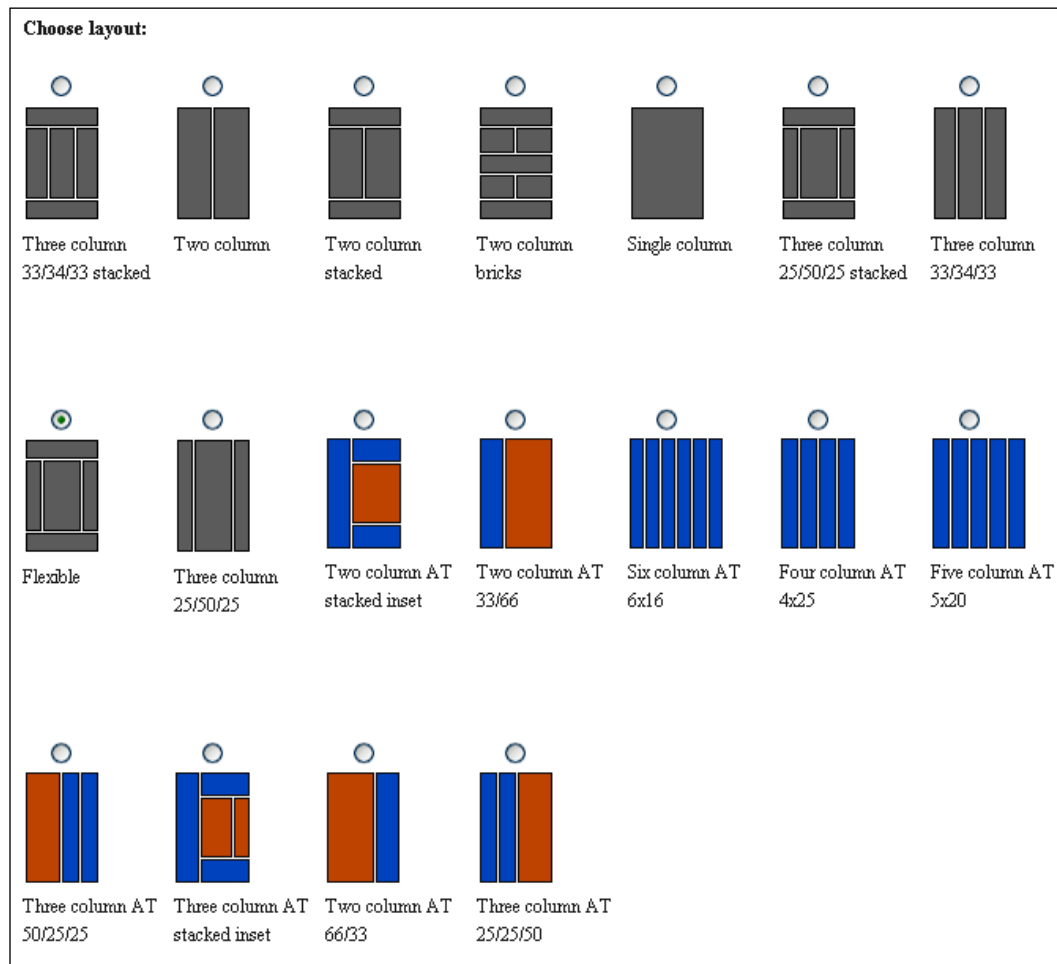
We will now create a recipe with Views and Panels to make a custom front page.

Getting ready

We will need to install Views as the module, if not done already. As the Views and Panels projects are both led by Earl Miles (merlinofchaos), the UIs are very similar. We will not discuss Views in detail as it is out of the scope of the book. To use this recipe, a basic knowledge of Views is required.

We will use our recipe of flexible layout as our start for this recipe. To make a better layout and a custom website, I recommend using adaptive themes (<http://adaptivethemes.com/>). Here, in this recipe, I have used that theme. The adaptive theme is a starter theme and it includes several custom panels. There is also a built-in support for skins, which helps to make theming a lot easier. We will be using adaptive themes in this recipe for demonstration and will change our administration view from Garland to adaptive theme.

The adaptive themes add extra layouts as shown in the following screenshot.



How to do it...

1. Go to the **Flexible** layout recipe we created or you can create your own layout using the same recipe.
2. Now, we will create Views to be included in our Panels layout.
3. Assuming that Views is installed, go to **Site building | Views**.
4. Add a View.
5. In the View name, add **storyblock1**, and add a description of your choice.

Edit view *storyblock1*

List Add Edit Import Tools

View *storyblock1*, displaying items of type **Node**. [Export](#) [Clone](#)

Defaults Block Page Add display Analyze	Defaults Default settings for this view. View settings Tag: None Basic settings Name: Defaults Title: None Style: Unformatted Row style: Node Use AJAX: No Use pager: No Items to display: 3 More link: No Distinct: No Access: Unrestricted Caching: None Exposed form in block: No Header: None Footer: None Empty text: None Theme: Information	Relationships None defined Arguments None defined Fields The style selected does not utilize fields.	Sort criteria Node: Post date asc Node: Type asc Filters Node: Promoted to front page Yes
---	--	---	--

[Save](#) [Cancel](#) [Delete](#)

Click on an item to edit that item's details.

6. Select the **Row style** as **Node**.
7. Put in **Items to display** as **3**.
8. In the **Style**, we can select **Unformatted** or **Grid** depending on how you want to display the nodes. I will use **Grid**.
9. In the **Sort criteria**, put in **Node: Post date asc** and **Node: Type asc**.
10. In **Filters**, we just want the posts promoted to the first page.

11. Do a live preview.

Custom node panel

The demonstration of panels

[Read more](#)

Story1

AOL has a tough opening day on Thursday, but rebounded by Friday with a modest \$ 83 gain.

Changes done here..

[Add new comment](#)

Google and mobile market

There has been much speculation since the launch of Google's first Androidnexus one device, the T-Mobile G1, about whether Google ultimately plans to make and sell their own phone directly to consumers. Today, the Wall Street Journal confirms that Google plans to brand a new HTC-built device the Nexus One, and sell it directly to consumers themselves, without a carrier partner. To do that, they will sell the phone 'unlocked', which means the device will work with any SIM card from any carrier.

[Add new comment](#) [Read more](#)

Query

```
SELECT node.nid AS nid,
node.created AS node_created,
node.type AS node_type
FROM node node
WHERE node.promote <> 0
ORDER BY node_created ASC, node_type ASC
```

Title	
Path	This display has no path.
Query build time	2.4 ms
Query execute time	0.32 ms
View render time	14.85 ms

12. We will need to add display of the default view as **Block**, so that the View is available as a block, which we can select in our Panels. We can also put the views default output as a Panel pane, but using blocks as a display of the Views gives the "read more" links by default. In the direct View, we have to create it. Say, we create a block—**storyblock1**, as shown in the following screenshot:

Defaults

Block

Page

Add display

Analyze

Block Display the view as a block.

Basic settings

Name: **Block**

Title: **None**

Style: **Grid**

Row style: **Node**

Use AJAX: **No**

Use pager: **No**

Items to display: **3**

More link: **No**

Distinct: **No**

Access: **Unrestricted**

Caching: **None**

Exposed form in block: **No**

Header: **None**

Footer: **None**

Empty text: **None**

Theme: **Information**

Block settings

Admin: **None**

Caching: **Do not cache**

Relationships

None defined

Arguments

None defined

Fields

The style selected does not utilize fields.

Sort criteria

Node: Post date asc

Node: Type asc

Filters

Node: Promoted to front page Yes

Remove display

Click on an item to edit that item's details.

13. Now, we need to go to the **Flexible Layouts** UI, as a layout created by you.

Flexible Layouts

Clone
Export
Delete
Disable
Add variant
Import variant

Summary

Settings

Basic

Access

Menu

Variants

Panel

Summary

General

Selection rules

Contexts

Layout

Content

Preview

Summary

Get a summary of the information about this page.

Storage	Normal	
Status	Enabled	<a>Disable
Path	<a>/flexible layout	<a>Edit
Access	This page is publicly accessible.	<a>Edit
Menu	No menu entry	<a>Edit

Panel

Clone
Export
Delete
Disable

Storage	Normal	
Status	Enabled	<a>Disable
Selection rule	This panel will always be selected.	<a>Edit
Layout	Flexible	<a>Change layout <a>Edit content <a>Preview

» Add a new variant

14. Go to the **Content** tab.

Show layout designer

Main Left

Primary links

Primary links

first static row

Story1

Story1

status: hidden

Main Right

Powered by Drupal

No info

middle left

middle left

middle

Custom: middle

Middle

middle right

middle right

15. Earlier, we had displayed a static block; now we will display a dynamic View.

16. Disable earlier panes in the first static row.

17. Select the gears in first static rows and select **Add content | Miscellaneous**.

18. The custom view block will be here, as shown in the following screenshot. Select it.

Add content to first static row

Activity	storyblock1: Block
Demo minipanel	
Menus	
Miscellaneous	
Page elements	
Widgets	
Existing node	
New custom content	

19. Save and preview.

Get a preview of what this variant will look like.

The page has been updated. Changes will not be permanent until you save.

Primary links

- [Projects](#)
- [Reading](#)

Custom node panel

The demonstration of panels

[Read more](#)

Story1

AOL has a tough opening day on Thursday, but rebounded by Friday with a modest \$.83 gain. Changes done here..

[Add new comment](#)

Google and mobile market

There has been much speculation since the launch of Google's first Androidnexus one device, the T-Mobile G1, about whether Google ultimately plans to make and sell their own phone directly to consumers. Today, the Wall Street Journal confirms that Google plans to brand a new HTC-built device the Nexus One, and sell it directly to consumers themselves, without a carrier partner. To do that, they will sell the phone 'unlocked', which means the device will work with any SIM card from any carrier.

[Add new comment](#) [Read more](#)

middle left

Custom content for middle left

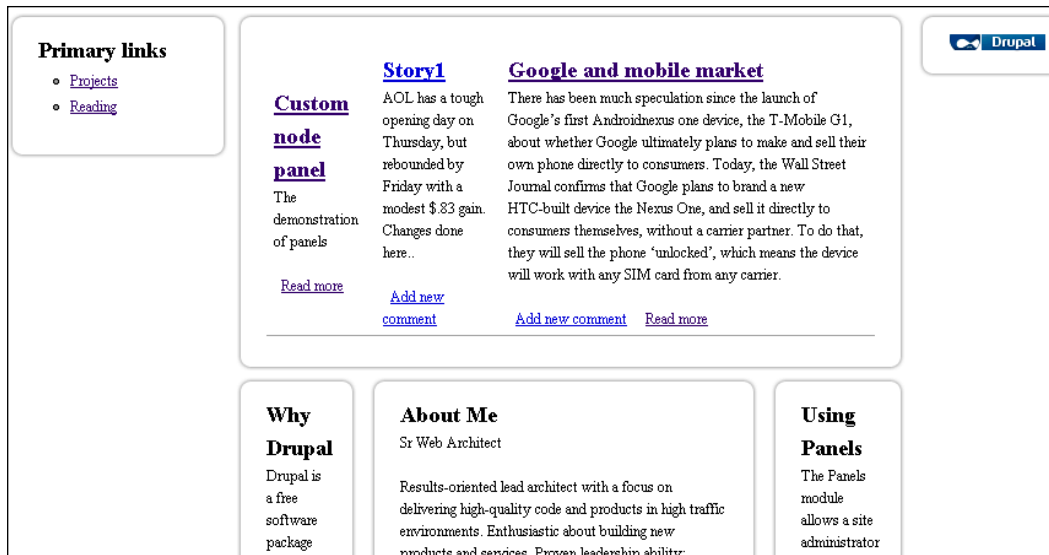
Middle

Custom content for middle

middle right

Custom content for middle right

20. So, we have now integrated the dynamic View in one of our Panel panes.
21. Let's add sample content to each region now. You can select your own content as you want on your front page, as shown in the following screenshot:



22. Go to **Site configuration | Site information**.
23. Change the default home pages to the created Panels page.
24. Your home page is now the custom Panel page.

How it works...

In this recipe, we implemented Panel panes with views and blocks to make a separate custom page and separate display for the existing content in the website.

Creating a node override

Drupal's built-in content viewing is decent, but sometimes, especially with custom Content types, you might need a special way of displaying that content. Suppose we want to put in an "add comment" form on the same page where our node is displayed; this cannot be possible with built-in content viewing. We can do this with Panels by a node override.

Getting ready

Create a new Panel page using Panel UI.

How to do it...

1. Create a Panel page named **node override**.
2. Select a **Three column** layout.
3. We now create a node override using the Contexts.
4. Select any one node type; I have selected one of a Google news post, you can select any node of your choice.

Edit context "Node"

A node object.

Identifier:

Enter a name to identify this context on administrative screens.

Keyword:

Enter a keyword to use for substitution in titles.

Enter the title or NID of a node:

Currently set to ['Google and mobile market' \[node id 5\]](#)

☐ Reset identifier to node title

If checked, the identifier will be reset to the node title of the selected node.

5. Go to the **Content** tab now.
6. On the **Left side**, click on the gear, and then on **Add content**. Go to **Node** and select **Node comments**.

Configure new Node comments

Node:

Google and mobile market ▼

☐ Override title

You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.

Mode:

Threaded list - expanded ▼

Sort:

Date - newest first ▼

Pager:

50 comments per page ▼

Finish

7. In the **Middle column**, we will keep the **Node | Node content**.
8. In the **Right side**, let's keep the **Comment form**.

9. Do an update and preview. You will see a page similar to the following screenshot:

Comments Cool Feature by admin - 01/10/2010 - 15:39 Really cool feature delete edit reply This is good by admin - 01/10/2010 - 15:36 I am waiting!! Nexus is now releasd already delete edit reply	<u>Google and mobile market</u> There has been much speculation since the launch of Google's first Androidnexus one device, the T-Mobile G1, about whether Google ultimately plans to make and sell their own phone directly to consumers. Today, the Wall Street Journal confirms that Google plans to brand a new HTC-built device the Nexus One, and sell it directly to consumers themselves, without a carrier partner. To do that, they will sell the phone 'unlocked', which means the device will work with any SIM card from any carrier. Because HTC has been building and releasing Android devices since the G1, and has been doing it across both GSM and CDMA networks, the company has engineers familiar with carriers' network and device requirements. These locked devices have been optimized with proprietary carrier settings, giving HTC experience that Google will no doubt leverage to build the Nexus One.	Add comment Your name: admin Subject: Comment: * — ▶ Input format Preview
---	--	---

How it works...

This is how we actually make an override for a particular node. All nodes, except this, use the normal Drupal input format.

Overriding a Node Edit form

Panels allows you to override the Node Edit form. Why would we want to do that? Let's assume, for example, you need to see all the comments on a node when you are editing it, and you also want the taxonomy editor on the left. Panels allows you to configure the node edit form to be just the way you need it. The advantage is clear for developers and non-developers as well, as placing difference blocks in different places is all made through an easy-to-use Panels UI.

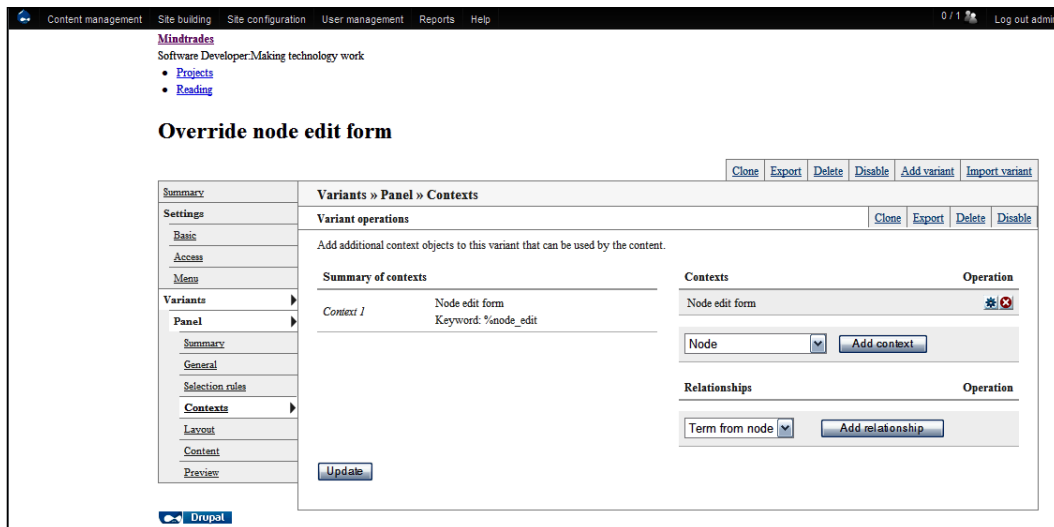
Let's override the Edit form of all the story nodes and divide it into two columns. On the right, we will place the content form, and on the left, the taxonomy editor as well as node comments.

Getting ready

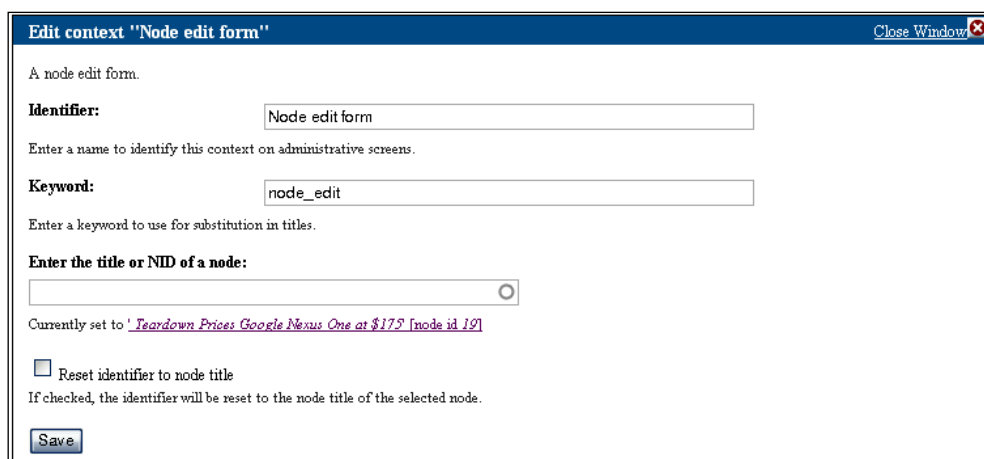
Create a Panel page named **overridenodeedit**.

How to do it...

1. Select the **Administrative title** as **Override node edit form**.
2. In the **Context** section of the UI, select **Node edit form**.



3. Select the node ID, which you want to override, for example node 175, as shown in the following screenshot:



- Go to the **Content** tab and add content on the **Right side**.

Add content to Right side

Activity
Demo minipanel
Form
Menus
Miscellaneous
Node
Page elements
Widgets

[Attached files](#)
[Comment form](#)
[Node author](#)
[Node body](#)
[Node comments](#)
[Node content](#)
[Node created date](#)
[Node last updated date](#)
[Node links](#)
[Node title](#)
[Node type description](#)

[Existing node](#)
[New custom content](#)

- Select **Node edit form** for the **Right side**.
- Similarly, we will put two contents on the **Left side**.
- In one, select **Node form** categories.
- In the second, select **Node comments**.

Override node edit form

[Clone](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [Disable](#) [Add variant](#) [Import variant](#)

Summary
Settings
Basic
Access
Menu
Variants
Panel
Summary
General
Selection rules
Contexts
Layout
Content
Preview

Variants » Panel » Content

[Clone](#) [Export](#) [Delete](#) [Disable](#)

Variant operations

Add content items and change their location with a drag and drop interface.
[Display settings](#)

Title type:
Manually set

Title:

The title of this panel. If left blank, a default title may be used. Set to No Title if you want the title to actually be blank. You may use substitutions in this title.
[Substitutions](#)

Left side

"Node edit form" node form select
No info

"Node edit form" comments
No info

Right side

"Node edit form" base form
No info

[Update](#) [Update and preview](#)

9. Save and preview.

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View Edit Panel

Categories
News:
Technology

Comments on fly
[This is good](#)
by [admin](#) - 01/16/2010 - 15:37
Good phone
[delete](#) [edit](#) [reply](#)

Teardown Prices Google Nexus One at \$175
Title: *
Teardown Prices Google Nexus One at \$175
[Menu settings](#)
Body:
Split summary at cursor
LAS VEGAS - Google's upcoming Nexus One smartphone costs approximately \$175 to manufacture, according to a Friday teardown released by iSuppli.
Hardware and components for the Nexus One costs \$174.15 — a total that does not include expenses like manufacturing, software, box contents, accessories, or royalties.
Google will sell the Nexus One, which it announced on Tuesday and had on display at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) here, for \$179 with a two-year contract from T-Mobile or unsubsidized for \$529.
View Slideshow See all (13) slides
More
Items like the durable unibody construction, the blazingly fast Snapdragon baseband processor and the bright and sharp Active-Matrix Organic Light Emitting Diode (AM-OLED) display all have been seen in previous phones, but never before combined into a single design, Kevin Keller, a senior analyst for iSuppli, said in a statement. *This gives the Nexus One the most advanced features of any smartphone ever dissected by iSuppli's teardown analysis service—a remarkable feat given the products [price] is similar to comparable products introduced during the past year.*
The phone's unibody design, which means that the keypad is a single part, makes it the most "Apple-

[Input format](#)
Save Preview Delete

How it works...

Now, we have been able to change the node edit form for specific content.

This can be very useful when making complex websites that require content to be edited by the user. This will make the node form edit more presentable to the end user.

Using Panels with feeds

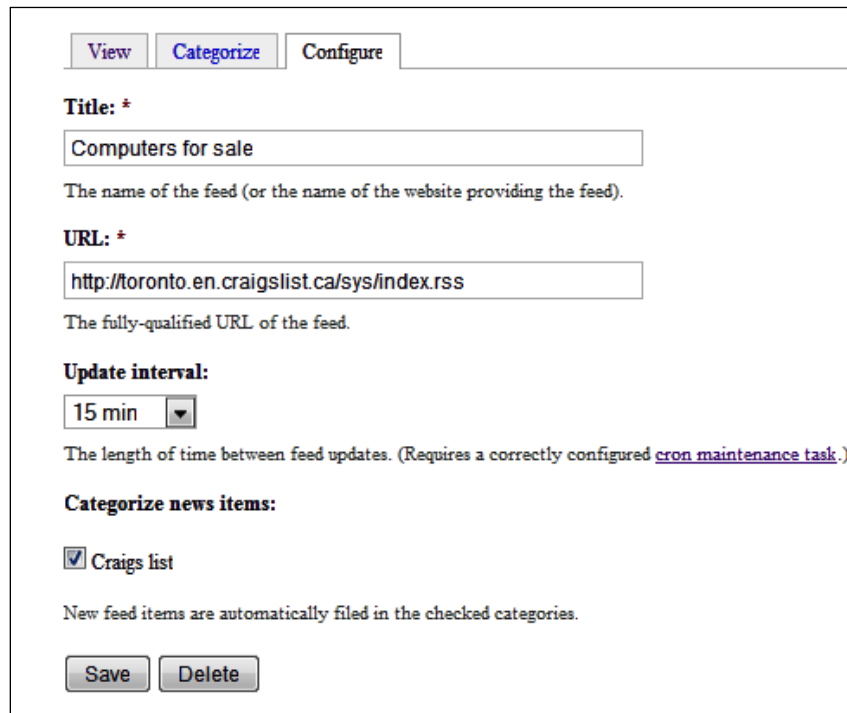
Let's take a simple example to implement Panels with feeds. Suppose we need to display the top five computer items on sale from craigslist in our website and also on a custom Panel page. With Panels, you will have the flexibility to put this dynamic loading content on any part of the website.

Getting ready

We need to enable the core **Feed aggregator** module from the core.

How to do it...

1. First, we need to create a feed category and a feed. Create a feed first and then the Panel.
2. Go to **Content Management | Feed aggregator**. Then, choose **Add category**. Set the title to **Craigslist**. Now, choose **Add feed**. Add the feed item with an RSS link from the actual craigslist website.



The screenshot shows the 'Configure' tab of the Drupal Feed aggregator configuration form. At the top, there are three tabs: 'View', 'Categorize', and 'Configure', with 'Configure' being the active tab. The form contains the following fields and options:

- Title: ***: A text input field containing 'Computers for sale'. Below it is a description: 'The name of the feed (or the name of the website providing the feed).'.
- URL: ***: A text input field containing 'http://toronto.en.craigslist.ca/sys/index.rss'. Below it is a description: 'The fully-qualified URL of the feed.'.
- Update interval:**: A dropdown menu set to '15 min'. Below it is a description: 'The length of time between feed updates. (Requires a correctly configured [cron maintenance task](#).)'.
- Categorize news items:**: A section with a checked checkbox labeled 'Craigs list'. Below it is a description: 'New feed items are automatically filed in the checked categories.'.
- At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Save' and 'Delete'.

3. Select the category as **Craigs list** and save.

- Go to the Panels UI and create a Panel page, say **Craigslist**.

Craigslist

[Clone](#)
[Export](#)
[Delete](#)
[Disable](#)
[Add variant](#)
[Import variant](#)

[Summary](#)
[Settings](#)
[Basic](#)
[Access](#)
[Menu](#)

[Variants](#)
[Panel](#)
[Summary](#)
[General](#)
[Selection rules](#)
[Contexts](#)
[Layout](#)
[Content](#)
[Preview](#)

Settings » Basic

Edit name, path and other basic settings for the page.

Administrative title:

The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it.

Machine name:

The machine readable name of this page. It must be unique, and it must contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores. Once created, you will not be able to change this value!

Administrative description:

A description of what this page is, does or is for, for administrative use.

Path:

The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and !name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/foo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard!/input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form.

☐ Make this your site home page.

To set this panel as your home page you must create a unique path name with no % placeholders in the path. The current site home page is set to /pagelayout.

- Suppose we select a **Two column** layout, one has the static content and other has the dynamic feed.
- Go to the **Content** tab and on the **Right side** click on the gear and select **Add content**.
- Go to the **Feeds** tab and select the feed we created—the **Computers for sale** feed.

Add content to Right side

[Activity](#)
[Demo minipanel](#)
[Feeds](#)
[Menus](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)
[Page elements](#)
[Widgets](#)

☐ Existing node
 ☒ New custom content

[Computers for sale feed latest items](#)
[Craigslist category latest items](#)

- On the **Left side**, click on the gear and put in a static content.

Configure New custom content

Administrative title:

This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used.

Title:

Body:

[Input format](#)

- Update and preview.

The hot computer deals from craig Find the hot deals for computers in your town	Computers for sale • Silver Macbook 13.3" Aluminum Unibody 2.4 GHz, 4 GB RAM (Richmond Hill) \$1200 • Cleaning out the Closet • Router (Glen Erin/Collegeway) \$30 • **Brand New** Samsung CLP-315 Colour Laser Printer (GTA, M4H1J5) \$145 • **Brand New** Canon Pixma MX860 Wireless Printer, Scan, Copy, Fax (GTA, M4H1J5) \$160 more
---	---

How it works...

We have now created a Panel page with dynamic feeds displayed from craigslist.

Using Mini panels

Mini panels are nothing but Panels displayed as blocks. They are the blocks that can have a Panel layout just as you have in the Panels page.

By using Mini panels effectively with Panels, you can create not only custom page layouts but also custom block layout inside the page. The use of Mini panels with views can create wonders. Let's make some advanced layouts using `feeds/views/panels` and Mini panels.

Getting ready

1. Enable the core **Aggregator** module.
2. Enable Mini panels if not enabled in the Panels module.

How to do it...

1. We will now display the feed created in the previous recipe, directly as a Mini panel or a Drupal block.
2. Go to the Panels Dashboard and create a new mini panel, **Single column**.

craigsblock

Preview

Layout

Settings

Context

Content

Export

Settings

Mini panel title:

craigsblock

The title for this mini panel. It can be overridden in the block configuration.

Mini panel name:

craigsblock

A unique name used to identify this panel page internally. It must be only be alpha characters and underscores. No spaces, numbers or uppercase characters.

Mini panel category:

The category that this mini-panel will be grouped into on the Add Content form. Only upper and lower-case alphanumeric characters are allowed. If left blank, defaults to 'Mini panels'.

Layout

Single column

Middle column

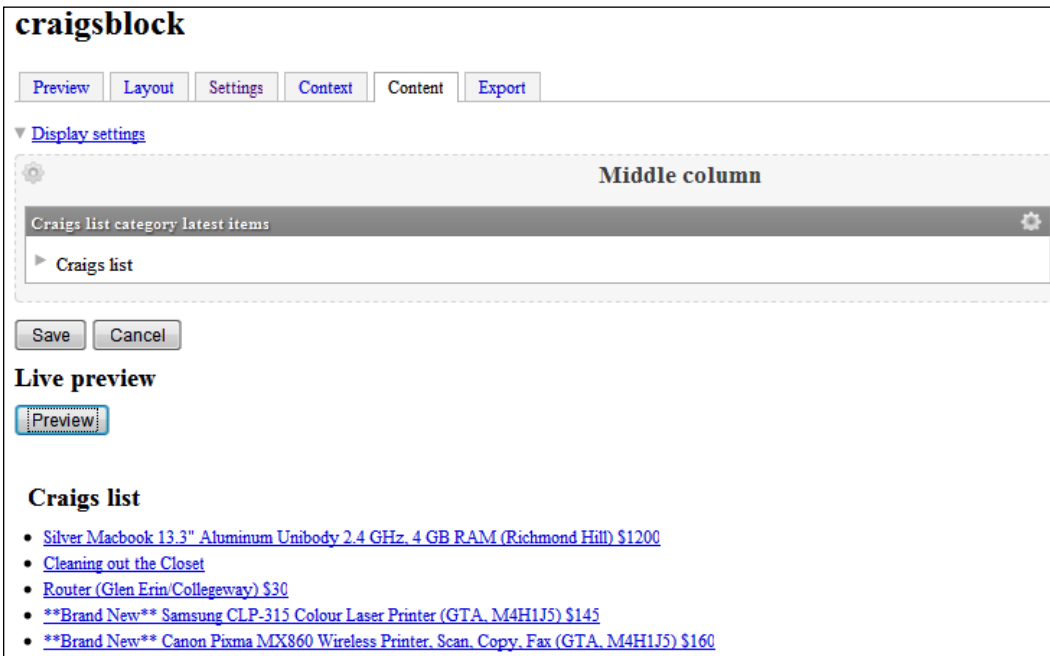
1. Craigs list category latest items

Save

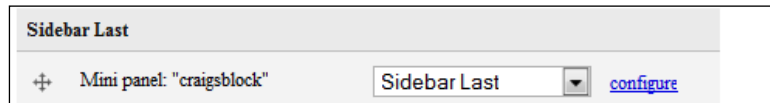
- Go to the **Content** tab and add content. Select the feed: **Craigs list category latest items**.



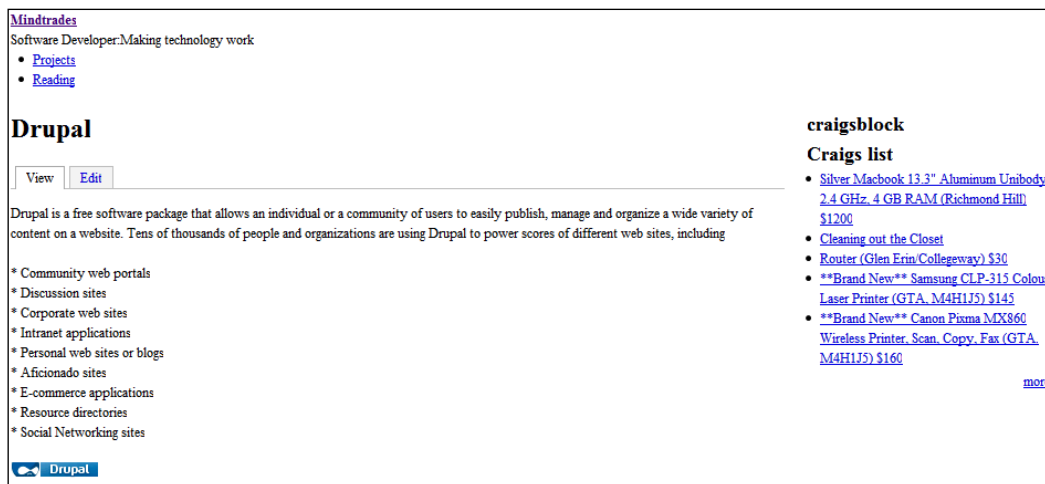
- Do a preview and save.



- Now, go to the **Blocks** section (**Site building** | **Blocks**) in your admin panel and you will note that there is a Mini panel item in your block. Select that block in any of the regions in your theme. I selected **Sidebar Last** in my theme as shown in the following screenshot:



- Now, this Mini panel is part of your basic theme and will be present in the layout of your website.



How it works...

In this manner, we can use Mini panels to form the basic blocks of layout for your theme.

There is more...

Let's now use Views to make a more detailed Mini panel. Let's take an example where we want a custom Panel page that displays the individual content of each feed on the left column and the feed links like in the previous recipe on the right. Here, we will have to use Views.

- Let's first create a View that displays the individual content of the feed. Create a default View with node type "aggregator". Select the field as **Aggregator: Body** and rename as deals.
- Put the **Items to display** as 5.

Implementing Panels

3. Create a block View and name it as **Craigs deals block**, use **Style** as **Table**.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit view Craigslist' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'List', 'Add', 'Edit', 'Import', and 'Tools'. Below these, it says 'View Craigslist, displaying items of type Aggregator item.' with 'Export' and 'Clone' links. The main area is divided into two columns. The left column has a 'Defaults' tab and a 'Craigs deals block' section with a 'Page' dropdown, 'Add display' button, and 'Analyze' button. The right column has a 'Basic settings' section with fields for Name, Title, Style, Use AJAX, Use pager, Items to display, More link, Distinct, Access, Caching, Exposed form in block, Header, Footer, Empty text, and Theme. Below this is a 'Block settings' section with 'Admin' and 'Caching' fields. To the right of the 'Basic settings' are three sections: 'Relationships', 'Arguments', and 'Fields', each with a '+ | -' icon. Below these are 'Sort criteria' and 'Filters' sections, each with a '+ | -' icon. A 'Remove display' button is at the top right of the main area.

4. Now, go to the Panels Dashboard and create a new Mini panel. Name it as **dual craigs block** and select a two-column layout.

The screenshot shows the 'dual craigs block' mini panel configuration interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Preview', 'Layout', 'Settings', 'Context', 'Content', and 'Export'. The 'Settings' tab is selected. The 'Settings' section has three sub-sections: 'Mini panel title' with a text input field containing 'dual craigs block', 'Mini panel name' with a text input field containing 'dualcraigblock', and 'Mini panel category' with a text input field. Below these are explanatory text blocks. The 'Layout' section has a 'Two column' layout selected, with a visual representation of two columns. Below this are 'Left side' and 'Right side' sections, each with a list of items. The 'Left side' list contains '1. Craigslist: Craigs deals block'. The 'Right side' list contains '1. Computers for sale feed latest items'.

5. Select the **Content** tab, and add content.
6. On the **Left side**, select: **Add content | Blocks | Craigs deal block**.
7. On the **Right side**, select: **Add content | computers for sale feed** created in an earlier recipe.

8. Save and preview.

Deals	Computers for sale
The system works perfectly fine just that: - Sometimes the screen goes blurry (possibly a video card issue?). - The system's exterior is in excellent condition (See it/test it out before you buy!). - Specs: 2.56 Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo, 120HD, 2.0 GB RAM, CDRW/DVD, Wifi, lightweight/slim, anti-sunlight screen, etc. I have an Aegia Physx card for sale that is like new. The card comes with the drivers/software, connector, and game "Bet On Soldier," all in box. If you are a gamer don't waste money on a second card, just pop this in your system for increased performance and dazzling graphics! The card has rarely been used as I'm rarely home. http://www.bfgtech.com/physx/bfgphysx.html FOR SALE SLIGHTLY USED BUT IN EXCELLENT CONDITION TOSHIBA SATELITE PRO A 300 PENTIUM INTEL CORE 2 DUO T5750 4.0GB RAM 280GB HARD DRIVE WINDOWS VIST 64BIT EXCELLENT CONDITION BEST OFFER OVER \$500 HP Deskjet F335 All-in-One Printer/Scanner/Copier Brand new in original box complete with 2 cartridges Brand New in original Box Lexmark P3150 Printer/Scanner/Copier	• Silver Macbook 13.3" Aluminum Unibody 2.4 GHz, 4 GB RAM (Richmond Hill) \$1200 • Apple MacBook Air Excellent Condition (Toronto) \$1100 • 1 GB PC Memory for sale (Mavis & 401) \$20 • Computer and Table for sale (scarborough) \$375 • HP PRINT CARTRIDGES 94&97 (west end Toronto) \$75 more

9. Now, we will use this Mini panel directly in our Panel page.

10. Create a new Panel page named **demominipanel**.11. Select a **Single column** layout.12. Add content by selecting the **Content** tab.13. Add the **Content | Mini panel | dual craigs block**.

Add content to Middle column

Activity	craigablock	dual craigs block
Demo minipanel		
Feeds		
Menus		
Mini panel		
Miscellaneous		
Page elements		
Widgets		
Existing node		
New custom content		

14. Update, preview, and save.

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View

Edit Panel

dual craigs block

Deals
The system works perfectly fine just that: - Sometimes the screen goes blurry (possibly a video card issue?). - The system's exterior is in excellent condition (See it/test it out before you buy!). - Specs: 2.56 Ghz Intel Core 2 Duo, 120HD, 2.0 GB RAM, CDRW/DVD, Wifi, lightweight/slim, anti-sunlight screen, etc.

I have an Aegia Physx card for sale that is like new. The card comes with the drivers/software, connector, and game "Bet On Soldier," all in box. If you are a gamer don't waste money on a second card, just pop this in your system for increased performance and dazzling graphics! The card has rarely been used as I'm rarely home. <http://www.bfgtech.com/physx/bfgphysx.html>

FOR SALE SLIGHTLY USED BUT IN EXCELLENT CONDITION TOSHIBA SATELITE PRO A 300 PENTIUM INTEL CORE 2 DUO T5750 4.0GB RAM 280GB HARD DRIVE WINDOWS VIST 64BIT EXCELLENT CONDITION BEST OFFER OVER \$500

HP Deskjet F335 All-in-One Printer/Scanner/Copier Brand new in original box complete with 2 cartridges

Brand New in original Box Lexmark P3150 Printer/Scanner/Copier

Computers for sale

- [Silver Macbook 13.3" Aluminum Unibody 2.4 GHz, 4 GB RAM \(Richmond Hill\) \\$1200](#)
- [Apple MacBook Air Excellent Condition \(Toronto\) \\$1100](#)
- [1 GB PC Memory for sale \(Mavis & 401\) \\$20](#)
- [Computer and Table for sale \(scarborough\) \\$375](#)
- [HP PRINT CARTRIDGES 94&97 \(west end Toronto\) \\$75](#)

[more](#)

 Drupal

5

Panels with Organic Groups

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Installing the Organic Groups Panel Utility (separate module)
- ▶ Creating Organic Groups with Panels
- ▶ Using the Organic Groups Views integration

Introduction

Organic Groups (OG) module enables users to not only belong to specific groups, but to also create their own groups. This allows for a site to grow faster in terms of data. For example, let's say a Drupal web development team assigned to create a new project has made one person responsible for creating a specific feature for that site. That person can go to the Drupal site, create a group for that site feature, get other developers to join, and use Drupal to organize their work and communication. By configuring Organic Groups properly, the site administrator will not have to play a part in the creation of those groups.

Groups may be selective or not selective. Selective groups require approval in order to become a member, or even only by invitation groups. There are lots of preferences to configure groups as per your need.

Groups get their own theme, language, taxonomy, and so on. OG integrates well and depends upon the Views module. For more details, go to <http://drupal.org/project/og>.

We will extend Panels to the Organic Groups to make more flexible layouts using a module—OG Panels (http://drupal.org/project/og_panels).

OG Panels lets each group manager customize his/her group home page and add additional custom pages to her group. Note that this module depends on OG and Panels modules. Now, OG Panels is a separate project by itself.

Installing and configuring OG Panels

Let's install and configure the OG Panels module, which will enable people to create their own Groups based on the story they publish.

Getting ready

Download Organic Groups and the OG Panels module from Drupal.org. Put the modules in `sites/all/modules` and activate the module in the admin panel.

How to do it...

1. Go to **Site configuration | By module | Organic groups | Organic groups configuration**.

Content types		
You may create new content types as needed. Note that you may have multiple types acting as groups and multiple types are allowed as group posts.		
Type	Usage	Operations
Panel	May not be posted into a group.	Edit
Page	May not be posted into a group.	Edit
Profile	May not be posted into a group.	Edit
Story	Group node	Edit
Technology	May not be posted into a group.	Edit
User Profile	May not be posted into a group.	Edit
videos	May not be posted into a group.	Edit

2. We need to specify one node as a group node, which means one custom Content type or an existing node that will behave as a group. To make it simpler, it will be the Content type that people will make the groups on.

3. We will make custom Content types for Panels in the coming recipes. We can create a new Content type or use an existing one. Here, we will take the existing node, **Story**, and enable it as a group node. The Organic Group node can be posted as four types:
 - ❑ **Group node**—Where the post behaves as a group post.
 - ❑ **May not be posted into the group**—means that the Content type will not be posted in a group.
 - ❑ **Standard Group post**—this type can only be edited by the author.
 - ❑ **Wiki group post**—This type can be edited by any group member.

Identification

Name: *

Story

The human-readable name of this content type. This text will be displayed as part of the list on the *create content* page. It is recommended that this name begin with a capital letter and contain only letters, numbers, and **spaces**. This name must be unique.

Type: *

story

The machine-readable name of this content type. This text will be used for constructing the URL of the *create content* page for this content type. This name must contain only lowercase letters, numbers, and underscores. Underscores will be converted into hyphens when constructing the URL of the *create content* page. This name must be unique.

Description:

A story, similar in form to a page, is ideal for creating and displaying content that informs or engages website visitors. Press releases, site announcements, and informal blog-like entries may all be created with a story entry. By default, a story entry is automatically featured on the site's initial home page, and provides the ability to post comments.

A brief description of this content type. This text will be displayed as part of the list on the *create content* page.

Submission form settings

Workflow settings

Organic groups

Organic groups usage:

☒ Group node
☐ May not be posted into a group.
☐ Standard group post (typically only author may edit).
☐ Wiki group post (any group member may edit).

Specify how organic groups should treat nodes of this type. Nodes may behave as a group, as group posts, or may not participate in organic groups at all.

4. Go to **Administer | Organic groups | Organic groups access configuration**.
5. We will set the permissions here for the OG. Here, we keep the story visible only within the targeted groups.

We select: **Group administrator chooses whether his or her group homepage and audience are private or not. Defaults to public**, giving the Group administrator the right as to how he or she wants to display the Story Content type.



A private group's group home page cannot be seen by non-members, and new posts created in the group will default to being private. This setting controls what private groups options can be used when creating a new group or editing an existing group. If you select one of the *group administrator chooses* options, then it will be up to group administrators to decide whether their new groups are private or not, with the default you specify here.

Note that the privacy of all *content* in the group is determined as each node is created or edited, according to the **Visibility of posts** setting on this page. Note also that changing this setting only affects the default for new groups being created, not the privacy of any existing groups! To change those, you must edit the groups and their individual content nodes directly. If the setting you want is disabled here, check **Visibility of posts**. You cannot choose to only have private groups if node visibility is set to be always public, and vice versa.

Organic groups access configuration

There is a security update available for your version of Drupal. To ensure the security of your server, you should update immediately! See the [available updates](#) page for more information.

Visibility of posts:

- ☒ Visible only within the targeted groups.
- ☐ Visible within the targeted groups and on other pages.
- ☐ Visibility chosen by author/editor using a checkbox on the posting form. Checkbox defaults to *public*.
- ☐ Visibility chosen by author/editor using a checkbox on the posting form. Checkbox defaults to *private*.

Determine how broadly available a given post should be when it is affiliated with a group. OG admins always see the checkbox for making a post public. Note that changing this setting has no effect on existing posts. Re-save those posts to acquire this new setting. If the setting you want is disabled here, check the settings under *Private Groups* setting below. You cannot set node visibility to always be public if private groups are set to always on and vice versa.

Private groups:

- ☐ New group home pages and default audience are always public.
- ☐ New group home pages and default audience are always private.
- ☐ Group administrator chooses whether her group homepage and audience are private or not. Defaults to *private*.
- ☒ Group administrator chooses whether her group homepage and audience are private or not. Defaults to *public*.

Now, we configure the OG Panels. Go to **Administer | Organic groups | Organic groups panels**. This controls what Panel pane content can be used by OG group admins to display on their group's Panel pages and Mini panels.

1. We can either select all or select only what we need to display. Here, we select all to have the access to all content into our Panels and save. We will keep the OG Panels the same as our Panels.


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Home / Administer / Organic groups

Organic groups panels

New content behavior:

- ☐ New Content field
- ☒ New Block
- ☐ New All views
- ☐ New View panes
- ☒ New Mini panels
- ☐ New Content fieldgroup
- ☒ New content of other types

Select the default behavior of new content added to the system. If checked, new content will automatically be immediately available to be added to Panels pages. If not checked, new content will not be available until specifically allowed here.

Allowed Content field content:

☒ Field: technology (field_technology) - File	☒ Field: Gender (field_gender) - Text	☒ Field: Homepage (field_homepage) - Link	☒ Field: Name (field_name) - Text	☒ Field: Blog (field_blog) - Link
☒ Field: Occupation (field_occupation) - Text	☒ Field: Children (field_children) - Text	☒ Field: Facebook (field_facebook) - Link	☒ Field: Twitter (field_twitter) - Link	☒ Field: About Me (field_about_me) - Text
☒ Field: Ethnicity (field_ethnicity) - Text	☒ Field: Friendfeed (field_friendfeed) - Link	☒ Field: LinkedIn (field_linkedin) - Link	☒ Field: Status (field_status) - Text	☒ Field: Interests (field_interests) - Text
☒ Field: Myspace (field_myspace) - Link	☒ Field: Orientation (field_orientation) - Text	☒ Field: Favorite #1 (field_favorite1) - Link	☒ Field: Religion (field_religion) - Text	☒ Field: Favorite #2 (field_favorite2) - Link
☒ Field: Political Leaning (field_political_leaning) - Text	☒ Field: AIM (field_aim) - Text	☒ Field: Favorite #3 (field_favorite3) - Link	☒ Field: Google (field_google) - Text	☒ Field: ICQ (field_icq) - Text
	☒ Field: Skype (field_skype) - Text	☒ Field: Yahoo (field_yahoo) - Text	☒ Field: Zodiac Sign (field_zodiac_sign) - Text	☒ Field: Video (field_video) - Embedded Video

Allowed block content:

☒ Business category latest items	☒ Craigs list category latest items	☒ Entertainment category latest items	☒ Sports category latest items	☒ Technology category latest items
☒ Computers for sale feed latest items	☒ Google nexus feed latest items	☒ Drupal.org feed latest items	☒ Drupal News in Google feed latest items	☒ Digg feed latest items
☒ Forbes Business feed latest items	☒ Google entertainment news feed latest items	☒ Recent comments	☒ Language switcher	☒ Primary links
☒ Powered by Drupal	☒ User login	☒ Secondary links	☒ Syndicate	☒ Popular content
☒ Author Pane	☒ Technology form block	☒ Navigation	☒ Who's new	☒ Who's online
☒ Group details	☒ New groups	☒ User registration form	☒ Group search	☒ Group notifications (Views enhanced)
☒ techview: Block	☒ Businessnewsview: Block	☒ Facebook-style Statuses	☒ storyblock1: Block	☒ Craigslist: Craigs deals block
☒ Today's popular content	☒ My groups	☒ Entertainmentnewsview: Block	☒ Sportsnewsview: Block	☒ Technologynewsview: Block
		☒ cats: Block	☒ Popular content	☒ Facebook-style Statuses Profile
☒ Facebook-style Statuses Latest Status Updates		☒ Group admins	☒ Group members	

Allowed All views content:

☒ storyblock1	☒ Craigslist	☒ techview	☒ Businessnewsview	☒ Entertainmentnewsview
☒ Sportsnewsview	☒ Technologynewsview	☒ cats	☒ tracker	☒ glossary
☒ popular	☒ apk_user_topics	☒ apk_user_replies	☒ oq_my	☒ oq_tracker
☒ oq	☒ oq_members_block	☒ oq_ghp_ron	☒ oq_mytracker	☒ oq_unread
☒ oq_recent_type_term	☒ oq_members_faces	☒ oq_members	☒ facebook_status	☒ facebook_status_recent

☒ facebook_status_cross_post

Allowed View panes content:

☒ User's Topics	☒ User's Replies
---	--

Allowed Mini panels content:

☒ Mini Panel	☒ craigsblock	☒ dual craigs block	☒ cats	☒ monitor
--	---	---	--	---

☒ Recent News

Allowed Content fieldgroup content:

☒ Field group: Basic Info in User Profile	☒ Field group: Stats in User Profile	☒ Field group: Contact in User Profile	☒ Field group: Links in User Profile
---	--	--	--

Allowed Other content:

☒ Profile visitors	☒ Author Pane	☒ General form	☒ Existing node	☒ Vocabulary terms
☒ Term description	☒ List of related terms	☒ Page footer message	☒ Breadcrumb	☒ Status messages
☒ Mission	☒ Tabs	☒ Help	☒ Page title	☒ Site Slogan
☒ Node type description	☒ Node last updated date	☒ Node author	☒ Node comments	☒ Node body
☒ Attached files	☒ Node content	☒ Comment form	☒ Node created date	☒ Node links
☒ Node title	☒ User picture	☒ User profile	☒ Node form publishing options	☒ Node form revision log message
☒ Node form menu settings	☒ Node form input format	☒ Node form author information	☒ Node form categories	☒ Node form submit buttons
☒ Node form comment settings	☒ New custom content	☒ Oq Mission	☒ Oq description	☒ Facebook-style Statuses Stream

Select allowed layouts:

☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Three column 33/34/33 stacked	Single column	Two column	Two column bricks	Three column 25/50/25 stacked	Flexible	Three column 25/50/25	Two column stacked	Three column 33/34/33
☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Two column AT stacked inset	Five column AT 5x20	Two column AT 33/66	Six column AT 6x16	Three column AT stacked inset	Three column AT 25/25/50	Two column AT 66/33	Three column AT 50/25/25	Four column AT 4x25

Check the boxes for all layouts you want to allow users choose from when picking a layout. You must allow at least one layout.

Panels with Organic Groups

2. This makes OG available for all our content. This makes your site configured to use the OG Panel.
3. Now, go to **Create content | Story**.

Create Story

Title: *

Description: *

A brief description for the group details block and the group directory.

News:

- None selected -

Menu settings

☒ List in groups directory
Should this group appear on the [list of groups page](#) (requires OG Views module)? Disabled if the group is set to *private group*.

☐ Private group
Should this group be visible only to its members? Disabled if the group is set to *List in Directory* or *Membership requests: open*.

☐ Registration form
May users join this group during registration? If checked, a corresponding checkbox will be added to the registration form.

Membership requests: *

☒ Open - membership requests are accepted immediately.

☐ Moderated - membership requests must be approved.

☐ Invite only - membership must be created by an administrator.

☐ Closed - membership is exclusively managed by an administrator.

How should membership requests be handled in this group? When you select *closed*, users will not be able to join **or** leave.

Mission statement:

Split summary at cursor

A welcome greeting for your group home page. Consider listing the group objectives and mission.

Note that the Story Content type is now changed (in **Organic group configuration | Content types**) to OG Node.

Story	Group node	Edit
-------	------------	------

How it works

We have now updated Story Content type as an Organic node Content type to be used in Panel pages. We can always create a new Content type as an Organic node too.

Creating an OG with Panels

With OG Panels, you can create a website in a website. This means that we can create a home page for the Group that behaves as an independent website by itself, where users can register, create their own posts, and add comments depending upon the permissions granted by the group administrator.

Let's take a case example to make a custom OG using OG Panels.

Let's assume that we need to create on our website a different page for each open source technology. For example, we will have a separate page for Drupal and PHP. Each of these separate pages behaves as a separate group website, where people can join the group, add, and edit their content.

In this recipe, we will create a separate OG for a Drupal Group website built with our main Drupal install.

Getting ready

Let's first make a visualization of how our Story OG Drupal will look like:

- ▶ The Header part: Welcome note to the group
- ▶ The Footer part: Static content: Is Drupal the right thing for your project?
- ▶ The Main content will be divided into two contents:
 - Left part: Top 50 comments of users
 - Right part: Live feed from Drupal.org
- ▶ The OG web page will also have a separate page for live news of Drupal from Google (again a feed)

How to do it...

1. As we have made the Story Content type as a group node, we need to create a new content: Story, named "The Drupal way".

The Drupal way Home Sites made on drupal Edit Pages

Title: *
The Drupal way

Description: *
Discuss Drupal here
A brief description for the group details block and the group directory.

News:
- None selected -

[Menu settings](#)

☐ List in groups directory
Should this group appear on the [list of groups page](#) (requires OG Views module)? Disabled if the group is set to *private group*.

☐ Private group
Should this group be visible only to its members? Disabled if the group is set to *List in Directory* or *Membership requests: open*.

☒ Registration form
May users join this group during registration? If checked, a corresponding checkbox will be added to the registration form.

Membership requests: *
☐ Open - membership requests are accepted immediately.
☐ Moderated - membership requests must be approved.
☐ Invite only - membership must be created by an administrator.
☒ Closed - membership is exclusively managed by an administrator.
How should membership requests be handled in this group? When you select *closed*, users will not be able to join or leave.

Mission statement: [Split summary at cursor](#)
Know whats going on in [Drupal](#) Community

A welcome greeting for your group home page. Consider listing the group objectives and mission.

2. Put the title as **The Drupal way**.
3. Put in the description as **Discuss Drupal here**.

4. Check on **Registration form**. Can users join this group during registration? If checked, a corresponding checkbox will be added to the registration form.

User account [Create new account](#) [Log in](#) [Request new password](#)

Account information

Username: *

Spaces are allowed; punctuation is not allowed except for periods, hyphens, and underscores.

E-mail address: *

A valid e-mail address. All e-mails from the system will be sent to this address. The e-mail address is not made public and will only be used if you wish to receive a new password or wish to receive certain news or notifications by e-mail.

Groups

☐ Join *The Drupal way*.

5. By checking the registration, the user will be prompted to join the group during the sign-up process.
6. In the mission statement, put in a custom greeting message for the users on the Drupal group home page.

[List](#) [Add new page](#)

Create custom pages for your group. Use custom pages to organize your content in a pretty and informative manner. Your group can group to be a whole website within a web site. Each custom page becomes a tab when viewing your group. One of your custom pages should be designated as your *group home page*. That page will then display when visitors first arrive at your group.

Start by clicking the [Add new page](#) tab. Then you will choose a custom layout for your page. Then you will want to *edit content* for your custom page.

7. Go to the **The Drupal way** story page. You will see an **Add new page** there. This shows that we can create number of pages within this Content type. So, this Content type now behaves as a website inside a website.

The Drupal way [Home](#) [Sites made on drupal](#) [Edit](#) [Pages](#)

[List](#) [Edit page](#)

Page title:

This is the title of the page and of the tab.

☒ Show blocks

If unchecked, the standard group blocks will not be shown unless you place them into your page content. This gives admin more control over page presentation.

☒ Published

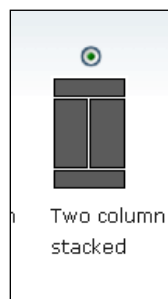
If unchecked, this page is only accessible by group or site administrators. That's useful while you are configuring the page.

Panels with Organic Groups

8. Create a new page, "Drupal". Check **Show blocks**, if you want the site's main block to appear onto the custom page.
9. Check **Published**. If unchecked, this page is only accessible by group or site administrators. That's useful while you are configuring the page.

Home page	Title	Operations			
	 Drupal	Edit content	Change layout	Edit page	Delete page

10. Go to **Change layout** and select **Two column stacked**.



11. This layout fits the visualization that we had made for our page. Click on **Update**.
12. Go to **Edit content**.
13. In the **Top** section, click on the gear, and then on **Organic groups | OG Mission**.

Add content to Top

Activity

Demo minipanel

Feeds

Menus

Mini panel

Miscellaneous

Node

Organic groups ▶

Page elements

Widgets

 OG description

 OG Mission

14. On the **Left side**, select the gear and then **Node | Node comments**. As we want to keep the comments on this page, let's choose 50 comments to be displayed.

Configure new Node comments

Node:
Node ▼

☐ Override title

You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.

Mode:
Threaded list - expanded ▼

Sort:
Date - newest first ▼

Pager:
50 comments per page ▼

Finish

15. On the **Right side**, we want to keep feeds. Let's add a feed, by going to **Administer | Content management | Feed aggregator | Add feed**. Here we add the RSS URL of Drupal.org and run cron.

Title: *
Drupal.org
The name of the feed (or the name of the website providing the feed).

URL: *
http://drupal.org/node/feed
The fully-qualified URL of the feed.

Update interval:
15 min ▼
The length of time between feed updates. (Requires a correctly configured [cron maintenance task](#).)

16. On the **Right side**, select the gear and then select **Add content | Feeds | Drupal.org feed latest items**.



17. At the bottom, select the gear and then select **Add content | New custom content**, and add a static content here.

Configure New custom content Close Window

Administrative title:

This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used.

Title:

Body:

Collaborative Book - Our unique collaborative book feature lets you setup a "book" and then authorize other individuals to contribute content.detailed information

Friendly URLs - Drupal uses Apache's mod_rewrite to enable customizable URLs that are both user and search engine friendly.

Modules - The Drupal community has contributed many modules which provide functionality that extend Drupal core.detailed information

—> Input format

☒ Use context keywords
If checked, context keywords will be substituted in this content.

—> Substitutions

18. Do a live preview.

Display settings

Top

Mission

No info

Left side

"Node" comments

No info

Right side

Drupal.org feed latest items

Drupal.org

Bottom

Custom: Is Drupal the right thing for your project

Is Drupal the right thing for your project

Save Cancel

Live preview

Preview

Welcome

Know whats going on in Drupal Community

Comments

Drupal Rocks

Sun, 01/24/2010 - 18:56 — admin

It is most suitable ready to go framework

delete edit reply

I use Drupal for all my projects

Sun, 01/24/2010 - 18:43 — admin

I use drupal for all my projects. The beauty of drupal is that it can be scaled from a 5 page dynamic website to a 500 page e-commerce website with couple of days,which would normally take months.

delete edit reply

What's Going On at Drupal.org

- Automated testing 2.1 deployed - contributed projects
- DrupalCon SF Session Submissions Open
- SharkScopers
- Autism therapy site with autotagging and GeoIP-enabled directory
- Drupal 7.0 Alpha 1 released
- The TurnKey Linux Virtual Appliance Library - Powered by Drupal
- New Book: Sams Teach Yourself Drupal in 24 Hours
- "Drupal: Creating and Editing Custom Themes" training video series from Lynda.com
- New Drupal Book: Drupal for Dummies
- Predictions for 2010

more

Is Drupal the right thing for your project

Collaborative Book - Our unique collaborative book feature lets you setup a "book" and then authorize other individuals to contribute content.detailed information
Friendly URLs - Drupal uses Apache's mod_rewrite to enable customizable URLs that are both user and search engine friendly.
Modules - The Drupal community has contributed many modules which provide functionality that extend Drupal core.detailed information
Online help - Like many Open Source projects, we can't say that our online help is perfect but have built a robust online help system built into the core help text. Available to you on your own site.detailed information
Open source - The source code of Drupal is freely available under the terms of the GNU General Public License 2 (GPL). Unlike proprietary blogging or content management systems, Drupal's feature set is fully available to extend or customize as needed.detailed information
Personalization - A robust personalization environment is at the core of Drupal. Both the content and the presentation can be individualized based on user-defined preferences.
Role based permission system - Drupal administrators don't have to tediously setup permissions for each user. Instead, they assign permissions to roles and then group like users into a role group.screenshot . detailed information
Searching - All content in Drupal is fully indexed and searchable at all times if you take advantage of the built in search module.

Panels with Organic Groups

19. Notice how beautifully, the Panel generates the content.
20. In the CSS settings of panes, change the style to rounded corners.

Home page	Title	Operations
 	Drupal	Edit content Change layout Edit page Delete page

21. Go to the main OG page, here, **The Drupal way**.
22. Select the page **Drupal** as the home page.
23. This makes the page **Drupal** as the home page of the group Drupal.
24. Now, let's create another page in our group: **Sites made on Drupal**.
25. For this, we make a Google news feed page of Drupal containing sites made in Drupal.
26. Add a feed as discussed earlier in the feed aggregator.
27. Select a **One column** page.

▼ Display settings

Middle column

Drupal News in Google feed latest items 

▶ Drupal News in Google

Save

Cancel

28. We added a content for the feed in the column as discussed earlier.
29. Our main OG Page will look like this:

The Drupal way

[Home](#) [Sites made on drupal](#) [Edit](#) [Pages](#)

List

Add new page

Create custom pages for your group. Use custom pages to organize your content in a pretty and informative manner. Your group can group to be a whole website within a web site. Each custom page becomes a tab when viewing your group. One of your custom pages should be designated as your *group home page*. That page will then display when visitors first arrive at your group.

Start by clicking the [Add new page](#) tab. Then you will choose a custom layout for your page. Then you will want to *edit content* for your custom page.

Home page	Title	Operations
 	Drupal	Edit content Change layout Edit page Delete page
 	Sites made on drupal	Edit content Change layout Edit page Delete page

Save settings

Reset Homepage

30. We can add as many pages as we want to add in the group as well as can reset the home page to whatever we like.
31. Let's now see what our complete OG page looks like:

The screenshot shows a Drupal 7.0 Alpha 1 website with the title 'Mindtrades'. The site has a dark blue header with the site name and a navigation menu with 'Projects' and 'Reading'. A left sidebar contains an 'admin' section with links: 'My account', 'Create content', 'Feed aggregator', 'Administer', and 'Log out'. The main content area is titled 'The Drupal way' and includes a 'Home' tab, 'Sites made on drupal', 'Edit', and 'Pages' links. Below this is a 'Welcome' section with the text 'Know whats going on in Drupal Community'. The 'Comments' section shows two comments: 'Drupal Rocks' and 'I use Drupal for all my projects', both by 'admin' on 01/24/2010. The 'What's Going On at Drupal.org' section lists various news items, including 'Automated testing 2.1 deployed', 'DrupalCon SF Session Submissions Open', 'SharkScopers', 'Autism therapy site with autotagging and GeoIP-enabled directory', 'Drupal 7.0 Alpha 1 released', 'The TurnKey Linux Virtual Appliance Library - Powered by Drupal', 'New Book: Sams Teach Yourself Drupal in 24 Hours', 'Drupal: Creating and Editing Custom Themes' training video series from Lynda.com, 'New Drupal Book: Drupal for Dummies', and 'Predictions for 2010'. A large section titled 'Is Drupal the right thing for your project' provides detailed information about Drupal's features, including Collaborative Book, Friendly URLs, Modules, Online help, Open source, Personalization, Role based permission system, and Searching. The footer includes the Drupal logo and version number 'Drupal 7.0 Alpha 1'.

How it works...

We created a complete group page using OG Panels. You would be excited to know that even Drupal Groups is powered by OG Panels.

The screenshot shows the Groups.Drupal.org website. The header features the logo and navigation links: Login, Recent, Jobs, Groups, Events. A search bar is also present. Below the header, a banner explains the site's purpose: "groups.drupal.org serves the Drupal community by providing a place for groups to organize, plan and work on projects. Real world local user groups in particular are encouraged to setup their online presence here." The main content area displays three group entries. The first entry, "Change community plumbing", is submitted by chx and has 62 comments. The second entry, "Boston Design for Drupal Camp - MIT - June 19-20, 2010", is submitted by finkatronic and has 2 comments. The third entry, "GDO Updates", is submitted by joshk and has 19 comments. A sidebar on the right contains a "Group categories" section with a list of tags and their counts, such as "academic level (1)", "active learning (2)", "admissions (1)", "advocacy (3)", "assessment formative summative (1)", "assignment_calendar (1)", "Atom (1)", "best practices (5)", "Biblio records for Education (1)", "blackboard (1)", "blog (1)", "bof (1)", "Book lending (1)", "calendar (2)", "calendar event (1)", "campus map (1)", "case study (10)", "case study k-12 (1)", and "certificates (1)".

Groups.Drupal

Login Recent Jobs Groups Events

groups.drupal.org serves the **Drupal** community by providing a place for groups to organize, plan and work on projects. Real world local user groups in particular are encouraged to setup their online presence here.

Change community plumbing
Submitted by [chx](#) on Tue, 2010-05-04 20:48
To "Come for the software, stay for the community." it has everything and not so cheesy as the current or the myriad others we figured during the years.
[62 comments](#)

Boston Design for Drupal Camp - MIT - June 19-20, 2010
Submitted by [finkatronic](#) on Sat, 2010-05-01 14:11
Start: 2010-06-19 (All day) - 2010-06-20 (All day) America/New_York
Organizers:
[finkatronic](#)
[Susan MacPhee](#)
5/8: Hi all, registration and a call for sessions is now open and out!
<http://boston2010.design4drupal.org/>
4/29: Site and information is forthcoming; this will be updated. Yes, it will.
See post for now and consider volunteering; even two hours helps!
<http://groups.drupal.org/node/65448>
Registration will be done via the site.
[2 comments](#)

GDO Updates
Submitted by [joshk](#) on Thu, 2010-04-22 23:45
At today's DrupalConSF sprint, Greg and I made a number of updates to bring the latest and greatest versions of our favorite modules to GDO. This includes the shiny new **OG Panels 2.0 release** (many thanks to [jimthunderbird](#) for getting that release out!) and a number of other under-the hood updates which will help us build and deploy more content and group features going forward.
Please use this thread to post any issues you see with the site.
[19 comments](#)

Groups.drupal.org is a part of the drupal.org group of sites. Logging in on this site requires an account on the main drupal.org site. If you do not have an account on drupal.org, you will need to **create one**, log in over there, and then come back here where you should automatically be logged in.
Thanks!

Group categories

Education Group Tags

- academic level (1)
- active learning (2)
- admissions (1)
- advocacy (3)
- assessment formative summative (1)
- assignment_calendar (1)
- Atom (1)
- best practices (5)
- Biblio records for Education (1)
- blackboard (1)
- blog (1)
- bof (1)
- Book lending (1)
- calendar (2)
- calendar event (1)
- campus map (1)
- case study (10)
- case study k-12 (1)
- certificates (1)

When you mix panels with custom CSS as we discussed earlier in our recipes, you can create breath taking social media websites.

Using the Organic groups Views integration

Let's now integrate views and Organic panels to make a Panel page.

How to do it...

Using the Organic groups Views integration is recommended to get complete control over your groups.

We will now configure Organic group Views integration.

1. Go to **Site building | Modules | List**.
2. Enable **Organic groups Views integration** in the OG section.

Organic groups			
Enabled	Name	Version	Description
☒	Organic groups	6.x-2.0	Enable users to create and manage groups. OG Views integration module is recommended for best experience. Required by: Apache Solr Organic Groups (disabled), Organic groups access control (enabled), Organic groups actions (disabled), Organic Groups Notifications (disabled), Organic groups panels. (enabled), Organic groups Views integration (enabled)
☒	Organic groups access control	6.x-2.0	Enable access control for private posts and private groups. Depends on: Organic groups (enabled)
☐	Organic groups actions	6.x-2.0	Provides actions for use with Organic Groups and Trigger. Depends on: Organic groups (enabled)
☐	Organic Groups Notifications	6.x-2.0	Allows users to receive notifications and subscribe to group content. Depends on: Organic groups (enabled), Notifications (missing), Notifications_content (missing), Notifications_lite (missing), Messaging (missing), Token (disabled)
☒	Organic groups panels.	6.x-2.x-dev	Enable group admins to create panel pages. Depends on: Organic groups (enabled), Panels (enabled), Page manager (enabled), Chaos tools (enabled)
☒	Organic groups Views integration	6.x-2.0	Highly recommended.. Use Views to search and display organic groups. Depends on: Organic groups (enabled), Views (enabled)

3. Go to **Site building | Views | List**.

Panels with Organic Groups

- You will be now able to see many default views for our OG.

Views [List](#) [Add](#) [Import](#) [Tools](#)

Not sure what to do? Try the "Getting started" page.

Storage: **Type:** **Tag:** **Displays:**

Sort by: **Order:** [Apply](#)

Normal Aggregator item view: Craigslist	Edit Export Clone Delete
Block	
Overridden Node view: og (og)	Edit Export Clone Revert
Title: Groups Path: og/all/feed Feed, Page Groups directory	
Default Node view: og_ghp_ron (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Path: not_used Feed OG: Group home page - River of news. Default	
Default User view: og_members (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Path: og/users/%/list Page Member listing	
Default User view: og_members_block (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Title: Recent members Block Member listing block	
Overridden User view: og_members_faces (og)	Edit Export Clone Revert
Title: Group faces Member listing in grid with user pictures	
Default Node view: og_my (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Title: My groups Path: og/my Block, Page List user's subscribed groups and provide link to manage subscription	
Default Node view: og_mytracker (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Title: Recent posts in my groups Path: group/mytracker Feed, Page Shows all activity in subscribed groups.	
Default Node view: og_recent_type_term (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Recent posts for current term filtered by node type and/or taxonomy term	
Default Node view: og_tracker (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Title: Recent posts across whole site Path: group/tracker Feed, Page Shows active posts across the whole site.	
Default Node view: og_unread (og)	Edit Export Clone Disable
Title: Unread posts in my groups Path: group/myunread Feed, Page Shows unread posts in subscribed groups.	
Normal Node view: storyblock1	Edit Export Clone Delete
Block story block	

- Let's view some of them.

- Go to **og_my**. It lists the user-subscribed groups and provides a link to manage subscription. It has a Page view and a Block view too.

View og_my, displaying items of type Node.

Export Clone View "Page"

Defaults **Page** *Display the view as a page, with a URL and menu links.* Remove display

Block

Page Add display Analyze

Basic settings

Name: Page
 Title: My groups
 Style: Table
 Use AJAX: No
 Use pager: Yes
 Items per page: 50
 Distinct: No
 Access: Multiple roles
 Caching: None
 Exposed form in block: No
 Header: None
 Footer: None
 Empty text: Filtered HTML
 Theme: Information

Relationships + -

None defined

Arguments + -

None defined

Fields + -

Node: Title Group
 User: Name Manager
 Organic groups: OG: Edit membership link
 Manage

Sort criteria + -

Node: Title asc

Filters + -

Node: Published Yes
 Organic groups: Group types (all) =
 Organic groups: Group member True

Page settings

Path: og/my
 Menu: Tab: My groups

Click on an item to edit that item's details.

- The next screenshot shows the **My groups** view, which will enable users to edit their membership in the group as well as see all the groups they have subscribed to.

My groups		
Groups	My groups	Group activity
Group ▲	Manager	Manage
The Drupal way	admin	Edit membership
		

- If you now see the menu, you will find **Groups | My groups**, which is the same view that was included with the Organic groups Views integration as the default view.

Groups Groups My groups Group activity

Search for a group by name

Contains Apply

No groups

9. Try editing the membership.

Manage membership

You may not leave this group because it is a *closed* group. You should request removal from a group administrator.

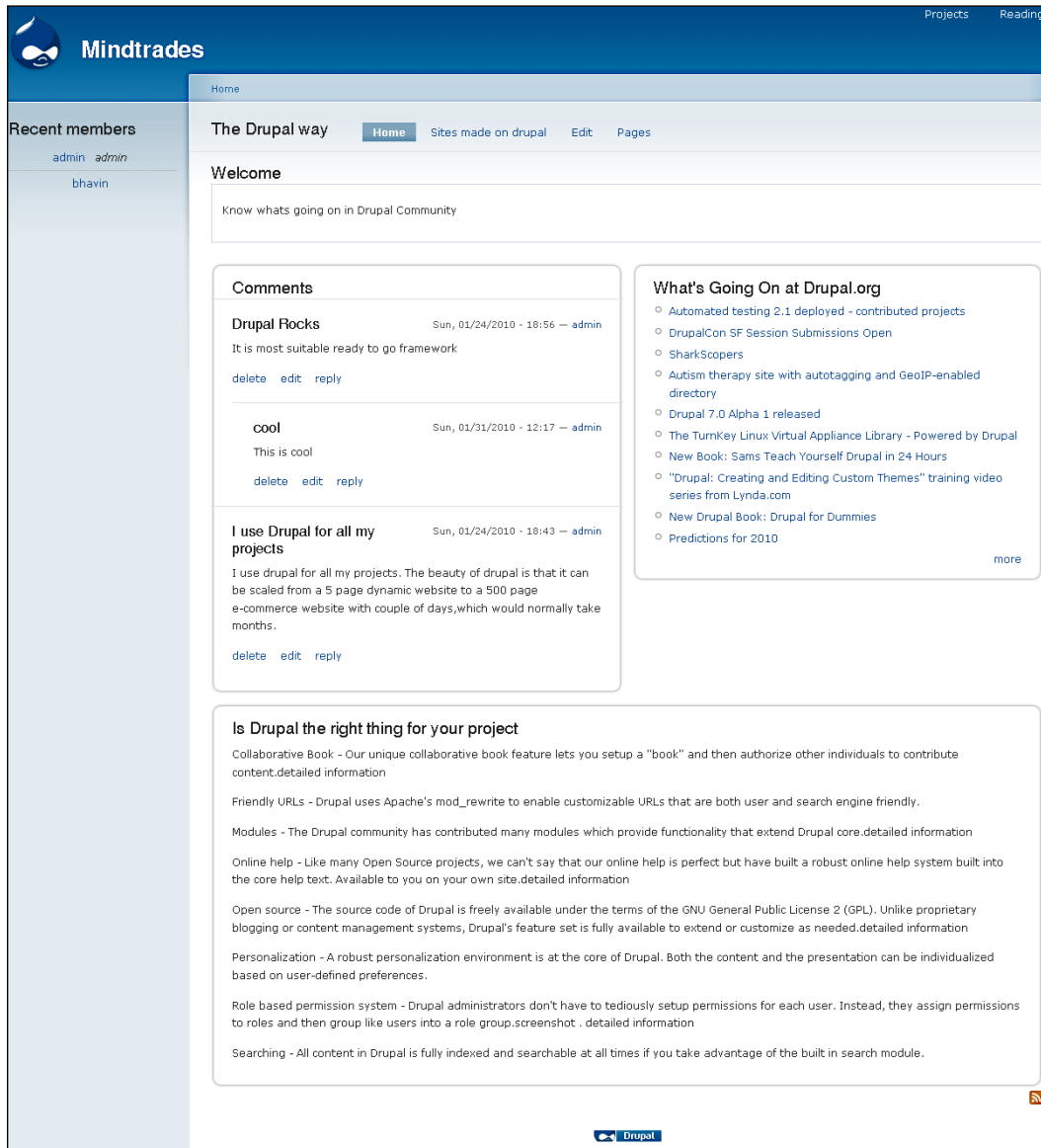
10. Remember that we had created a closed group, where only the group administrator will have the right to edit the membership. If you want to make the group open, you can always edit the membership as an administrator.
11. Now go to the view **og_tracker**. This shows active posts across the whole site.
12. As we have posted everything as **admin**, it will show all the posts.

Recent posts across whole site					
		My Recent	My Unread	Recent posts	
Type	Title	Author	Replies	Groups	Last post▼
Story	The Drupal way	admin	3		01/31/2010 - 12:17
Page	Teardown Prices Google Nexus One at \$175	admin	1		01/16/2010 - 15:37
Story	Google and mobile market	admin	2		01/10/2010 - 15:39
Page	panels	admin			01/10/2010 - 14:42
Page	Drupal	admin			01/10/2010 - 14:41
Page	About Me	admin			01/10/2010 - 13:19
Story	story 4	admin			01/10/2010 - 11:37
Story	story 3	admin			01/10/2010 - 11:36

13. You will be able to see the stats like replies in this view. You can customize the view per user too if you wish to.
14. Now with the Views enabled, let's activate a block of recent members.
15. Go to **Site building | Blocks**.
16. Enable **Group members** in the **Left sidebar** region of the Garland theme.

Block	Region	Operations
Left sidebar		
+ Group members	Left sidebar ▼	configure

17. Save and see the OG page now.



The screenshot shows a Drupal website with the following layout:

- Header:** Blue bar with 'Mindtrades' logo and name. Navigation links: 'Projects', 'Reading', 'Home', 'Sites made on drupal', 'Edit', 'Pages'.
- Recent members:** Sidebar on the left showing 'admin admin' and 'bhavin'.
- Main Content Area:**
 - Welcome:** A box with the text 'Know whats going on in Drupal Community'.
 - Comments:** A section titled 'Comments' containing three entries:
 - Drupal Rocks:** 'It is most suitable ready to go framework.' (Sun, 01/24/2010 - 18:56 — admin)
 - cool:** 'This is cool' (Sun, 01/31/2010 - 12:17 — admin)
 - I use Drupal for all my projects:** 'I use drupal for all my projects. The beauty of drupal is that it can be scaled from a 5 page dynamic website to a 500 page e-commerce website with couple of days,which would normally take months.' (Sun, 01/24/2010 - 18:43 — admin)
 - What's Going On at Drupal.org:** A list of links including 'Automated testing 2.1 deployed', 'DrupalCon SF Session Submissions Open', 'SharkScopers', 'Autism therapy site with autotagging and GeoIP-enabled directory', 'Drupal 7.0 Alpha 1 released', 'The TurnKey Linux Virtual Appliance Library', 'New Book: Sams Teach Yourself Drupal in 24 Hours', 'Drupal: Creating and Editing Custom Themes', 'New Drupal Book: Drupal for Dummies', and 'Predictions for 2010'.
 - Is Drupal the right thing for your project:** A section with several paragraphs describing Drupal's features: Collaborative Book, Friendly URLs, Modules, Online help, Open source, Personalization, Role based permission system, and Searching.
- Footer:** A small Drupal logo.

6

Panels with CCK

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Creating custom Panels with a custom Content type
- ▶ Using Views to display the Content type

Introduction

In Panels, we can integrate the power of CCK (yet another powerful module) via context. Context is a wrapper around an object such as Node, Taxonomy term, Users, and many more. Once you have contexts in the system, it allows related Panel panes to appear. You can then create a relationship from that node to, say, the node type **Technology** (which we will create later on). Once the contexts are in place, content specifically about those contexts can be placed. For the node context you can add CCK fields, the node body, attached files, and a host of other information that can be provided by plugins. For the user context you can display things like the user picture or profile.

Let's create a recipe to make a custom Panel with a custom Content type.

Say you use a bunch of technologies in your website projects and you want to display all the technology that you use on your website along with comments on each technology. And you also need to add a form on the same page to add a new technology. All this stuff needs to be on a single page and updating dynamically. This can only be achieved by using Panels and Ctools (we should have this module activated). Let's do it.



Note that CCK 2.3 and later only has support for Panels 3.

Creating custom panels with a custom Content type

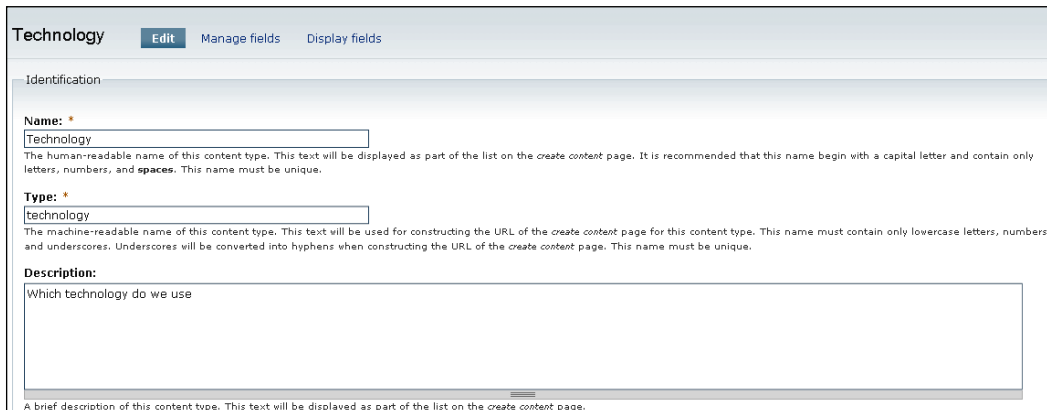
Let's now create a panel page using the CCK Module.

Getting ready

Install the CCK module from Drupal.org (<http://drupal.org/project/cck>). First, we will create a custom Content type, say, Technology. Then we will use the Content Construction Kit to create a new custom technology panel page.

How to do it...

1. Let's create a custom Content type. Go to **Administer | Content management | Content types | Add content types**.
2. Enter **Technology** as the **Name**, **technology** as the **Type** (Drupal will then create a **Technology** Content type), and enter a **Description** (for example, "Which technology do we use").



The screenshot shows the 'Add content type' form in Drupal. The title is 'Technology'. Below the title are three tabs: 'Edit', 'Manage fields', and 'Display fields'. The 'Identification' section contains three fields: 'Name' (with the value 'Technology'), 'Type' (with the value 'technology'), and 'Description' (with the value 'Which technology do we use'). Each field has a small asterisk indicating it is required. Below the 'Description' field is a small text box with the placeholder 'A brief description of this content type. This text will be displayed as part of the list on the create content page.'

3. Save the Content type. You will now see a Content type called **Technology** listed in your Content types, as shown in the following screenshot:

Content types			
List Add content type Fields Export Import			
The content type <i>Technology</i> has been updated.			
Below is a list of all the content types on your site. All posts that exist on your site are instances of one of these content types.			
Name	Type	Description	Operations
Page	page	A <i>page</i> , similar in form to a <i>story</i> , is a simple method for creating and displaying information that rarely changes, such as an "About us" section of a website. By default, a <i>page</i> entry does not allow visitor comments and is not featured on the site's initial home page.	edit manage fields delete
Panel	panel	A panel layout broken up into rows and columns.	edit manage fields
Story	story	A <i>story</i> , similar in form to a <i>page</i> , is ideal for creating and displaying content that informs or engages website visitors. Press releases, site announcements, and informal blog-like entries may all be created with a <i>story</i> entry. By default, a <i>story</i> entry is automatically featured on the site's initial home page, and provides the ability to post comments.	edit manage fields delete
Technology	technology	Which technology do we use	edit manage fields delete

- Let's create some custom CCK fields. Ensure that you have **FileField**, **ImageField**, **Number**, **Text**, and **Option Widgets** and make them enabled in your CCK modules section, as follows:

☒	FileField	6.x-3.2	Defines a file field type. Depends on: Content (enabled) Required by: FileField Meta (disabled), ImageField (enabled)
☐	FileField Meta	6.x-3.2	Add metadata gathering and storage to FileField. Depends on: FileField (enabled), Getid3 (missing), Content (enabled)
☒	ImageField	6.x-3.2	Defines an image field type. Depends on: Content (enabled), FileField (enabled)
☒	Link	6.x-2.8	Defines simple link field types. Depends on: Content (enabled)
☒	Node Reference	6.x-2.5	Defines a field type for referencing one node from another. Depends on: Content (enabled), Text (enabled), Option Widgets (enabled)
☒	Number	6.x-2.5	Defines numeric field types. Depends on: Content (enabled)
☒	Option Widgets	6.x-2.5	Defines selection, check box and radio button widgets for text and numeric fields. Depends on: Content (enabled) Required by: Node Reference (enabled), User Reference (enabled)
☒	Text	6.x-2.5	Defines simple text field types. Depends on: Content (enabled) Required by: Node Reference (enabled), User Reference (enabled)

- Go to **Administer | Content management | Content types | Edit Technology | Manage fields**.
- Create a new field. Name the field as **technology**.
- Set the **Type** as **File** and select **Image** as the **Widget**.

	technology	field_technology	File
---	------------	------------------	------

- We will be using the **technology** field to upload an image of our technology.
- We will use the **Title** and **Body** fields for putting the description of each technology.

10. Edit individual fields as shown in the following screenshot. If you need to add more extensions for the image type, you can add them in the **Permitted upload file extensions** field. The maximum and minimum resolution of the field can also be mentioned. The image will be resized according to the resolution mentioned. To keep it at the default value, keep it at "0":

Technology basic information

Label:
technology

Widget type:
Image

Change basic information

Technology settings

These settings apply only to the *technology* field as it appears in the *Technology* content type.

Help text:

Instructions to present to the user below this field on the editing form.
Allowed HTML tags: <a> <big> <code> <i> <ins> <pre> <q> <small> <sub> <sup> <tt> <p>

Permitted upload file extensions:
png gif jpg jpeg
Extensions a user can upload to this field. Separate extensions with a space and do not include the leading dot. Leaving this blank will allow users to upload a file with any extension.

Maximum resolution for Images:
0
The maximum allowed image size expressed as WIDTHxHEIGHT (e.g. 640x480). Set to 0 for no restriction. If a larger image is uploaded, it will be resized to reflect the given width and height. Resizing images on upload will cause the loss of EXIF data in the image.

Minimum resolution for Images:
0
The minimum allowed image size expressed as WIDTHxHEIGHT (e.g. 640x480). Set to 0 for no restriction. If an image that is smaller than these dimensions is uploaded it will be rejected.

Path settings

File size restrictions

ALT text settings

Title text settings

Default image

Global settings

These settings apply to the *technology* field in every content type in which it appears.

☐ Required

Number of values:
1
Maximum number of values users can enter for this field.
'Unlimited' will provide an 'Add more' button so the users can add as many values as they like.
Warning! Changing this setting after data has been created could result in the loss of data!

List field:
☒ Disabled
☐ Enabled
The "list" option lets a user choose if a file should be shown in a list when viewing the content after creation.

Description field:
☒ Disabled
☐ Enabled
When enabled, will display a text field where users may enter a description about the uploaded file.

Save field settings

11. Save the field.
12. Go to **Create content | Technology**. You will see a nicely generated form for your input of this Content type into your database:

Create Technology

Title: *

— ▸ Menu settings

Body: Split summary at cursor

— ▸ Input format

technology:

Maximum Filesize: 2 MB
Allowed Extensions: png gif jpg jpeg

— ▸ Revision information

— ▸ Comment settings

— ▸ Authoring information

— ▸ Publishing options

13. Our **Technology** Content type is ready. Add two Technology nodes using this form (for example, Drupal and PHP) and upload their logos, as shown in the following screenshots:

Php View Edit Track

Technology *Php* has been created.

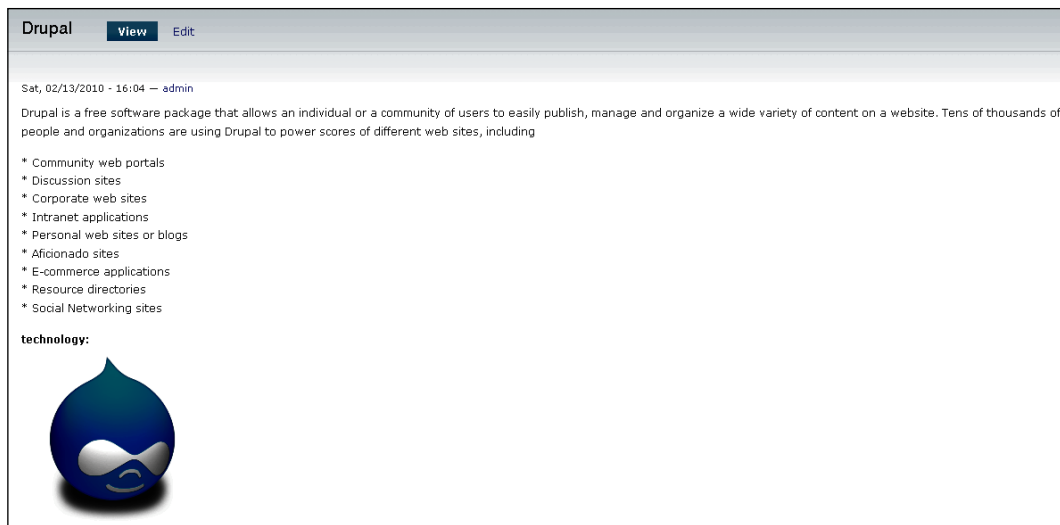
Sun, 05/30/2010 - 15:50 — admin

PHP is a widely-used general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for Web development and can be embedded into HTML.
PHP (recursive acronym for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

technology:



[Add new comment](#)



14. Let's create a beautiful Panel page now.

15. Go to **Panels | Dashboard** and create a new panel page called **using CCK**, as follows:

Administrative title: using cck
The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it.
Machine name: usingcck
The machine readable name of this page. It must be unique, and it must contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores. Once created, you will not be able to change this value!
Administrative description:
A description of what this page is, does or is for, for administrative use.
Path: http://mindtrades.com/drupal/usingcck
The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and !name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/foo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard!/input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form.
☐ Make this your site home page. To set this panel as your home page you must create a unique path name with no % placeholders in the path. The current site home page is set to /page/layout.

16. To integrate our Node Creation form created using CCK into our Panels and its content, we need to use contexts which we have used many times in our past recipes.

17. Using the Panels UI go to **Contexts**.

18. We need to create three contexts: one for putting the technology Node Creation form into the Panels and two for each technology to put in the individual comments.

19. For creating a context for the **Technology** Node form, select **node add form** and create context.

A node add form.

Identifier:
Enter a name to identify this context on administrative screens.

Keyword:
Enter a keyword to use for substitution in titles.

Node type:
Select the node type for this form.

20. Select **Node type** as **Technology** (our custom Content Type).
21. To put in comments on the **Drupal** technology, we would need to create a node context as it is a node type. Select **Node** and then click on **Add context**. You will get a form as follows; enter the details:

A node object.

Identifier:
Enter a name to identify this context on administrative screens.

Keyword:
Enter a keyword to use for substitution in titles.

Enter the title or NID of a node:

Currently set to "Drupal" [node id 22]

☐ Reset identifier to node title
If checked, the identifier will be reset to the node title of the selected node.

22. Select **Drupal** as the node.

23. Similarly create a node context for the PHP node, as follows:

Add context "Node"

A node object.

Identifier:

Enter a name to identify this context on administrative screens.

Keyword:

Enter a keyword to use for substitution in titles.

Enter the title or NID of a node:
 

☐ Reset identifier to node title
If checked, the identifier will be reset to the node title of the selected node.

24. Click on the **Update** button, as shown in the following screenshot:

Clone
Export
Delete
Disable
Add variant
Import variant

Summary
Settings
Basic
Access
Menu
Variants
Panel
Summary
General
Selection rules
Contexts
Layout
Content
Preview

Variants » Panel » Contexts

Variant operations
Clone
Export
Delete
Disable

Add additional context objects to this variant that can be used by the content.

Summary of contexts

Contexts

Relationships

Context 1
Technology
Keyword: %Add A technology
%Add A technology:type --> Node type

Technology
Drupal Comments
PHP Comments
Node
Add context

Node from reference
Add relationship

Context 2
Drupal Comments
Keyword: %Drupal comments
%Drupal comments:uid --> Author UID
%Drupal comments:nid --> Node ID
%Drupal comments:vid --> Node revision ID
%Drupal comments:title --> Node title
%Drupal comments:type --> Node type

Context 3
PHP Comments
Keyword: %node_1
%node_1:uid --> Author UID
%node_1:nid --> Node ID
%node_1:vid --> Node revision ID
%node_1:title --> Node title
%node_1:type --> Node type

Update

25. Go to **Layout** and select **Two column stacked**.
26. Go to **Content**.
27. In the **Top** section, go to **Add content**. Add a custom content, as follows:

Administrative title:

This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used.

Title:

Body:

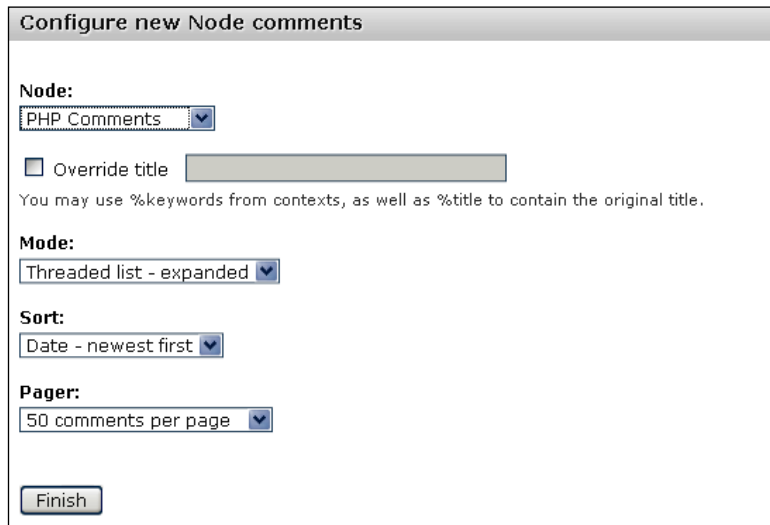
This is a demonstration of Using CCK With Panels

28. In the **Left side** section go to **Add content | Existing node** and select the PHP and Drupal nodes separately.
29. In the **Right side** section select **Add content | Form | General form | Technology** (this is the Node Creation Form that we created earlier).

Form:

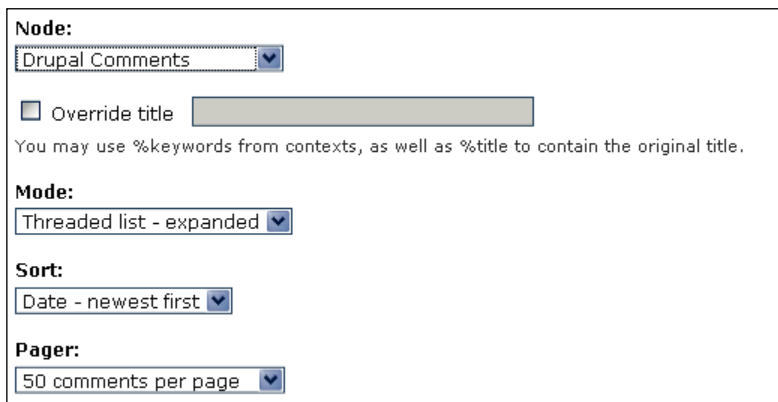
☐ Override title
You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.

30. In the **Bottom** section, go to **Add content | Node | Node comments** and select **PHP Comments** and **Drupal Comments** separately, as shown in the following screenshots:



The screenshot shows the 'Configure new Node comments' form for 'PHP Comments'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Node:** A dropdown menu with 'PHP Comments' selected.
- Override title:** A checkbox that is unchecked, followed by a text input field.
- Help text:** 'You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.'
- Mode:** A dropdown menu with 'Threaded list - expanded' selected.
- Sort:** A dropdown menu with 'Date - newest first' selected.
- Pager:** A dropdown menu with '50 comments per page' selected.
- Finish:** A button at the bottom of the form.



The screenshot shows the 'Configure new Node comments' form for 'Drupal Comments'. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Node:** A dropdown menu with 'Drupal Comments' selected.
- Override title:** A checkbox that is unchecked, followed by a text input field.
- Help text:** 'You may use %keywords from contexts, as well as %title to contain the original title.'
- Mode:** A dropdown menu with 'Threaded list - expanded' selected.
- Sort:** A dropdown menu with 'Date - newest first' selected.
- Pager:** A dropdown menu with '50 comments per page' selected.

31. Add some style like rounded corners; then update, preview, and save.

Customized Panel For Technology CCK

This is a demonstration of Using CCK With Panels

Tech block

Php

Sun, 05/30/2010 - 15:50 — admin

PHP is a widely-used general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for Web development and can be embedded into HTML. PHP (recursive acronym for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

technology:



1 comment 2 reads

Drupal

Sat, 02/13/2010 - 16:04 — admin

Drupal is a free software package that allows an individual or a community of users to easily publish, manage and organize a wide variety of content on a website. Tens of thousands of people and organizations are using Drupal to power scores of different web sites, including

- * Community web portals
- * Discussion sites
- * Corporate web sites
- * Intranet applications
- * Personal web sites or blogs
- * Aficionado sites
- * E-commerce applications
- * Resource directories
- * Social Networking sites

technology:



1 comment 15 reads

Submit Technology

Title: *

—> Menu settings

Body:

Split summary at cursor

—> Input format

technology:

Maximum Filesize: 2 MB

Allowed Extensions: png gif jpg jpeg

—> Revision information

—> Comment settings

—> Meta tags

—> Composite layout

—> Authoring information

—> Publishing options

Comments

Drupal also rocks

Sat, 02/13/2010 - 16:51 — admin

Drupal also can create sites in no time

[delete](#) [edit](#) [reply](#)

Comments

Php is great and stable

Sun, 05/30/2010 - 16:17 — admin

Very stable technology

[delete](#) [edit](#) [reply](#)

How it works...

This creates a custom panel where a user can submit a new technology node to the administrator and as well as see the existing Technology node and its comments.

Using Views to display the Content type

We will use Views to make the content more dynamic in this recipe.

This way we can integrate all the content of the **Technology** Content type and display it as a single View or a block display.

How to do it...

1. Let's create a View for the **Technology** nodes.
2. Create a View named **techview** where we will display **10** nodes; filter it by node type **Technology**. Create a block called **Tech block** that we will integrate into our Panel, as follows:



3. We will now integrate this block instead of the static panes, which we earlier created.
4. Go to **Site Building | Pages | usingcck**.
5. Go to **Content** and disable the **PHP** and **Drupal** panes on the **Left side**.
6. Now go to **Left side | Add content | Miscellaneous | techview: Block**.
7. Update and Save.
8. Now when a technology is created on the page it will be seen on that page on the fly.
9. Create a test **Technology** called **Ubercart**.

10. Check that the content now on the **Left side** is a block from View. This is the View display as block.

Customized Panel For Technology CCK

This is a demonstration of Using CCK With Panels

Tech block

Ubercart

Sun, 05/30/2010 - 17:20 — admin

Ubercart is an exciting open source e-commerce package that fully integrates your online store with Drupal, the leading open source content management system. This is a killer combination for anyone looking to build a community around a product, sell access to premium content, offer paid file downloads, and much much more!

technology:



Add new comment 1 read

Php

Sun, 05/30/2010 - 15:50 — admin

PHP is a widely-used general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for Web development and can be embedded into HTML. PHP (recursive acronym for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

technology:



1 comment 2 reads

Drupal

Sat, 02/13/2010 - 16:04 — admin

Drupal is a free software package that allows an individual or a community of users to easily publish, manage and organize a wide variety of content on a website. Tens of thousands of people and organizations are using Drupal to power scores of different web sites, including

- * Community web portals
- * Discussion sites
- * Corporate web sites
- * Intranet applications
- * Personal web sites or blogs
- * Aficionado sites
- * E-commerce applications
- * Resource directories
- * Social Networking sites

technology:



1 comment 15 reads

Submit Technology

Title: *

Menu settings

Body:

Split summary at cursor

Input format

technology:

Browse... Upload

Maximum Filesize: 2 MB
Allowed Extensions: png gif jpg jpeg

Revision information

Comment settings

Save Preview

Meta tags

Composite layout

Authoring information

Publishing options

Comments

Drupal also rocks

Sat, 02/13/2010 - 16:51 — admin

Drupal also can create sites in no time

delete edit reply

Comments

Php is great and stable

Sun, 05/30/2010 - 16:17 — admin

Very stable technology

delete edit reply

How it works...

We created a View of the custom Content type, Technology, and then we displayed the View as a block in a Panel pane.

7

Advanced Profile Kit

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Setting up the Advanced Profile Kit
- ▶ Building an APK Variant

Introduction

The Advanced Profile Kit (http://drupal.org/project/advanced_profile) module helps to build custom profile pages for social media websites. The following recipes will guide you in setting up your profile pages and provide examples of ways in which you can build on it for completely custom profiles.

Setting up the Advanced Profile Kit

We will setup the APK first as mentioned on [Drupal.org](http://drupal.org). The quick steps are listed next.

How to do it...

1. Copy the entire advanced profile module into `/sites/all/modules`.
2. Enable **Advanced Profile Kit** in **Administer | Site building | Modules**.
3. The following modules are needed for making advance profiles:
 - ❑ **Author Pane 2.x** (Author pane)—also see the Author Pane project page for modules it supports to add more functionality
 - ❑ **Panels 3.x** (Panels)
 - ❑ **CTools** (Chaos Tools, Page Manager)

- ❑ **Views 2.x** (Views, Views content panes, and Views UI)
- ❑ **CCK 2.x** (Content, Content Copy, Field group, Option Widgets, and Text)
- ❑ **Link** (Link – grouped with CCK)
- ❑ **Content Profile**
- ❑ **User Relationships** (UR-API, UR-UI, UR-Views)
- ❑ **Statistics** (part of core; needed for user visits pane)

4. Configure the APK.

Advanced Profile

☒ Redirect from profile node to user page
If checked, attempting to go to the profile node will redirect you to the user page. This only affects the full node page and not viewing the node elsewhere. This specifically works with the uprofile node type that ships with APK and will not work if you are using a different node type.

▼ Profile visitors

Number of entries:

Number of visitor entries to display.

☐ Show only the last visit from each user

Granularity of time ago:

1 gives you "1 hour ago", 2 gives you "1 hour 4 minutes ago", 3 gives you "1 hour 4 minutes and 2 seconds ago"

Roles to exclude:

☐ authenticated user
Check roles to exclude users in those roles from the listing. Warning: using this on highly populated roles could cause performance issues. It's meant for admins.

- ❑ **Redirect from profile node to user page:** When using nodes as profiles, you have the node sitting out there just like other nodes. This redirect will prevent anyone from visiting that node as it will redirect them to the profile page of the owner of the profile node.
- ❑ **Number of entries:** Enter the number of profile visits to show at one time.
- ❑ **Show only the last visit from each user:** If checked, a given person will only be listed once no matter how many times they visit.
- ❑ **Granularity of time ago:** The granularity on the profile visits list defaults to **2**. Set it to **1** or to **3** for more precision. For example, **1** would display output as "1 hour ago", **2** would display as "1 hour 30 minutes ago" and **3** would display as "1 hour 30 min and 3 seconds ago".
- ❑ **Roles to exclude:** Check any roles you don't want to show up on the list. Make note of the performance warning.

- Advanced Profile Kit comes with a pre-built node type with basic profile information already set up. For maximum flexibility, this node type is intended to be imported rather than hardcoded into the module.
- Open the file `uprofile.full.export` at the root of the Advanced Profile module directory (`/sites/all/modules/advanced_profile`) and copy entire contents. Go to **admin | Content management | Content types | Import**. Ensure that the **Content type** selection is **<Create>**.

Content types
List
Add content type
Fields
Export
Import

This form will import field definitions exported from another content type or another database.
Note that fields cannot be duplicated within the same content type, so imported fields will be added only if they do not already exist in the selected type.

Content type:

Select the content type to import these fields into.
Select <Create> to create a new content type to contain the fields.

Import data: *

```

$content['type'] = array (
  'name' => 'User Profile',
  'type' => 'uprofile',
  'description' => 'Holds the data for a user\'s profile. This type is provided by Advanced Profile Kit as an import file and can be changed or
deleted as needed. If you don\'t want it to have a title, look at the Automatic Node titles module. If you are not using the comment form as a
"wall" you will want to turn comments off. If you don\'t see a "Content profile" tab at the top, be sure "Use this content type as a content
profile for users" is checked.',
  'title_label' => 'Profile Title',
  'body_label' => '',
  'min_word_count' => '0',
  'help' => '',
  'node_options' =>
  array (
    'status' => true,
    'promote' => false,
    'sticky' => false,
    'revision' => false,
  ),
  'old_type' => 'uprofile',
  'orig_type' => '',
  'module' => 'node',
  'custom' => '1',
  'modified' => '1',
  'locked' => '0',
  'content_profile_use' => 1,
  'comment' => '2',
  'comment_default_mode' => '4',
  'comment_default_order' => '1',
  'comment_default_per_page' => '50',
  'comment_controls' => '3',
  'comment_anonymous' => '0',
  'comment_subject_field' => '0',
  'comment_preview' => '0',
  'comment_form_location' => '0',
  'ant' => '1',
  'ant_pattern' => 'Profile for [author-name]',
  'ant_php' => 0,
);
$content['groups'] = array (
  0 =>
  array (

```

Paste the text created by a content export into this field.

Import

- Paste the copied content into the **Import data** box and click on **Import**.
- The fields, as shown in the following screenshot, will be imported and it forms the complete profile page:

User Profile
[Edit](#)
[Content profile](#)
[Manage fields](#)
[Display fields](#)

[About Me](#)
[AIM](#)
[Blog](#)
[Children](#)
[Ethnicity](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Favorite #1](#)
[Favorite #2](#)
[Favorite #3](#)
[Friendfeed](#)
[Gender](#)

[Google](#)
[Homepage](#)
[ICQ](#)
[Interests](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[Myspace](#)
[Name](#)
[Occupation](#)
[Orientation](#)
[Political Leaning](#)
[Religion](#)

[Skype](#)
[Status](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Yahoo](#)
[Zodiac Sign](#)

Add fields and groups to the content type, and arrange them on content display and input forms.
 You can add a field to a group by dragging it below and to the right of the group.

Label	Name	Type	Operations
+ Profile Title	Node module form.		
+ Menu settings	Menu module form.		
+ Basic Info	group_about	Standard group	Configure Remove
+ Name	field_name	Text	Configure Remove
+ About Me	field_about_me	Text	Configure Remove
+ Interests	field_interests	Text	Configure Remove
+ Stats	group_stats	Standard group	Configure Remove
+ Gender	field_gender	Text	Configure Remove
+ Occupation	field_occupation	Text	Configure Remove
+ Children	field_children	Text	Configure Remove
+ Ethnicity	field_ethnicity	Text	Configure Remove
+ Status	field_status	Text	Configure Remove
+ Orientation	field_orientation	Text	Configure Remove
+ Religion	field_religion	Text	Configure Remove
+ Political Leaning	field_political_leaning	Text	Configure Remove
+ Zodiac Sign	field_zodiac_sign	Text	Configure Remove
+ Contact	group_contact	Standard group	Configure Remove
+ Skype	field_skype	Text	Configure Remove
+ Yahoo	field_yahoo	Text	Configure Remove
+ ICQ	field_icq	Text	Configure Remove
+ Google	field_google	Text	Configure Remove
+ AIM	field_aim	Text	Configure Remove
+ Links	group_links	Standard group	Configure Remove
+ Homepage	field_homepage	Link	Configure Remove
+ Blog	field_blog	Link	Configure Remove
+ Facebook	field_facebook	Link	Configure Remove
+ Twitter	field_twitter	Link	Configure Remove
+ Friendfeed	field_friendfeed	Link	Configure Remove
+ LinkedIn	field_linkedin	Link	Configure Remove
+ Myspace	field_myspace	Link	Configure Remove
+ Favorite #1	field_favorite1	Link	Configure Remove
+ Favorite #2	field_favorite2	Link	Configure Remove
+ Favorite #3	field_favorite3	Link	Configure Remove
+ Revision information	Node module form.		
+ Comment settings	Comment module form.		

9. The profile generated by the full import will look as follows. It will show all the fields that have been filled by the user:

admin admin Online Joined: 11/22/2009 Groups: The Drupal way	About admin Results-oriented lead architect with a focus on delivering high-quality code and products in high traffic environments. Enthusiastic about building new products and services. Proven leadership ability; capable of keeping a team focused on the tasks and deadlines at hand. Solves immediate crises with solutions that will fit for the long-term. Nine years of experience in the Internet industry, specializes in ROR(Ruby on Rails)/LAMP technologies. Hands-on experience with all aspects of building large-scale, high-availability applications application development, n-tier architecture, frameworks, data interchange, security, on-line commerce, database administration, replication, and optimization, server administration, open source software, and quality assurance. Stays up to date with best practices.(and still learning.. {all new technologies.})
Contact admin	
admin's stats Gender: Male Occupation: Sr Web Architect Children: Have young child(ren)	Drupal Rails Mollom
admin's links	
Profile visitors No recent visitors.	

10. If you wish you can also perform a partial import of the fields. To perform a partial import, open the `uprofile.contact-links.export` file at the root of the Advanced Profile module directory (`/sites/all/modules/advanced_profile`) and copy the entire contents:

```

o The content type User Profile has been added.
o The field Skype (field_skype) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Yahoo (field_yahoo) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field ICQ (field_icq) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Google (field_google) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field AIM (field_aim) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Homepage (field_homepage) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Blog (field_blog) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Facebook (field_facebook) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Twitter (field_twitter) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Friendfeed (field_friendfeed) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field LinkedIn (field_linkedin) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Myspace (field_myspace) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Favorite #1 (field_favorite1) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Favorite #2 (field_favorite2) was added to the content type User Profile.
o The field Favorite #3 (field_favorite3) was added to the content type User Profile.

```

11. After doing the partial import, the user profile form to fill in the details will be created as follows:

The screenshot shows a web interface for editing a user profile. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'admin' and links for 'View', 'Edit', 'Statuses', and 'Track page visits'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Account' and 'User Profile', with 'User Profile' being the active tab. The main form area is divided into several sections:

- Profile Title:** A single text input field containing 'Vin Patel'.
- Menu settings:** A link to expand or collapse the menu settings.
- Contact:** A section with five input fields for 'Yahoo:', 'Skype:', 'ICQ:', 'Google:', and 'AIM:'.
- Links:** A section with multiple input fields for various links:
 - Homepage:** 'Homepage Title:' and 'Homepage URL:'.
 - Blog:** 'Blog Title:' and 'Blog URL:'.
 - Facebook:** A single input field.
 - Twitter:** A single input field.
 - Friendfeed:** A single input field.
 - LinkedIn:** A single input field.
 - Myspace:** A single input field.
 - Favorites:** Three pairs of input fields, each pair consisting of a 'Title' and a 'URL'.

12. Once the full import is done, go to **admin | User management | User** and check the user profile link.

How it works...

This is how APK works. By using the Import function in the Content types we imported the fields into the user profile. In this way we can override the default profile that comes with the Drupal core. We will see in the next recipe how we can make custom profiles using Panels.

Building APK Variant

In this recipe we will go step by step explaining how the page variant included with APK was built. The end result is the same as what is already in APK. It is not necessary to actually follow this recipe; you can simply use the pre-built variant. It is meant as an explanation so that you can understand what the variant is, how it was created, and use it as an example for creating other variants.

How to do it...

1. Navigate to **Administer | Site building | Pages**. You will see a page that looks similar to the following screenshot:

See the [getting started guide](#) for more information.

There is a security update available for your version of Drupal. To ensure the security of your server, you should update immediately! See the [available updates](#) page for more information.

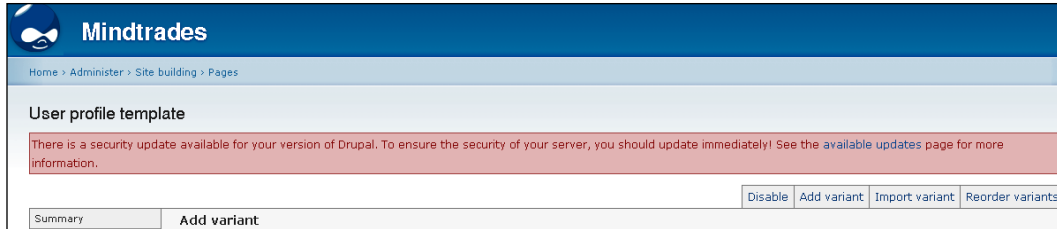
Type: Storage: Enabled: Search:

Sort by: Order:

Type	Name	Title	Path	Storage	Operations
System	node_view	Node template	/node/%node	In code	Edit Disable
Custom	page-test	test	/test	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-Page_Layout	Page Layout	/pagelayout	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-PageLayoutClone	Page Layout	/pagelayoutclone	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-MenuPage	Menus Page	/menupage	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-layouts	Layouts	/layouts	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-contexts	Contexts	/contexts	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-Contexts_Page	Contexts Page	/Contextspage	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-Css_Theming	Css Theming	/csstheming	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-Externalcss	External Css	/externalcss	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-FlexibleLayouts	Flexible Layouts	/flexible layout	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-nodeoverride	node override	/nodeoverride	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-override_node_edit_form	Override node edit form	/overidenodeedit	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-Craigslist	Craigslist	/craigslistfeed	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-minipaneldemo	Minipanel demo	/demominipanel	Normal	Edit Disable
Custom	page-usingcck	using cck	/usingcck	Normal	Edit Disable
System	term_view	Taxonomy term template	/taxonomy/term/%term	In code	Edit Enable
System	contact_user	User contact	/user/%user/contact	In code	Edit Enable
System	node_edit	Node add/edit form	/node/%node/edit	In code	Edit Enable
System	user_view	User profile template	/user/%user	In code	Edit Disable

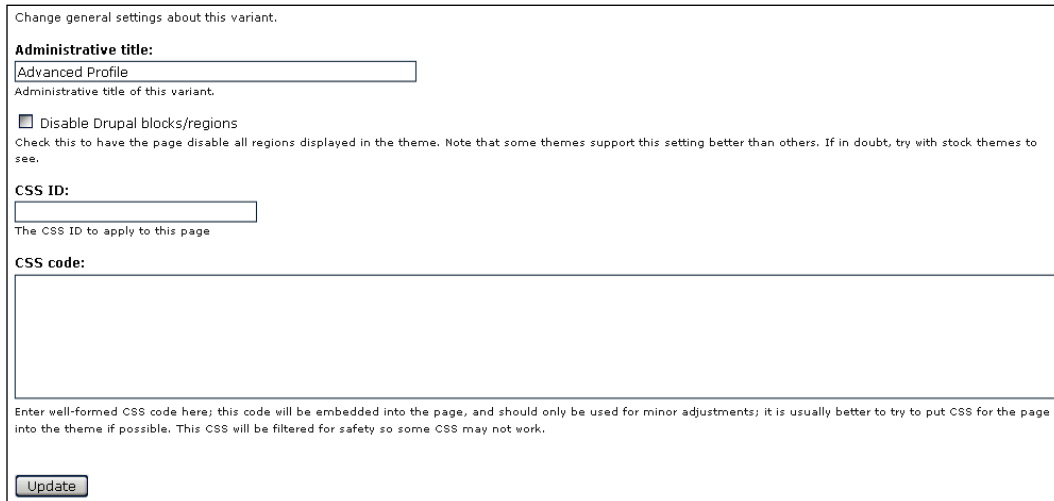
[» Create a new page](#)

2. Enable **user_view** and then click on **Edit**.
3. Go to **Add variant**.



The screenshot shows the 'User profile template' page in the Mindtrades administration interface. At the top is a blue header with the Mindtrades logo and name. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Administer > Site building > Pages'. The main content area is titled 'User profile template'. A red warning box states: 'There is a security update available for your version of Drupal. To ensure the security of your server, you should update immediately! See the [available updates](#) page for more information.' Below the warning box are four buttons: 'Disable', 'Add variant', 'Import variant', and 'Reorder variants'. At the bottom of the page are two tabs: 'Summary' and 'Add variant'.

4. Add **Advanced Profile** as the **Administrative title**.



The screenshot shows the 'Change general settings about this variant' form. The form has the following fields and options:

- Administrative title:** A text input field containing 'Advanced Profile'.
- Administrative title of this variant:** A label for the administrative title field.
- Disable Drupal blocks/regions:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Check this to have the page disable all regions displayed in the theme. Note that some themes support this setting better than others. If in doubt, try with stock themes to see.** A note explaining the checkbox.
- CSS ID:** A text input field.
- The CSS ID to apply to this page** A label for the CSS ID field.
- CSS code:** A large text area for entering CSS code.
- Enter well-formed CSS code here; this code will be embedded into the page, and should only be used for minor adjustments; it is usually better to try to put CSS for the page into the theme if possible. This CSS will be filtered for safety so some CSS may not work.** A note explaining the CSS code field.
- Update** A button at the bottom of the form.

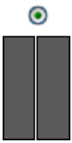
5. We are creating our own profile variant. We will use the user and node context. Context will let Panels know from which user and also from which profile nodes we are taking the content from:

Variant operations		Clone	Export	Delete	Disable
Add additional context objects to this variant that can be used by the content.					
Summary of contexts		Contexts		Operation	
<i>Argument 1</i>	User being viewed Keyword: %user %user:uid --> User ID %user:name --> User name	Node		Add context	
<i>From "User being viewed"</i>	Profile Node Keyword: %content_profile %content_profile:uid --> Author UID %content_profile:inid --> Node ID %content_profile:vid --> Node revision ID %content_profile:title --> Node title %content_profile:type --> Node type	Relationships		Operation	
		Profile Node		Add relationship	
Update					

- Because we are overriding the profile page, we get the user content automatically (**Argument 1**).
- Add the node context by using a relationship that is provided by the content profile module. This gives us access to all of the data on the profile node for the user. If you have more than one profile node for each person, then you can add the relationship here.
- Let's create a custom profile where we will have a home page link, blog link, about me and children information on the left-hand side, and the profile visitors information on right-hand side, instead of using the detailed, default profile by APK.
- Select the **Two column** layout, as follows:

Choose layout:





Three column Single column Two column

33/34/33

stacked

10. For a more detailed profile, a flexible layout would be recommended. Here we are taking a basic example so that you can make a complex profile. Let's see how the default APK Content is laid out as we saw prior in this recipe.

Variants » Advanced Profile Kit - User Profile » Content

Variant operations
Clone
Export
Revert
Enable

Add content items and change their location with a drag and drop interface.

▼ Display settings

Title type:
No title

Show layout designer

Left
"User being viewed"
No info
"Profile Node" field group:
No info
"Profile Node" field group:
No info
"Profile Node" field group:
No info
"Profile Node" field group:
No info
"User being viewed"
No info

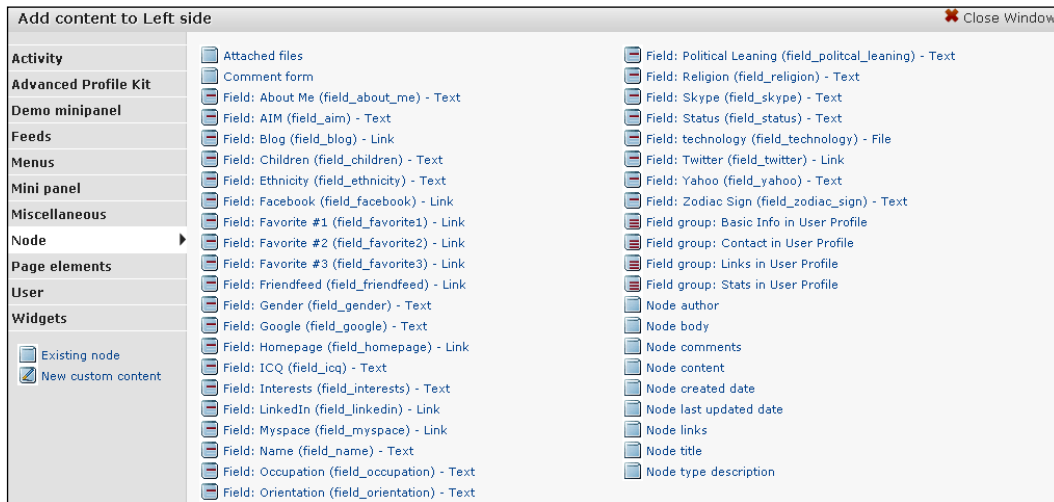
Right
"Profile Node" field: About Me (field_about_me) - Text
No info
"Profile Node" field: Interests (field_interests) - Text
No info

Right bottom
Deleted/missing content type views_panes
Missing content type
Deleted/missing content type views_panes
Missing content type
Deleted/missing content type views_panes
Missing content type

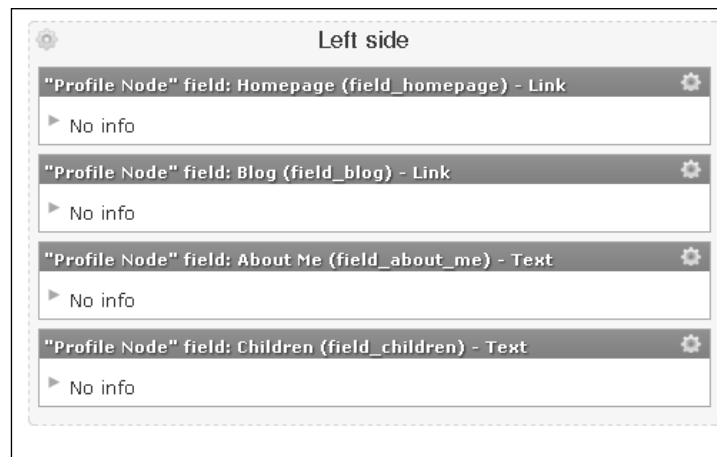
Bottom
"Profile Node" comment form
No info
"Profile Node" comments
No info

11. Create the custom **Two column** profile.

12. Go to the **Content** tab. Select the gear on the **Left side** and go to **Add content | Node**.



13. Here you will find all of the fields of APK, which we set up using the contexts.
14. Select the fields and arrange each pane on the **Left side**, as shown in the following screenshot:



15. On the **Right side**, add **profile visitors**.



16. Select **Update** and save.
17. Now as we have created the own profile, disable the default APK from the user profile template. Our screen will then look as follows:

Summary				
Get a summary of the information about this page.				
When enabled, this overrides the default Drupal behavior for displaying user profiles at <code>user/%user</code> . If you add variants, you may use selection criteria such as roles or user access to provide different views of user profiles. If no variant is selected, the default Drupal user view will be used. Please note that if you are using pathauto, aliases may make a node to be somewhere else, but as far as Drupal is concerned, they are still at <code>user/%user</code> .				
Panel: Advanced Profile Kit - User Profile			Clone	Export
			Revert	Enable
Storage	Overridden			
Status	Disabled			
				Enable
Selection rule	This panel will always be selected.			
				Edit
Layout	Flexible			
				Change layout
				Edit content
				Preview
Panel: Advanced Profile			Clone	Export
			Delete	Disable
Storage	Normal			
Status	Enabled			
				Disable
Selection rule	This panel will always be selected.			
				Edit
Layout	Two column			
				Change layout
				Edit content
				Preview
» Add a new variant				

18. Now let's view our custom profile. Go to **User management | Users | List** and select a user, as shown in the following screenshot:

The screenshot displays a user profile page with a header bar containing 'My account' and navigation links: 'View' (highlighted), 'Edit', 'Edit Panel', and 'Track page visits'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains sections for 'Homepage' (with a link to 'Weboye'), 'Blog' (with a link to 'mindtrades'), 'About Me' (with a detailed bio), and 'Children' (with the text 'Have young child(ren)'). The right column is titled 'Profile visitors' and shows 'No recent visitors.'

How it works...

So we have created our own user profile using Panels. This is perhaps the most efficient way to create customized profiles without programming. By using the Panel panes we can put the Advanced Profile Kit CCK fields on any part on the page.

8

Panels-related Modules

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Language Sections in Panels
- ▶ Using Composite layouts
- ▶ Facebook-style Status (microblog)
- ▶ Form block

Introduction

In this chapter, we will discuss the modules that can form a unique combination with Panels and provide extended functionality to Drupal, such as making Facebook-style messages, including language panels on the website, or including a form within a Panel pane.

Making a Language Section

For this recipe, you should know how to use the **Locale** module and how to configure multi languages in Drupal.

Designed for multi-language sites, Language Sections (http://drupal.org/project/language_sections) provides a way of storing content sections for different languages in a single text area.

Getting ready

The default configuration will work for most installations. However, if you need to use right-to-left languages such as Chinese, Hebrew, or Arabic, you may need to configure the “Alternative pattern” option. Go to the **Administer | Site building | Modules** section and enable **Language sections**. You will need to enable the **Locale** module too to use **Language sections**. Download and install the Language Section module.

You will need to enable the input filter in at least one “Input format” in order to use it. It should probably be the first, or one of the first, filters in the sequence, so set its “weight” to a low number. This will prevent unnecessary text (for other languages) from being processed by later filters, and so will generally help in improving performance. We use **Filtered HTML** in our examples so we activate it there. Go to **Administer | Site configuration | Input formats**:

Input formats
[List](#)
[Add input format](#)

The input format settings have been updated.

There is a security update available for your version of Drupal. To ensure the security of your server, you should update immediately! See the [available updates](#) page for more information.

Input formats define a way of processing user-supplied text in Drupal. Each input format uses filters to manipulate text, and most input formats apply several different filters to text, in a specific order. Each filter is designed to accomplish a specific purpose, and generally either removes elements from or adds elements to text before it is displayed. Users can choose between the available input formats when submitting content.

Use the list below to configure which input formats are available to which roles, as well as choose a default input format (used for imported content, for example). The default format is always available to users. All input formats are available to users in a role with the “administer filters” permission.

Default	Name	Roles	Operations
☒	Filtered HTML	All roles may use default format	configure
☐	Full HTML	No roles may use this format	configure delete

Activate the Language Sections filter here, as follows:

Filtered HTML

EditConfigureRearrange

Every *filter* performs one particular change on the user input, for example stripping out malicious HTML or making URLs clickable. Choose which filters you want to apply to text in this input format. If you notice some filters are causing conflicts in the output, you can [rearrange them](#).

Name: *

Specify a unique name for this filter format.

Roles

All roles for the default format must be enabled and cannot be changed.

☒ anonymous user

☒ authenticated user

Filters

Choose the filters that will be used in this filter format.

☒ HTML corrector
Corrects faulty and chopped off HTML in postings.

☒ HTML filter
Allows you to restrict whether users can post HTML and which tags to filter out. It will also remove harmful content such as JavaScript events, JavaScript URLs and CSS styles from those tags that are not removed.

☒ Language Sections
Allows you to define content for several languages in a single text area.

☒ Line break converter
Converts line breaks into HTML (i.e.
 and <p> tags).

☒ URL filter
Turns web and e-mail addresses into clickable links.

How to do it...

You can use this on a multilingual site when using Panels. When you add content into the pane, you can use different languages.

1. Mark the start of "language sections" with `=== AB ===` where `AB` is a language code for the system. No specific "end of section" marker is needed. Any subsequent section is considered to mark the end of the preceding section. The pseudo language code `qq` is used to represent "no language". Sections marked with `qq` will be displayed for all languages. Text before the first language section will also be displayed for all languages.

- As a sample, the following is the text entered:

```
-----
This text will be displayed for all languages.
=== es ===
This text will only be displayed when Spanish language is selected
by the user.
=== en ===
This text will only be displayed when English language is selected
by the user.
=== qq ===
This part will be displayed for all languages.
-----
```

- When language `es` is selected by the user, the above text will be filtered to become:

```
-----
This text will be displayed for all languages.
Some Spanish text goes here..
This part will be displayed for all languages.
-----
```

- If you use Language Sections in the body of a node, you probably need to set the node itself to "no language".
- Now let's create a sample Panel.
- Create a new Panel page with **Two column** layout. Proceed to creating content.
- In the **Left side** pane enter the following custom content:

Administrative title:

This title will be used administratively to identify this pane. If blank, the regular title will be used.

Title:

Body:

This text will be displayed for all languages.

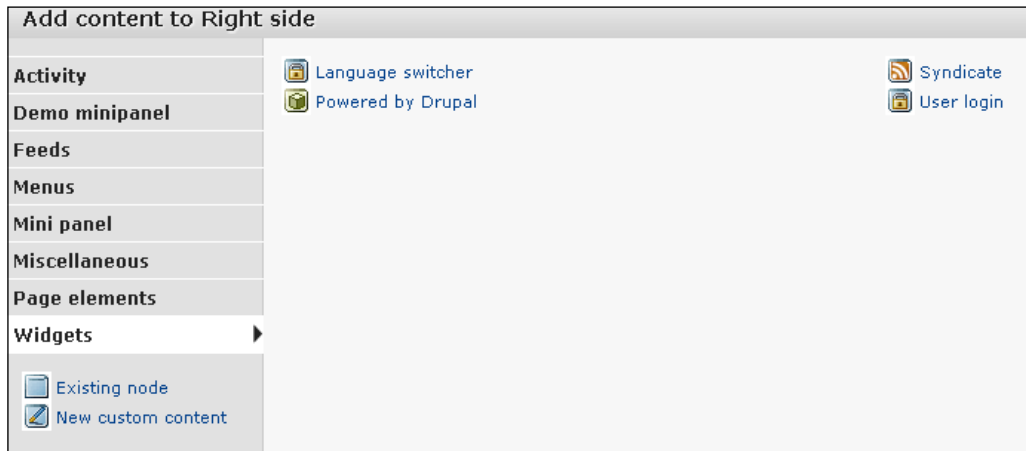
=== en ===

Some English text goes here.

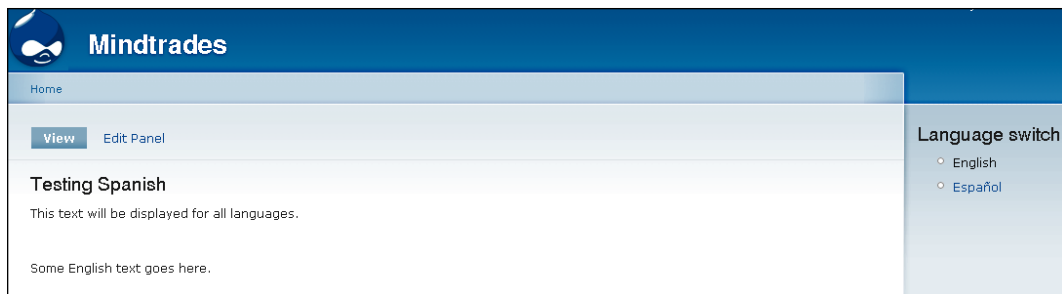
=== es ===

este es el francés

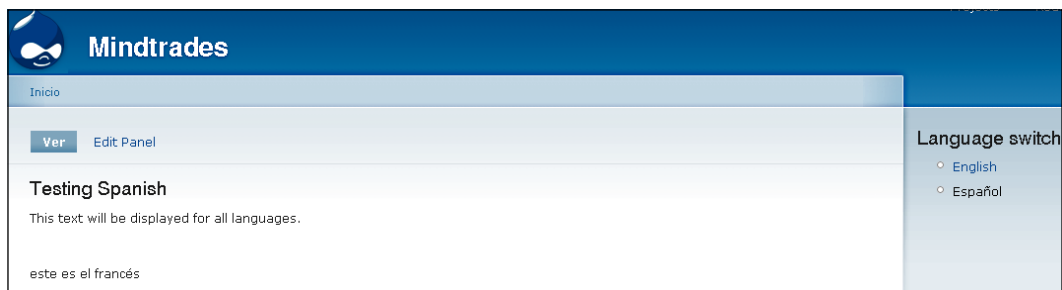
8. In the **Right side** pane put in the language selector. Go to **Widgets | Language switcher**:



9. Update and preview.



10. The default language is **English** and though we entered Spanish text, it is not displayed. Now select **Spanish** in the language selector.
11. You will be able to see Spanish content, as follows:



Using Composite Layouts

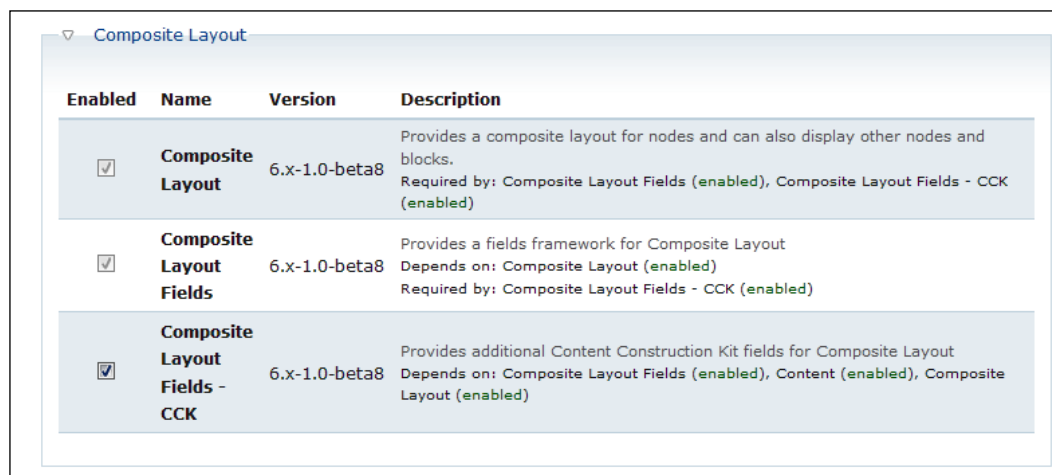
Composite Layout (<http://drupal.org/project/composite>) allows the nodes to be displayed in different layouts. Currently, two- and three-column layouts are provided. You can also add other nodes, blocks, and even CCK fields to your node's layout. The content area of your node is divided into zones and you decide what should appear in those zones. Zones are essentially the same as Drupal regions, but they apply to nodes rather than the entire site. We can say that Composite Layout is Drupal blocks for Regions.

We can consider Panels as a more advanced version of composite layouts. But composite layouts can be handy when you want flexibility with Content types and are easy to use and understand.

It is altogether a different module that gives functionality with Content types. Composite Layout applies on Content types, so it can be turned on for any node. You can also have more than one Composite Layout node type. If you use Content Construction Kit, this module will help you to manage the layout of CCK fields.

Getting ready

1. Download the **Composite Layout** module for the Composite Layout project page.
2. Enable the module in the **Administer | Site building | Modules** page, as shown in the next screenshot:



The screenshot shows the 'Composite Layout' module page in Drupal. It contains a table with three modules listed, all of which are enabled. The table has columns for 'Enabled', 'Name', 'Version', and 'Description'.

Enabled	Name	Version	Description
☒	Composite Layout	6.x-1.0-beta8	Provides a composite layout for nodes and can also display other nodes and blocks. Required by: Composite Layout Fields (enabled), Composite Layout Fields - CCK (enabled)
☒	Composite Layout Fields	6.x-1.0-beta8	Provides a fields framework for Composite Layout Depends on: Composite Layout (enabled) Required by: Composite Layout Fields - CCK (enabled)
☒	Composite Layout Fields - CCK	6.x-1.0-beta8	Provides additional Content Construction Kit fields for Composite Layout Depends on: Composite Layout Fields (enabled), Content (enabled), Composite Layout (enabled)

How to do it...

As we know that Composite layouts give flexibility on nodes and Content types, let us modify a custom Content type using composite layouts.

For this recipe we already have a custom Content type, **Technology**, with the following content in it:

	Title	Type	Author	Status	Language	Operations
	Ubercart	Technology	admin	published	English	edit
	Php	Technology	admin	published	English	edit
	Drupal	Technology	admin	published	Language neutral	edit

1. Go to **Administer | Content management | Content types | Technology** (or your Content type).
2. Click on **edit**.
3. Expand the **Composite layout** field in the node edit form:

Composite layout

☒ Enable composite layout for this content type.

Nodes

If you wish to display other nodes in your composite layouts, please select the content types to be made available.

Content types that can be referenced:

☐ Page
 ☐ Panel
 ☐ Profile
 ☐ Story
 ☒ Technology
 ☐ User Profile

Advanced - Nodes that can be referenced (View)

View used to select the nodes:

--

Choose the "Views module" view that selects the nodes that can be referenced.
 Note:

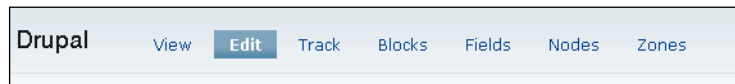
- Only views that have fields will work for this purpose.
- This will discard the "Content types" settings above. Use the view's "filters" section instead.
- Use the view's "fields" section to display additional informations about candidate nodes on node creation/edition form.
- Use the view's "sort criteria" section to determine the order in which candidate nodes will be displayed.

View arguments:

Provide a comma separated list of arguments to pass to the view.

4. We can even reference nodes and Views to be used in the Composite layout of the node similar to Contexts in Panels. Here we select **Technology**, so we can use other Technology nodes on the node where we apply a Composite layout.
5. Save and exit.
6. Now go to a node, where we want to apply Composite layout (in our case, let's say the Drupal Technology node).
7. Once you have enabled the **Composite layout** for this Content type, you will be able to see composite layout in the Technology node, as follows:

8. Select a two- or three-column layout for this node. Save the layout.
9. You will be able to see additional tabs on the node related to Composite layout, such as **Blocks**, **Fields**, **Nodes**, and **Zones**, as shown in the following screenshot. The **Zones** are the sections of the node:



10. Go to the **Blocks** tab and you will find all the blocks on your site to be integrated in your Composite layout, as follows:

Blocks for Drupal
View Edit Track **Blocks** Fields Nodes Zones

Items to display in Drupal:

- ☐ Author Pane
- ☐ Computers for sale feed latest items
- ☐ Craigs list category latest items
- ☐ Craigslist: Craigs deals block
- ☒ Drupal News in Google feed latest items
- ☒ Drupal.org feed latest items
- ☐ Google nexus feed latest items
- ☐ Group admins
- ☐ Group details
- ☐ Group members
- ☐ Group notifications (Views enhanced)
- ☐ Group search
- ☐ Language switcher
- ☐ Mini panel: "Mini Panel "
- ☐ Mini panel: "craigsblock"
- ☐ Mini panel: "dual craigs block"
- ☐ My groups
- ☐ Navigation
- ☐ New groups
- ☐ Popular content
- ☐ Powered by Drupal
- ☐ Primary links
- ☐ Recent comments
- ☐ Secondary links
- ☐ Syndicate
- ☐ User login
- ☒ Who's new
- ☒ Who's online
- ☐ storyblock1: Block
- ☒ techview: Block

Please select the items you would like to display as part of this node.

Save

11. Select the blocks you need for your Drupal Composite layout page.

12. The **Fields** tab has the CCK fields defined in that Content type.

Fields for Drupal
View Edit Track Blocks **Fields** Nodes Zones

Items to display in Drupal:

- ☐ Drupal is a free software package tha...

Node: Body

- ☐ Field: technology

Please select the items you would like to display as part of this node.

13. As we had selected the Technology nodes to be referenced earlier we can see all of the Technology nodes in the **Nodes** tab:

Nodes for Drupal [View](#) [Edit](#) [Track](#) [Blocks](#) [Fields](#) **Nodes** [Zones](#)

Items to display in Drupal:
☐ Drupal
☐ Magento
☐ Ruby On Rails
Please select the items you would like to display as part of this node.

14. The **Zones** tab is the place where we organize all of our content. It can be comparable to the panes used in Panels.

15. Select the blocks in the regions of the **Three column** layout that we selected.

Item	Zone	Additional settings
Top		
No items in this zone		
Left column		
+ Drupal News in Google feed latest items	Left column	☐
+ Drupal.org feed latest items	Left column	☐
Middle column		
+ Node: Original content	Middle column	☐
+ Who's online	Middle column	☐
Right column		
+ Who's new	Right column	☐
Bottom		
No items in this zone		
Disabled		
+ techview: Block	<none>	☐
Tasks		
Delete checked items Update		
Save zones Save zones and view Preview		

16. Save the zones and click on **Preview**.

The screenshot displays the Mindtrades Drupal website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Projects' and 'Reading'. The main content area is organized into a composite layout with several columns:

- Left Column:** Features a 'Drupal News in Google' section with a list of search results, including links to tutorials, news articles, and Drupal-related content.
- Middle Column:** Contains a 'Who's online' section showing the number of users and guests, a list of 'Online users' (admin), and a description of Drupal as a free software package. Below this is a 'technology:' section with a Drupal logo.
- Right Column:** Includes a 'Who's new' section with links to user1 and admin, and a 'Language switch' section with options for English and Español.

The bottom of the page features a 'Comments' section with a comment titled 'Drupal also rocks' and a footer area with links for 'Add new comment' and '14 reads'.

We can see how the content is beautifully displayed by using Composite layouts.

How it works...

We can use Composite layouts when we need more layout flexibility along with Panels for CCK. So we see that Composite layout is nothing but Drupal blocks for the nodes or custom Content type nodes. Both the modules, Panels as well as Composite layout, give us the power to construct complex layouts but each has a different approach. Panels are more powerful than Composite layouts but Composite layouts have a very easy user interface. The most important feature of Composite layout is that it applies to custom Content types, so it can be turned on for any node. This is why it becomes powerful along with CCK.

Facebook-style status in user profile

Facebook-style Statuses (http://drupal.org/project/facebook_status) is a module that provides each user with a Microblog where they can write what they're doing, how they feel, or anything they want. With permission, users can also post messages on other users' profiles. This improves to build a community and makes your site completely socially integrated. We can use this along with APK or advance profiles to make effective social media profiles with the help of Panel pages.

Getting ready

Download the Facebook-style Statuses module from the project page and enable it in Modules section. For more details go to <http://drupal.org/node/421128>.

How to do it...

1. Go to **Administer | Site configuration | Facebook-style Statuses:**

Facebook-style Statuses General Advanced

☒ **Facebook Mode**
Facebook Mode makes this module work like Facebook, where the user's username is appended to the front of the status.

Legacy Mode:

☐ Nodes

☒ **User profiles**
On nodes and/or user profiles, use the status of the author of the node or owner of the profile, respectively, in the status block.

Form type:
textarea

Textfields are simpler; textareas are larger and somewhat more confusing for users with JavaScript turned off.

Input filter:
None (HTML escaped)

This input filter will run on all your statuses, so make sure it is secure.

Exclude users:

Disallow these users from having statuses. Type in usernames separated by commas, following the rules of taxonomy autocomplete fields.

Status update field size: *
32
The width of the status update textfield in the block.

Maximum status length: *
140
Must be a positive integer no greater than 21844.

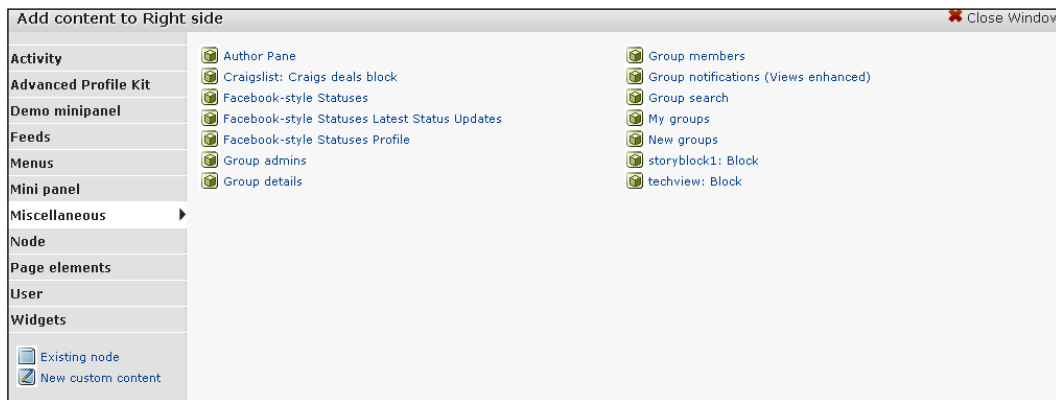
Re-post format:
Re: @name @status
The format of the default message when users click a link to re-post a status. @name will be replaced with the poster's name and @status will be replaced with the status text.

Save configuration Reset to defaults

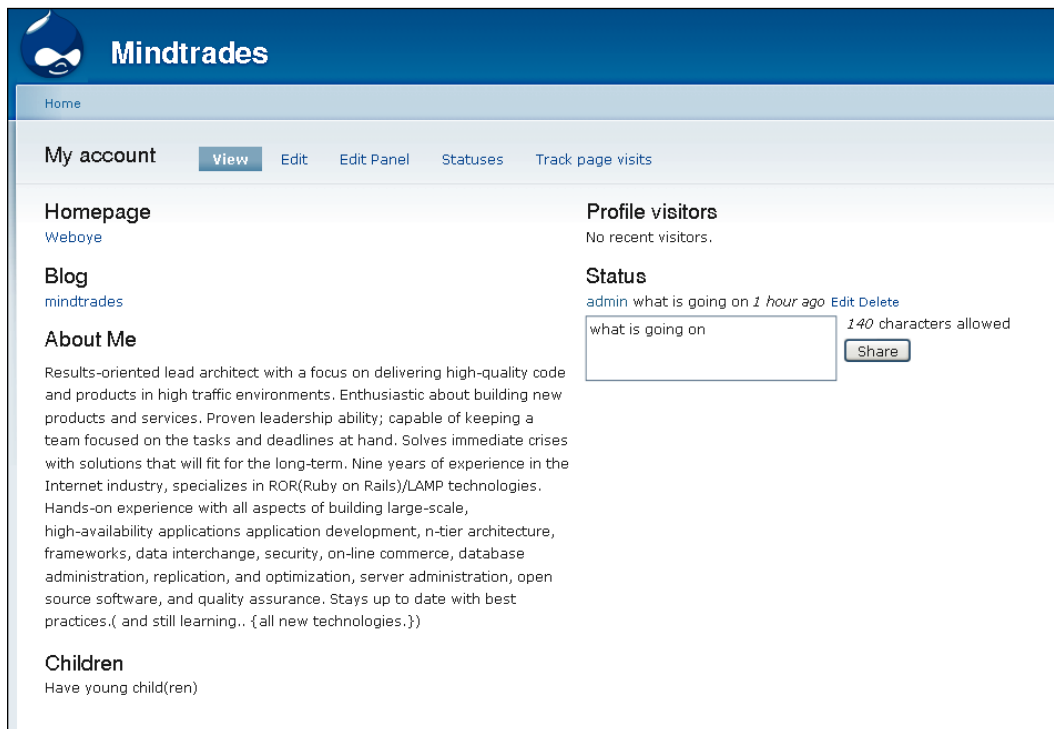
2. Keep the default settings and save.
3. Let's activate the microblog in the Panels profile page.
4. We use the APK used in the previous recipe of APK.
5. Go to **Administer | Site building | Pages | user_view** and click on **Edit**.
6. Click on the **Content** tab.

Panels-related Modules

- On the **Right side** click on the gear and go to **Add content | Miscellaneous | Facebook-style Statuses**.



- Update and preview.
- Go to **Administer | User management | User** and select the username in which you have done these settings. You will see a page similar to the following screenshot:



10. You will be able to see the status now and we have implemented a microblog into the APK Panels profile. Click on the **Statuses** tab to see all of the posts:

admin's Statuses View Edit **Statuses** Track page visits

admin what is going on 1 hour ago Edit Delete

admin hi 1 hour ago Edit Delete

Putting contact forms and node forms in a block

The Form block module (<http://drupal.org/project/formblock>) enables the presentation of user registration, site wide contact, or node creation forms in blocks. This becomes extremely useful for including forms on panels.

Getting ready

1. Download and enable this module from the Form block project page.
2. By enabling it, you will get a **Form block** section in each Content type's administration page as shown in the following screenshot. You can enable and disable the form block here, as shown in the following screenshot:

Form block

Enable data entry from a block:

☒ Disabled

☐ Enabled

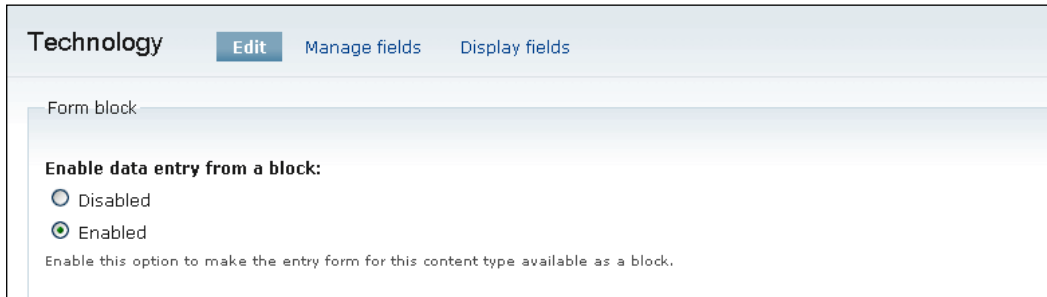
Enable this option to make the entry form for this content type available as a block.

How to do it...

By using this module we will be able to put in contact forms and each node form in any Panels page. This can also be achieved by using form overrides in context as we have covered in the previous recipes. This module becomes more convenient when we want to design a website where there is a lot of data entry and you need to make it easy for the user to enter the content.

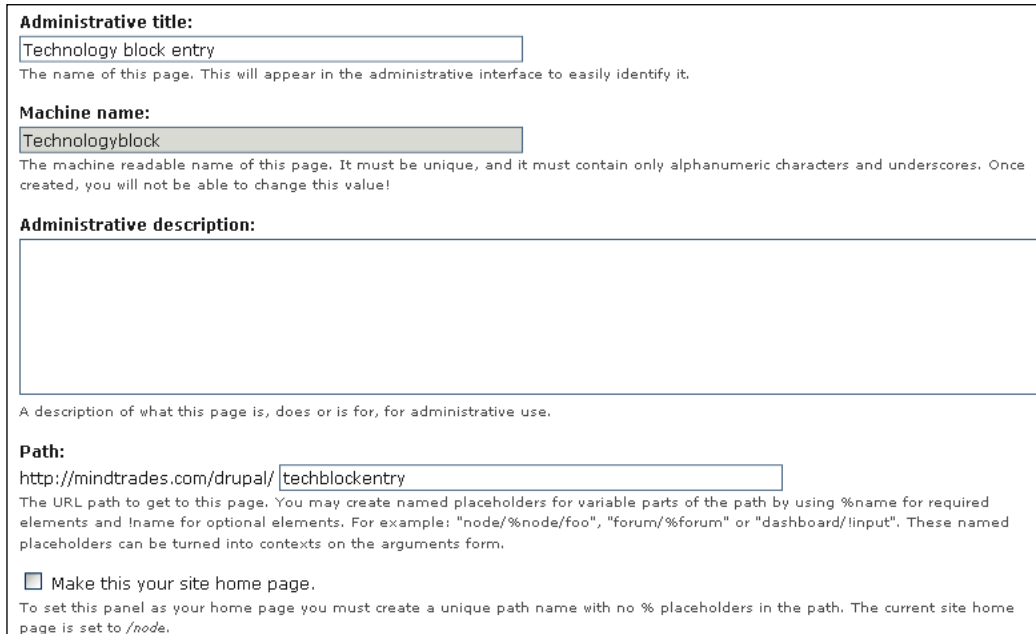
1. Let's enable the Form contact in a custom Content type. For this example we use the created custom Content type, Technology. You can create your own Content type.

- Let's create a custom page where users can easily add a node (in this case Technology).
- Go to **Administer | Content management | Content types | Technology**.
- Enable the **Form block** here, as follows:



The screenshot shows the 'Technology' content type configuration page. At the top, there are tabs for 'Edit', 'Manage fields', and 'Display fields'. The 'Form block' section is expanded, showing the 'Enable data entry from a block' option. The 'Enabled' radio button is selected. Below this, a note states: 'Enable this option to make the entry form for this content type available as a block.'

- Go to **Panels | Dashboard** and create a new Panels page with the name **Technology block entry**, as shown in the following screenshot:



The screenshot shows the 'Technology block entry' panel configuration page. It has several sections: 'Administrative title' with the value 'Technology block entry', 'Machine name' with the value 'Technologyblock', 'Administrative description' (empty), and 'Path' with the value 'http://mindtrades.com/drupal/techblockentry'. There is also a checkbox for 'Make this your site home page' which is unchecked.

- Select a **Two column** layout. Go to **Content** and add a static content on the **Left side** pane, and on the **Right side** pane go to **Miscellaneous** and add the **Technology form block**, as shown in the following screenshot:

Add content to Right side		
Activity	Author Pane	Group notifications (Views enhanced)
Demo minipanel	Craigslist: Craigs deals block	Group search
Feeds	Facebook-style Statuses	My groups
Menus	Facebook-style Statuses Latest Status Updates	New groups
Mini panel	Facebook-style Statuses Profile	storyblock1: Block
Miscellaneous	Group admins	Technology form block
Page elements	Group details	techview: Block
Widgets	Group members	User registration form
☐ Existing node ☒ New custom content		

7. Save and then preview.

Mindtrades

Home

View

Edit Panel

Suggest a Technology

This enables an easy way to take content type entries for the user .This becomes very useful when you design modular websites where you need to take a lot of data from the user. Ideal for social media websites

Technology form

Title: *

—▷ Menu settings

Body:

Split summary at cursor

—▷ Input format

technology:

Browse...

Upload

Maximum Filesize: 2 MB
Allowed Extensions: png gif jpg jpeg

—▷ Revision information

—▷ Comment settings

—▷ Composite layout

—▷ Meta tags

—▷ Authoring information

—▷ Publishing options

Save

Preview

How it works...

We created a block form for easy data entry for a user on a website. By using this module we can actually embed a node form anywhere on the page with the help of Panel panes.

9

Views

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Combining feeds with Views in Panels
- ▶ Combining videos with Views in Panels
- ▶ Direct implementation of Views with the Views Content Panes module

Introduction

Using Views + Panels is a killer combination when it comes to designing home pages for community websites and social media websites. As Panels and Views are modules programmed by merlinofchaos (Drupal ID) both of the modules integrate seamlessly with each other.

We will use two approaches that will give a deep understanding of how Views can be used. The first two recipes will be using a block view to be used with Panels and then we use Views directly from Panels using the Views Content Pane module.

Using the block approach can be of more advantage when it comes to theming individual view blocks.

Combining feeds with Views in Panels

Let's make a complex page that will be a combination of Panels and Views. My assumption here would be that you have a basic knowledge of Views.

Let's make an example of a custom news page which has the latest news from the Internet in the following categories: Business, Entertainment, Sports, and Technology.

This example will give a complete understanding of how Views can be used with Panels to make powerful front pages.

Getting ready

1. Let's make the feed first to start with.
2. Go to **Content management | Feed aggregator | Add category**.
3. Here we will add our four categories of news: Business, Entertainment, Sports, and Technology. We have a Craig's list feed already created for an earlier recipe, which we will not use in this recipe:

Category overview		
Title	Items	Operations
Business	0 items	edit
Craigs list	788 items	edit
Entertainment	0 items	edit
Sports	0 items	edit
Technology	0 items	edit

4. Add feeds in each category using RSS feeds for your favorite news sites. An example is shown in the following screenshot. We have added a digg.com news feed for Technology news. We can add many feeds from multiple sites in each category. Run **update items** for each feed and run cron.

Title: *

The name of the feed (or the name of the website providing the feed).

URL: *

The fully-qualified URL of the feed.

Update interval:

15 min ▼

The length of time between feed updates. (Requires a correctly configured [cron maintenance task](#).)

Categorize news items:

☐ Business

☐ Craigs list

☐ Entertainment

☐ Sports

☒ Technology

New feed items are automatically filed in the checked categories.

Save

How to do it...

1. Let's now create views for each news category that will display the top five latest news for each category. The Views module should be enabled.
2. Go to **Site building | Views** and click on the **Add** tab.
3. For this recipe we will make the first View for the Business category and the rest will follow the same procedure. Create Aggregator item View named Business News Views. In the **View type** select **Aggregator item**, as shown in the following screenshot:

View type:

☐ Node
Nodes are a Drupal site's primary content.

☒ Aggregator item
Aggregator items are imported from external RSS and Atom news feeds.

4. In the **Row style** select **Fields** and set the **Items to display** value to **5**.
5. In **Fields** select **Aggregator: Title**.

Groups:

Aggregator

☐ Aggregator: Author
The author of the original imported item.

☐ Aggregator: Body
The actual content of the imported item.

☐ Aggregator: Link
The link to the original source URL of the item.

☐ Aggregator: Timestamp
The date the original feed item was posted. (With some feeds, this will be the date it was imported.)

☒ Aggregator: Title
The title of the aggregator item.

- In Filters select **Aggregator category: Category = business**. Here put the **Value** as the feed name, **business**.

Defaults: Configure filter *Aggregator category: Category*

This item is currently not exposed. If you **expose** it, users will be able to change the filter as they view it.

Operator: **Value:**

☒ Is equal to

☐ Is not equal to

☐ Contains

☐ Contains any word

☐ Contains all words

☐ Starts with

☐ Ends with

☐ Does not contain

☒ Case sensitive

Case sensitive filters may be faster. MySQL might ignore case sensitivity.

- The final view would look similar to the following screenshot:

Defaults ▶ **Defaults** Default settings for this view.

Page ▼

Add display

Analyze

View settings

Tag: None

Basic settings

Name: Defaults

Title: None

Style: Unformatted

Row style: Fields

Use AJAX: No

Use pager: No

Items to display: 5

More link: No

Distinct: No

Access: Unrestricted

Caching: None

Exposed form in block: No

Header: None

Footer: None

Empty text: None

Theme: Information

Relationships + ↑ ↓

None defined

Arguments + ↑ ↓

None defined

Fields + ↑ ↓

Aggregator: Title

Sort criteria + ↑ ↓

None defined

Filters + ↑ ↓

Aggregator category: Category = business

- Preview and save.

Live preview

Display: **Arguments:**

Defaults ▼

Separate arguments with a / as though they were a URL path.

Preview

Financial Crisis Alters Russian Banks

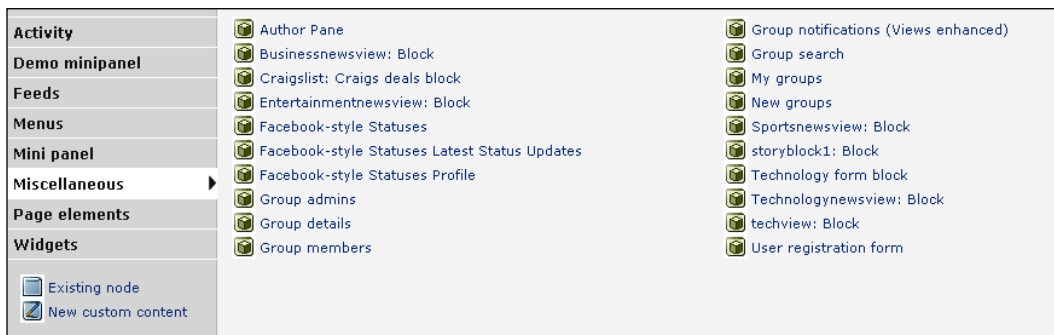
Stocks Muddled Before Fed

Inside An American Billionaire's Castle

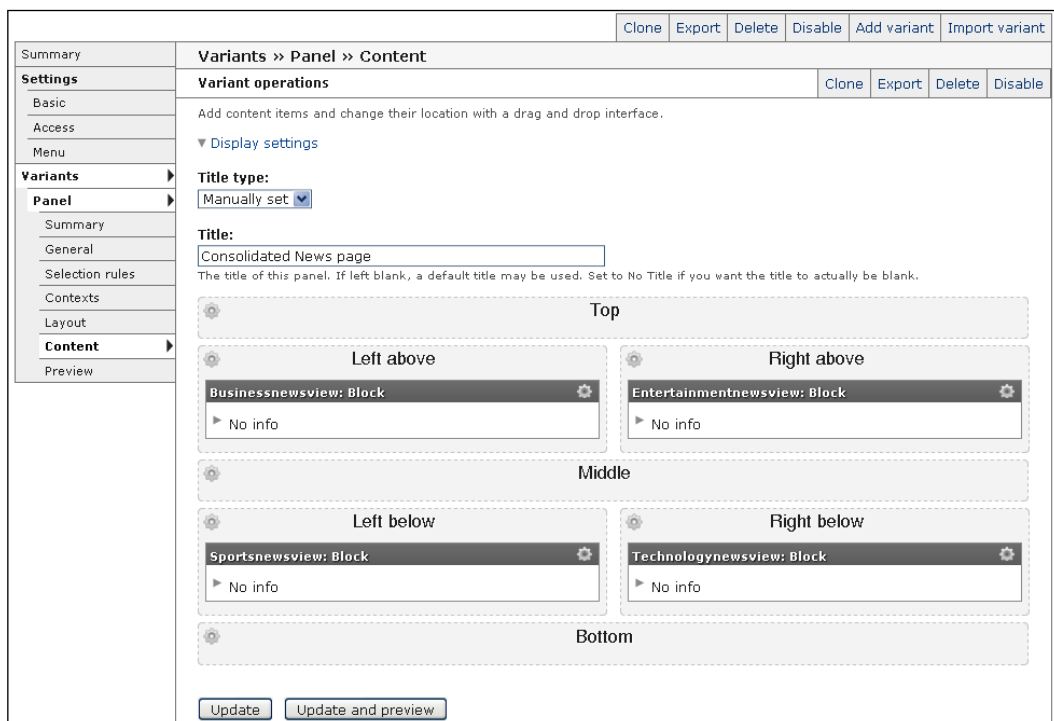
Art Of The \$135 Million Deal

'Obama, Come To Wichita'

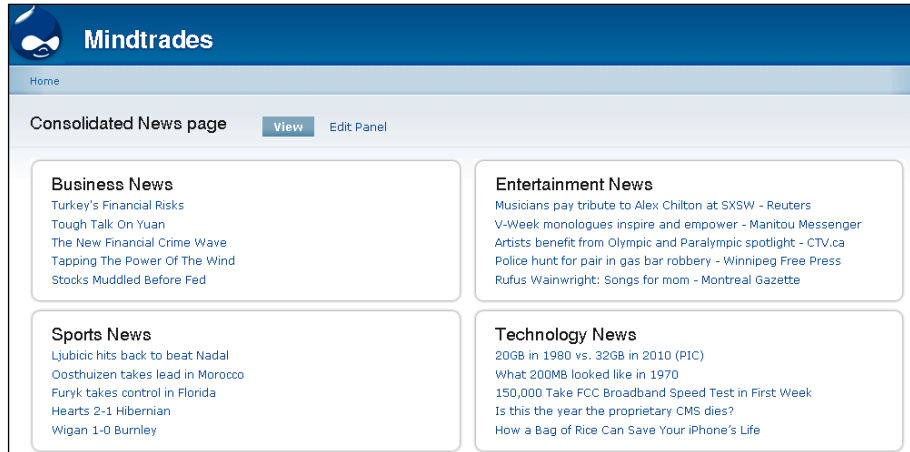
9. Using the **Clone** feature, create the views for the remaining categories.
10. Create a block view for each of the categories.
11. Create a Panel page named **Panels and Views**.
12. Select the **Two column** layout.
13. Go to the **Content** tab and select each of the feed blocks in each section.
14. You will be able to see all block views in **Miscellaneous**, as follows:



15. The final layout would look like this:



16. Preview and save. The final page created is shown in the following screenshot:



How it works...

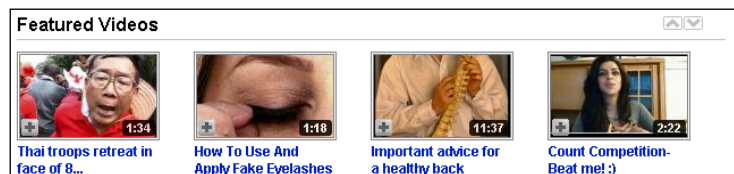
We have created a dynamic news block using views, feeds, and Panels. We can achieve the same thing for complex data websites by arranging the latest news and stories on one page. This makes it very easy for the user to get the latest updates of the website.

We added the feeds and then created individual Views for each feed. We then added a view in each Panel pane. This way we made a dynamic news Panel page that brings live feed from the Internet and displays it all at one place.

Combining videos with Views in Panels

As videos are now an integral part of social Internet, let's integrate videos using Panels.

Let's create a Panel page where we can upload videos of pets, say cats (that's what I like), from blip.tv and also see the recent movies uploaded on the same page (now here is where Views comes to our help). The videos should be shown in a thumbnail form and a horizontal Panel just like YouTube (it is a great way to display the videos, and it is done with an amazing style in YouTube), as follows:



This will be one of the very handy recipes to build video Panel pages for your website.

Getting ready

For this recipe we will need the Embedded Media Field (<http://drupal.org/project/emfield>) along with Views and CCK installed.

How to do it...

1. Install the embedded media field from the project page, and configure it to accept blip.tv videos. This can be done from **Site configuration | By module | Embedded Media Field**, as shown in the following screenshot:

Blip.tv configuration

These settings specifically affect videos displayed from Blip.tv.

☒ Allow content from Blip.tv
If checked, then content types may be created that allow content to be provided by Blip.tv.

Video formats

Supported features

This is a list of the current state of support for the following features by Blip.tv:

Feature	Supported	Notes
Autoplay	Yes	
RSS attachment	Yes	When displaying in an RSS feed, these videos will be attached to the feed. (The feed reader or aggregator must support enclosure tags.)
Thumbnails	Yes	

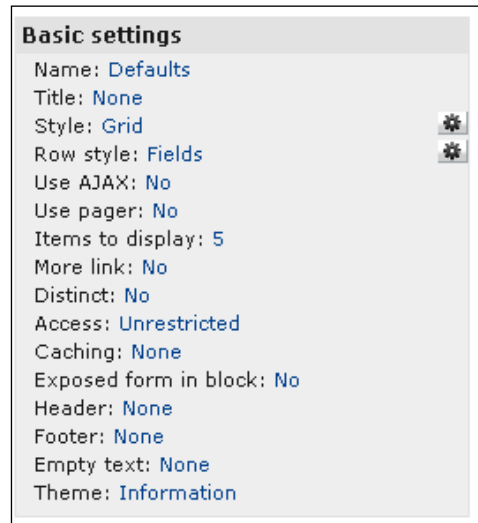
2. Create a custom Content type, **Videos**, with an embedded field for linking the videos:

Label	Name	Type	Operations
+ Title	Node module form.		
+ Menu settings	Menu module form.		
+ Body	Node module form.		
+ Meta tags	Meta tags fieldset.		
+ Revision information	Node module form.		
+ Comment settings	Comment module form.		
+ Video	field_video	Embedded Video	Configure Remove

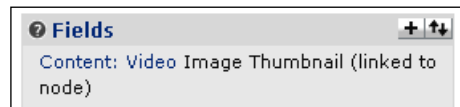
3. Link two or three sample videos using the Videos Content type by browsing to **Content management | Create content | Videos**:

☐	Title	Type	Author	Status	Language	Operations
☐	cat3	videos	admin	published	English	edit
☐	cat2	videos	admin	published	English	edit
☐	Cat1	videos	admin	published	English	edit

4. Create a View that will display these videos as horizontal thumbnails.
5. Go to **Site building | Views | Add**, add a View, say cats, and select the type as node.
6. In the basic settings select **Style** as **Grid** with the **Alignment** set to **Horizontal**, **Row style: Fields**, and **Items to display** set to **5**. This will display five video fields in a horizontal pattern:



7. In the **Fields** section, select **Content** and then select **Content: Video (field_video)**, as shown in the following screenshot:



8. In the **Filters** section select **Node: Type=videos** and apply a sort criteria descending on node publishing date (as termed in Drupal):



9. Now we need thumbnails, so click **Content: Video** and select the **Format** as **Image Thumbnail (linked to node)**. Remember the video provider should support thumbnails for us to display. blip.tv supports thumbnails. Select **Label** as **None**:

Defaults: Configure field Content: Video (field_video)

☐ Exclude from display
Check this box to not display this field, but still load it in the view. Use this option to not show a grouping field in each record, or when doing advanced theming.

☐ Rewrite the output of this field
If checked, you can alter the output of this field by specifying a string of text with replacement tokens that can use any existing field output.

☐ Output this field as a link
If checked, this field will be made into a link. The destination must be given below.

☐ Trim this field to a maximum length
If checked, this field be trimmed to a maximum length in characters.

☐ Link this field to its node
This will override any other link you have set.

Label:

☒ None
☐ Widget label (Video)
☐ Custom

Format: *

Image Thumbnail (linked to node) ▼

10. Update and preview.



11. This displays the five videos in descending order; here it displays three as we have only three videos uploaded. Therefore, this is like the featured videos of YouTube as stated above.
12. Create a block display for this view. This will create a block into the Blocks sections:

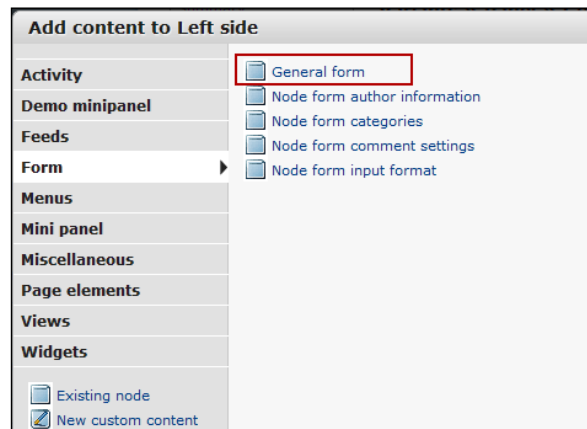
+ cats: Block <none> ▼ configure

13. Create a Panel page, say **mycats**.

14. Add a Context, **Node add form**, as we need to display the form on the Panel:

Summary of contexts		Contexts	Operation
Context 1	Node add form Keyword: %node_add %node_add:type --> Node type	Node add form	
		Node ▼	Add context

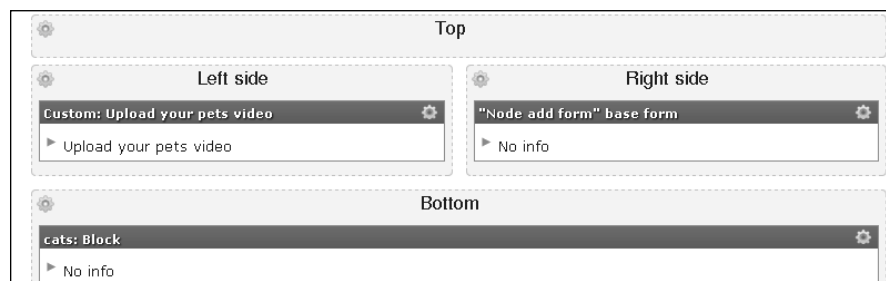
15. Select **Two column stacked** in layout.
16. Go to **Content** and add a custom content on the **Left side** for users to give instructions to add videos.
17. On the **Right side** add a form of the Videos Content type.



18. At the **Bottom** add the video block created by Views and name it as recently added videos:



19. Let's see the layout:



20. Update and preview. Our page now looks like the following screenshot:

mycats

[Clone](#)
[Export](#)
[Delete](#)
[Disable](#)
[Add variant](#)
[Import variant](#)

- Summary
- Settings**
- Basic
- Access
- Menu
- Variants**
- Panel**
- Summary
- General
- Selection rules
- Contexts
- Layout
- Content**
- Preview**

Variants » Panel » Preview

Changed

Variant operations

[Clone](#)
[Export](#)
[Delete](#)
[Disable](#)

Get a preview of what this variant will look like.

The page has been updated. Changes will not be permanent until you save.

Upload your pets video

The cat (*Felis catus*), also known as the domestic cat or housecat to distinguish it from other felines and felids, is a small domesticated carnivorous mammal that is valued by humans for its companionship and its ability to hunt vermin and household pests. Cats have been associated with humans for at least 9,500 years, and are currently the most popular pet in the world. Due to their close association with humans, cats are now found almost everywhere on Earth. This extreme adaptability and their worrying impacts on native animals has led to them being classed as an invasive species. Most of these problems are caused by the large number of feral cats worldwide, with a population of up to 60 million of these animals in the United States alone

Upload your pets videos from this section

Submit videos

Title: *

—▷ Menu settings

Body:

Split summary at cursor

—▷ Input format

Save
Preview

—▷ Meta tags

—▷ Revision information

—▷ Authoring information

—▷ Publishing options

—▷ Comment settings

Video:

Enter the URL or Embed Code here. The embedded third party content will be parsed and displayed appropriately from this. The following services are provided: [Blip.tv](#)

Recently added videos





How it works...

We made a custom Panel which will let the user add a video as well as see the recent uploaded videos on the same page. You did this without writing any code, which will normally be required to achieve this.

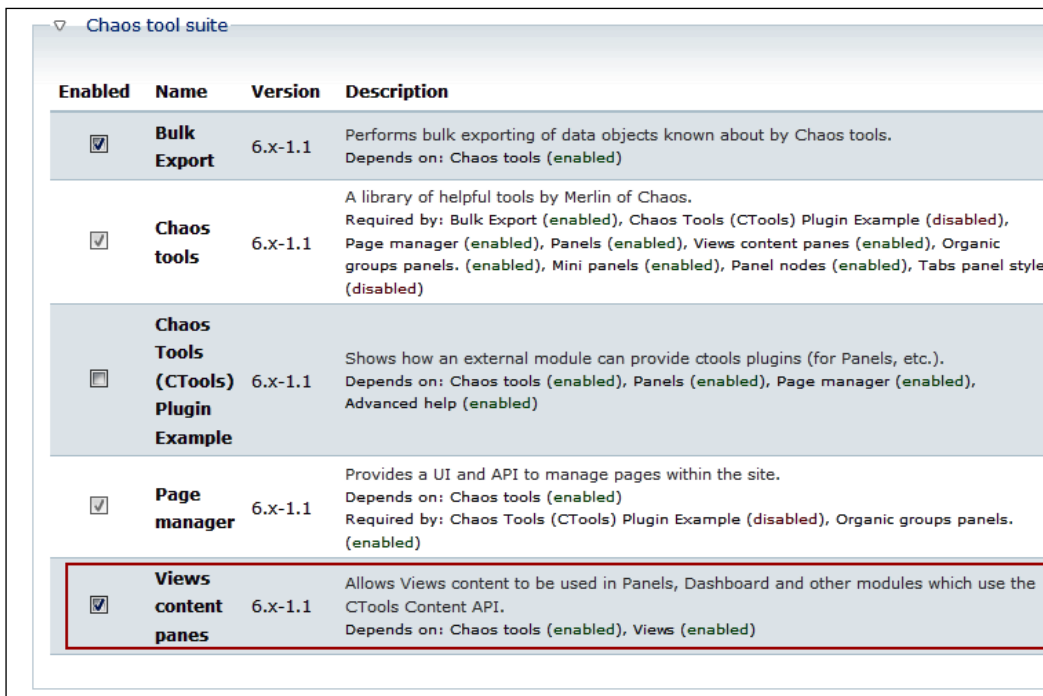
In this recipe we created video nodes and then made a View to display the nodes. After making the View we implemented that View into a Panel pane.

Direct implementation of Views with Content panes

We will now implement Views into the Panels directly by using the Views Content Panes module.

Getting ready

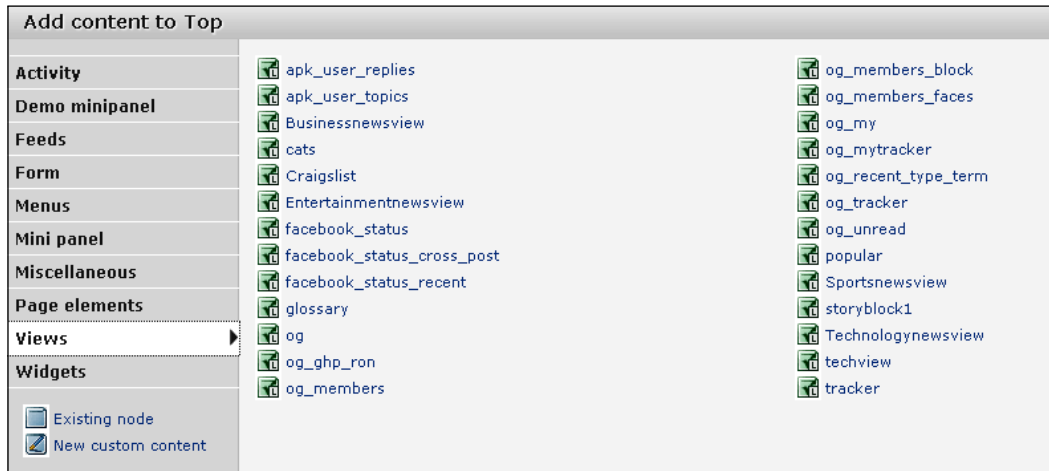
1. Enable the **Views content panes** module in the **Modules** section, in **Chaos tool suite**, as shown in the following screenshot:



The screenshot shows the 'Chaos tool suite' interface with a table of modules. The 'Views content panes' module is highlighted with a red rectangular box. The table has columns for 'Enabled', 'Name', 'Version', and 'Description'.

Enabled	Name	Version	Description
☒	Bulk Export	6.X-1.1	Performs bulk exporting of data objects known about by Chaos tools. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled)
☒	Chaos tools	6.X-1.1	A library of helpful tools by Merlin of Chaos. Required by: Bulk Export (enabled), Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example (disabled), Page manager (enabled), Panels (enabled), Views content panes (enabled), Organic groups panels. (enabled), Mini panels (enabled), Panel nodes (enabled), Tabs panel style (disabled)
☐	Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example	6.X-1.1	Shows how an external module can provide ctools plugins (for Panels, etc.). Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled), Panels (enabled), Page manager (enabled), Advanced help (enabled)
☒	Page manager	6.X-1.1	Provides a UI and API to manage pages within the site. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled) Required by: Chaos Tools (CTools) Plugin Example (disabled), Organic groups panels. (enabled)
☒	Views content panes	6.X-1.1	Allows Views content to be used in Panels, Dashboard and other modules which use the CTools Content API. Depends on: Chaos tools (enabled), Views (enabled)

- This will enable the **Views** tab directly into the **Content** pane of the Panels:

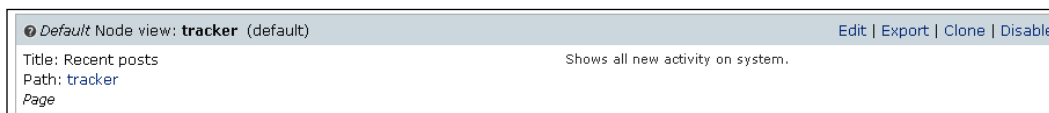
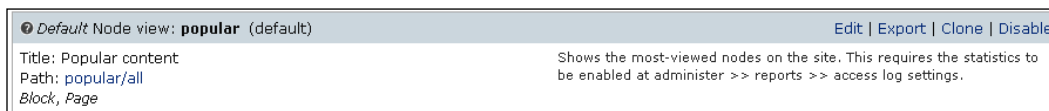


- With this enabled the Views can be integrated directly into the Panels.

Let's make a Mini panel with Views attached directly. Let us make an administration mini panel so the site administrator can see the most popular items on the website as well as track the changes on the website.

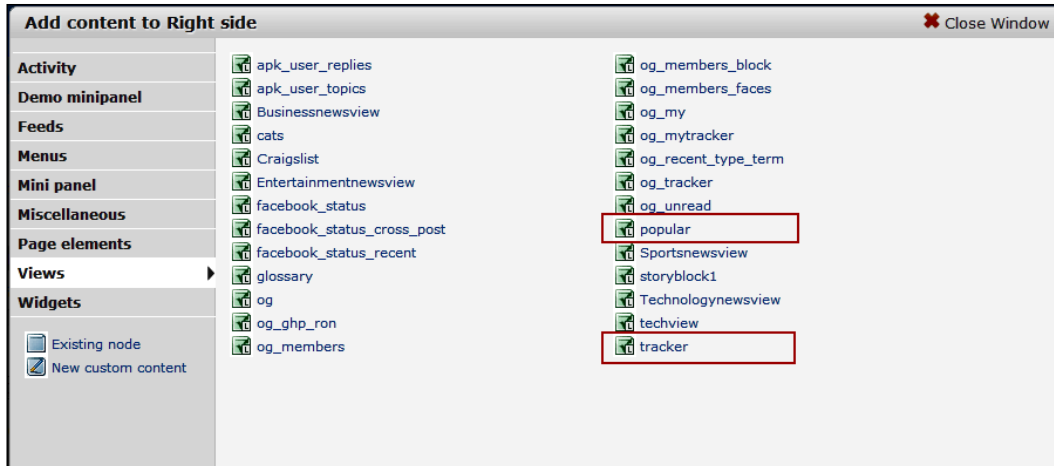
How to do it...

- This can be achieved by activating two default Views in the **Views** section: **popular** and **tracker** (ships with Views module), as shown in the following screenshots:

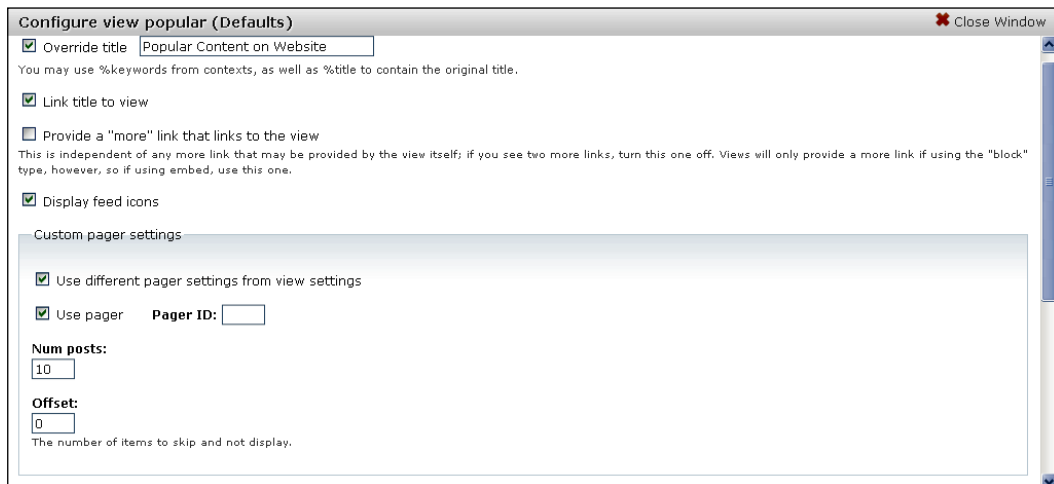


- Both these Views are very helpful for the site administrator to monitor the website. But the administration has to see both pages separately with Views. Let's make this task easy by making a **Two column** Mini panel that has the popular and tracker content side by side for the administrator to compare. This Mini panel can be even integrated in a custom administration Panel page.

- Go to the Panels Dashboard and create a **Two column** mini panel, say **monitor**.
- Go to **Add content**. By going into the **Views** pane (as shown in the following screenshot), on the **Left side** add the **popular** view, and on the **Right side** add **tracker**:



- You will be able to link the title to the View as well as put feeds icon, and use custom pagers too as well as add arguments (Views):



6. The layout is as shown in the following screenshot:



7. Save and preview. Our page will now look similar to the following screenshot:

Popular Content on Website			Changes On Website				
Edit Export Clone			Edit Export Clone				
Type	Title	Author	Type	Title	Author	Replies	Last Post▼
Technology	Drupal	admin	videos	cat3	admin		03/27/2010 - 16:15
Page	french test	admin	videos	cat2	admin		03/27/2010 - 16:15
Page	Teardown Prices Google Nexus One at \$175	admin	videos	Cat1	admin		03/27/2010 - 16:14
Technology	Magento	admin	Page	french test	admin		03/06/2010 - 19:39
Page	french test	admin	Page	french test	admin		03/06/2010 - 19:29
Page	Projects	admin	User Profile	Vin Patel	admin		02/21/2010 - 17:03
Page	Reading	admin	Technology	Magento	admin		02/15/2010 - 12:08
videos	cat3	admin	Technology	Ruby On Rails	admin	2	02/13/2010 - 16:52
videos	Cat1	admin	Technology	Drupal	admin	1	02/13/2010 - 16:51
videos	cat2	admin	Story	The Drupal way	admin	3	01/31/2010 - 12:17
			1 2 3 next > last »				

How it works...

By using the Views Content Panes module, you can integrate Views directly in the Panels and with the help of Views we can create Mini panels that can be a part of a main Panel page depending upon the utility of the website.

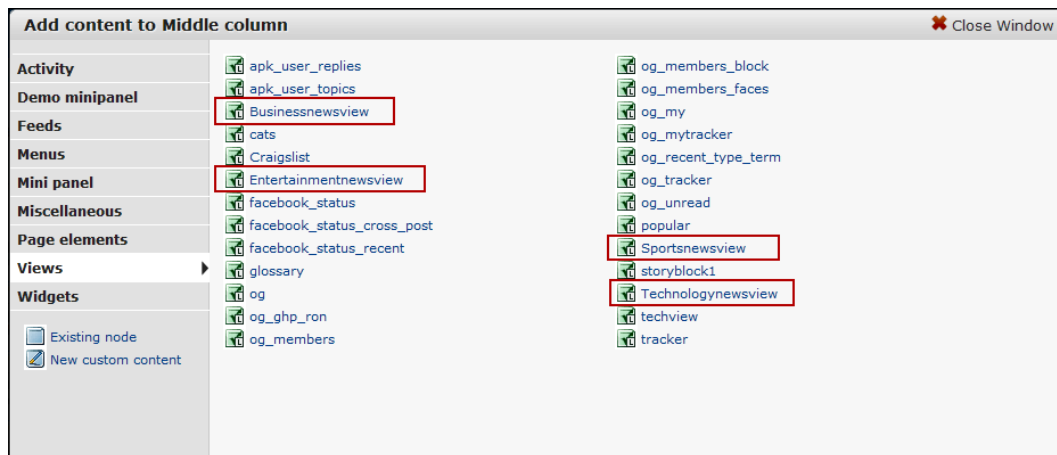
The above two recipes of views can also be done by using the Content Pane module. However, knowledge of both the approaches gives more flexibility while theming.

There's more...

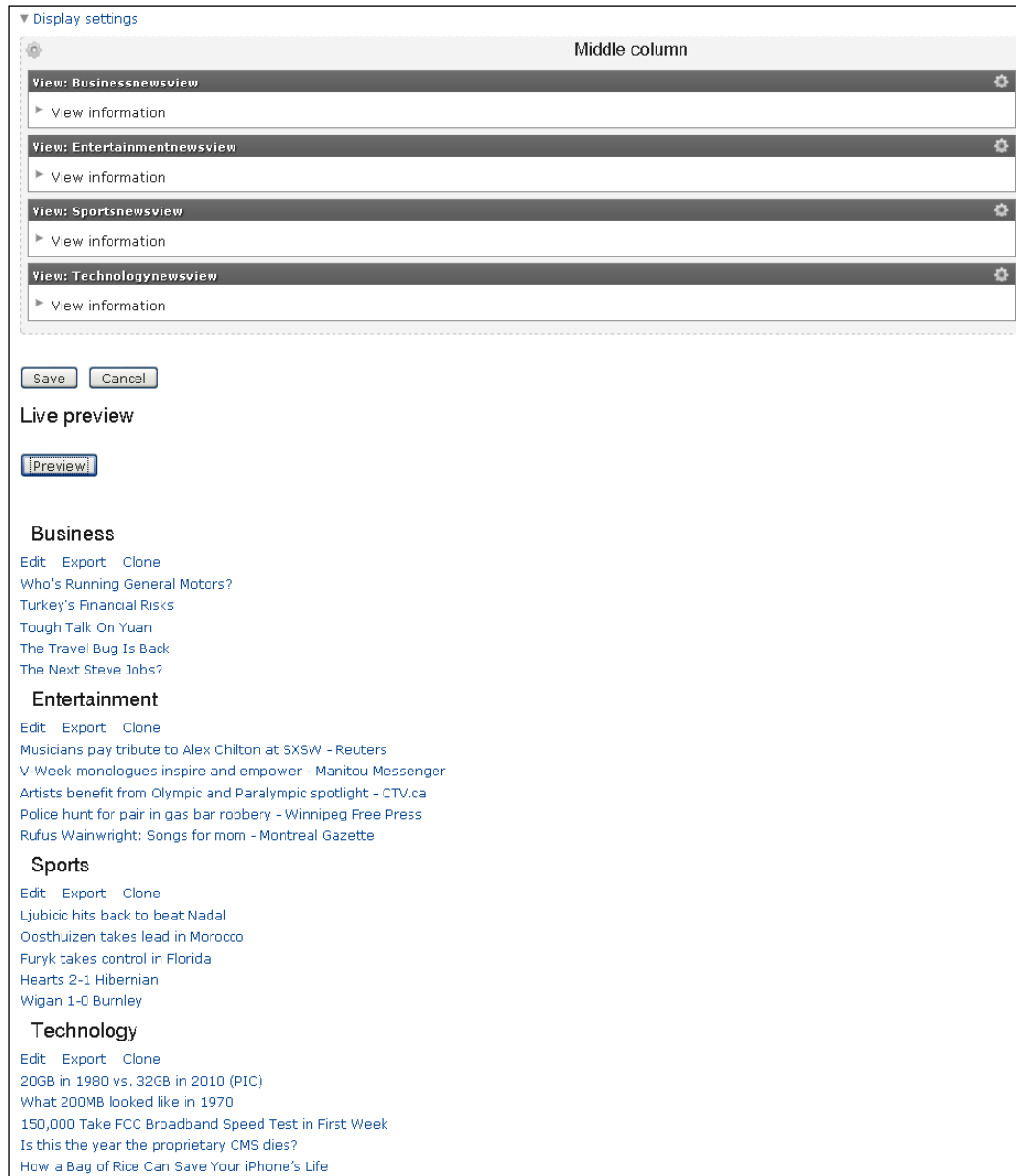
Let's make another Mini panel utility. Here we will use the first recipe of this chapter. On a real, large-content website you will need to place the same dynamic content on different pages in a different layout. So let's make a feeds Mini panel that can be used anywhere on the website depending on utility.

We will use the feeds directly here instead of blocks.

1. Go to **Panels | Dashboard** and create a **Single column** Mini panel, say **Recent News**.
2. Go to **Add content | Views** and select all the four news Views that we created earlier, as shown in the following screenshot:



3. The layout and live preview would be similar to the following screenshot:



4. This Mini panel can now be used on the front page or any other page where a news section would be required.

10

Creating a Travel Website Using Panels

In this chapter, we will cover:

- ▶ Basic Setup and Custom Content type
- ▶ Getting ready with Views Creation and Blocks
- ▶ Building the site front page with Panels

Introduction

In this chapter we will make a travel website or a portal using Panels as the base.

This will also serve as best practice to use Panels for front page designs of Drupal-based web projects.

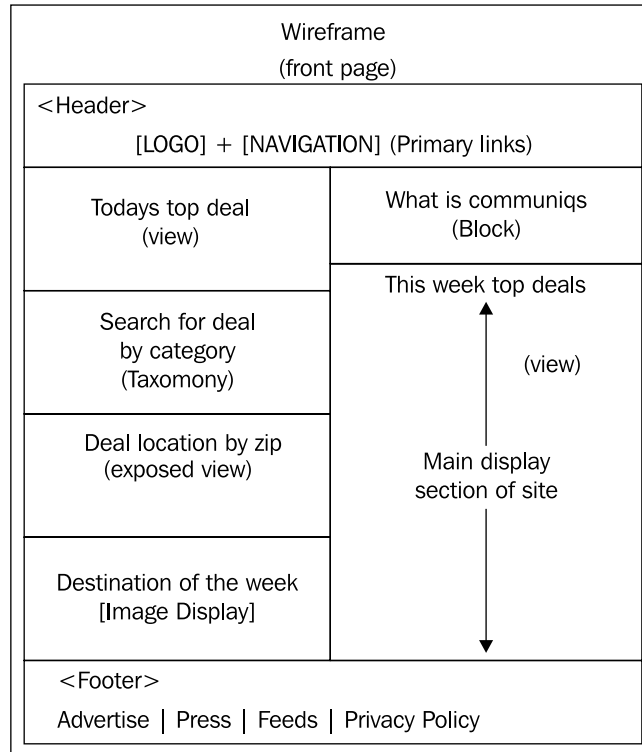
This single recipe can be a great way to learn how to implement complex data sites with Drupal. This recipe will include best practices of Drupal to make the website with following features. We will use a combination of modules to make the site easy to navigate and include social media tools.

Let's name our travel recipe website "Communiqs".

The functionality of the website from a user's point would be as follows: It is a travel portal where people can browse travel deals and travel destinations. They can even search hotels by postal code.

The functionality of the website from the owner's point is as follows: The website would collect deals from travel partners, charge them for display, and earn commissions.

When making a website the best practice is to develop a wire frame or a general layout of how your site will look. We have made a front page wireframe for our travel website as shown in the following diagram. Being a travel website, the focus should be kept on ease of user to browse deals throughout the website.



The front page will be made using Panels. The front page is divided as follows:

- ▶ **Header:** This will contain the logo and the navigation. This would be taken care by the core Drupal navigation system.
- ▶ **Footer:** This will contain the secondary links.

The sections that will be made from Panels are:

1. **Today's top deal:** This section will contain the most recently promoted deal on the website.
2. **Search for deal by category:** Here we will display the deals sorted by the partners or the travel agencies. This would be a taxonomy view.
3. **Deal location by zip:** Here the user will be able to search hotel deals by postal code. This would be an exposed form view.

4. **Destination of the week:** Here we will display three hot destinations promoted on the website. We can showcase pictures or videos. We will display video here. This again will be a view.
5. **What is communiqs:** A static section on the prime spot describing the functionality of the website.
6. **This week top deals:** It will contain the most recent 20 deals for the user to browse. This will be a view.

To achieve this we will use a two-column Panel layout.

The first step towards building website will be: installing Drupal and the selection of a base theme for the website.

As this is a travel website we will need scalability and performance. For this the best practice would be to select the Pressflow distribution of Drupal (<http://fourkitchens.com/pressflow-makes-drupal-scale>). The installation process is same as of a normal Drupal site. Just select the Pressflow installation profile during setup. We will use Pressflow for a high traffic website for the following reasons. Pressflow provides support for database replication, support for reverse proxy, and has code optimized for MySQL and PHP 5.

We would use Basic theme as the base theme (<http://drupal.org/project/basic>). It is framework based on the Zen theme, which helps to build a theme right from the start.



We will cover the entire site architecture and page construction using Panels. We will include the detailed theming portion, as it is altogether a different topic.

The major modules used for this project will be:

1. Views
2. Panels
3. ImageCache
4. Location
5. GMap
6. CCK
7. Embedded Media Field

Basic setup and custom Content types

Once we do the site planning and the wireframe, we will start configuring the website in Drupal.

Getting ready

1. Go to **Administer | Site configuration | Site information**.
2. Set the name of the site, e-mail, slogan, and footer message.

How to do it...

1. Upload the logo for the website by going into **Site building | Themes | Configure** and also set up the site basic information (at **Site configuration | Site information**).



Welcome to your new Pressflow website!

Please follow these steps to set up and start using your website:

- 1. Configure your website**
Once logged in, visit the [administration section](#), where you can [customize and configure](#) all aspects of your website.
- 2. Enable additional functionality**
Next, visit the [module list](#) and enable features which suit your specific needs. You can find additional modules in the [Drupal modules download section](#).
- 3. Customize your website design**
To change the "look and feel" of your website, visit the [themes section](#). You may choose from one of the included themes or download additional themes from the [Drupal themes download section](#).
- 4. Start posting content**
Finally, you can [create content](#) for your website. This message will disappear once you have promoted a post to the front page.

For more information, please refer to the [help section](#), or the [online Drupal handbooks](#). You may also post at the [Drupal forum](#), or view the wide range of [other support options](#) available.



©2010 Communiqs - All Rights Reserved

- By keeping the wireframe in our mind we will now design the front page of the site as well as build the basic functionality of the site.
- We need three custom Content types: Deals, Hotels, and Destination for our website.
- As Travel deals is the core functionality of the website, let us make a custom Content type: Deals.
- In addition of the existing fields, let us add three new fields: Image, Website, and Valid Upto. The **Image** field is a file field that includes an image of the deal. **Website** is an URL field for the website of a vendor and the **Valid Upto** field is the validity of the travel deal and it should be a date field:

+	Image	field_dealimage	File	Configure Remove
+	Website	field_dealwebsite	Link	Configure Remove
+	Valid Upto	field_dealdate	Date	Configure Remove

The attribute of each field is as shown in the next screenshot:

Deals

[Edit](#)
[Manage fields](#)
[Display fields](#)

[Basic](#)
[RSS](#)
[Token](#)

Configure how this content type's fields and field labels should be displayed when it's viewed in teaser and full-page mode. Use the 'Exclude' checkbox to exclude an item from the \$content value passed to the node template.

Field	Label	Teaser	Exclude	Full node	Exclude
Image	Above	Image	☐	Image	☐
Website	Above	Title, as link (default)	☐	Title, as link (default)	☐
Valid Upto	Above	Default	☐	Default	☐

6. Create a taxonomy, **Vendors**, and add taxonomy terms (vendor names), as shown in the following screenshots:

List Add vocabulary	
Name	Type Operations
Vendors	Deals edit vocabulary list terms add terms

Terms in <i>Vendors</i>	
<i>Vendors</i> is a single hierarchy vocabulary. You may organize the terms in the <i>Vendors</i> vocabulary by using the handles on the left side of the table. To change the name or description of a term, click the <i>edit</i> link next to the term. [more help...]	
List Add term	
Name	Operations
+ Direct Hotel Deal	edit
+ Expedia	edit
+ Hotels Canada	edit
+ redtag.canada	edit
+ sunwing canada	edit
+ Sunwing Canada	edit
+ transatholidays	edit
+ travelalerts	edit
+ Travelocity	edit
Save	Reset to alphabetical

7. Create 20 to 25 entries from **Content management | Create content | Deals**. This will be the backend to add all the deals on the website vendor-wise:

Create Deals

Title: *

Vendors:

- None selected -

▶ [Menu settings](#)

Body: Split summary at cursor

▶ [Input format](#)

▶ [Revision information](#)

▶ [URL path settings](#)

▶ [Comment settings](#)

Image:

Maximum Filesize: 2 MB
Allowed Extensions: png gif jpg jpeg

Website:

Valid Upto:

Format: 24 Apr 2010

▶ [Authoring information](#)

▶ [Publishing options](#)

8. The Content node would look like this:

\$97 - Halifax to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, roundtrip flight (\$326 with taxes)

Make your way to the Sunshine State with this amazing flight deal to Florida. For a great price of only \$97 (plus taxes) you can get return airfare to the beautiful city of Fort Lauderdale.

Image:



Website:
<http://travelalerts.ca>

Valid Upto:
 Fri, 07/23/2010 (All day)
[travelalerts](#)

9. The demo data for the website is as shown in the following screenshot:

☐	\$50-60 Legendary Richmond hill hilton updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$84 - Atlantic City 4-Star updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$800-Puerto Vallarta Mexico- updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$200 The Skyline Inn Niagra falls updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$126 Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$114 Opus Hotel Montreal - Montreal updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$273 -- Fly from Toronto to Jersey City, R/T Incl. Tax updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$450 Excalibur Hotel Casino updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$40-Imperial Hotel and Suite-Niagra updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$600 Silver Sands Resort Barbados updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$837 frankfurt All Inclusive updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$1105 Brussels all inclusive updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$909 Madrid plus \$304 tax-all inclusive	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$1099 London plus \$510 tax -all Inclusive updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$1408 Munich all inclusive updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$1730 Rome all inclusive updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$288 - Montreal to Camaguey updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$749 - 7-night 4* Greek Isles & Turkey cruise updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$34 per night - Stay in Niagara Falls this spring and save updated	Deals	communiquis	published	edit
☐	\$97 - Halifax to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, roundtrip flight (\$326 with taxes)	Deals	communiquis	published	edit

10. The next Content type would be Hotels. We need to add only one field in this custom **Content type: Website (field_hotelwebsite)**. This will be a link (URL) field:

	Website	field_hotelwebsite	Link	Configure Remove
---	---------	--------------------	------	--

11. To locate the hotel address on the map, we will use the Location module (<http://drupal.org/project/location>) and the GMap module (<http://drupal.org/project/gmap>).
12. Create sample data using the form shown in the following screenshot:

Create Hotels

Title: *

[Menu settings](#)

Body: [Split summary at cursor](#)

[Input format](#)

Location



Latitude:

Longitude:

If you wish to supply your own latitude and longitude, you may enter them above. If you leave these fields blank, the system will attempt to determine a latitude and longitude for you from the entered address. To have the system recalculate your location from the address, for example if you change the address, delete the values for these fields.

You may set the location by clicking on the map, or dragging the location marker. To clear the location and cause it to be recalculated, click on the marker.

Street:

Additional:

Postal code:

[Revision information](#)

[Comment settings](#)

[URL path settings](#)

Website:

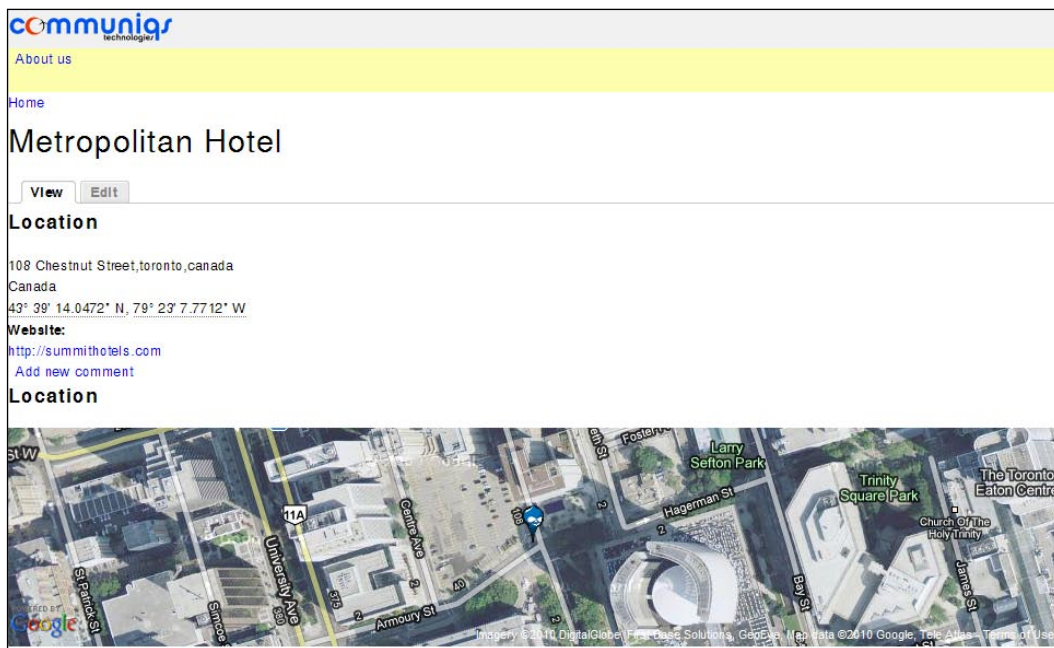
[Authoring information](#)

[Publishing options](#)

So we now have a few hotel nodes created as displayed in the following screenshot:

☐	Metropolitan Hotel	Hotels	communiqs	published	edit
☐	Delta Hotels	Hotels	communiqs	published	edit
☐	Sutton Place Grande	Hotels	communiqs	published	edit
☐	Best Western Primrose Hotel Downtown-Toronto	Hotels	communiqs	published	edit

13. The Hotel Content type node will look as follows:



14. The last Content type will be Destination. We will use Embedded Media Field (<http://drupal.org/project/emfield>) here to include videos for a travel destination.

15. We need to add an embedded field called **Destination (field_destinationvideo)** to this Content type:

	Destination	field_destinationvideo	Embedded Video	Configure Remove
--	-------------	------------------------	----------------	--

16. We include blip.tv as the provider and add sample data. The destination node will look similar to the following screenshot:

Create Destination

Title: *

▶ [Menu settings](#)

Body: Split summary at cursor

▶ [Input format](#)

▶ [Location](#)

▶ [Revision information](#)

▶ [Comment settings](#)

▶ [URL path settings](#)

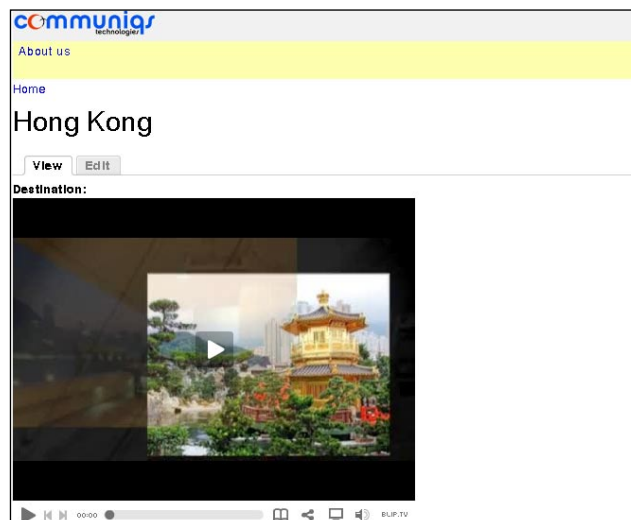
Destination:

Enter the URL or Embed Code here. The embedded third party content will be parsed and displayed appropriately from this.
The following services are provided: [Blip.tv](#)

▶ [Authoring information](#)

▶ [Publishing options](#)

The sample data for this Content type is shown in the following screenshot:



How it works...

So keeping the wireframe in mind we created the Content types for the website. We also created sample data so that we can use the same to design our Views.

Getting ready with Views creation and Blocks

Once we have created the basic Content types for the website, we need to create different Views for each Content type. These Views would be then included in each of our Panel panes.

How to do it...

1. In order to create the front page in Panels we need to create Views for the front page.
2. Let us create the first View "TodayDeal". We need to display the most recent deal to be promoted here. We select the **Content: Image: field_dealimage** and **Node: Body**. We will keep the **Style** as **Table** and filter by **Node: Type = Deals**. We will sort by **Node: Nid desc**.

The screenshot shows the Drupal Views configuration interface for a view named "TodayDeal". The view is configured to display items of type "Node". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Defaults:** Includes a "Page" dropdown, "Add display" and "Analyze" buttons.
- View settings:** Shows "Tag: None".
- Basic settings:** Includes fields for Name (Defaults), Title (None), Style (Table), Use AJAX (No), Use pager (No), Items to display (1), More link (No), Distinct (No), Access (Unrestricted), Caching (None), Exposed form in block (No), Header (None), Footer (None), Empty text (None), and Theme (Information).
- Relationships:** Shows "None defined".
- Arguments:** Shows "None defined".
- Fields:** Includes "Content: Image: frontpage_thumbnails image" and "Node: Body".
- Sort criteria:** Shows "Node: Nid desc".
- Filters:** Shows "Node: Type = Deals".

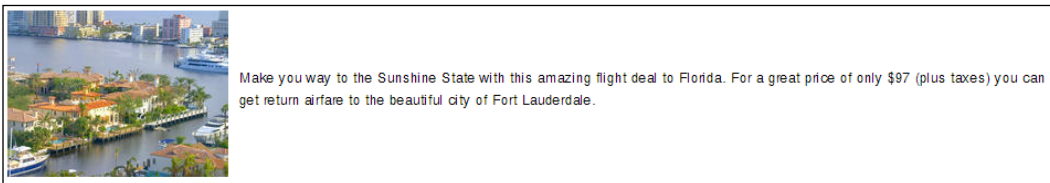
At the bottom, there are "Save", "Cancel", and "Delete" buttons, and a note: "Click on an item to edit that item's details."

- We will need to create a custom image cache for the same. Here I have used the **Resize** option, but we can even use the scale and crop options to avoid losing aspect ratio.

Preset Namespace:			
frontpage_thumbnails			
The namespace is used in URL's for images to tell imagecache how to process an image. Please only use alphanumeric characters, underscores (_), and hyphens (-) for preset names.			
Actions			
Action	Settings	Configure	Delete
+ Resize	200x150	Configure	Delete

Configure the format for the **field_dealimage** as **frontpage_thumbnails** image.

- Preview and save.



- The second view would be "Search by vendor name". Create a new view say **Taxonomyfrontview**. Keep items to display as **10**. Select the field **Taxonomy: Term**. Link this field to its taxonomy term page. Filter it by **Taxonomy: Vocabulary = Vendors**.

View Taxonomyfrontview, displaying items of type Node.		Export	Clone
Defaults	View settings Tag: None		
Add display Analyze	Basic settings Name: Defaults Title: None Style: Grid Row style: Fields Use AJAX: No Use pager: No Items to display: 10 More link: No Distinct: No Access: Unrestricted Caching: None Exposed form in block: No Header: None Footer: None Empty text: None Theme: Information		
	Relationships None defined	Sort criteria None defined	Filters Taxonomy: Vocabulary = Vendors
	Arguments None defined	Fields Taxonomy: Term	

6. Preview and save.

Live preview

Display:
 Defaults

Arguments:

Preview

Separate arguments with a / as though they were a URL path.

Direct Hotel Deal
 Expedia
 Hotels Canada
 redtag.canada

Direct Hotel Deal
 Expedia
 Hotels Canada

Expedia
 Hotels Canada
 redtag.canada

7. The third View would be "Destination of the week". Let's create a new View, say **destinationvideos**. Keep the **Style** as **Grid** and items to display as **3**. Include the field **Content: Destination (field_destinationvideo)**. Select the **Format** as **Image Thumbnail (linked to node)**. Note that blip.tv supports thumbnail view. Filter by **Node: Type = Destination** and sort by **Nid: desc**.

View *destinationvideos*, displaying items of type **Node**. Export Clone

Defaults
 Page
 Add display
 Analyze

View settings
 Tag: None
Basic settings
 Name: Defaults
 Title: None
 Style: Grid
 Row style: Fields
 Use AJAX: No
 Use pager: No
 Items to display: 3
 More link: No
 Distinct: No
 Access: Unrestricted
 Caching: None
 Exposed form in block: No
 Header: None
 Footer: None
 Empty text: None
 Theme: Information

Relationships
 None defined
Arguments
 None defined
Fields
 Content: Destination Image Thumbnail (linked to node)

Sort criteria
 Node: Nid desc
Filters
 Node: Type = Destination

8. Preview and save.



9. The fourth view would be "Search hotel by Zip". Let's create a view, say **hotelpostalsearch**. Keep items to display as **10**. Keep the **Style** as **Table**. Include the fields **Node: Title**, **Content: Website title (field_hotelwebsite)**, **Location: Postal Code**. Exclude **Location: Postal Code** from display. Filter it by **Node:Type = Hotel** and Expose it by **Postal Code**. In the basic setting, expose this as a block.

View *hotelpostalsearch*, displaying items of type Node. [Export](#) [Clone](#) [View "Page"](#) [Changed view](#)

Defaults Page Page Add display Analyze	View settings Tag: <i>None</i> Basic settings Name: <i>Defaults</i> Title: <i>None</i> Style: <i>Table</i> Use AJAX: <i>No</i> Use pager: <i>No</i> Items to display: <i>10</i> More link: <i>No</i> Distinct: <i>No</i> Access: <i>Unrestricted</i> Caching: <i>None</i> Exposed form in block: <i>Yes</i> Header: <i>None</i> Footer: <i>None</i> Empty text: <i>None</i> Theme: <i>Information</i>	Relationships None defined Arguments None defined Fields Node: <i>Title</i> Content: <i>Website Title, as link (default)</i> Location: <i>Postal Code</i> <i>Postal Code</i>	Sort criteria None defined Filters Location: <i>Postal Code</i> <i>exposed</i> Node: <i>Type = Hotels</i>
---	--	--	---

10. Preview and save.

Best Western Primrose Hotel Downtown-Toronto	
Sutton Place Grande	http://suttonplace.com
Delta Hotels	http://deltahotels.com
Metropolitan Hotel	http://summithotels.com

11. The final view would be Weekly top deals. Let us name this view as **RighthandView**. Keep item to display as **20**. Keep the field **Node: Title** and filter it by **Node: Type = Deals**. Sort it descending by Nid. This will display the latest 20 deals dynamically.

View *RighthandView*, displaying items of type **Node**. Export Clone

Defaults Page ▼ Add display Analyze	View settings Tag: None Basic settings Name: Defaults Title: None Style: Unformatted Row style: Fields Use AJAX: No Use pager: No Items to display: 20 More link: No Distinct: No Access: Unrestricted Caching: None Exposed form in block: No Header: None Footer: None Empty text: None Theme: Information	Relationships None defined Arguments None defined Fields Node: Title	Sort criteria Node: Nid desc Filters Node: Type = Deals
--	---	---	--

12. Preview and save.

\$97 - Halifax to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, roundtrip flight (\$326 with taxes)
 \$34 per night - Stay in Niagara Falls this spring and save
 \$749 - 7-night 4* Greek Isles & Turkey cruise
 \$288 - Montreal to Camaguey
 \$1730 Rome all inclusive
 \$1408 Munich all inclusive
 \$1099 London plus \$510 tax -all inclusive
 \$909 Madrid plus \$304 tax-all inclusive
 \$1105 Brussels all inclusive
 \$837 frankfurt All Inclusive
 \$114 Opus Hotel Montreal - Montreal
 \$126 Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo
 \$200 The Skyline Inn Niagra falls
 \$600 Silver Sands Resort Barbados
 \$800-Puerto Vallarta Mexico-
 \$40-Imperial Hotel and Suite-Niagra
 \$450 Excalibur Hotel Casino
 \$84 -- Atlantic City 4-Star
 \$273 -- Fly from Toronto to Jersey City, B/T Incl. Tax
 \$50-60 Legendary Richmond hill hilton

13. We now need to create the static block: What is communiqs.
14. Go to **Site building | Blocks | New**, and enter the information shown in the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Block specific settings". It contains three main sections: "Block description:", "Block title:", and "Block body:". The "Block description:" field contains the text "What is communiqs" and has a small red asterisk next to the label. Below it is a small italicized note: "A brief description of your block. Used on the block overview page." The "Block title:" field also contains "What is communiqs" and has a small italicized note below it: "The title of the block as shown to the user." The "Block body:" field contains the text "Communiquis is a unique travel website that lets you find the best travel deal. And we don't charge you for our information." and has a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

How it works...

By using the Views module, we generated the Views for each Content type. In the next recipe, we will now assemble each of the views generated to form a powerful Panels based front page.

Building the front page with Panels

Panels are actually more useful to make strong front pages for a website without coding. Let's make our website's front page using Panel panes.

How to do it...

1. So we have built up all the parts and now we would compile them with Panels to create a stunning front page for our website.

- Go to the Panels dashboard and create a new Panel page, say **frontpage**.

Summary	Settings » Basic
Settings	Edit name, path and other basic settings for the page.
Basic	Administrative title: frontpage The name of this page. This will appear in the administrative interface to easily identify it. Machine name: frontpage The machine readable name of this page. It must be unique, and it must contain only alphanumeric characters and underscores. Once created, you will not be able to change this value! Administrative description: The FrontPage of travel site A description of what this page is, does or is for, for administrative use. Path: http://communiqs.com/front The URL path to get to this page. You may create named placeholders for variable parts of the path by using %name for required elements and !name for optional elements. For example: "node/%node/fo", "forum/%forum" or "dashboard/input". These named placeholders can be turned into contexts on the arguments form.
Access	
Menu	
Variants	
Panel	
Summary	
General	
Selection rules	
Contexts	
Layout	
Content	
Preview	

- Select a two-column layout.
- Go to the **Content** tab and select **Add content | Views**. Here you will be able to see all the Views that we have created.

Add content to Left side	
Activity	destinationvideos Exposed form: hotelpostalsearch-default Exposed form: hotelpostalsearch-page_1 hotelpostalsearch
Menus	Mapstraction RighthandView Taxonomyfrontview TodayDeal
Miscellaneous	
Page elements	
Views	
Widgets	
Existing node New custom content	

5. Select each of the views and place them in the left and right column as per our wireframe. For each Panel pane select **CSS Style** as **Rounded corners**.

frontpage

Clone Export Delete Disable Add variant Import variant

Summary	Variants » Panel » Content	
Settings	Variant operations Clone Export Delete Disable	
Basic	Add content items and change their location with a drag and drop interface.	
Access	▼ Display settings	
Menu	Title type: Manually set ▼	
Variants	Title:	
Panel	The title of this panel. If left blank, a default title may be used. Set to No Title if you want the title to actually be blank.	
Summary	Left side	Right side
General	View: TodayDeal-Defaults View information	Whatis.communiqs No info
Selection rules	View: Taxonomyfrontview-Defaults View information	View: RighthandView-Defaults View information
Contexts	Exposed form: hotelpostalsearch-default No info	
Layout	View: destinationvideos-Defaults View information	
Content		
Preview		

6. Do a preview and save.
7. Go to the **Administration | Site configuration | Site information** and select this page as home page.

Default front page: *

http://communiqs.com/

The home page displays content from this relative URL. If unsure, specify "node".

8. With this we have created a stunning travel website front page.

communiqu
technologies

About us

Today's Top Deal



Make your way to the Sunshine State with this amazing flight deal to Florida. For a great price of only \$97 (plus taxes) you can get return airfare to the beautiful city of Fort Lauderdale.

What is communiqu

Communiqu is a unique travel website that lets you find the best travel deal. And we don't charge you for our information.

Weekly Top Deals

- \$97 - Halifax to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, roundtrip flight (\$326 with taxes)
- \$34 per night - Stay in Niagara Falls this spring and save
- \$749 - 7-night 4* Greek Isles & Turkey cruise
- \$288 - Montreal to Camaguey
- \$1730 Rome all inclusive
- \$1408 Munich all inclusive
- \$1099 London plus \$510 tax -all inclusive
- \$909 Madrid plus \$304 tax-all inclusive
- \$1105 Brussels all inclusive
- \$837 frankfurt All Inclusive
- \$114 Opus Hotel Montreal - Montreal
- \$126 Hilton Garden Inn Buffalo
- \$200 The Skyline Inn Niagara falls
- \$600 Silver Sands Resort Barbados
- \$800-Puerto Vallarta Mexico-
- \$40-Imperial Hotel and Suite-Niagra
- \$450 Excalibur Hotel Casino
- \$84 -- Atlantic City 4-Star
- \$273 -- Fly from Toronto to Jersey City, R/T Incl. Tax
- \$50-60 Legendary Richmond hill hilton

Search Deals By Vendor

Direct Hotel Deal	Direct Hotel Deal	Expedia
Expedia	Expedia	Hotels Canada
Hotels Canada	Hotels Canada	redtag.canada
redtag.canada		

Hotels By Zip

Location: **Postal Code**

Destination of the week



Advertise

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9. So here is our transformation from our wireframe using Panels.

Wireframe
(front page)

<Header>

[LOGO] + [NAVIGATION] (Primary links)

Todays top deal (view)	What is communiqs (Block)
Search for deal by category (Taxonomy)	This week top deals (view) ↑ Main display section of site ↓
Deal location by zip (exposed view)	
Destination of the week [Image Display]	
<Footer> Advertise Press Feeds Privacy Policy	

The screenshot shows the final website design for 'communiqs'. It features a header with the logo and navigation links. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Todays Top Deal' with a featured travel offer, 'What is communiqs' with a brief description, 'Weekly Top Deals' with a list of various travel packages and prices, 'Search Deals By Vendor' with a grid of vendor links, 'Hotels By Zip' with a search form, and 'Destination of the week' with image thumbnails. A footer contains links for 'Advertise', 'Press', 'Feeds', and 'Privacy Policy'. A small disclaimer at the bottom states: '2010 Communiqs - All Rights Reserved - This is not an Active site - Only for educational use-All Data is fictional'.

How it works

With this final recipe we were able to create a travel website with a powerful front page using Panels. In the above recipe we included the views, taxonomy views, and exposed forms into Panel panes to create a powerful front page, without writing a code at all. Using only Panels can slow down the site performance. To counter that we can use Pressflow to extend Drupal's caching mechanism as we did in this chapter.

Modules

General modules required for all the chapters

- ▶ Administration menu-6.x-1.5
- ▶ Chaos tools-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Page manager-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Views content panes-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Advanced help-6.x-1.2
- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Mini panels-6.x-3.1

Modules required chapter-wise

Chapter 1: Getting Started

Modules used:

- ▶ Chaos tools-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Page manager-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Advanced help-6.x-1.2
- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Mini panels-6.x-3.1

Chapter 2: Changing Panel Interface

Modules used:

- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1

Chapter 3: Theming for Panels

Modules used:

- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1

Chapter 4: Implementing Panels

Theme used (as special case): Adaptive Theme- 6.x-2.0-rc1

Modules used:

- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Aggregator (Core)

Chapter 5: Panels with Organic Groups

Modules used:

- ▶ Organic Groups 6.x-2.0
- ▶ Organic groups access control-6.x.-2.0
- ▶ Organic groups panels-6.x-2.0-dev
- ▶ Organic groups Views integration-6.x-2.0

Chapter 6: Panels with CCK

Modules used:

- ▶ Content-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Content Copy-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Embedded Video Field-6.x-1.18
- ▶ Fieldgroup-6.x-2.5

- ▶ FileField-6.x-3.2
- ▶ ImageField-6.x-3.2
- ▶ Link-6.x-2.8
- ▶ Node Reference-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Number-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Option Widgets-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Text-6.x-2.5
- ▶ User Reference-6.x-2.5

Chapter 7: Advanced Profile Kit

Modules used:

- ▶ Advanced Profile Kit-6.x-1.0-beta2
- ▶ Author Pane-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Content Profile-6.x-1.0-beta4
- ▶ Content Profile User Registration-6.x-1.0-beta4

Chapter 8: Panels Related Modules

Modules used:

- ▶ Language sections-6.x-1.6
- ▶ Composite Layout-6.x-1.0beta8
- ▶ Composite Layout Fields-6.x-1.0beta8
- ▶ Composite Layout Fields-CCK-6.x-1.0beta8
- ▶ Facebook-style Statuses-6.x-2.1
- ▶ Form block-6.x-1.0

Chapter 9: Views

Modules used:

- ▶ Views-6.x-2.6
- ▶ Views UI-6.x-2.6
- ▶ Aggregator (Core)
- ▶ Embedded Video Field-6.x-1.18
- ▶ Views content panes-6.x-1.3

Chapter 10: Creating a Travel Website Using Panels

Special Drupal distribution Used For Optimization: Pressflow 6.15

Theme Used (special case): Basic- 6.x-2.9

Modules used:

- ▶ Chaos tools-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Page manager-6.x-1.1
- ▶ Advanced help-6.x-1.2
- ▶ Panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Panel nodes-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Mini panels-6.x-3.1
- ▶ Aggregator (Core)
- ▶ Content-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Content Copy-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Embedded Video Field-6.x-1.18
- ▶ Fieldgroup-6.x-2.5
- ▶ FileField-6.x-3.2
- ▶ ImageField-6.x-3.2
- ▶ Link-6.x-2.8
- ▶ Node Reference-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Number-6.x-2.5
- ▶ Option Widgets-6.x-2.5
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- ▶ Views-6.x-2.6
- ▶ Views UI-6.x-2.6
- ▶ Views content panes-6.x-1.3

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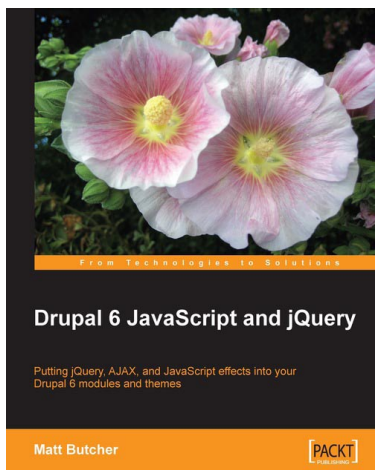
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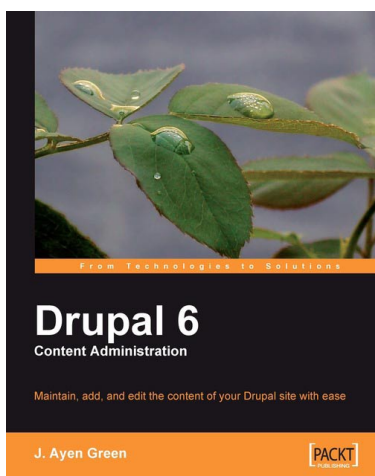
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