

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

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“jenlampton” <http://drupal.org/user/85586>

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BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

Building websites with Drupal since 2006



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

Building community around Drupal since 2007



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

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Building modules for Drupal since 2008

```
1 <?php
2
3 /**
4  * @file
5  * This module enables an administrative dashboard
6  */
7
8 include_once('includes/total_control.inc');
9 include_once('includes/total_control.views_default.inc');
10
11 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_REQUIRED_PANELS_API', '3');
12 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_REQUIRED_VIEWS_API', '2');
13 // This is the name of the dashboard as the page title
14 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_DASHBOARD_PANEL_NAME', 'dashboard');
15 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_MINIMUM_VERSION', 2);
16 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_VERSION', 2);
17
```


BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

Building training on Drupal since 2010



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

Improving user experiences with Drupal since 2011



Nick Rosencrans
Usability Consultant
University of MN



Chad Fennell
Web Developer
University of MN



Bojhan Somers
Interaction Designer



Dharmesh Mistry
Usability Specialist
Acquia



Jen Lampton
Director of Training
Chapter Three



Angela Byron
Director of Community
Development
Acquia



Brad Bowman
Principal
Bitnik



David Rothstein
Drupal Developer
Acquia



Erika Stenrick
Creative Lead
Gorton Studios

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

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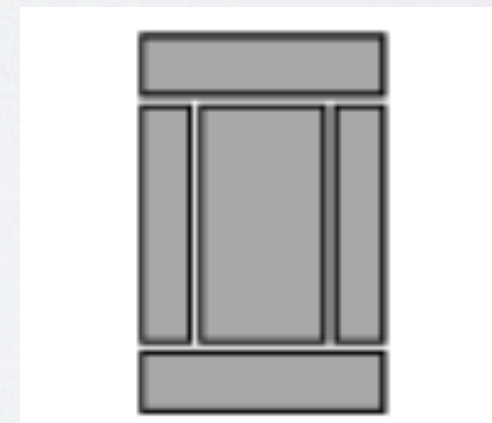
Improving the theme layer for Drupal since 2012



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton

I <3 Drupal. I <3 Panels.



BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?

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Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal for more than 1 year?

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal for more than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal 7?

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal for more than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal 7?
Built websites with Drupal 6?

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

- Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?
- Building websites with Drupal for more than 1 year?
- Building websites with Drupal 7?
- Built websites with Drupal 6?
- Have tried panels before?

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

who are you?

Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?
Building websites with Drupal for more than 1 year?

Building websites with Drupal 7?
Built websites with Drupal 6?

Have tried panels before?
Use panels all the time?

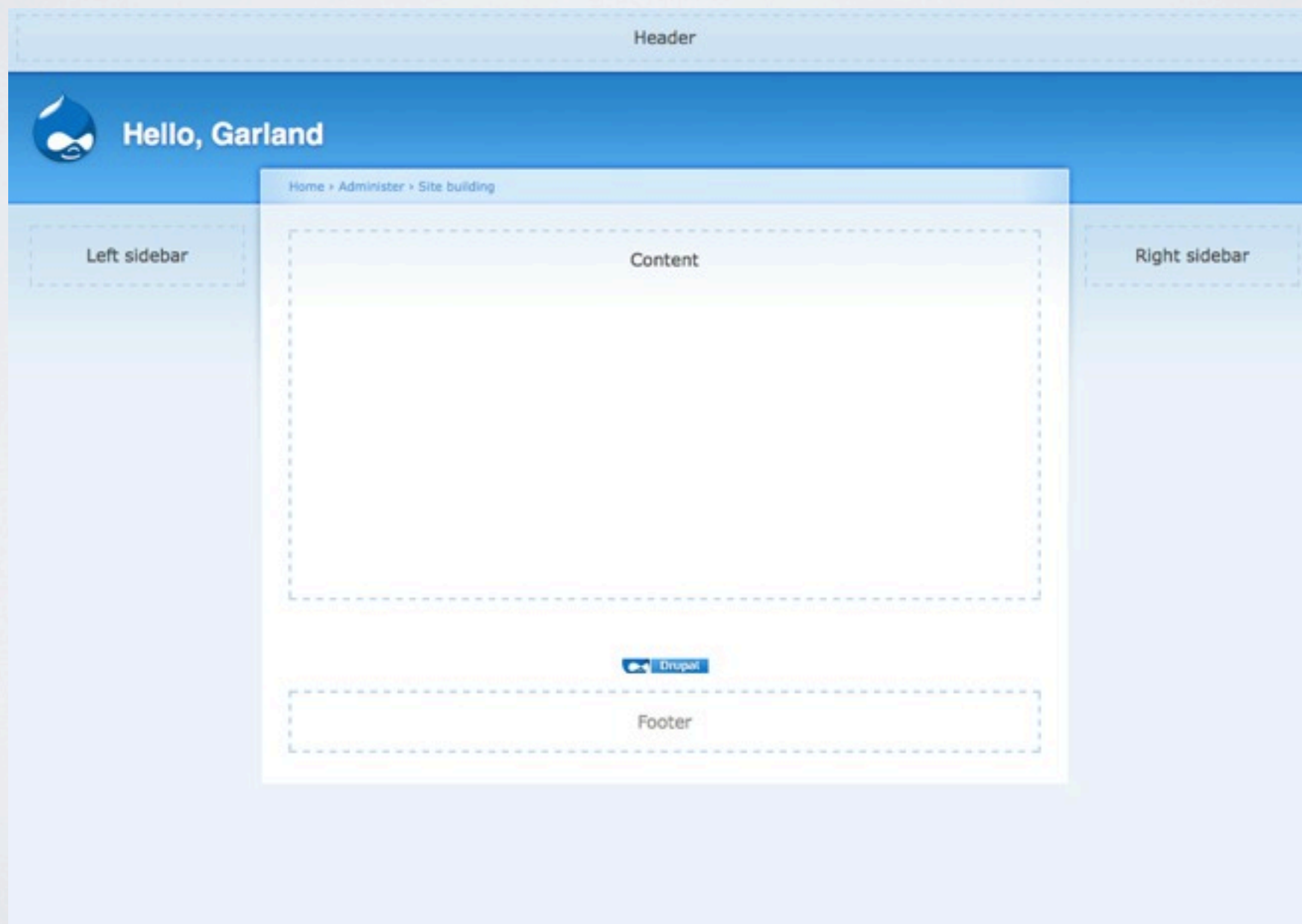
A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Once upon a time...

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Once upon a time...

every page on your site used the same layout



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Once upon a time...

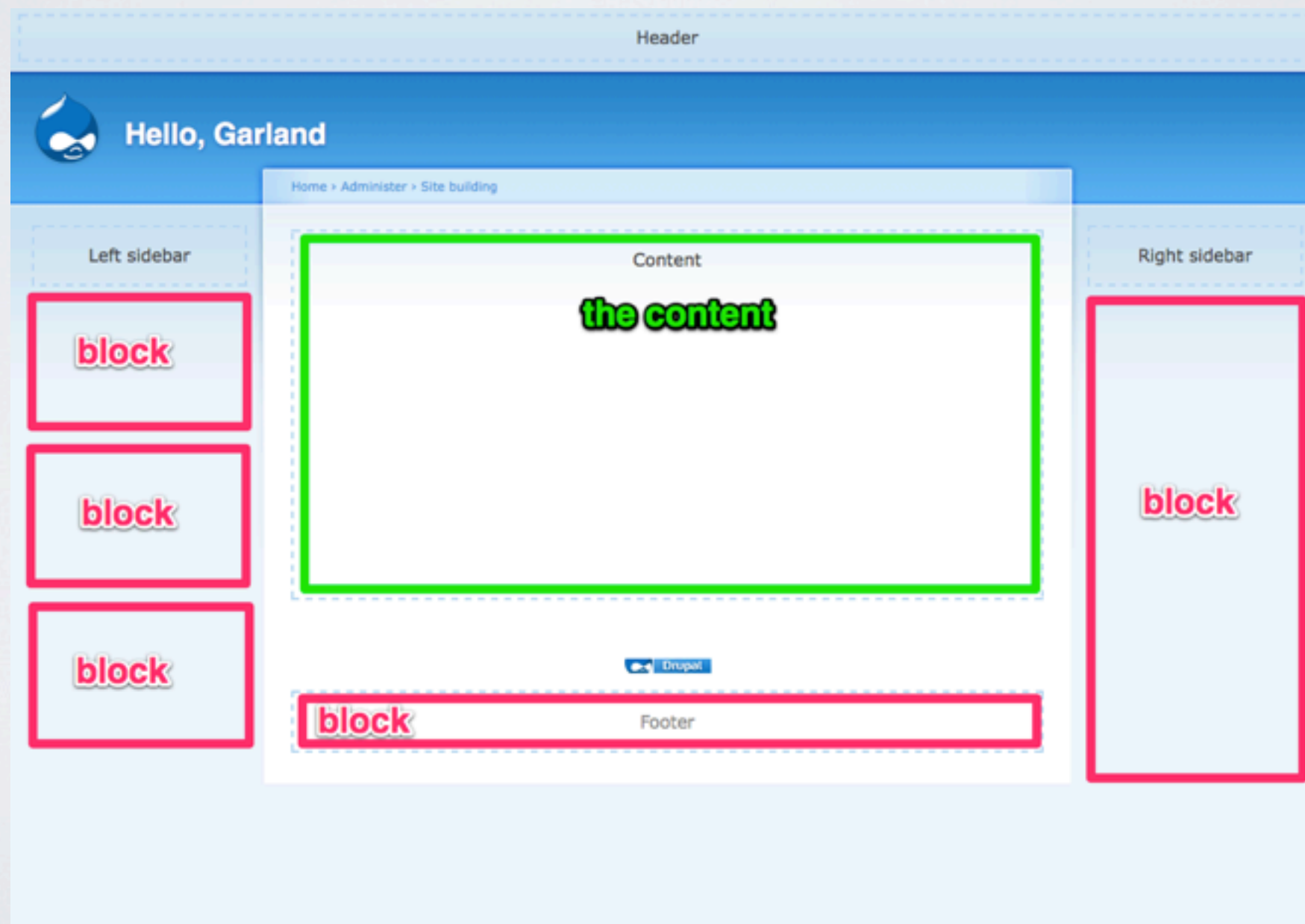
where “the content” was often in the middle



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Once upon a time...

and a bunch of other “stuff” was placed around the content



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

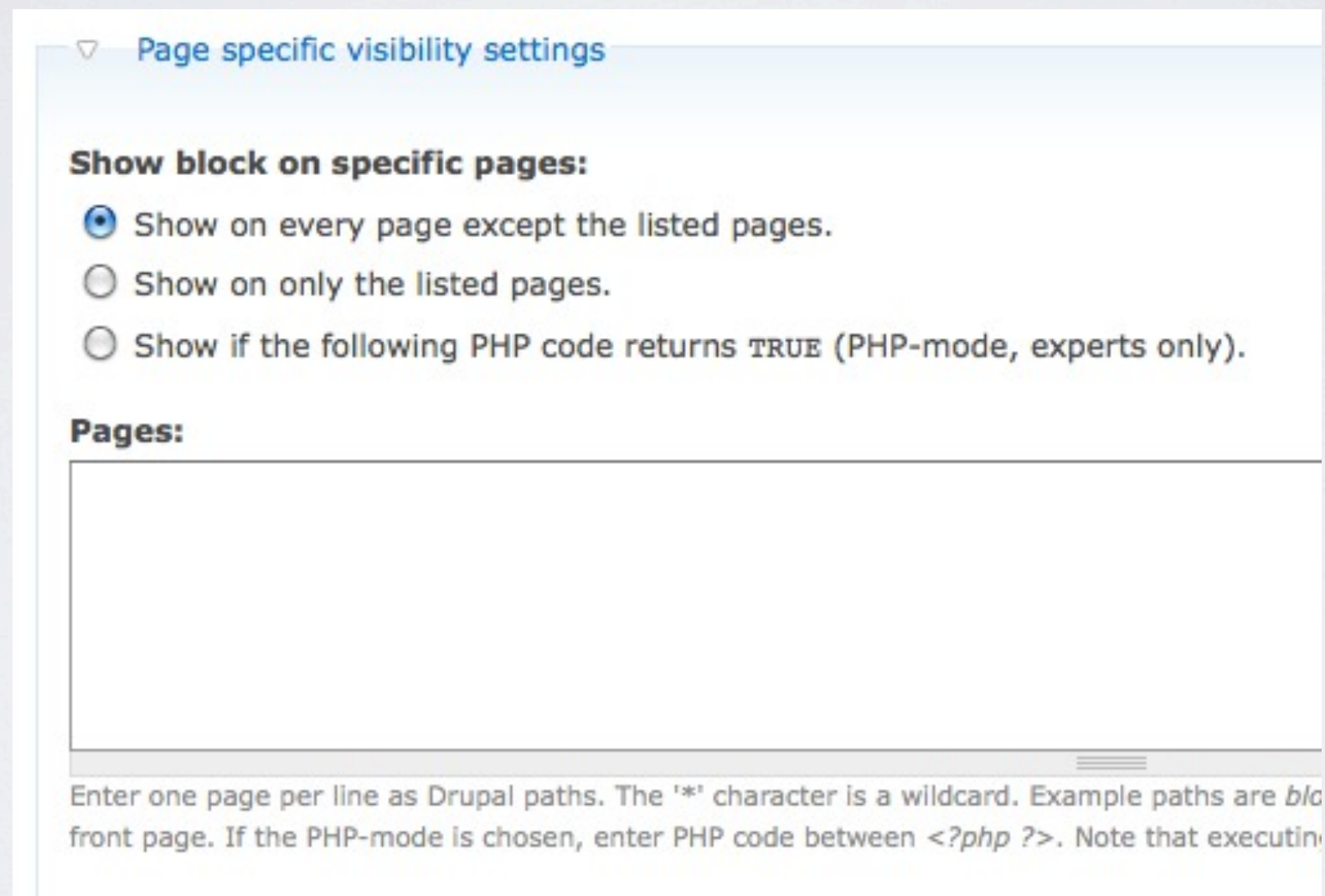
Once upon a time... :(

one-layout-fits-all approach doesn't always cut it

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Solutions!

Visibility: telling blocks when/where they should appear & ...



▼ Page specific visibility settings

Show block on specific pages:

- ☒ Show on every page except the listed pages.
- ☐ Show on only the listed pages.
- ☐ Show if the following PHP code returns `TRUE` (PHP-mode, experts only).

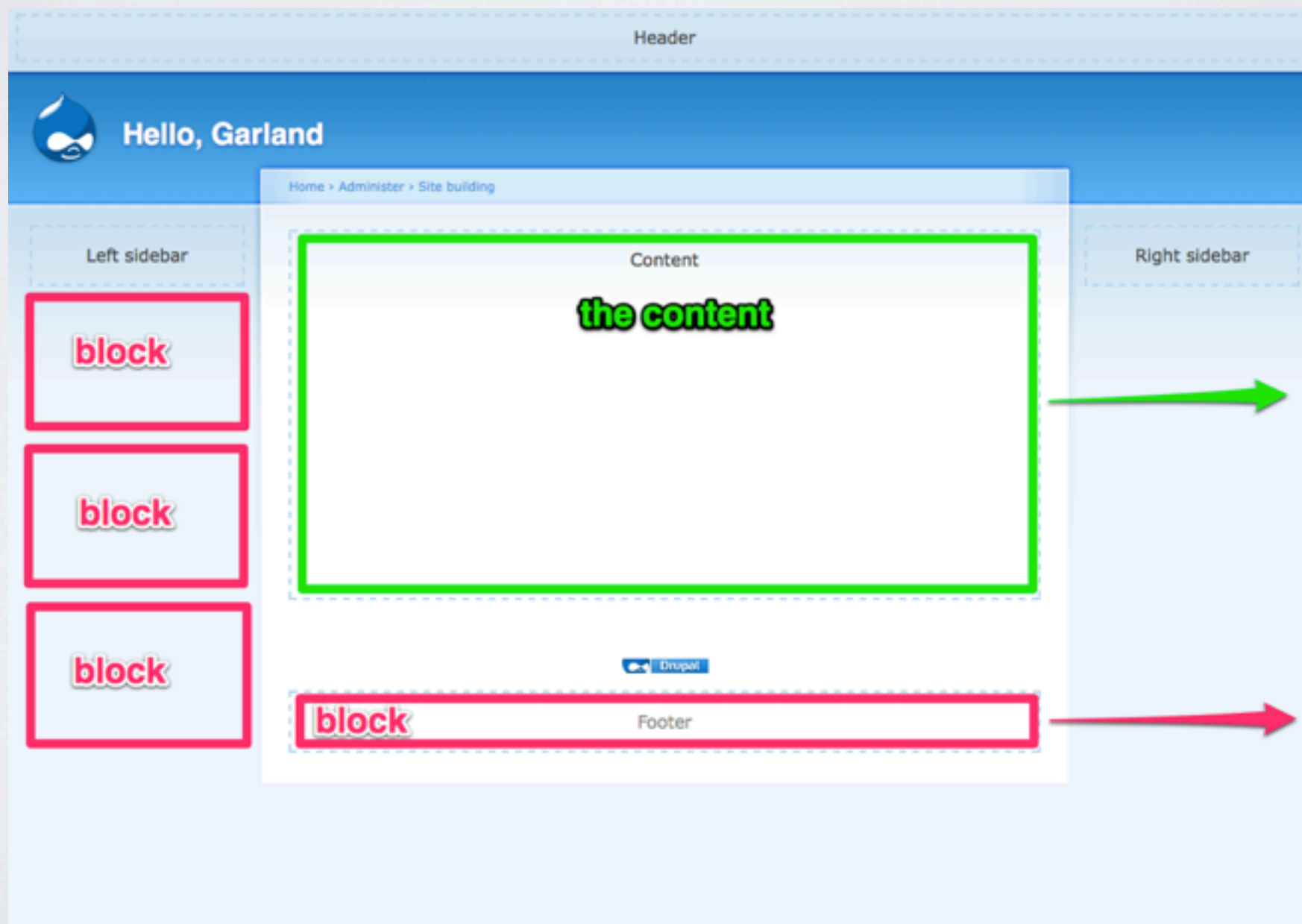
Pages:

Enter one page per line as Drupal paths. The '*' character is a wildcard. Example paths are `blog` and `front-page`. If the PHP-mode is chosen, enter PHP code between `<?php ?>`. Note that executing

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Solutions!

Magic layouts: regions that disappear when no content within



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Imperfect Solutions :/

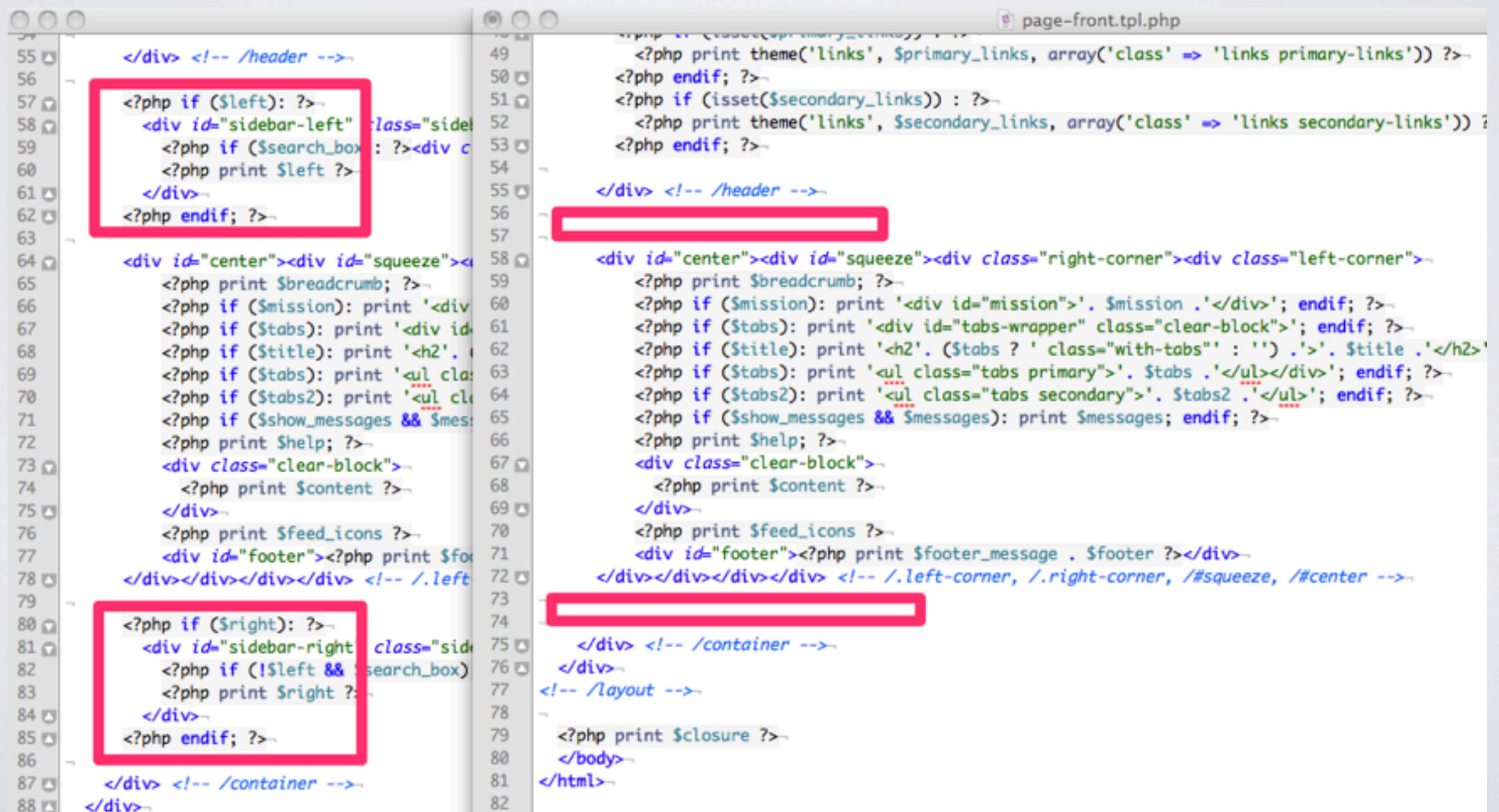
Every single block needs to be configured appropriately



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Solutions!

In code: prevent regions from being printed on certain pages.



```
55 </div> <!-- /header -->
56
57 <?php if ($left): ?>
58 <div id="sidebar-left" class="side
59 <?php if ($search_box): ?><div c
60 <?php print $left ?>
61 </div>
62 <?php endif; ?>
63
64 <div id="center"><div id="squeeze"><
65 <?php print $breadcrumb; ?>
66 <?php if ($mission): print '<div
67 <?php if ($tabs): print '<div id
68 <?php if ($title): print '<h2'.
69 <?php if ($tabs): print '<ul cla
70 <?php if ($tabs2): print '<ul cl
71 <?php if ($show_messages && $mes
72 <?php print $help; ?>
73 <div class="clear-block">
74 <?php print $content ?>
75 </div>
76 <?php print $feed_icons ?>
77 <div id="footer"><?php print $fo
78 </div></div></div></div> <!-- /.left
79
80 <?php if ($right): ?>
81 <div id="sidebar-right" class="side
82 <?php if (!$left && $search_box)
83 <?php print $right ?>
84 </div>
85 <?php endif; ?>
86
87 </div> <!-- /container -->
88 </div>
```

```
49 <?php print theme('links', $primary_links, array('class' => 'links primary-links')) ?>
50 <?php endif; ?>
51 <?php if (isset($secondary_links)) : ?>
52 <?php print theme('links', $secondary_links, array('class' => 'links secondary-links')) ?>
53 <?php endif; ?>
54
55 </div> <!-- /header -->
56
57
58 <div id="center"><div id="squeeze"><div class="right-corner"><div class="left-corner">
59 <?php print $breadcrumb; ?>
60 <?php if ($mission): print '<div id="mission">'. $mission .'</div>'; endif; ?>
61 <?php if ($tabs): print '<div id="tabs-wrapper" class="clear-block">'; endif; ?>
62 <?php if ($title): print '<h2'. ($tabs ? ' class="with-tabs"' : '') .'>'. $title .'</h2>';
63 <?php if ($tabs): print '<ul class="tabs primary">'. $tabs .'</ul></div>'; endif; ?>
64 <?php if ($tabs2): print '<ul class="tabs secondary">'. $tabs2 .'</ul>'; endif; ?>
65 <?php if ($show_messages && $messages): print $messages; endif; ?>
66 <?php print $help; ?>
67 <div class="clear-block">
68 <?php print $content ?>
69 </div>
70 <?php print $feed_icons ?>
71 <div id="footer"><?php print $footer_message . $footer ?></div>
72 </div></div></div></div> <!-- /.left-corner, /.right-corner, /#squeeze, /#center -->
73
74
75 </div> <!-- /container -->
76 </div>
77 <!-- /layout -->
78
79 <?php print $closure ?>
80 </body>
81 </html>
82
```

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Imperfect Solutions :/

Drupal still does all the work, resulting in performance waste



```
55 </div> <!-- /header -->
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57 <?php if ($left): ?>
58   <div id="sidebar-left" class="side
59     <?php if ($search_box): ?><div c
60     <?php print $left ?>
61   </div>
62 <?php endif; ?>
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64 <div id="center"><div id="squeeze"><
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86
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88 </div>
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58 <div id="center"><div id="squeeze"><div class="right-corner"><div class="left-corner">
59   <?php print $breadcrumb; ?>
60   <?php if ($mission): print '<div id="mission">'. $mission .'</div>'; endif; ?>
61   <?php if ($tabs): print '<div id="tabs-wrapper" class="clear-block">'; endif; ?>
62   <?php if ($title): print '<h2'. ($tabs ? ' class="with-tabs"' : '') .'>'. $title .'</h2>
63   <?php if ($tabs): print '<ul class="tabs primary">'. $tabs .'</ul></div>'; endif; ?>
64   <?php if ($tabs2): print '<ul class="tabs secondary">'. $tabs2 .'</ul>'; endif; ?>
65   <?php if ($show_messages && $messages): print $messages; endif; ?>
66   <?php print $help; ?>
67   <div class="clear-block">
68     <?php print $content ?>
69   </div>
70   <?php print $feed_icons ?>
71   <div id="footer"><?php print $footer_message . $footer ?></div>
72 </div></div></div></div> <!-- /.left-corner, /.right-corner, /#squeeze, /#center -->
73
74
75 </div> <!-- /container -->
76 </div>
77 <!-- /layout -->
78
79 <?php print $closure ?>
80 </body>
81 </html>
82
```

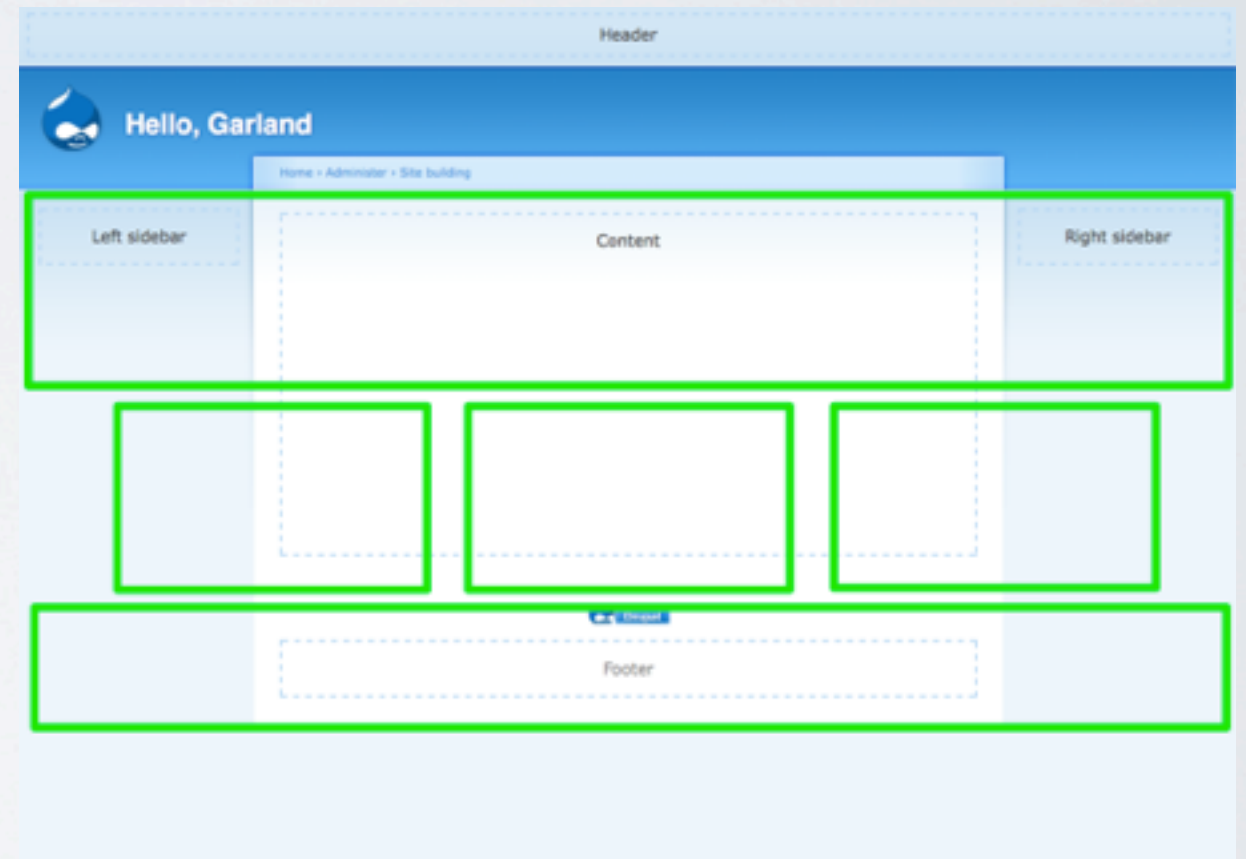

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Also, not good enough.

What if you want a completely different layout?



you have this



you want this

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Then it was time for Drupal 7

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

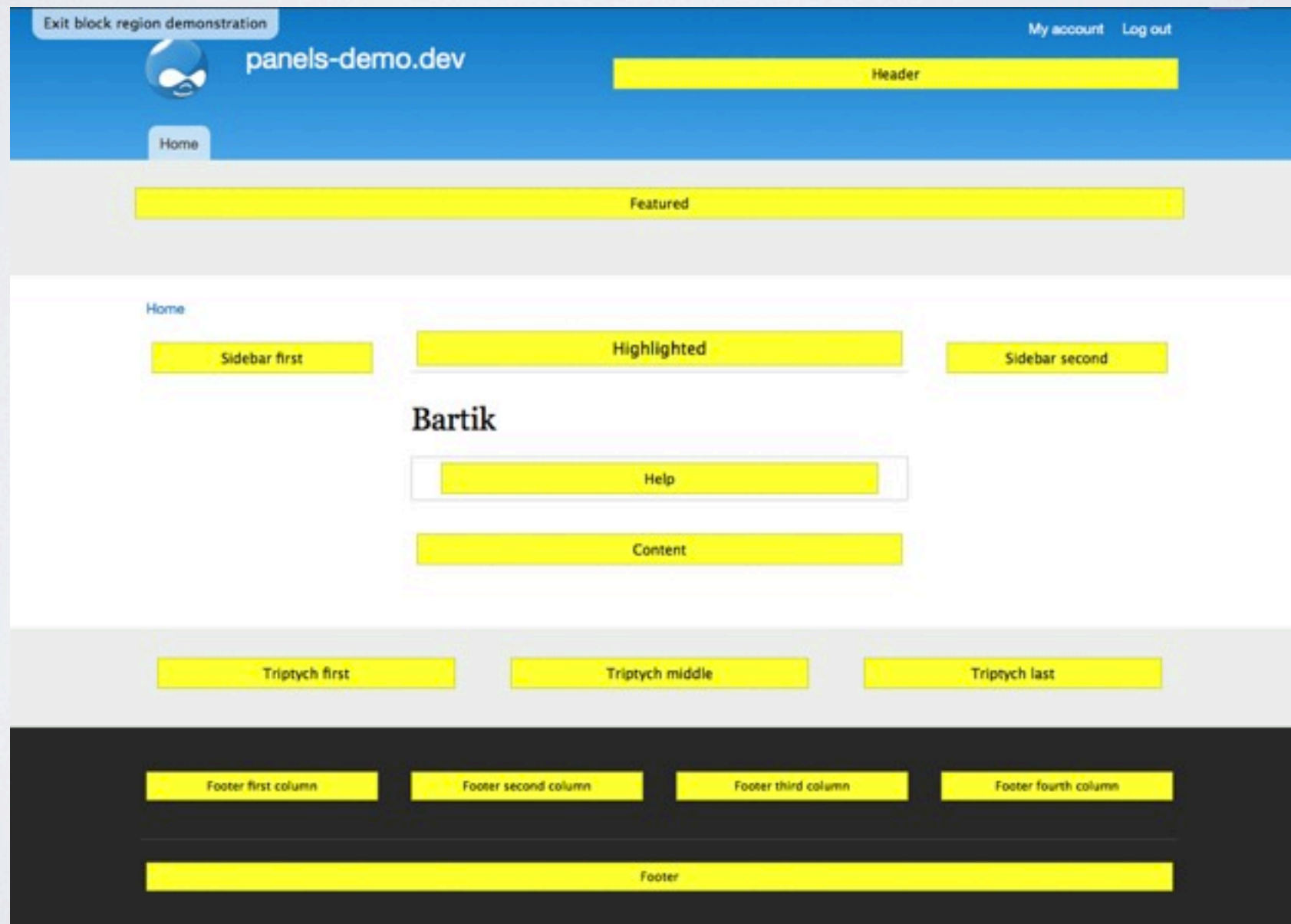
Then it was time for Drupal 7

What do we do?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Solutions!

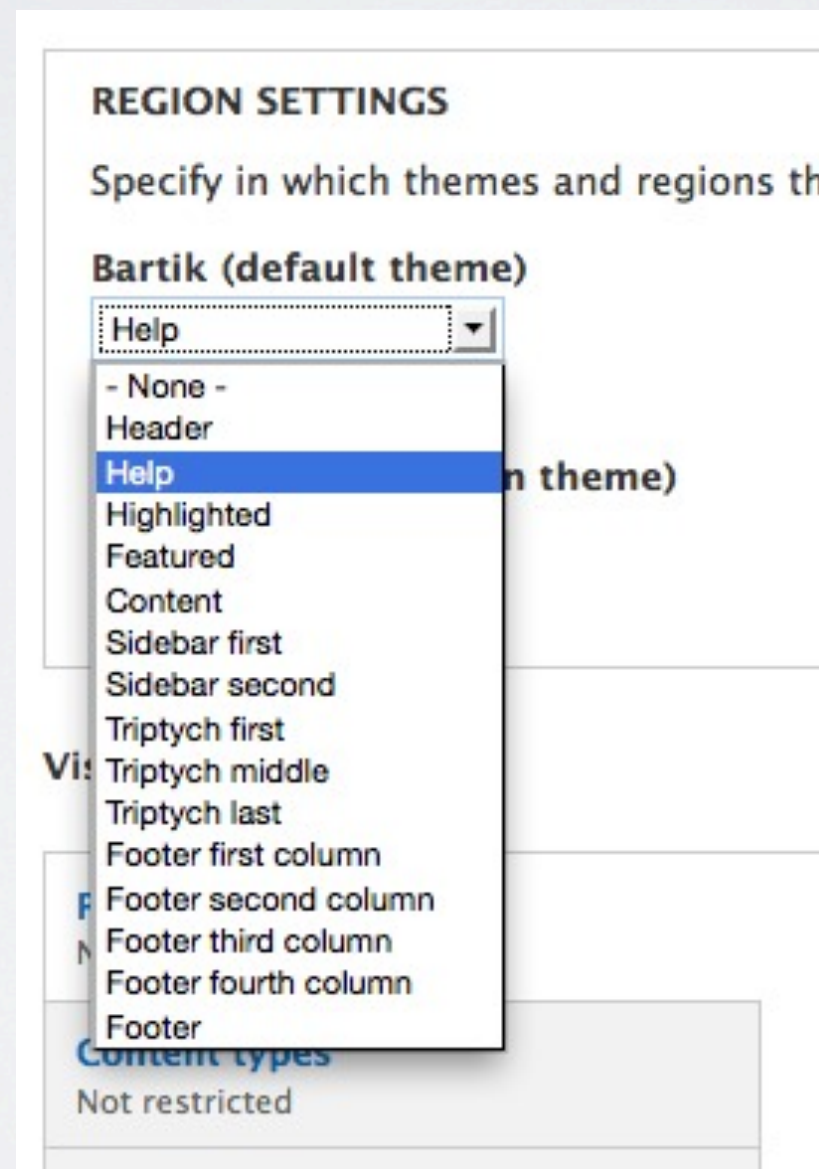
We include an even crazier default layout.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Imperfect Solutions :/

whoopsie, we may have over done it.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Imperfect Solutions :/

Our “content” is still stuck in the middle



A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

Also, still not good enough.

It's still hard to make a completely different layout.



you have this now



you still want this

so what is the perfect solution?

PANELS

PANELS

Panels allows you to control the layout of your site.

PANELS

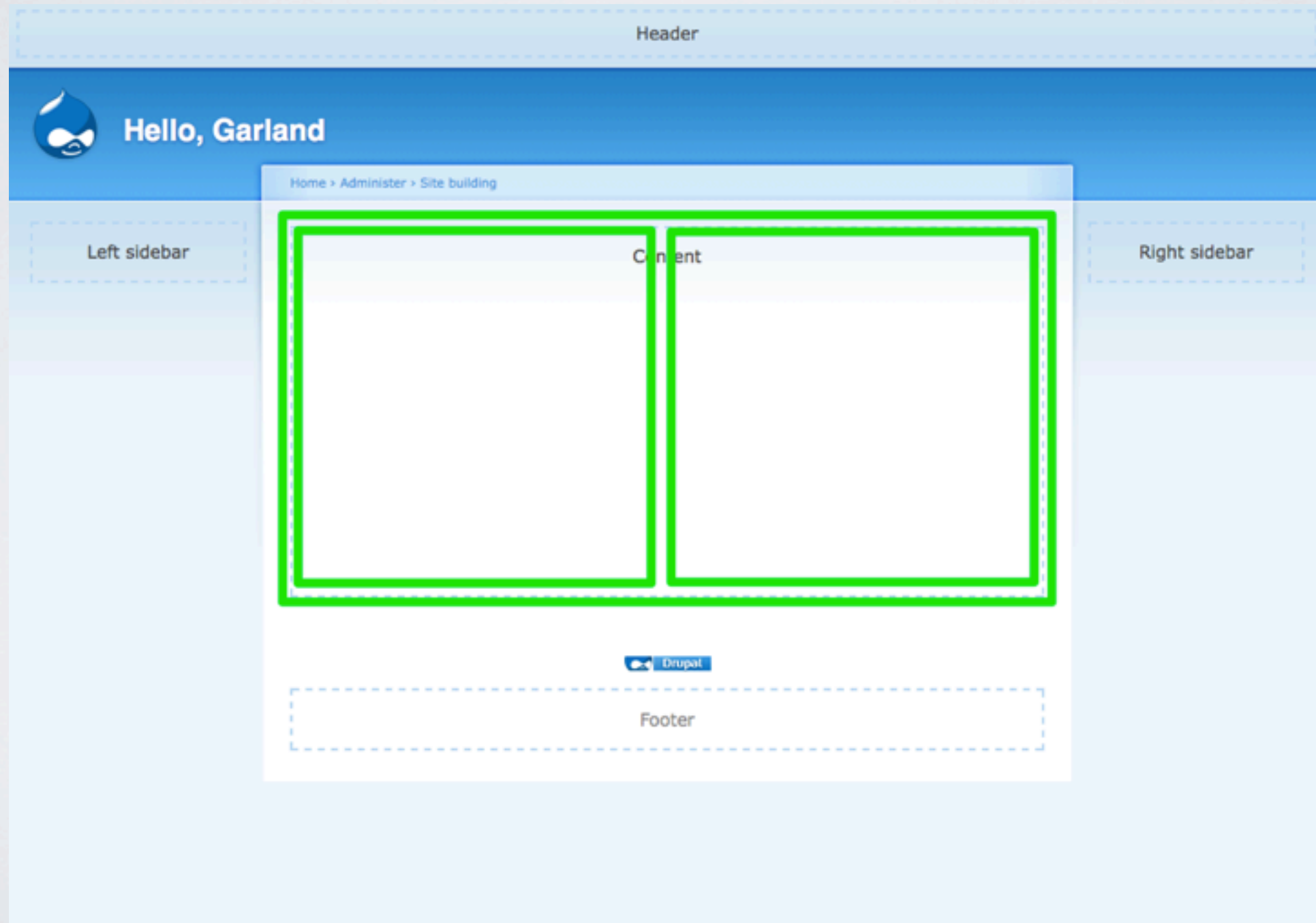
But it requires a *shift* in how you think about site architecture.

PANELS

Panels allows you to control the layout of your **site**
by controlling the layout of your **content**

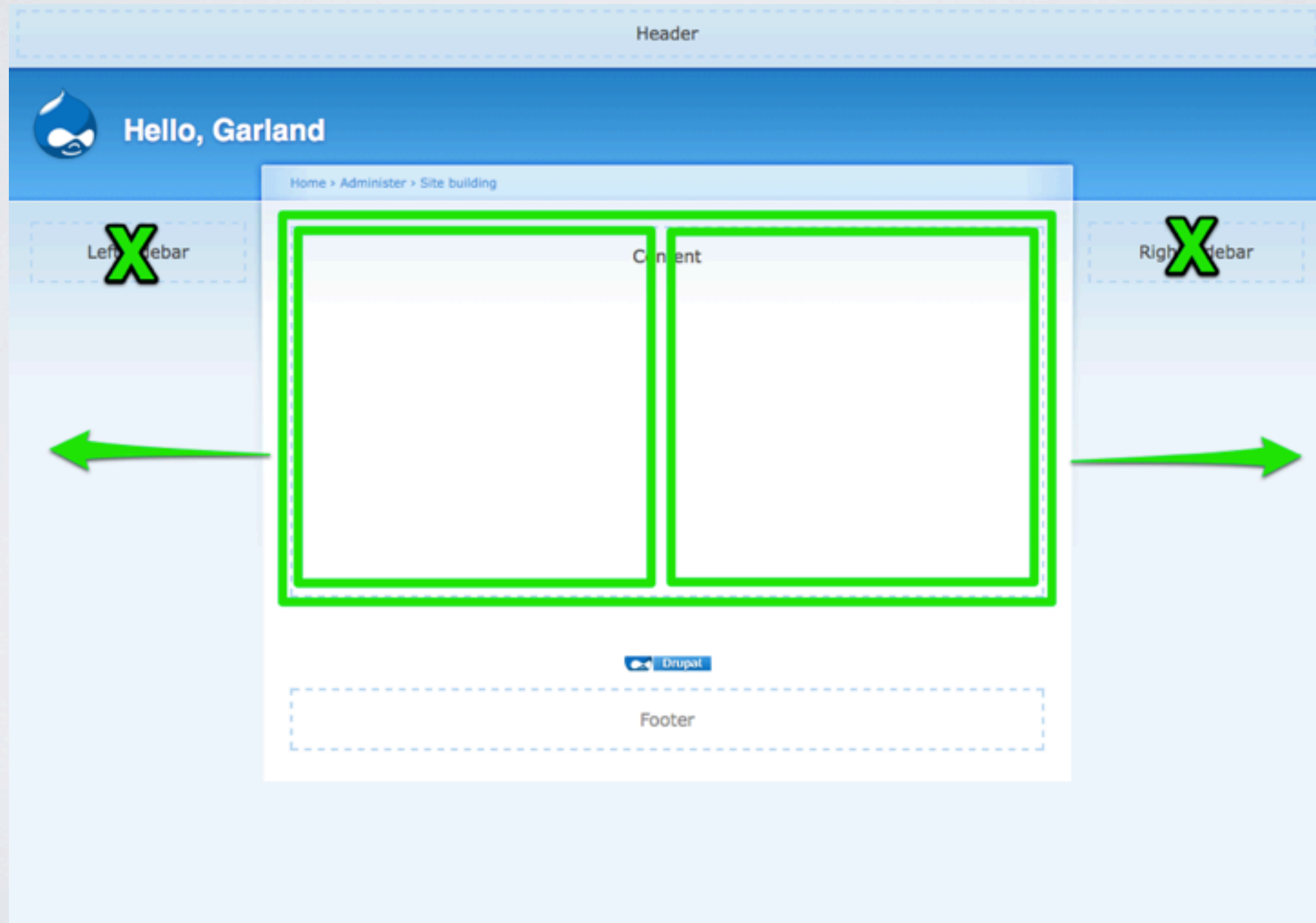
PANELS

two-column **content** layout



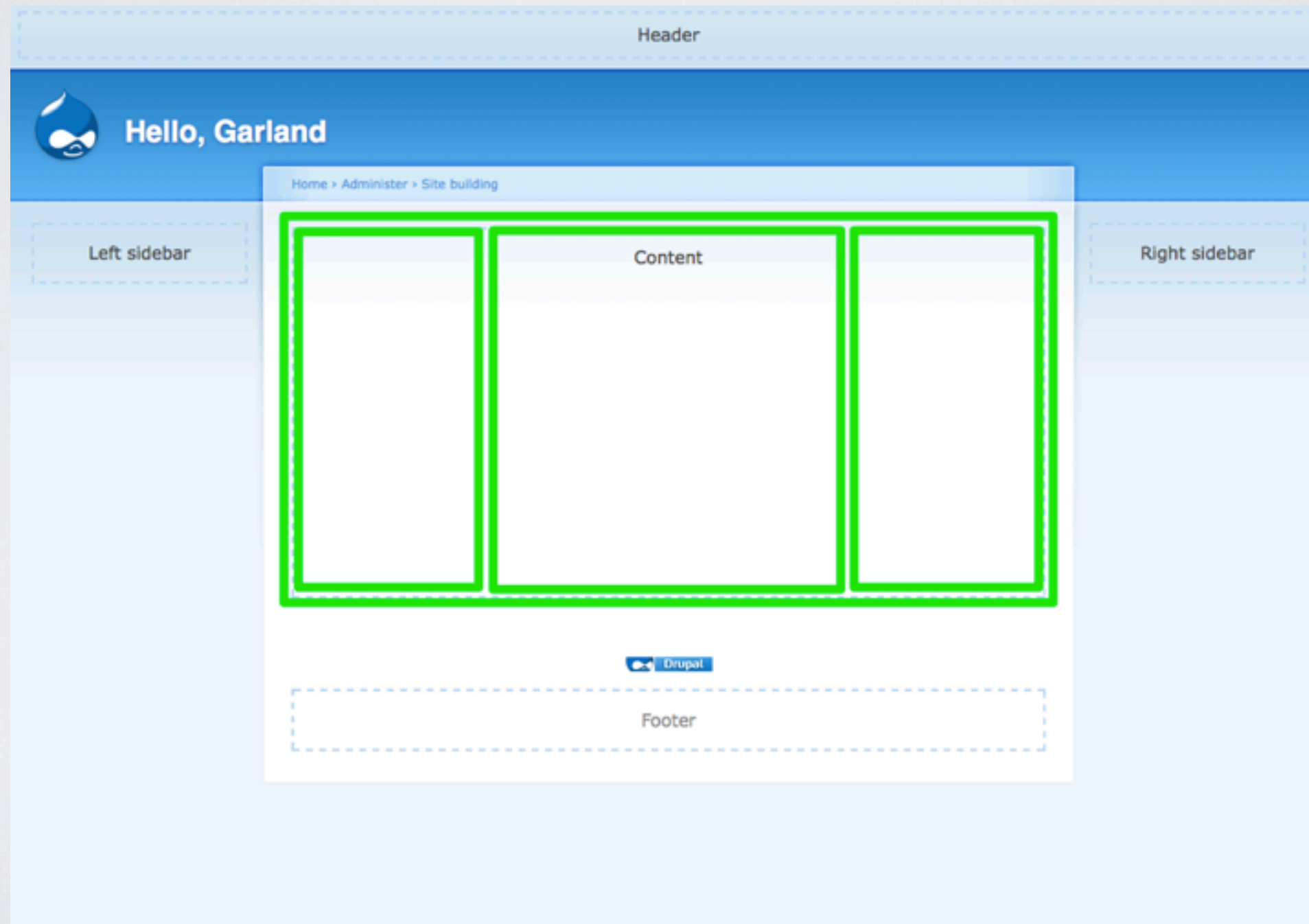
PANELS

two-column **site** layout



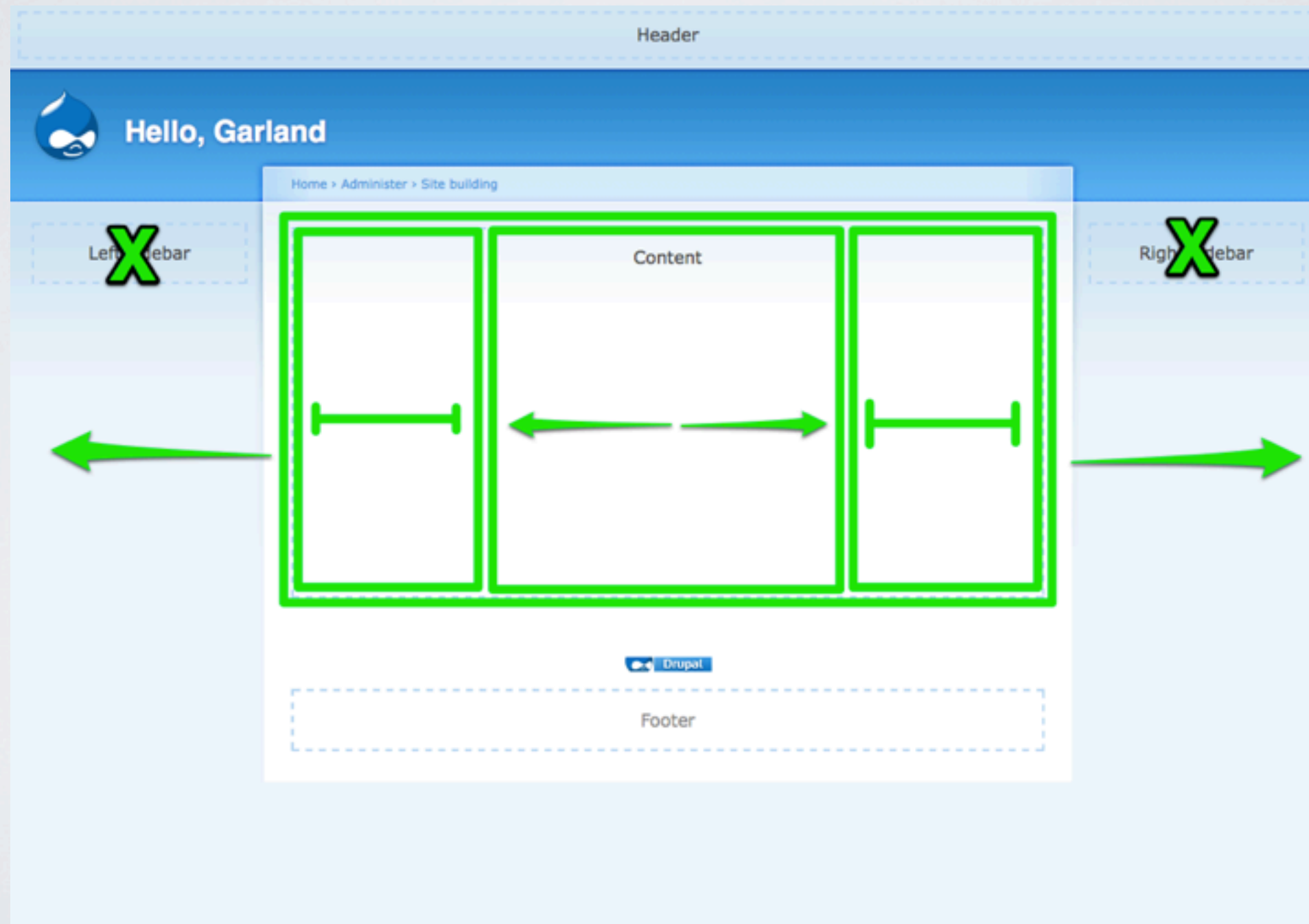
PANELS

three-column **site** layout



PANELS

three-column **site** layout



PANELS

what does this mean?

PANELS

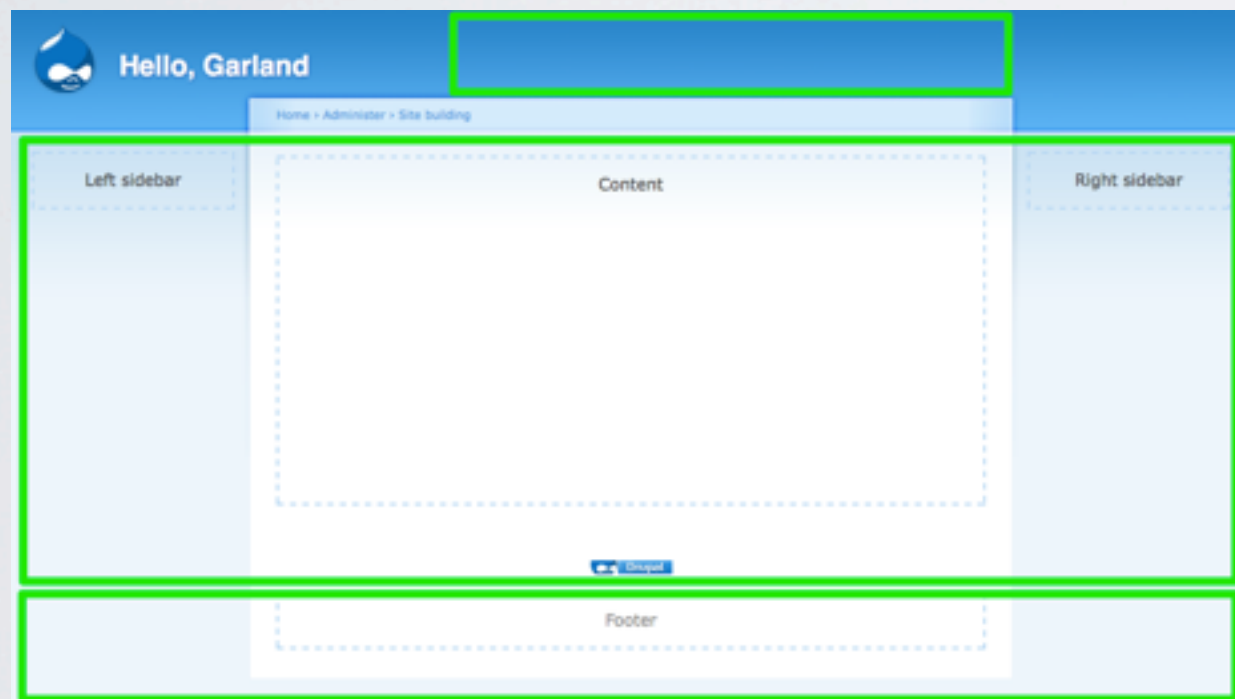
what does this mean?

I) You don't need very many regions in your theme.

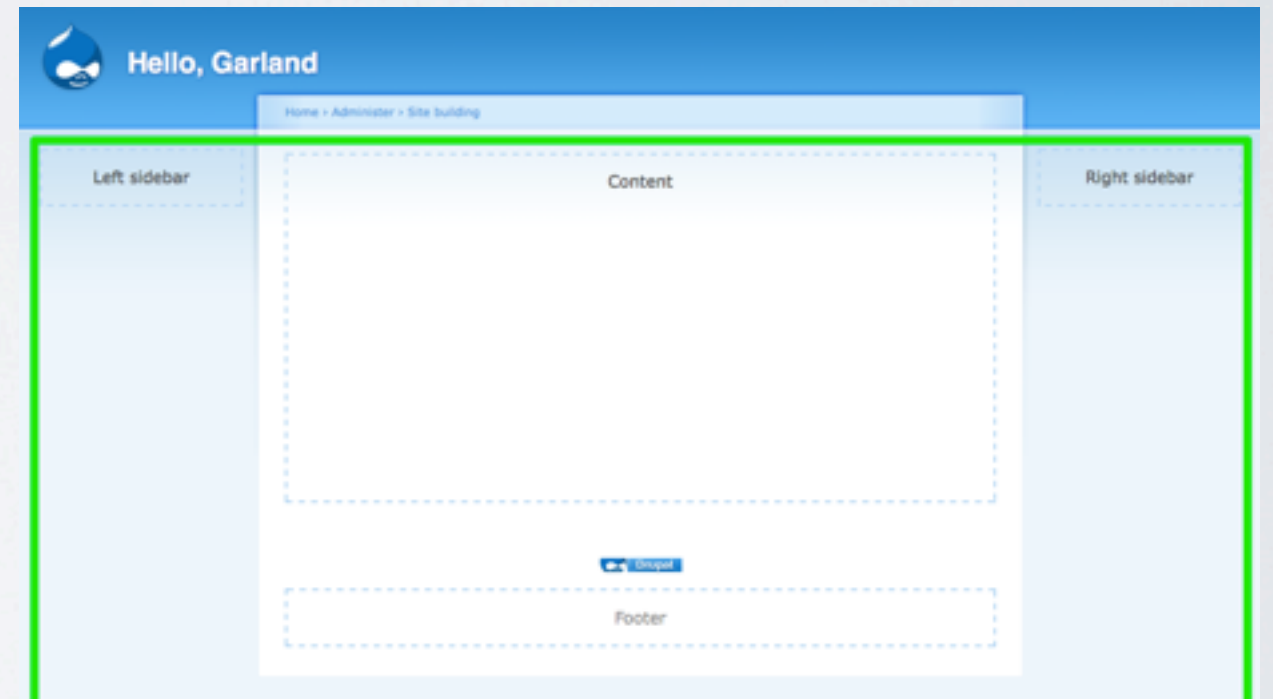
PANELS

what does this mean?

1) You don't need very many regions in your theme.



3 regions



only 1 region

PANELS

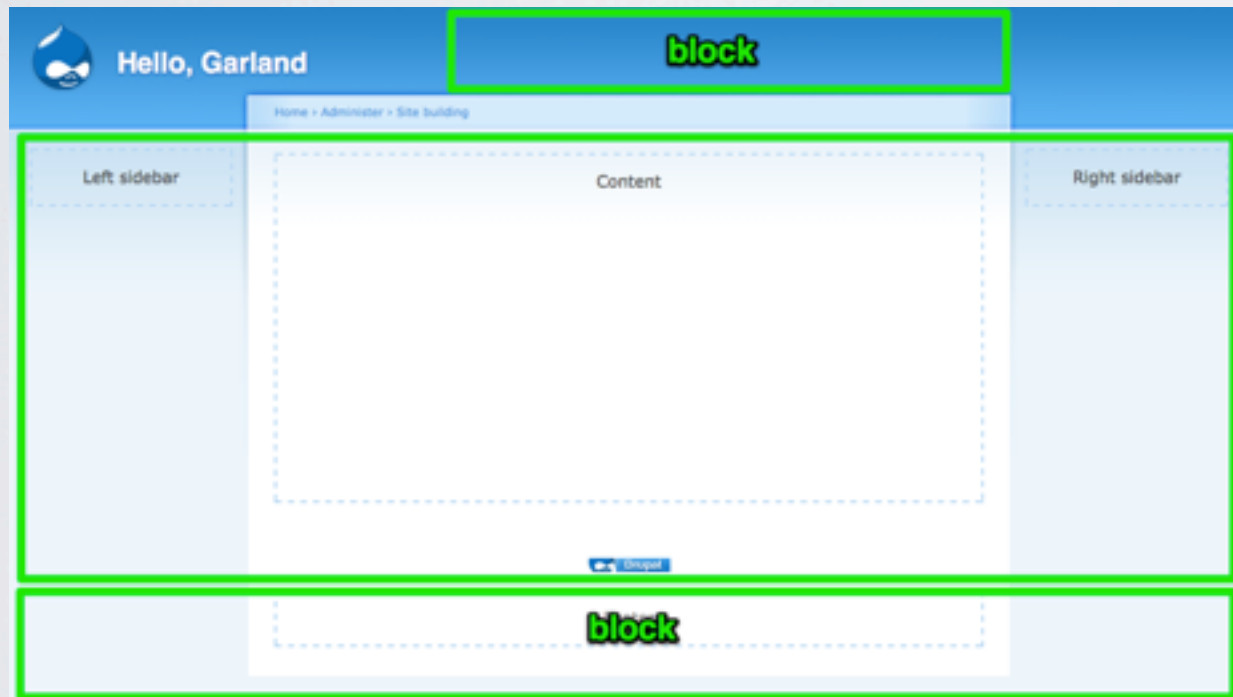
what does this mean?

2) You won't be doing very much with Blocks

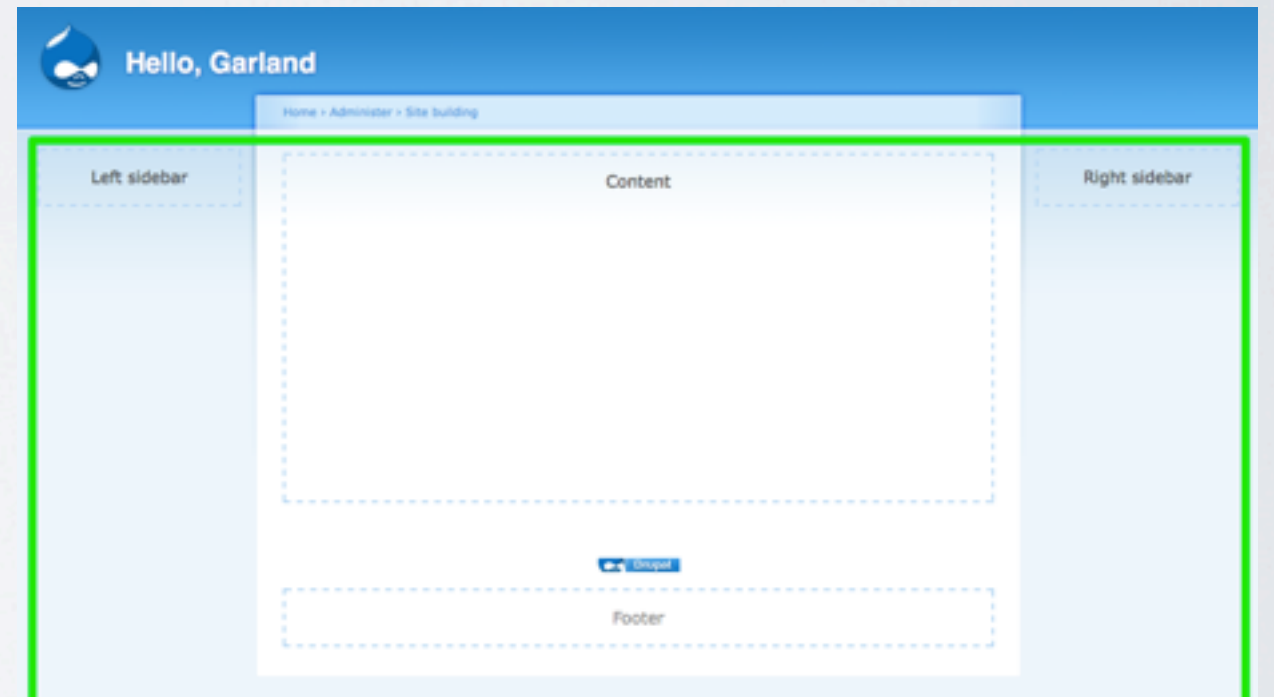
PANELS

what does this mean?

2) You won't be doing very much with Blocks



2 blocks



no blocks!

PANELS

what does this mean?

3) Everything is content.

PANELS

what does this mean?

3) Everything is content.



LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

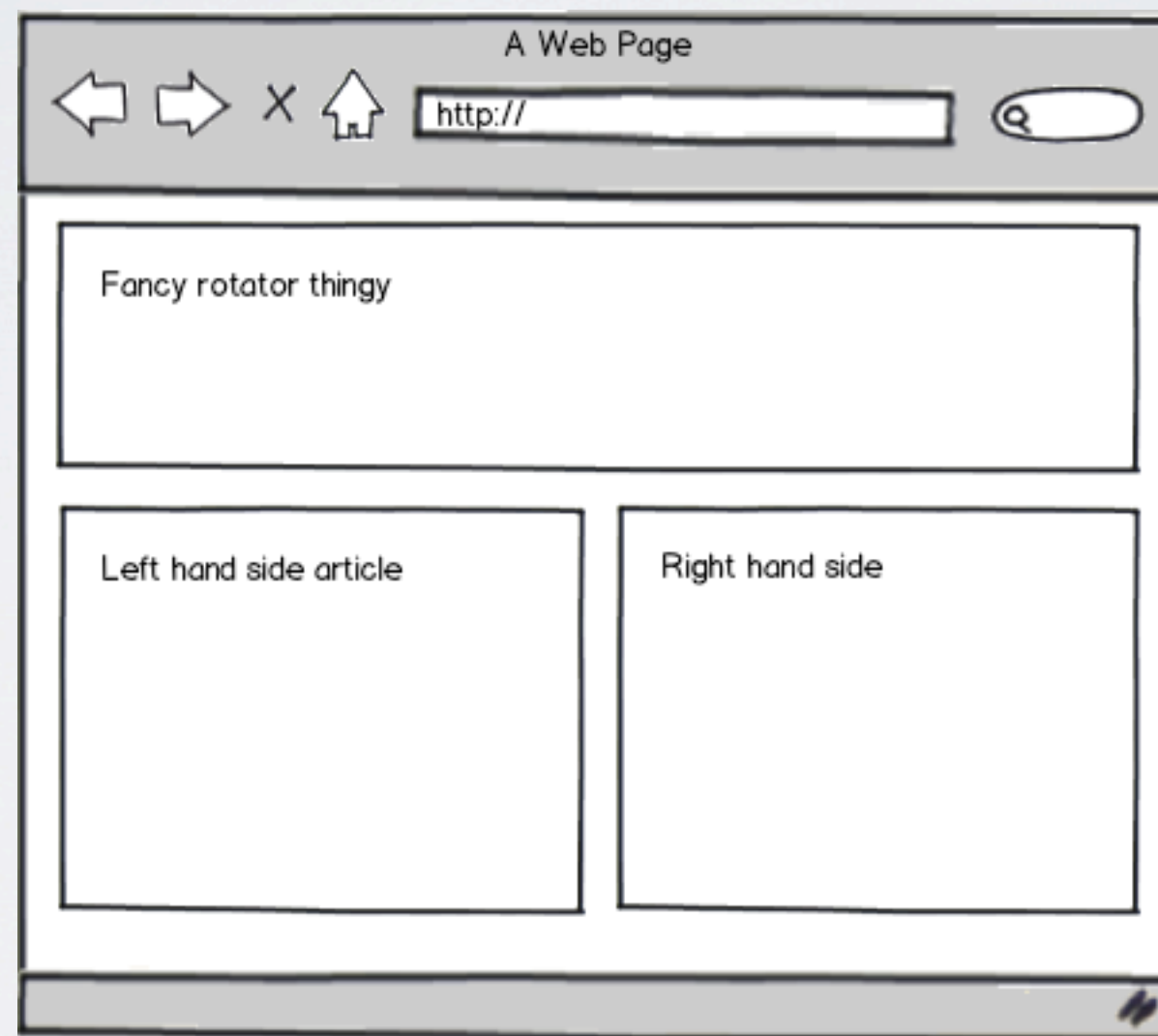
Things Drupal doesn't do very well:

- home pages
- content pages
- taxonomy term listing pages
- custom landing pages
- user profile pages (if there's time)

LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

(build with panels)

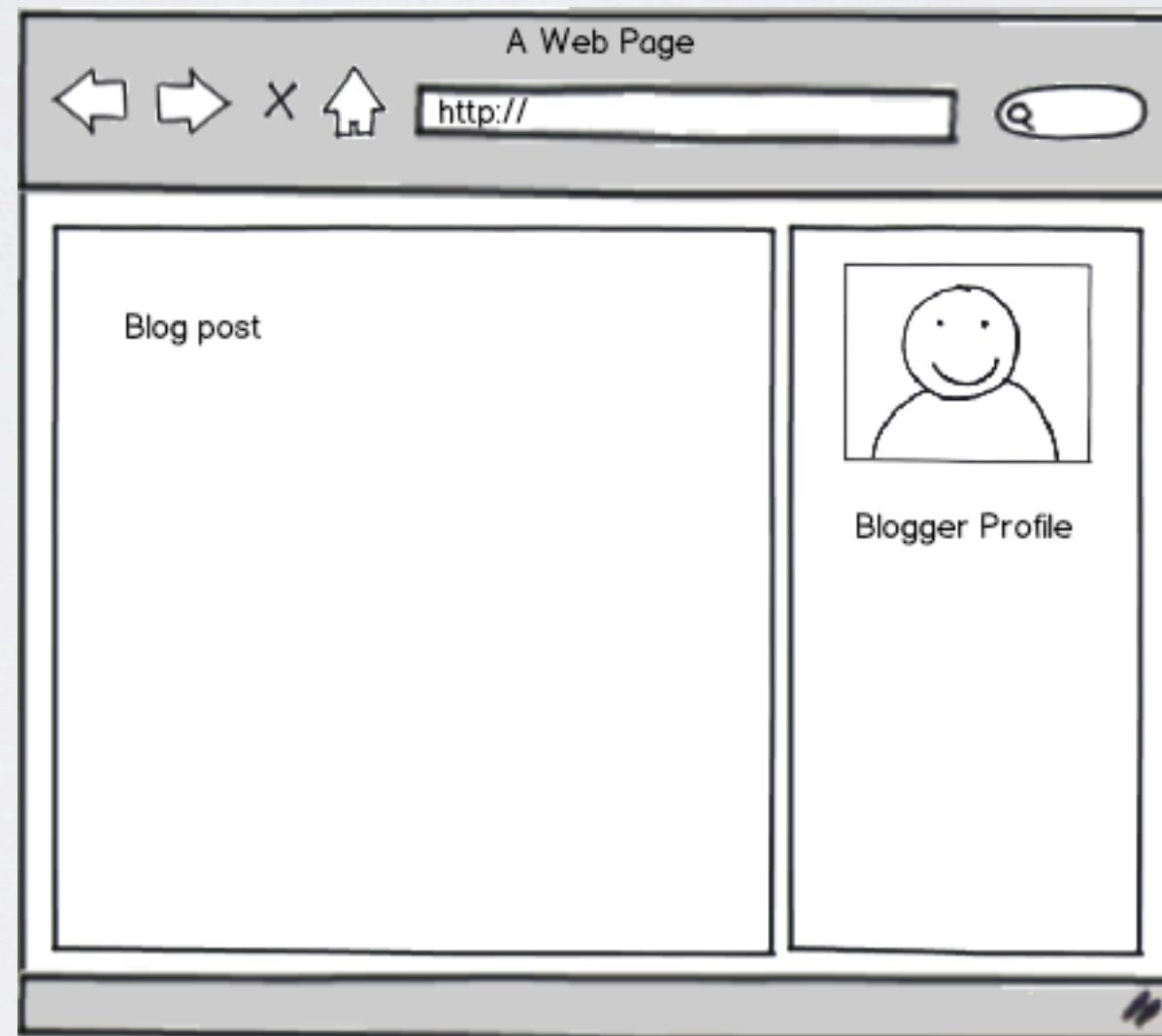
Home page



LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

(build with panels)

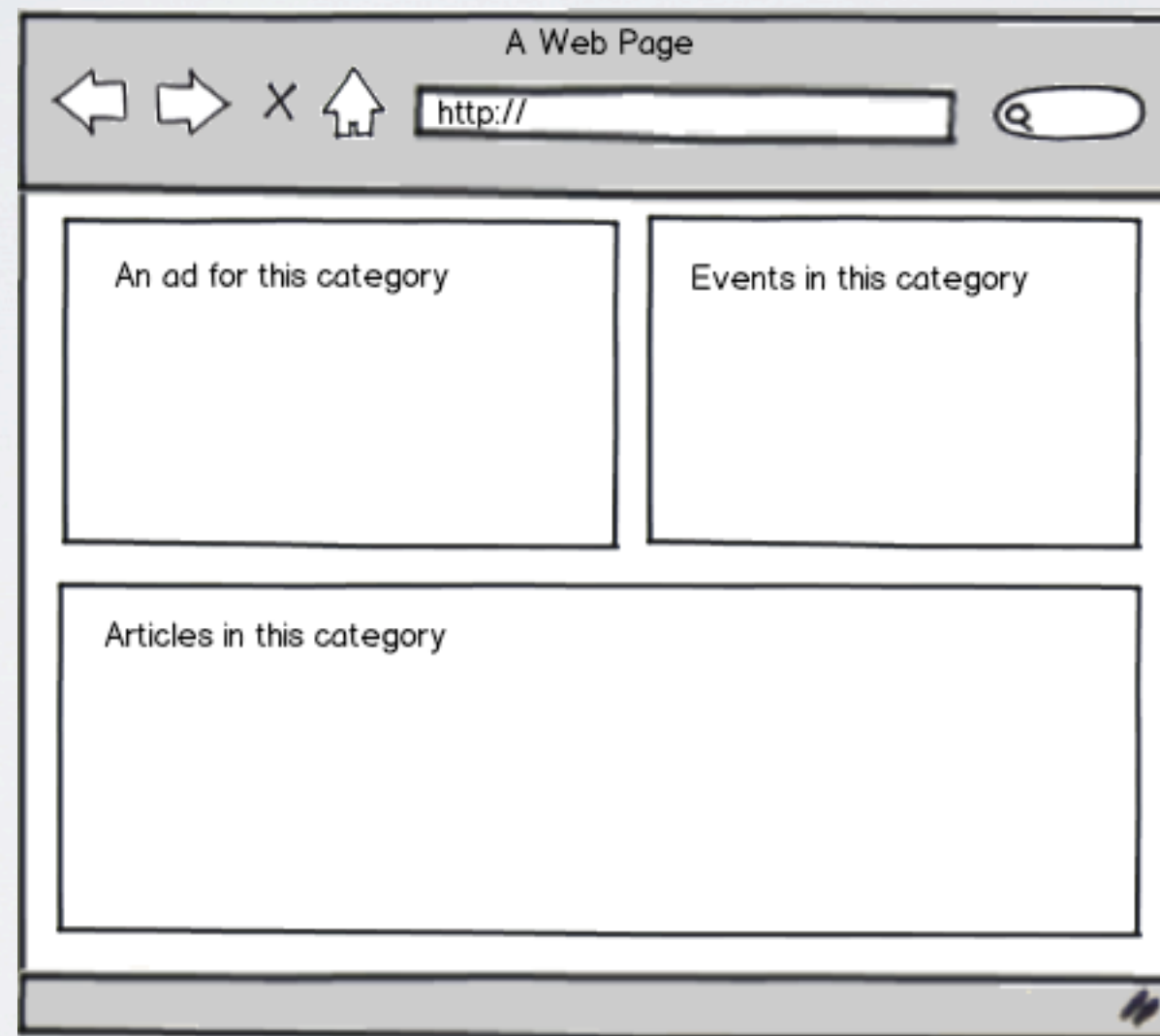
Blog post (node page)



LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

(build with panels)

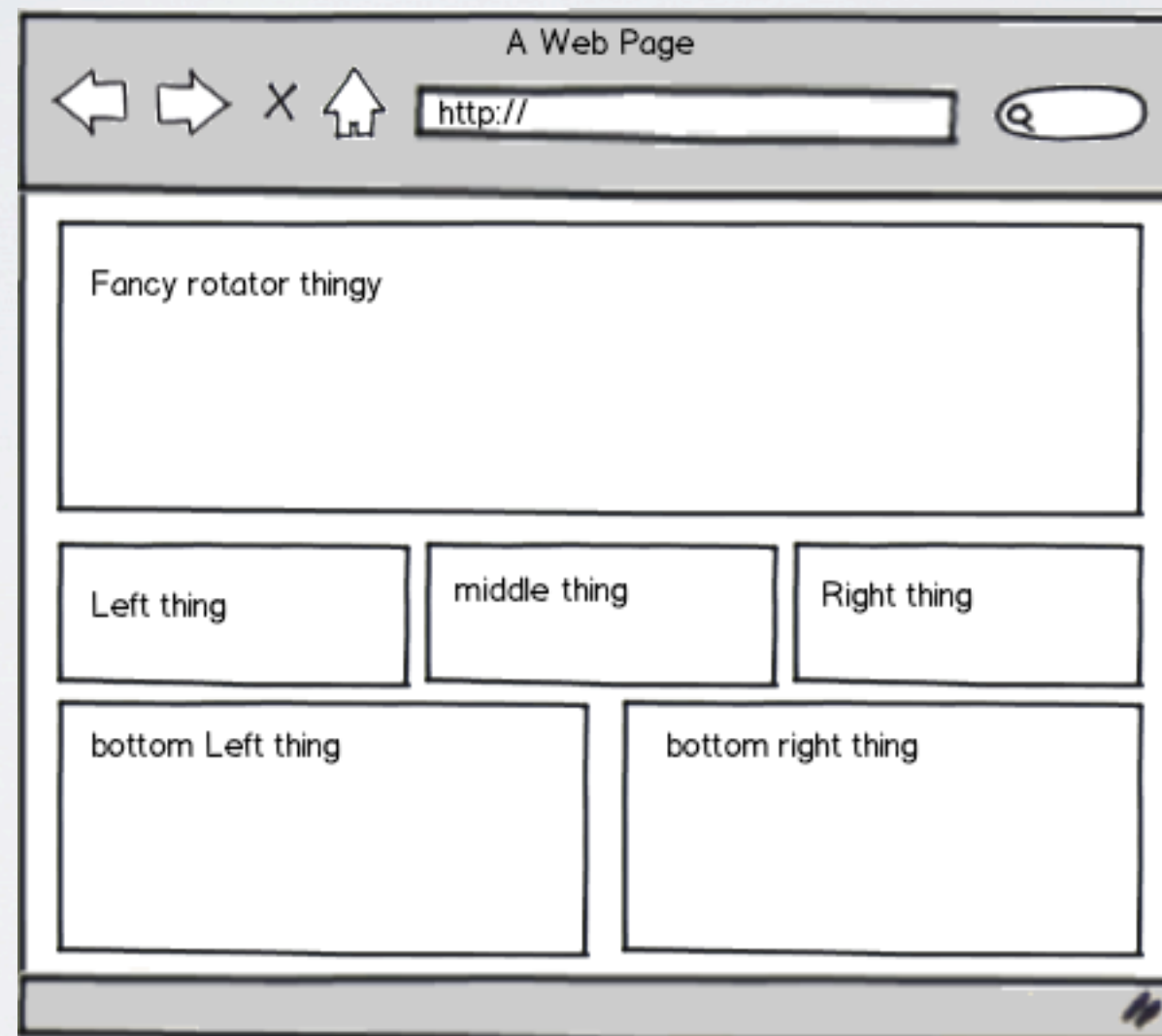
Category page (taxonomy term listing page)



LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

(build with panels)

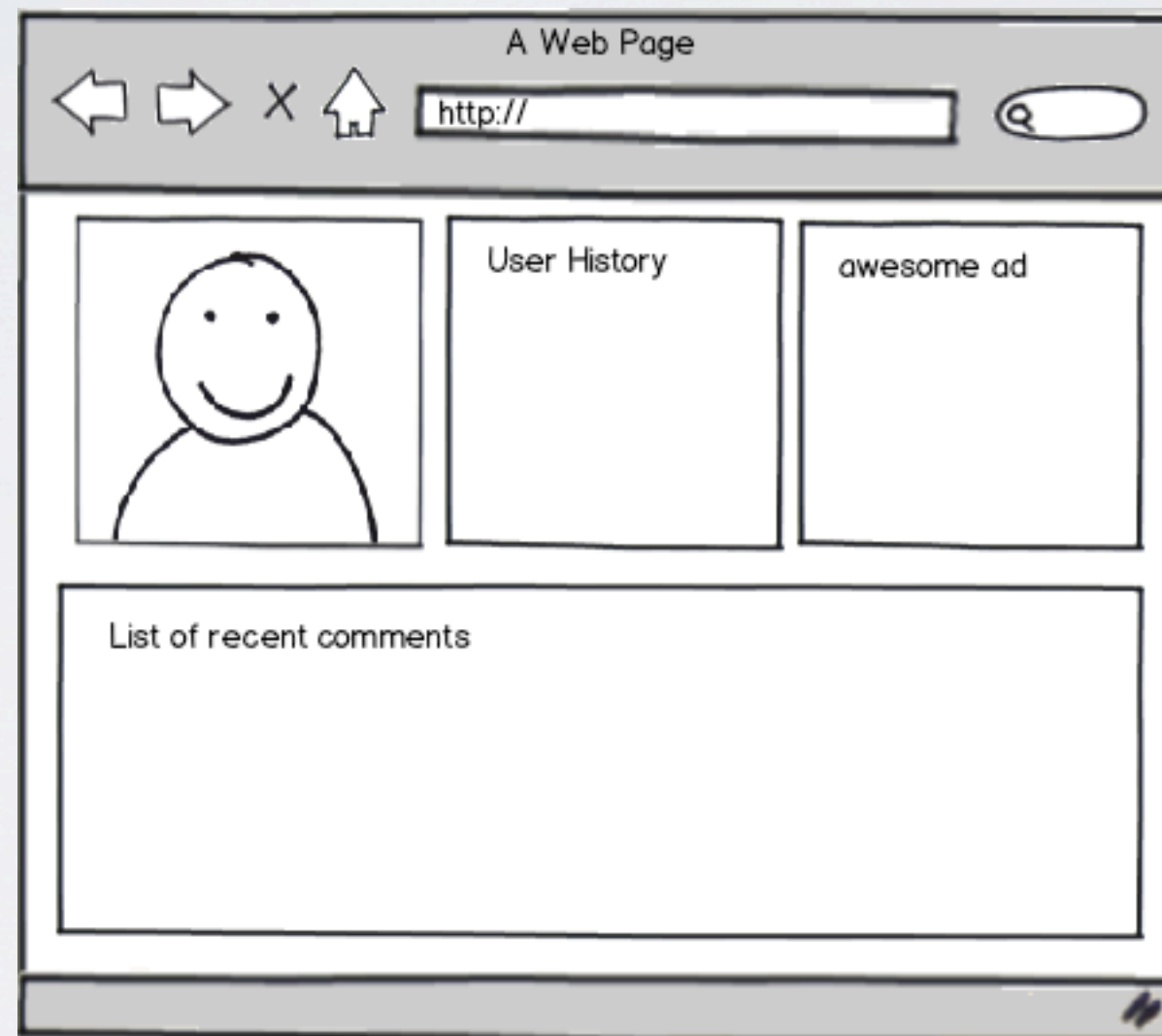
Landing page (custom page)



LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

(build with panels)

User profile



WHERE'S THE CODE?

Everything is pluggable

- 1) panels layouts
- 2) content types (panels panes)
- 3) pane styles
- 4) access rules
- 5) contexts

OUT OF TIME ALREADY?

More panels info:

video series:

Panels

by yours truly
on drupalize.me

Book:

Drupal's Building Blocks
by Earl & Lynette Miles

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