

# BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Complex interfaces for simple problems

Stanford  
**Drupal Camp** April 5-6, 2013



# BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

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if you forget my name, just Google “Drupal developer”

# 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!**

Jen Lampton

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!**

Jen Lampton

Improving the theme layer for Drupal since 2012

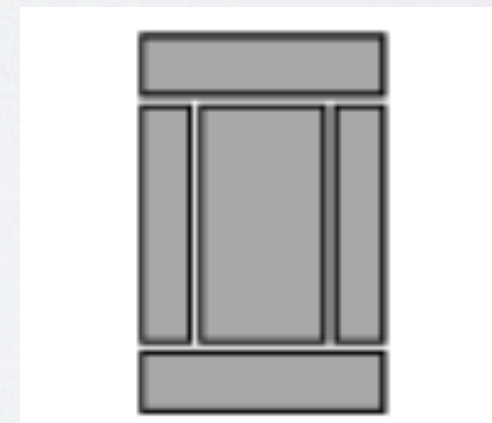




# BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

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?

# 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?



# 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?



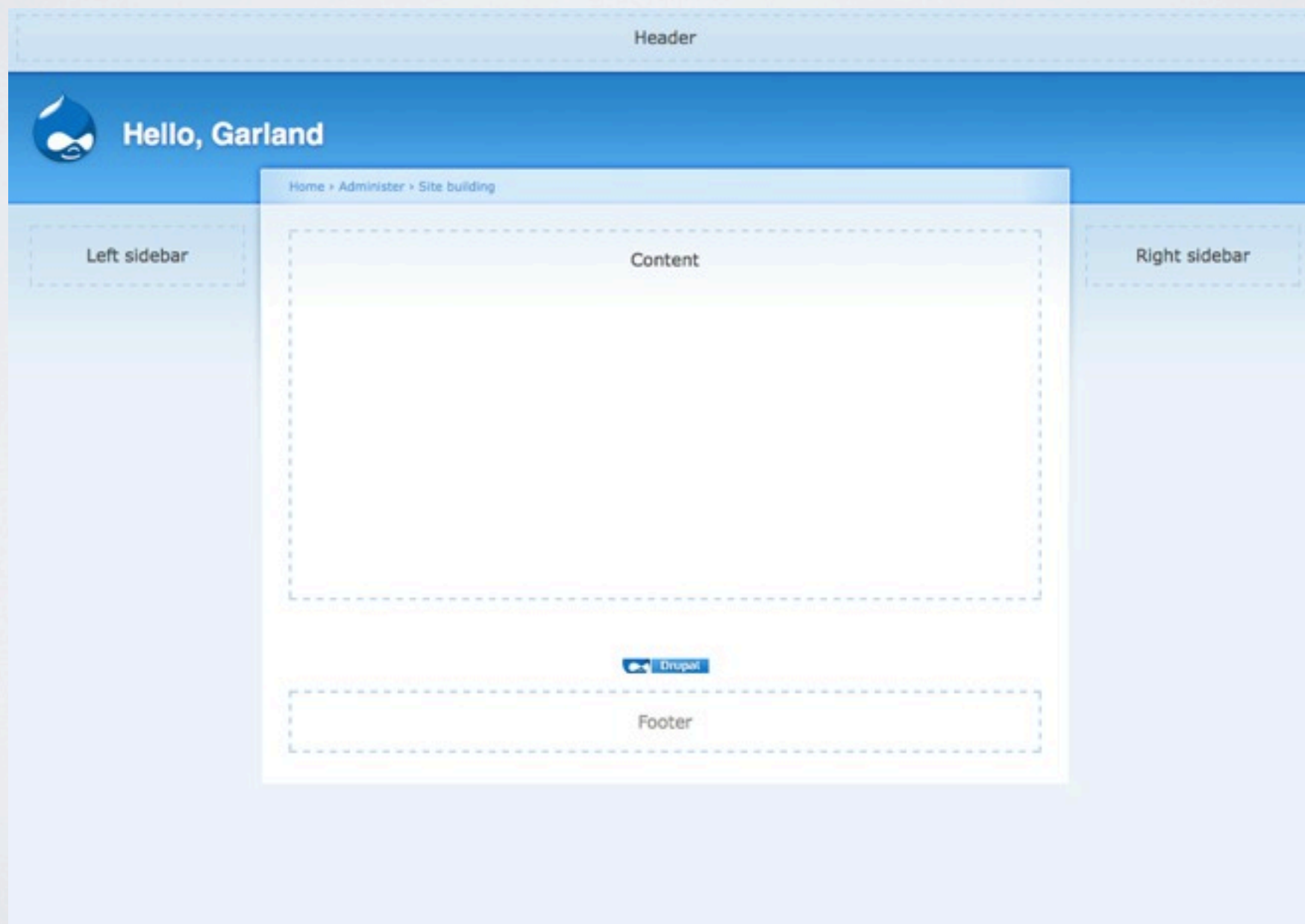
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

**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...

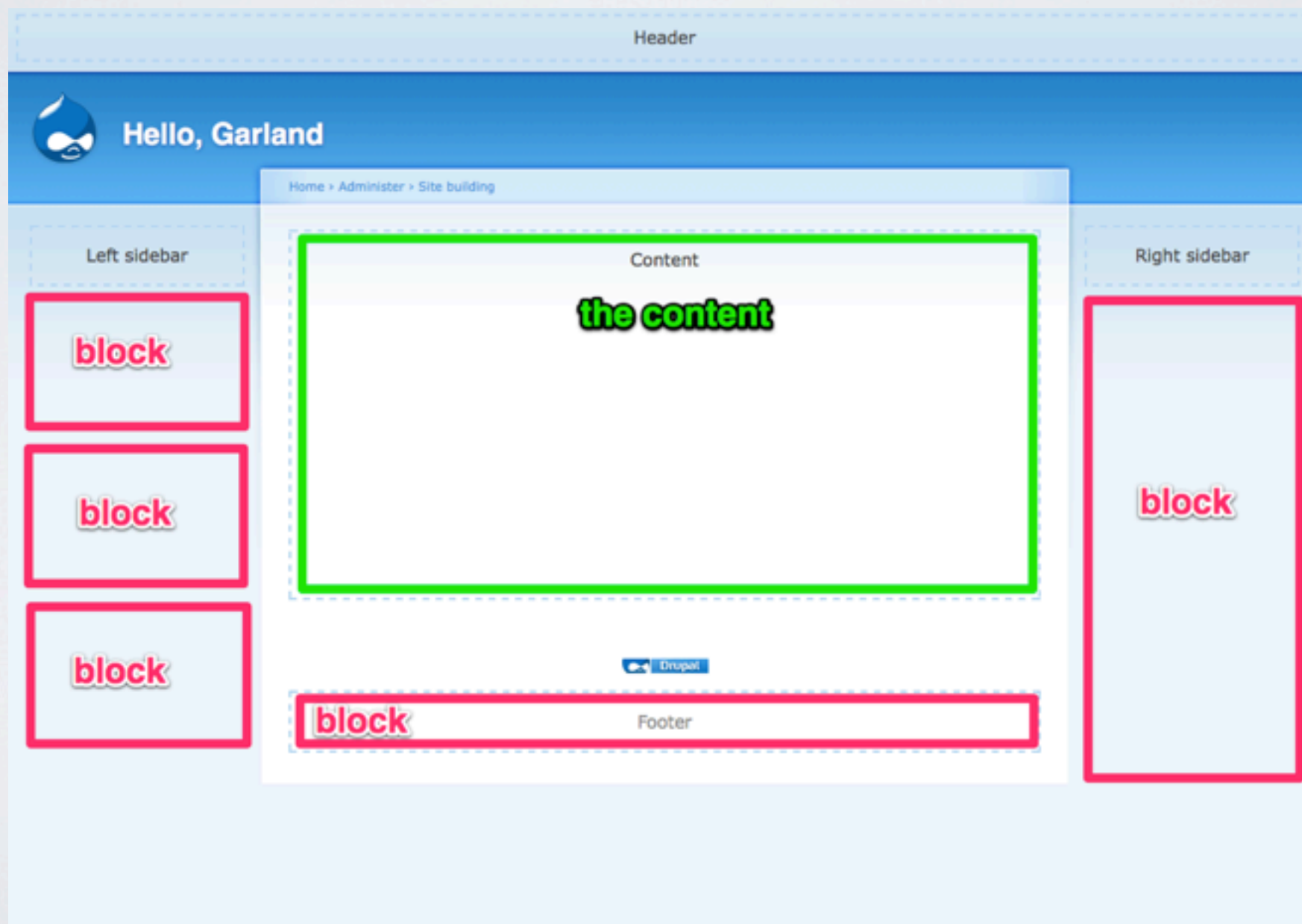
where “the content” was often in the middle



# 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... :)**

for a while, this was fine

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

**Once upon a time... :(**

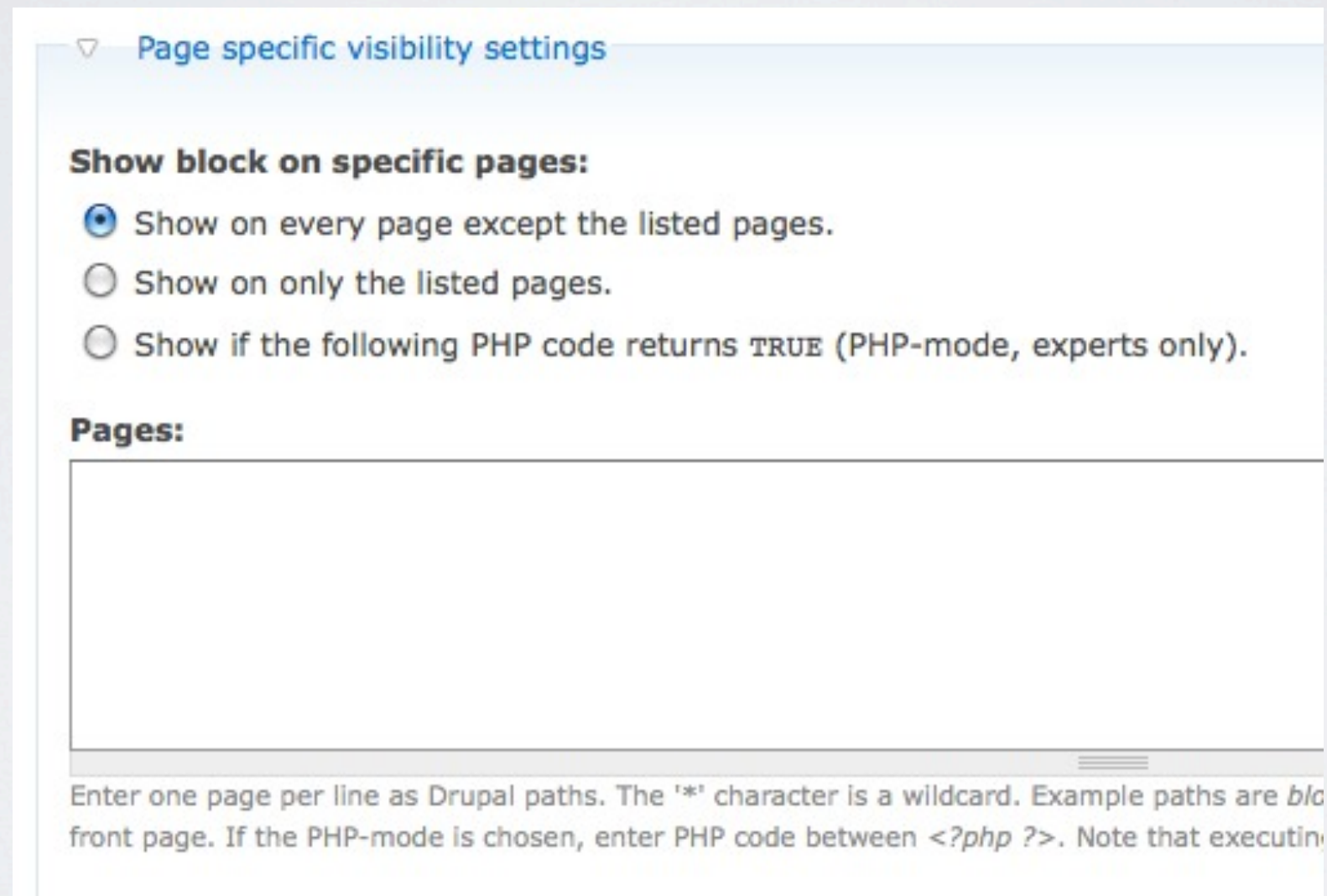
one-layout-fits-all approach doesn't always cut it



# 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).

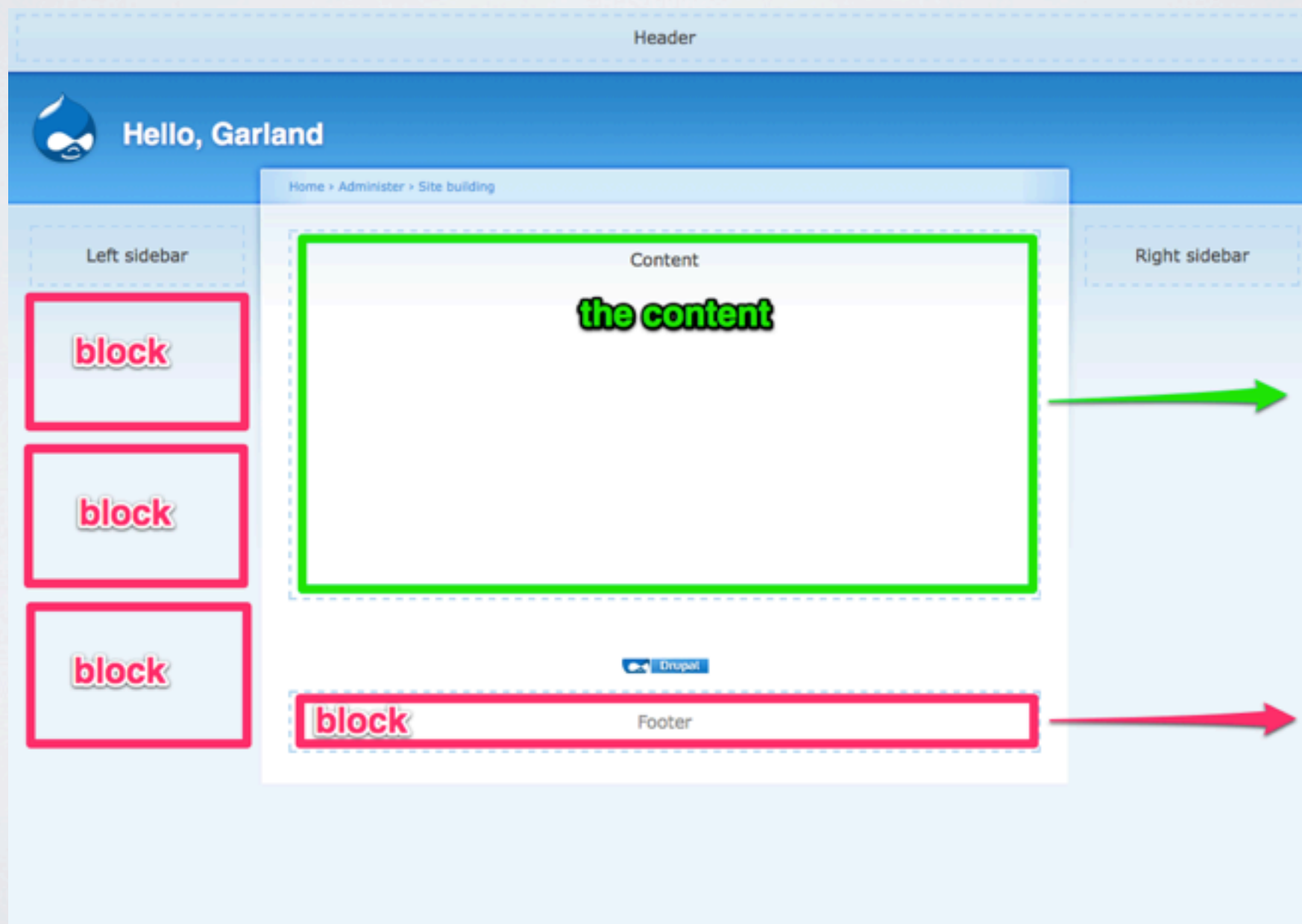
**Pages:**

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

Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure
Right sidebar	configure

# 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



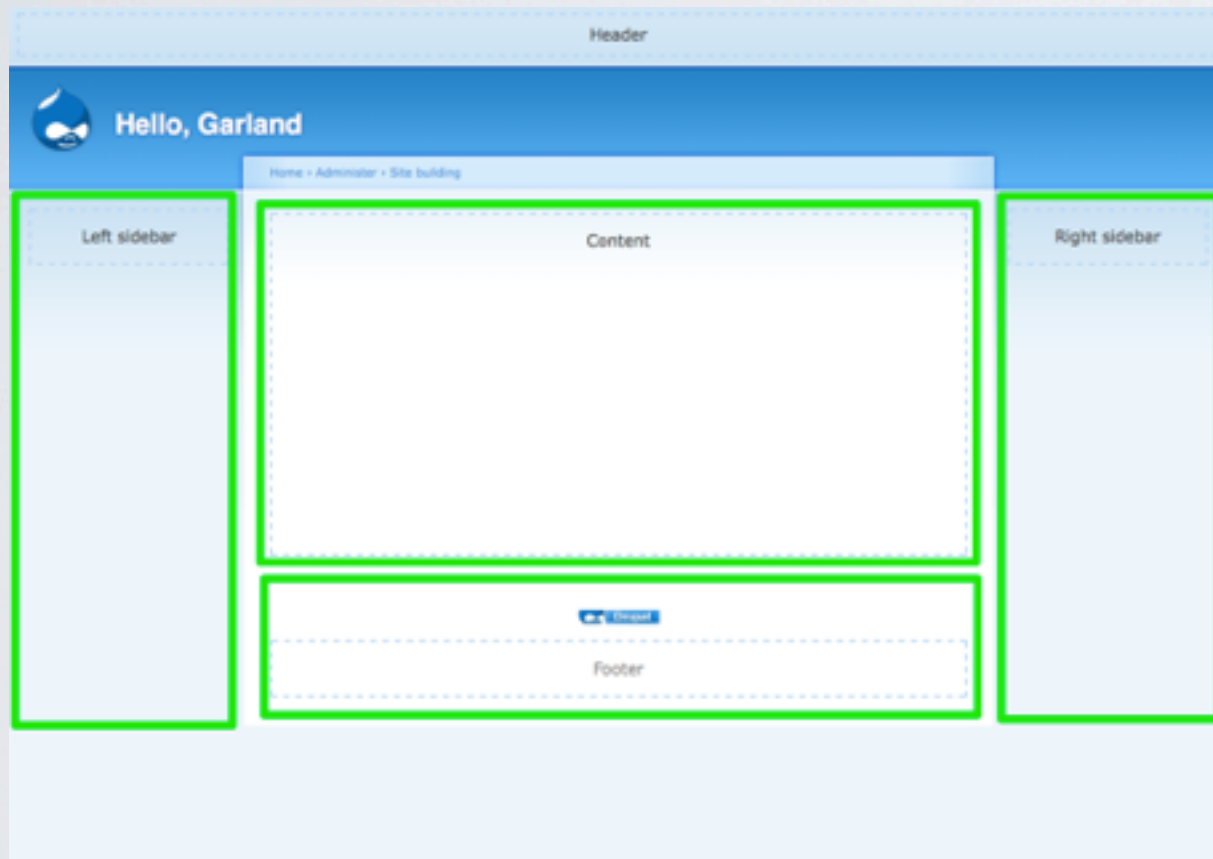
```
55 </div> <!-- /header -->
56
57 <?php if ($left): ?>
58   <div id="sidebar-left" class="side
59     <?php if ($search_box): ?><div c
60     <?php print $left ?>
61   </div>
62 <?php endif; ?>
63
64 <div id="center"><div id="squeeze"><
65   <?php print $breadcrumb; ?>
66   <?php if ($mission): print '<div
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77   <div id="footer"><?php print $fo
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79
80 <?php if ($right): ?>
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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', $primary_links, array('class' => 'links primary-links')) ?>
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51 <?php if (isset($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
```

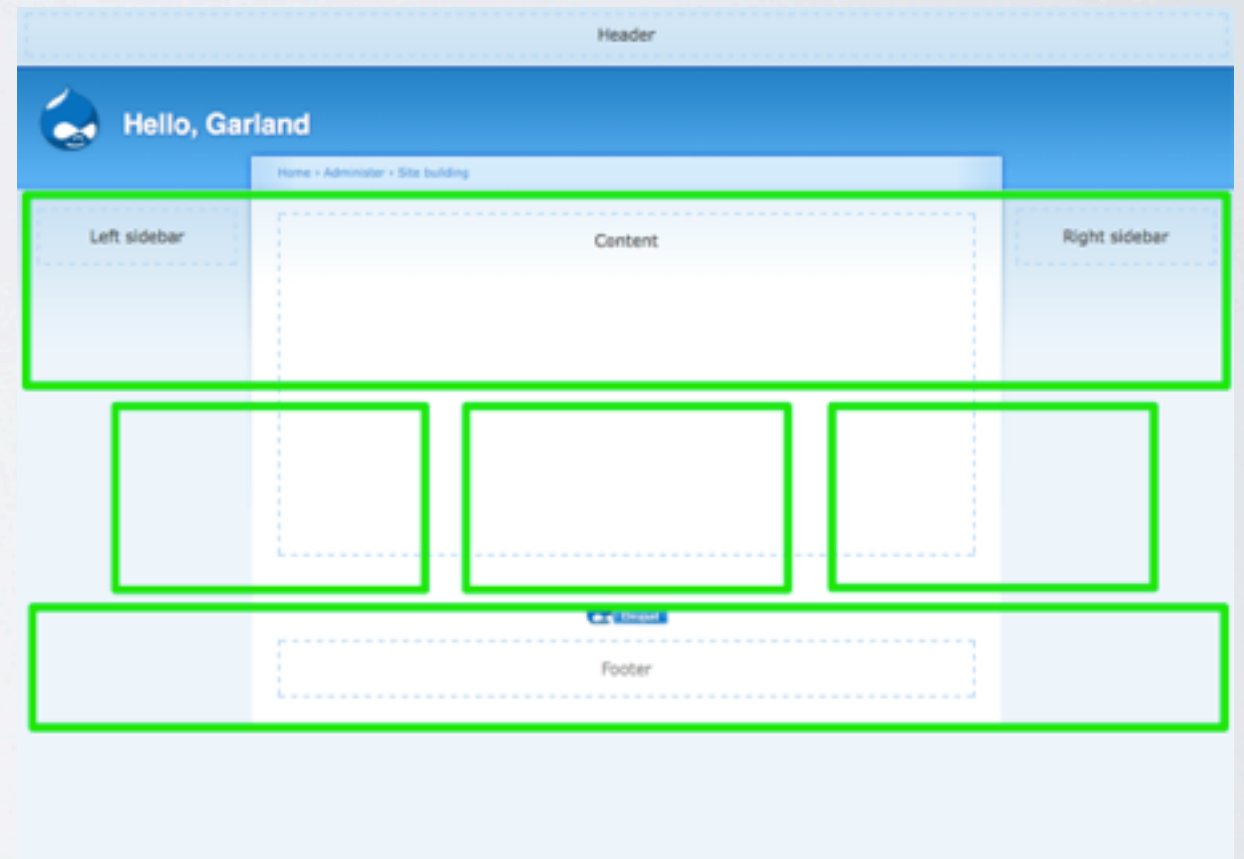
# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

**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**

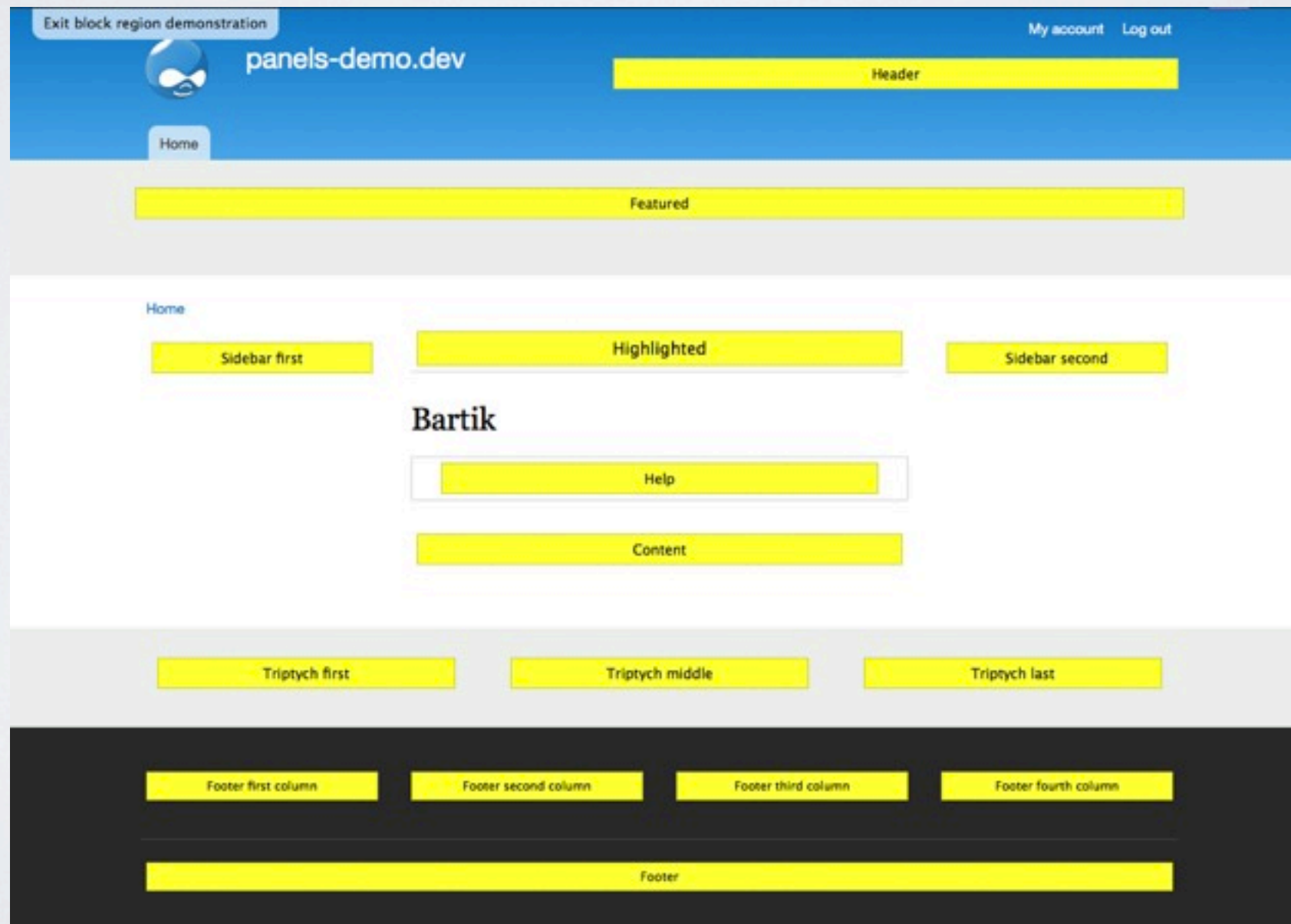
What do we do?



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

## Solutions!

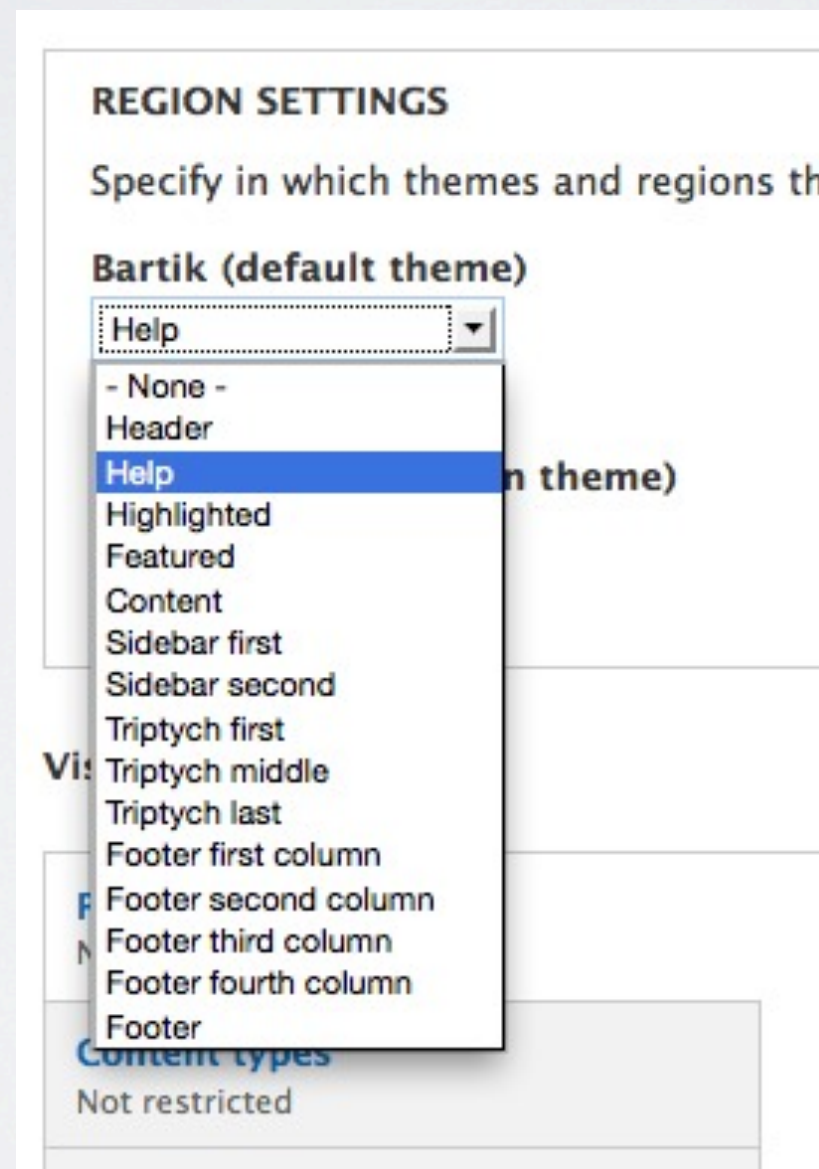
We include an even crazier default layout.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF LAYOUTS

## Imperfect Solutions :/

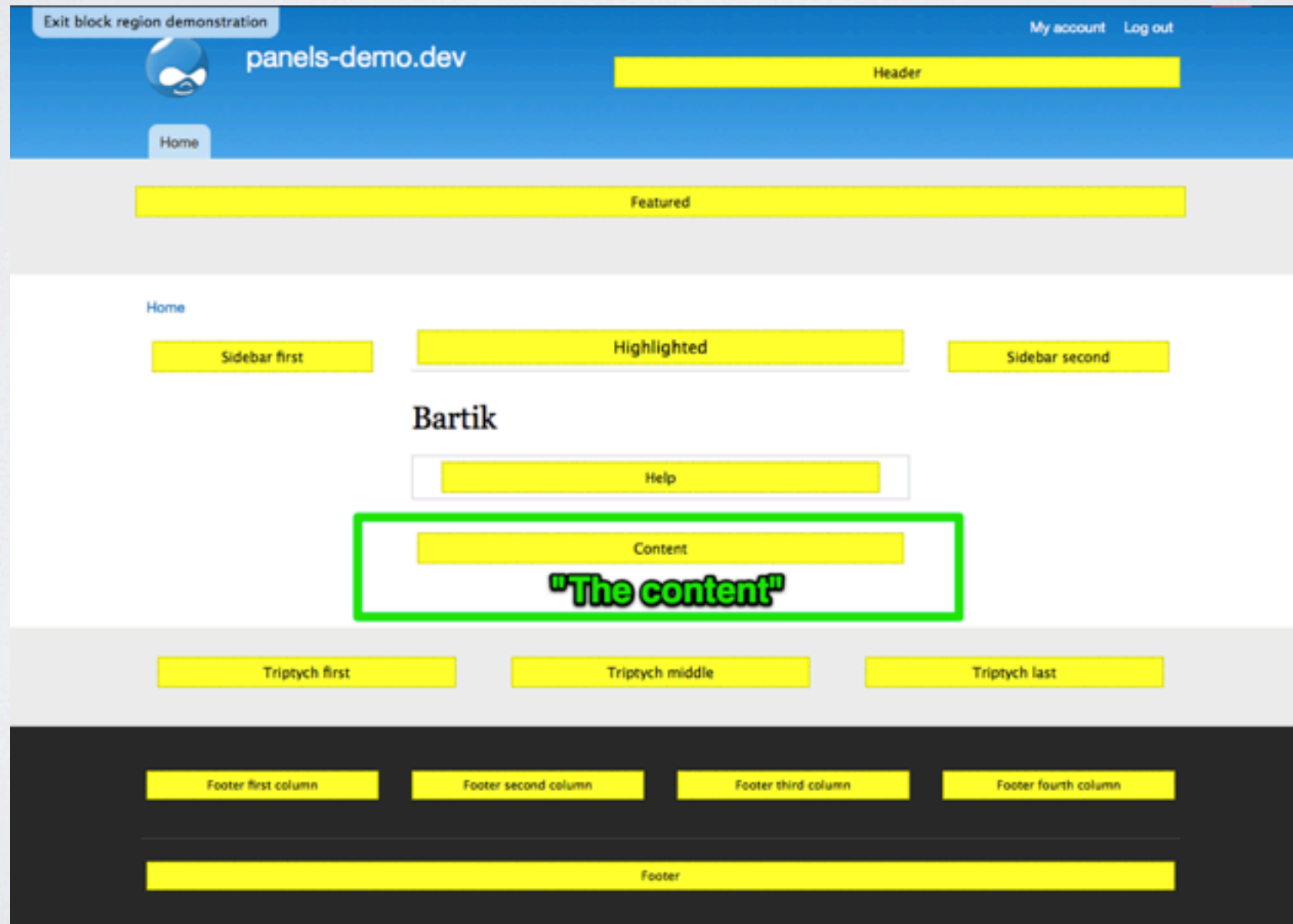
whoopsie, we may have over done it.



# 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

Panels allows you to control the layout of your site.  
But it requires a *shift* in how you think about site architecture.

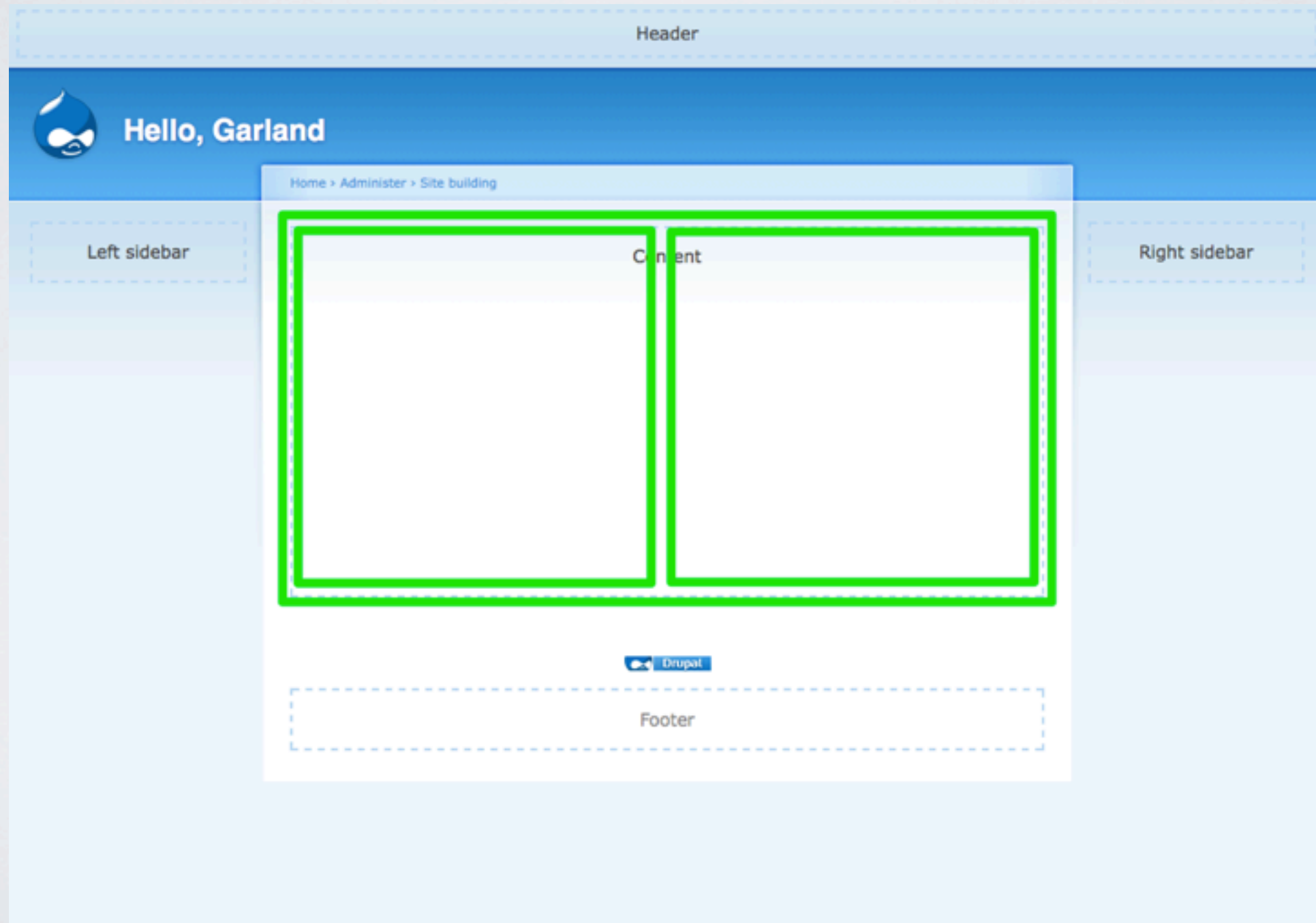
# PANELS

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



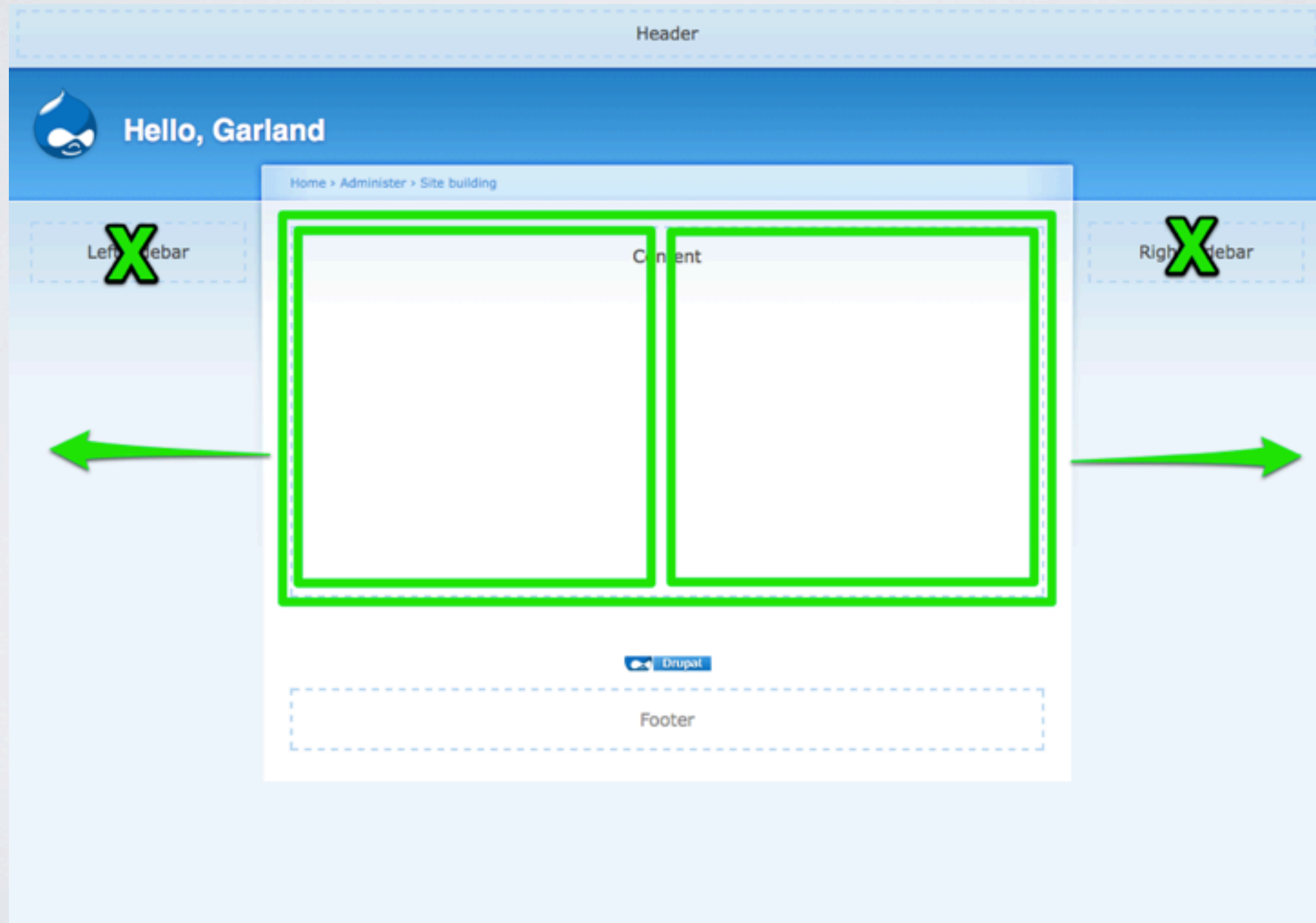
# PANELS

two-column **content** layout



# PANELS

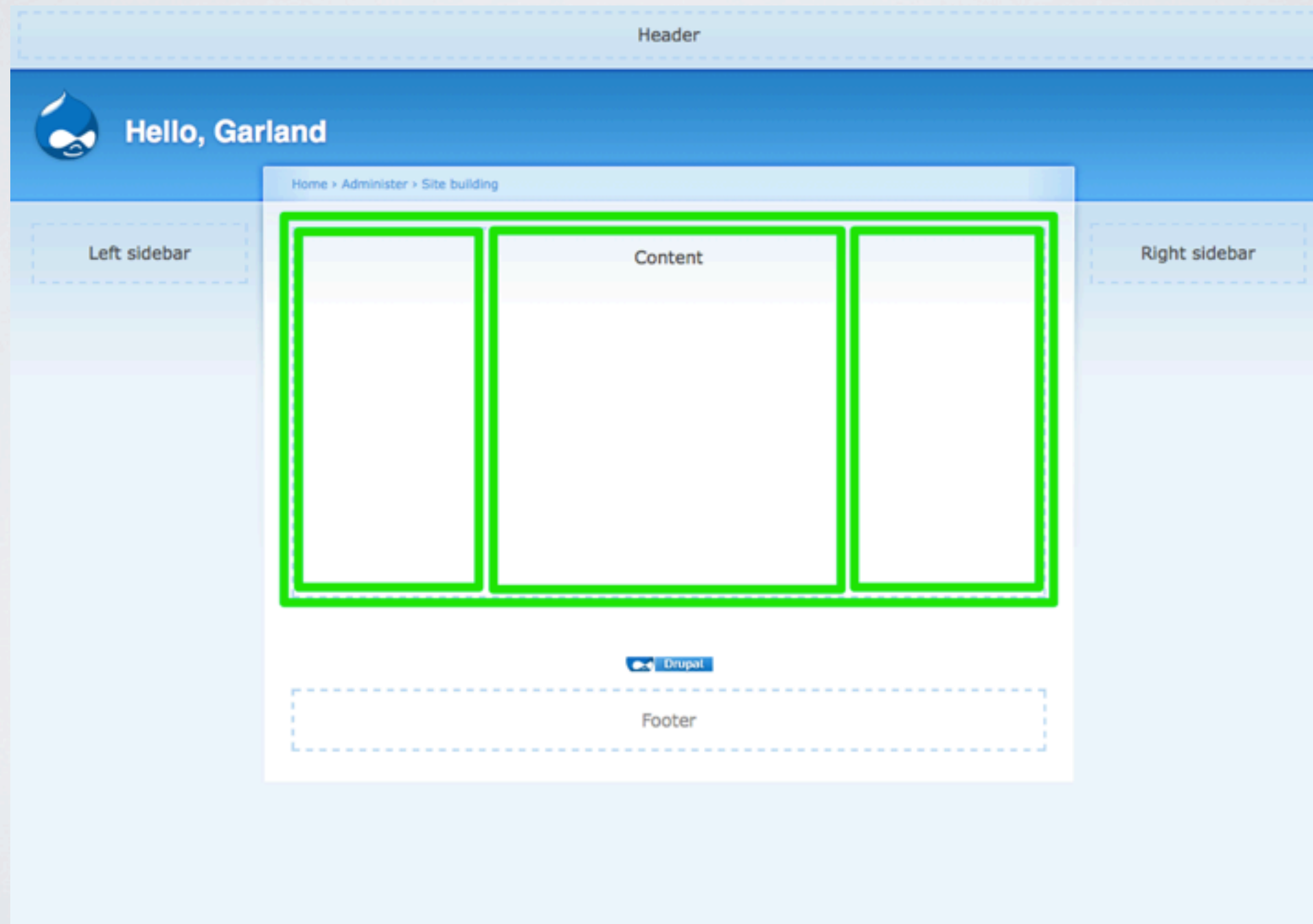
two-column **site** layout





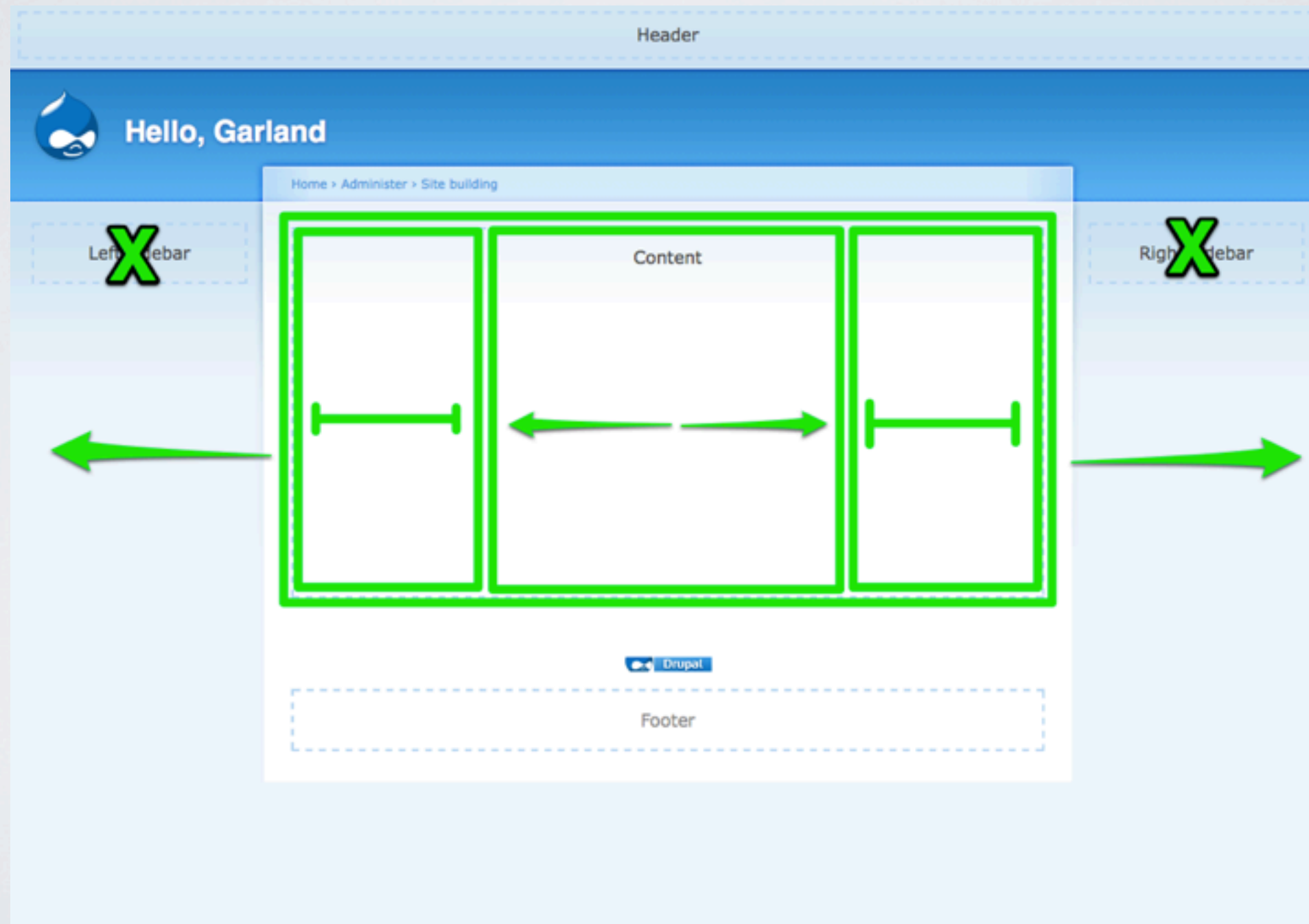
# PANELS

three-column **site** layout



# PANELS

three-column **site** layout





# PANELS

**what does this mean?**

# PANELS

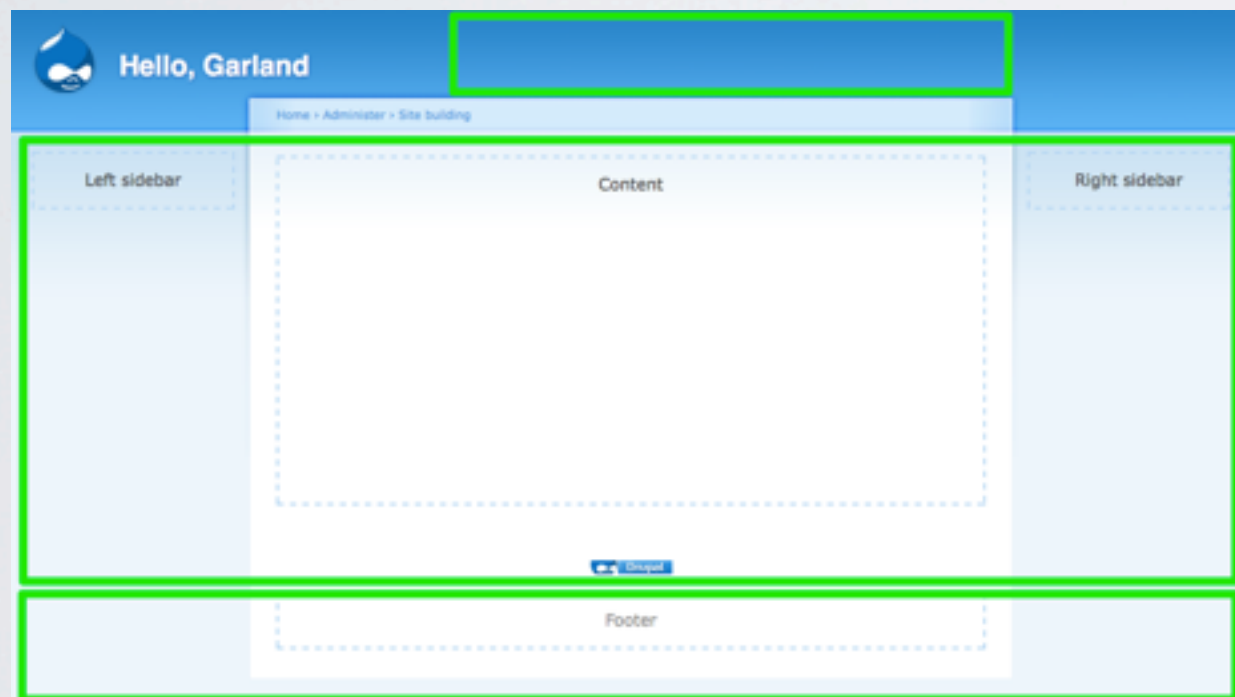
## **what does this mean?**

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

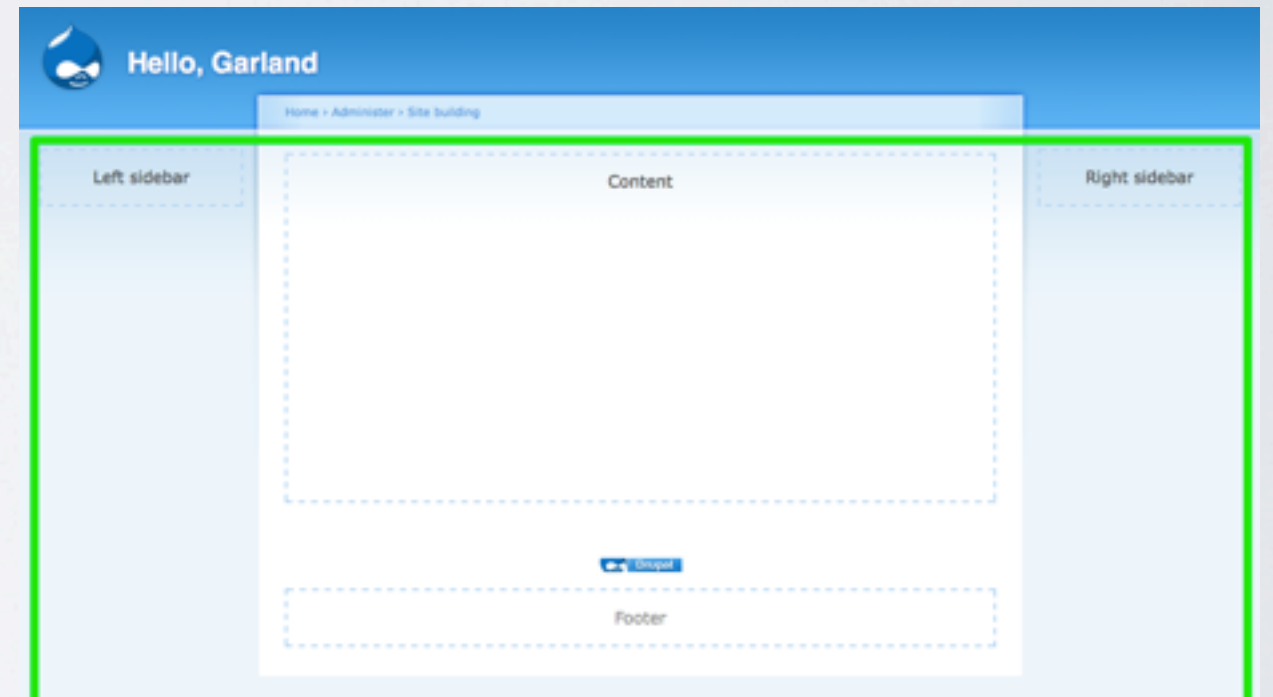
# PANELS

## what does this mean?

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



3 regions



only 1 region



# PANELS

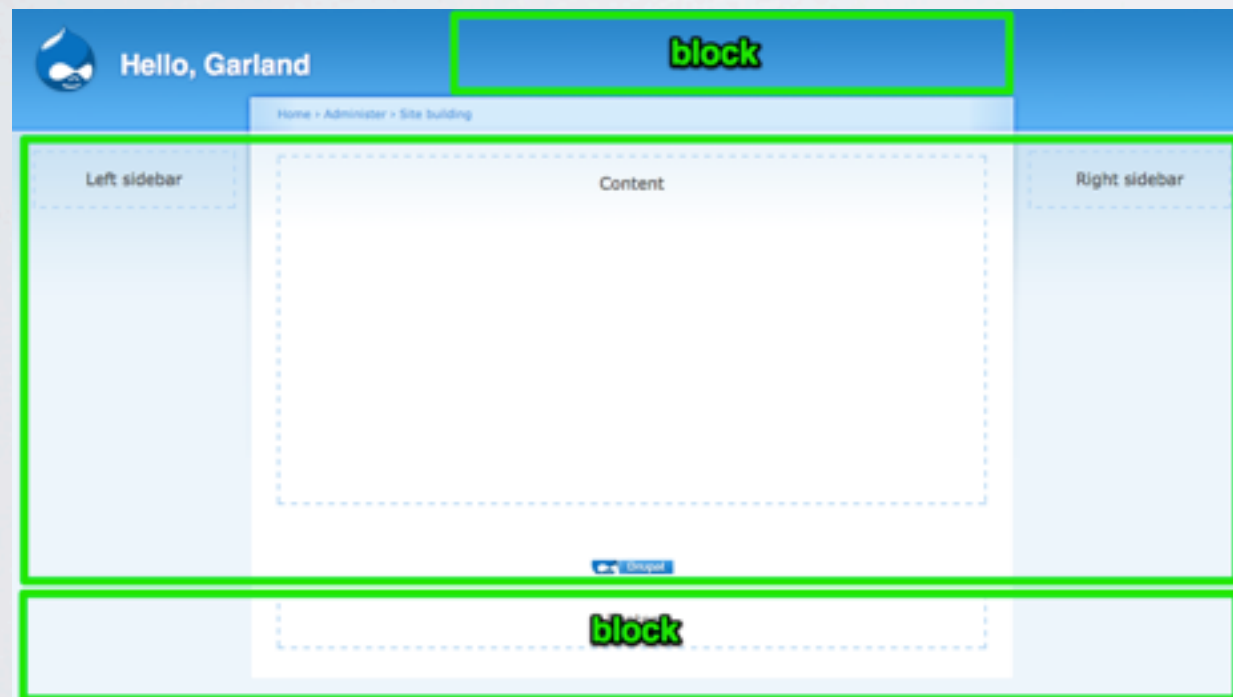
**what does this mean?**

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

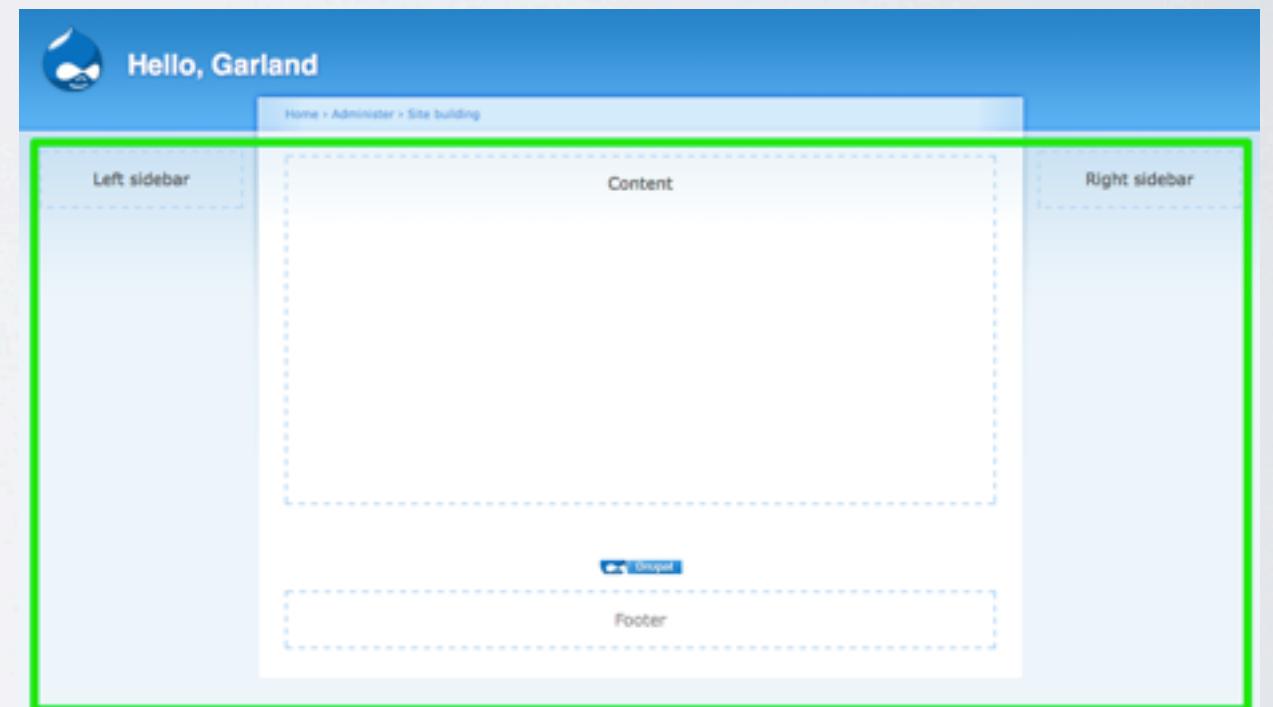
# PANELS

**what does this mean?**

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



2 blocks



no blocks!

# PANELS

**what does this mean?**

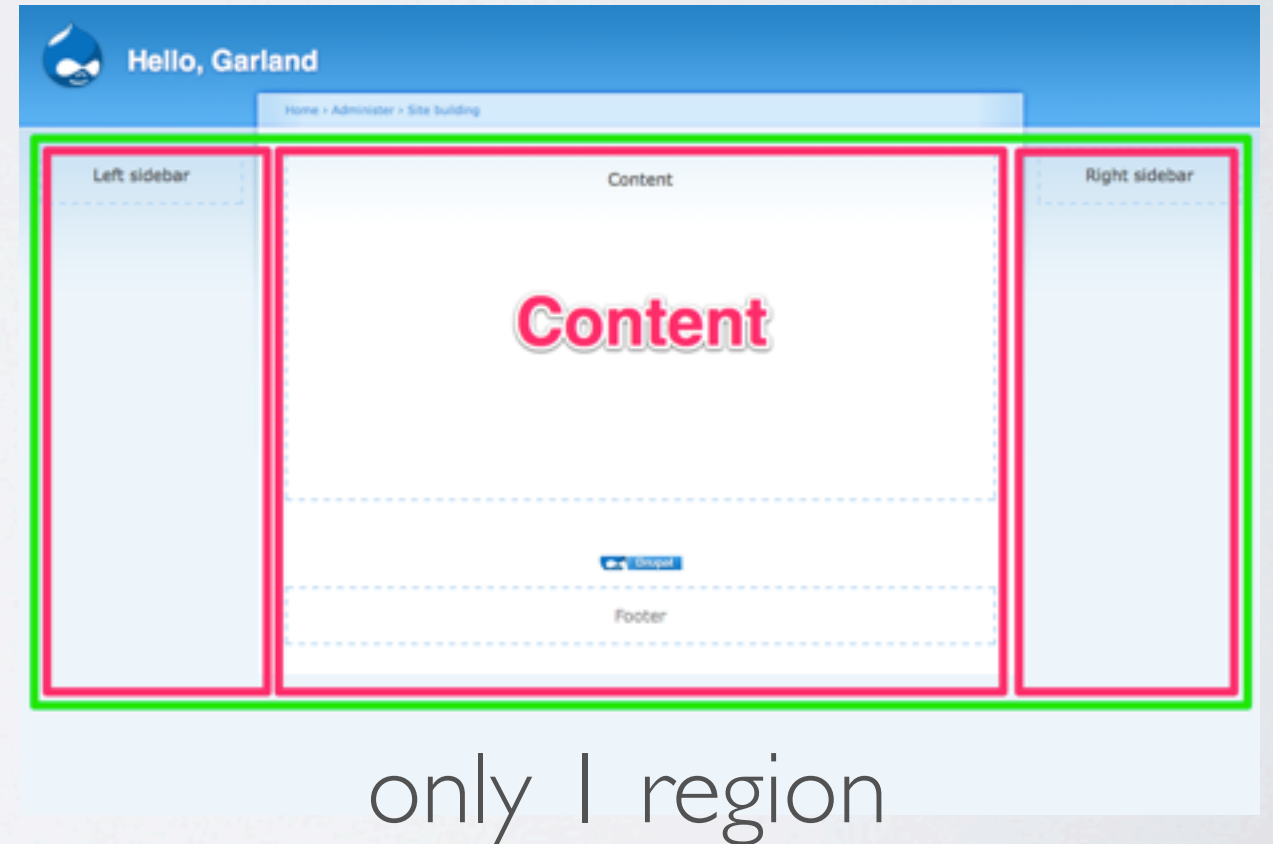
3) Everything is content.



# PANELS

**what does this mean?**

3) Everything is content.



# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

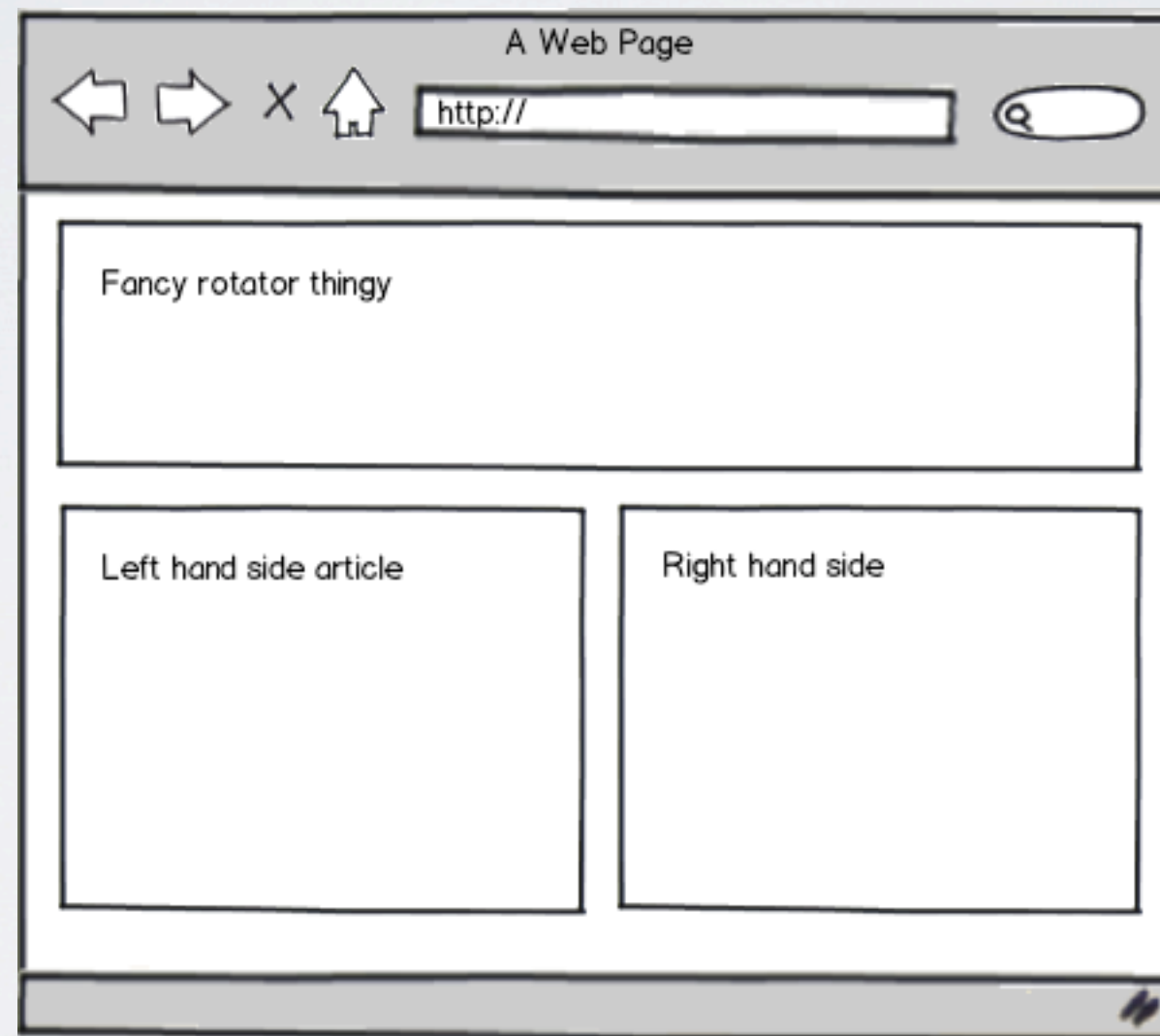
## **Things Drupal doesn't do very well:**

- 1) home pages
- 2) content pages
- 3) user profile pages
- 4) taxonomy term listing pages
- 5) custom landing pages

# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

**(rebuild it with panels)**

Home page

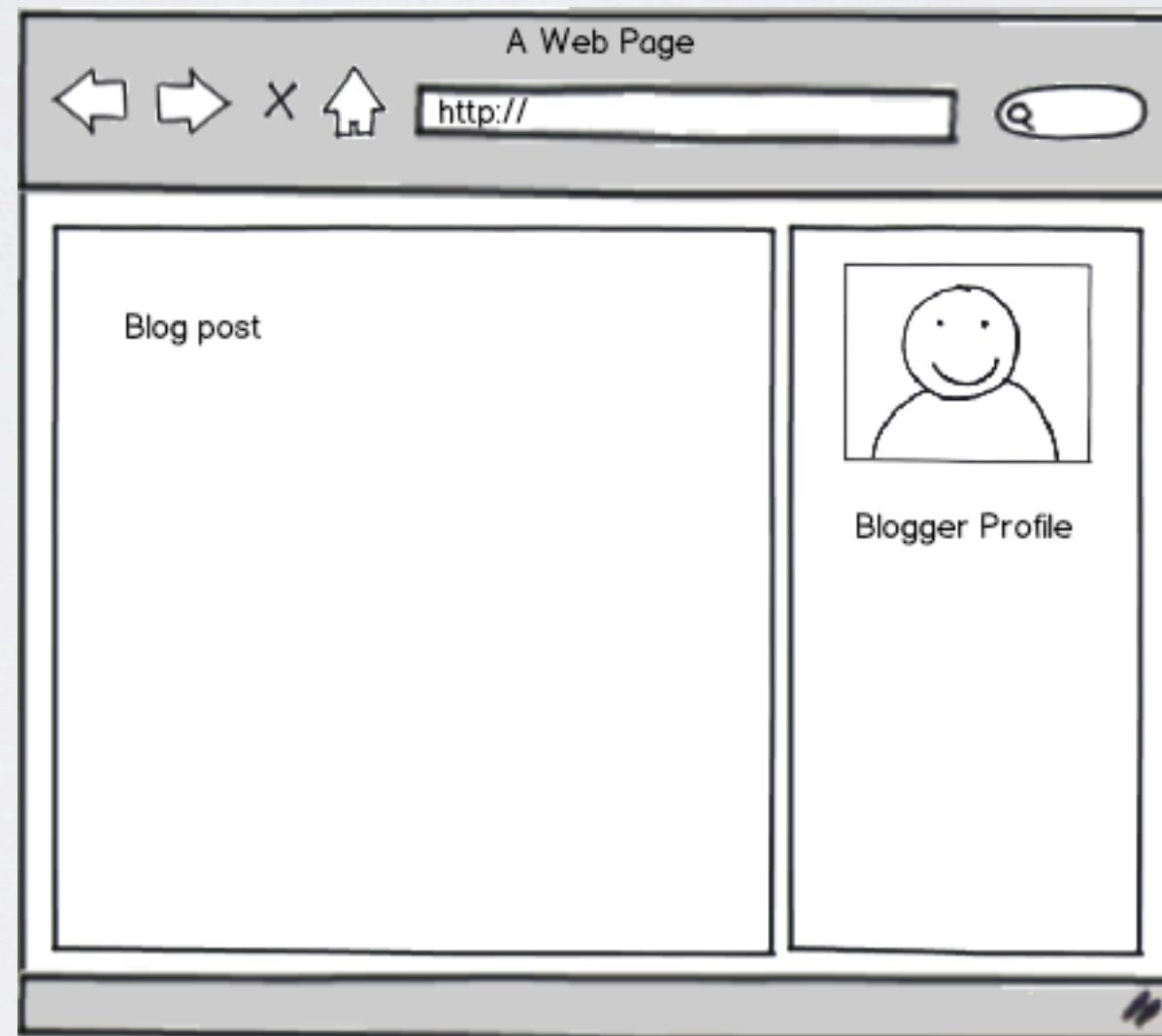




# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

**(rebuild it with panels)**

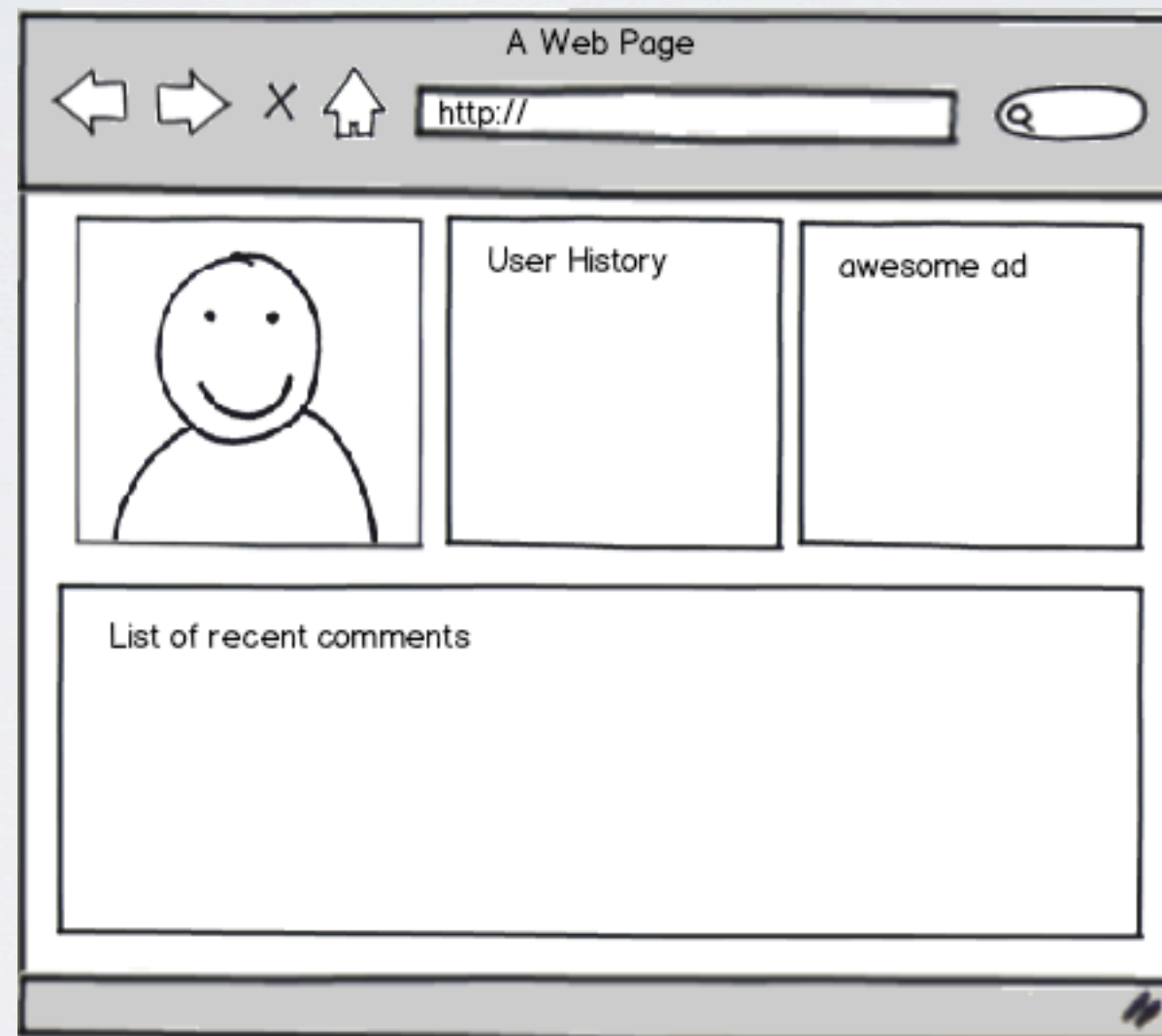
Blog post (node page)



# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

**(rebuild it with panels)**

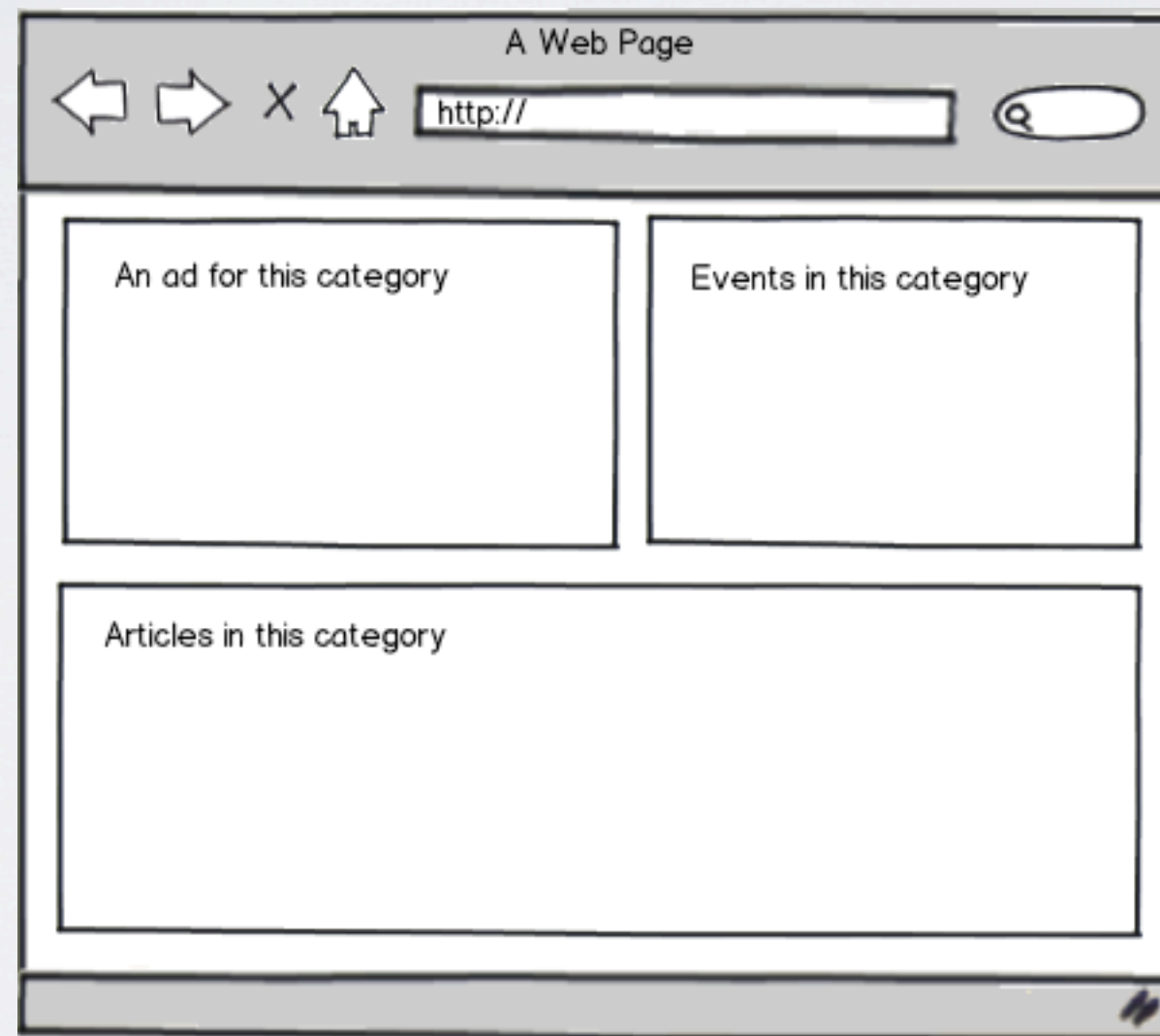
User profile



# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

**(rebuild it with panels)**

Category page (taxonomy term listing page)

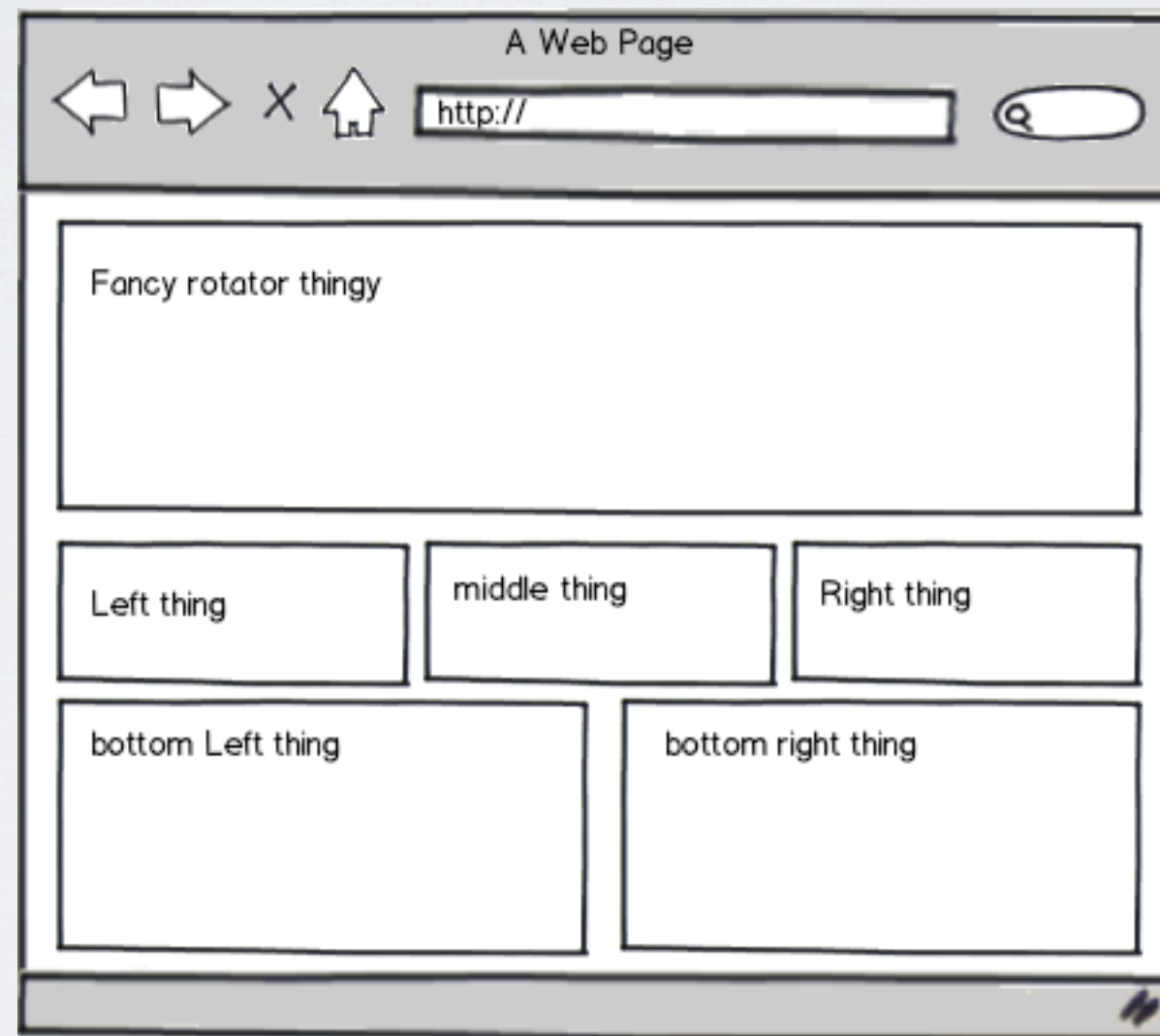




# LET'S MAKE BETTER WEBSITES

**(rebuild it with panels)**

Landing page (custom page)



# 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](http://drupalize.me)

Book:

*Drupal's Building Blocks*  
by Earl & Lynette Miles



# BUILD BETTER WEBSITES WITH **PANELS!**

Jen Lampton  
@jenlampton on twitter  
“jenlampton” <http://drupal.org/user/85586>  
[www.jenlampton.com](http://www.jenlampton.com)

if you forget my name, just Google “Drupal developer”