



DRUPALCON SYDNEY

SITE BUILDING TRACK | JEN LAMPTON | FEBRUARY 7 2013

BUILD BETTER WEBSITES
WITH **PANELS!**



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

I am Jen Lampton

@jenlampton ~ <http://www.jenlampton.com>



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

I am Jen Lampton

- Building websites with Drupal since 2006



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 - Building modules for Drupal since 2008

```
1 <?php-
2 -
3 /**-
4  * @file-
5  * This module enables an administrative dashboar
6  */-
7 -
8 include_once('includes/total_control.inc'); -
9 include_once('includes/total_control.views_defau
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
14 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_DASHBOARD_PANEL_NAME', 'da
15 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_MINIMUM_VERSION', 2);-
16 define('TOTAL_CONTROL_VERSION', 2);-
17 -
```



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- 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
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Acquia



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Creative Lead
Gorton Studios



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- Improving the theme layer for Drupal since 2012





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I <3 Drupal. I <3 Panels.

@jenlampton ~ <http://www.jenlampton.com>



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Who are you?



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Who are you?

- Building websites with Drupal for less than 1 year?



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Who are you?

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



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Who are you?

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



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

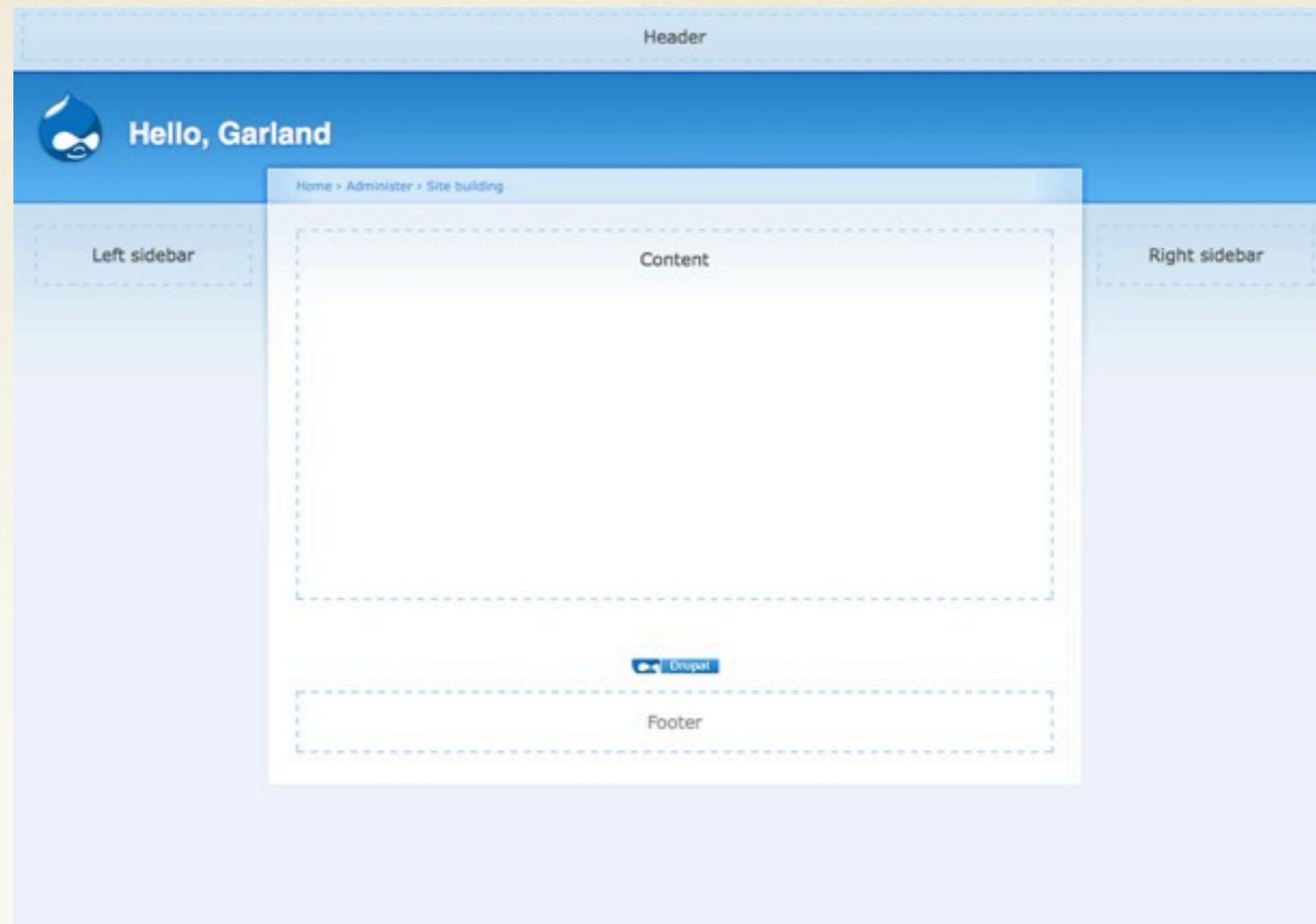
Once upon a time...



BETTER WITH PANELS

Once upon a time...

every page on your site used the same layout

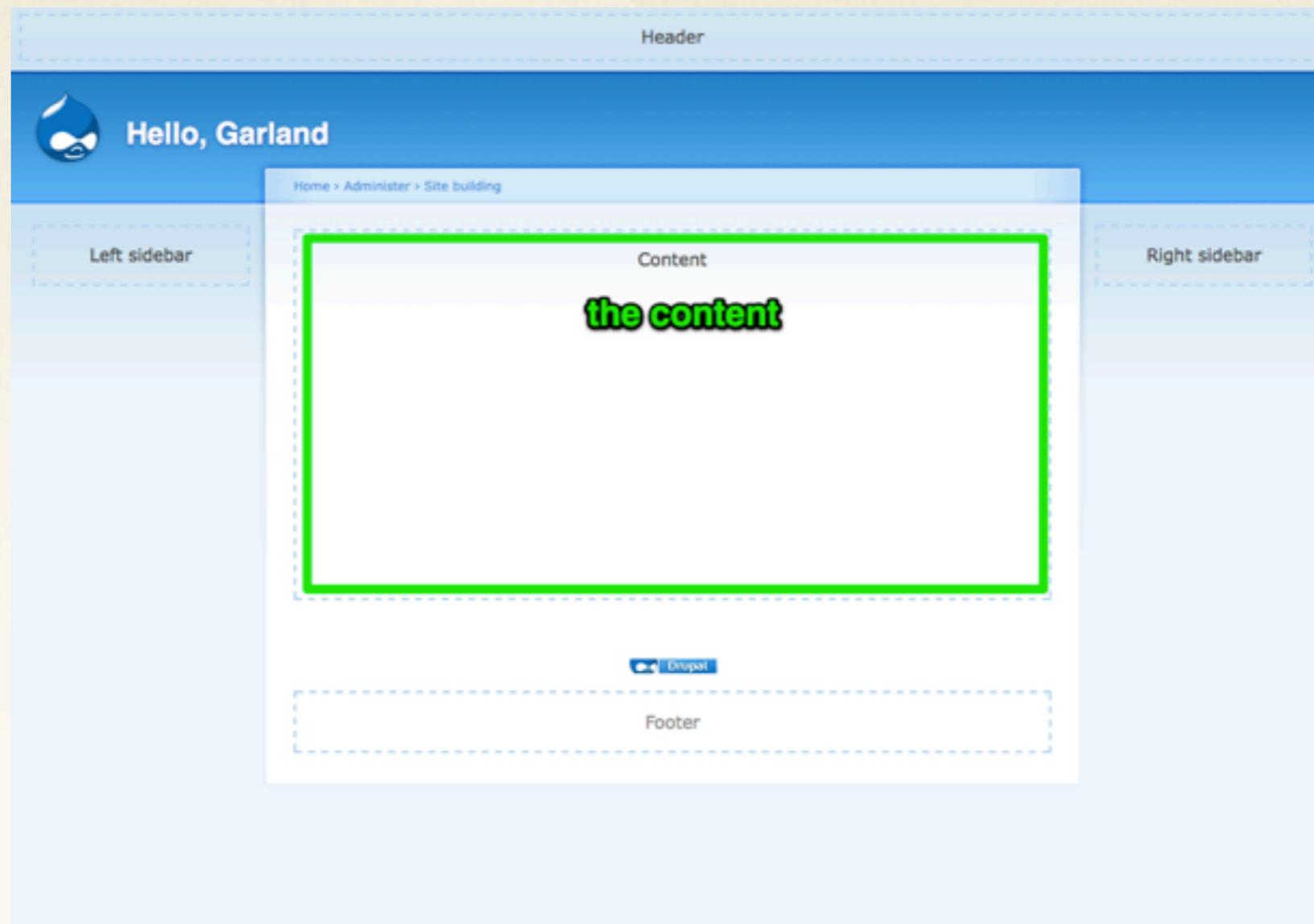




BETTER WITH PANELS

Once upon a time...

where "the content" was often in the middle

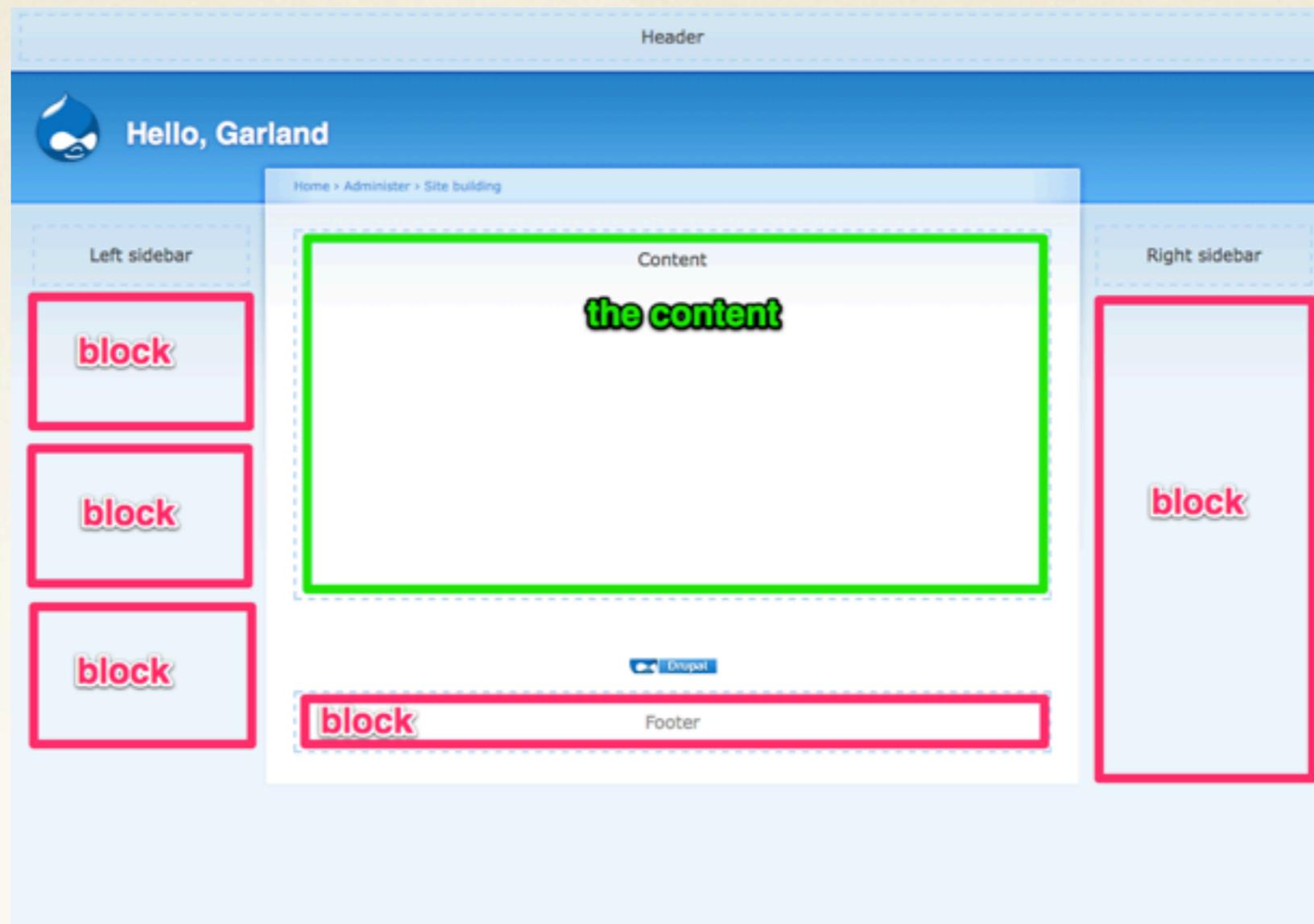




BETTER WITH PANELS

Once upon a time...

and a bunch of other "stuff" was placed around it.

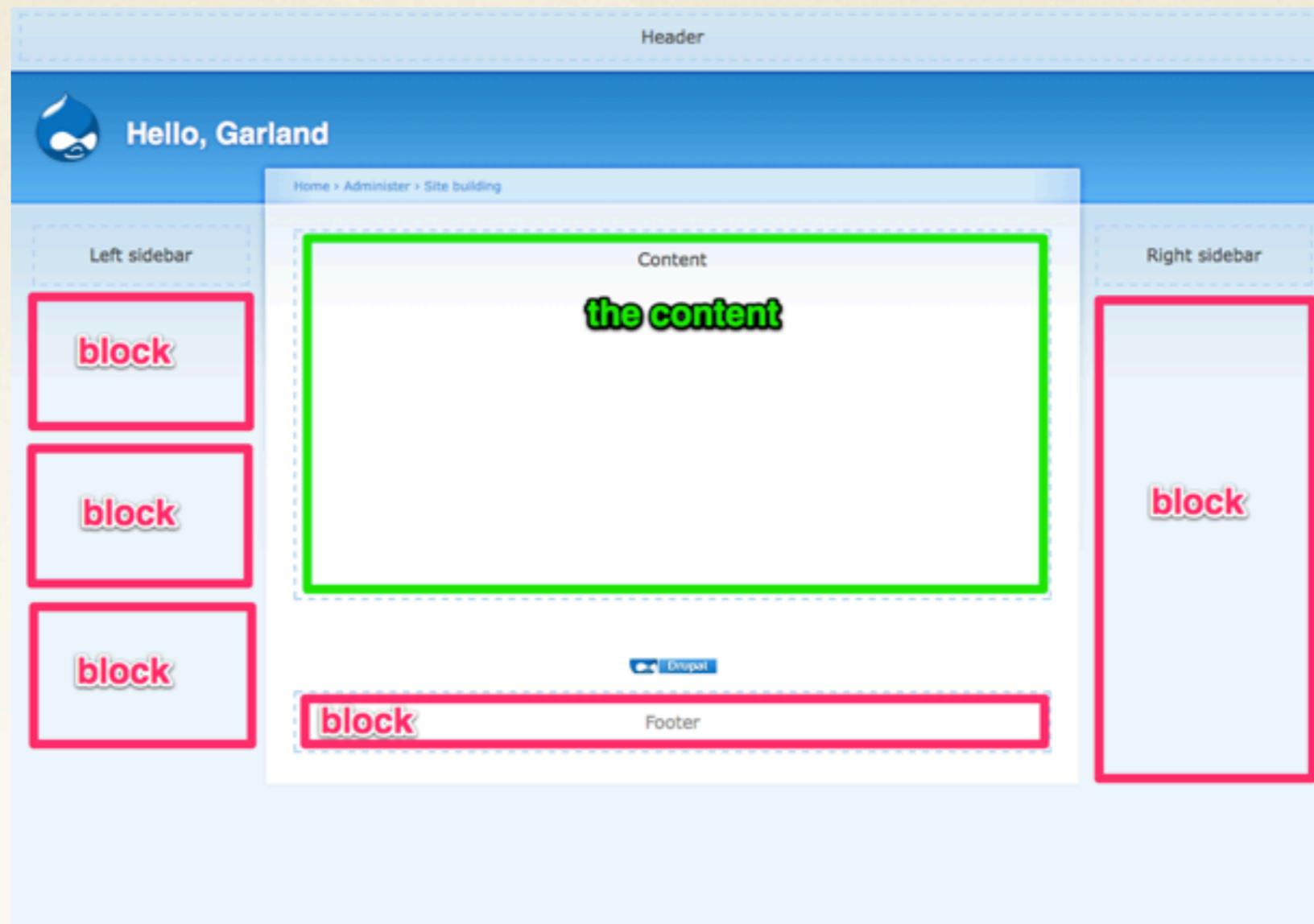




BETTER WITH PANELS

Once upon a time...

For a while, this was fine :)





BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Once upon a time...

But over time, we discovered that this one-layout-fits-all approach doesn't always cut it.



BETTER WITH PANELS

One solution:

Visibility: telling the blocks not to show up on certain pages

▼ 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:

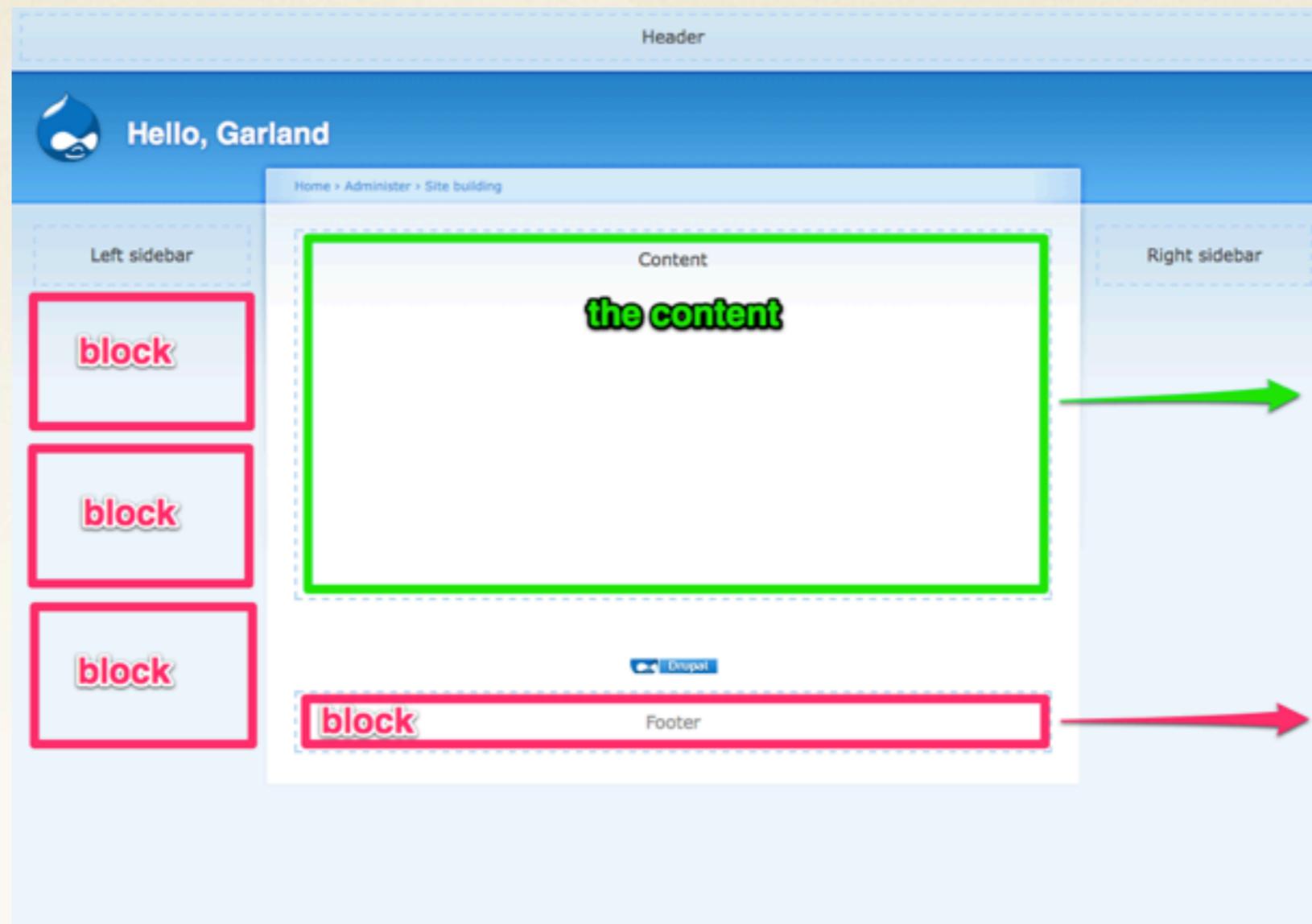
Enter one page per line as Drupal paths. The '*' character is a wildcard. Example paths are `blog` front page. If the PHP-mode is chosen, enter PHP code between `<?php ?>`. Note that executin



BETTER WITH PANELS

One solution:

allow the layout to adjust if there are no blocks.





BETTER WITH PANELS

Problematic :/

each individual block needs be configured

Right sidebar	configure



BETTER WITH PANELS

Another solution:

adjust the layout to not show blocks 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
```

```
page-front.tpl.php
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>
```



BETTER WITH PANELS

Problematic :/

In this case, Drupal retrieves the blocks from its database and does some work to prepare them for display.

But then that work ends up being a waste if Drupal throws out the blocks instead of printing them to the page.



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Also, not good enough :/

We still found the process of limiting **when** blocks appear - an insufficient solution for all our different page layout needs.



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

But, it's time for Drupal 7!



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

But, it's time for Drupal 7!

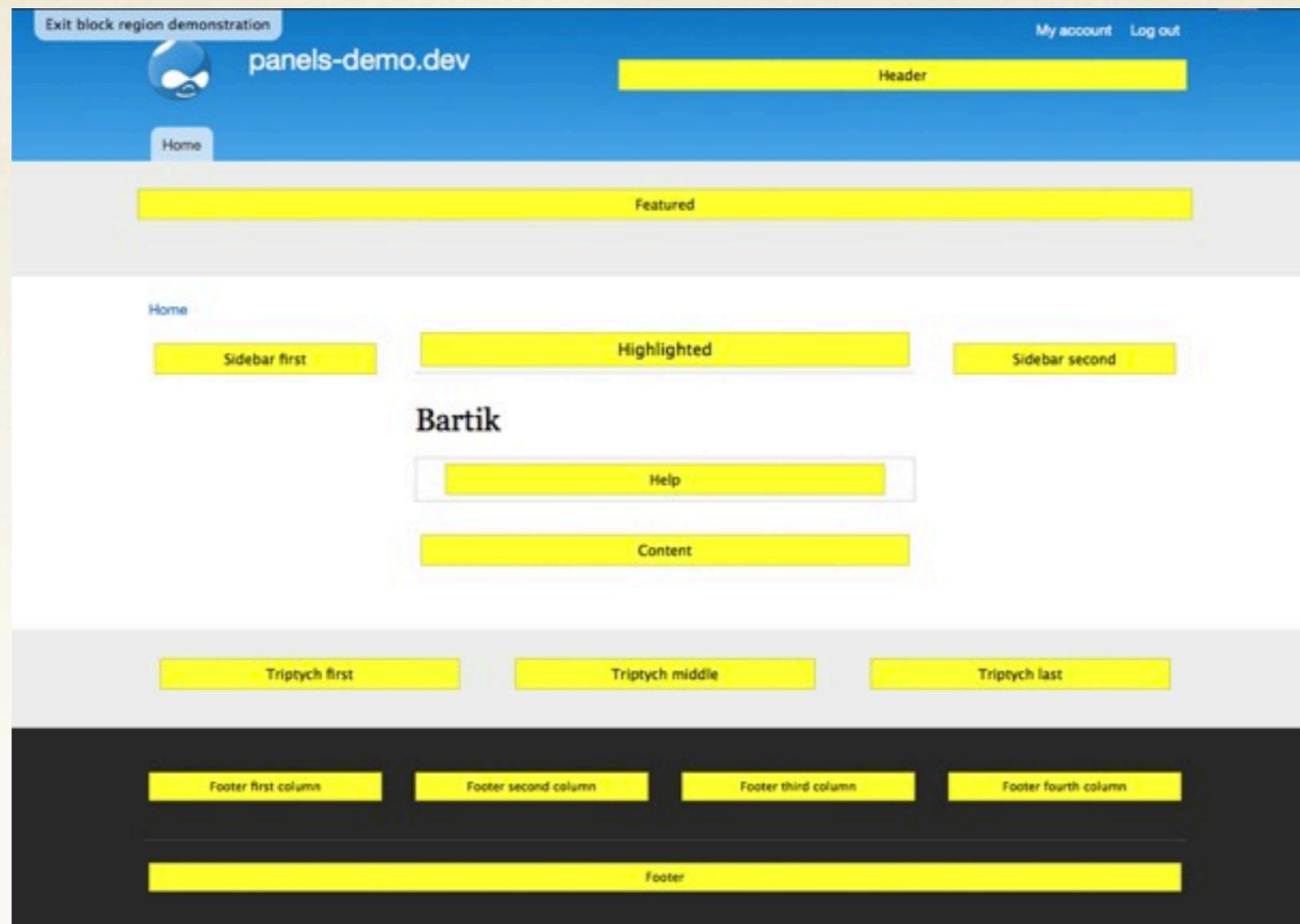
What do we do?



BETTER WITH PANELS

But, it's time for Drupal 7!

I know, let's start with a crazier layout!

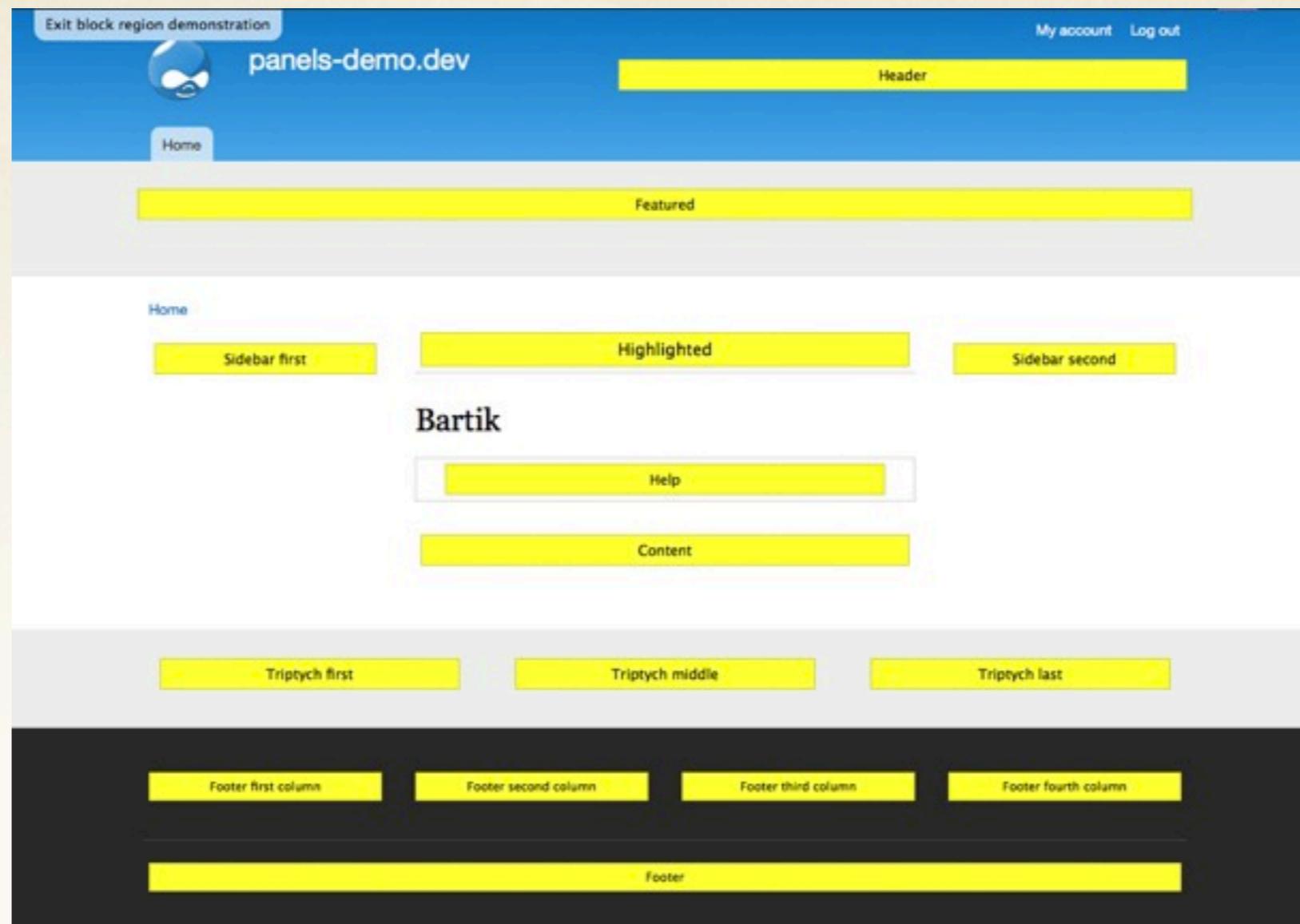




BETTER WITH PANELS

But, it's time for Drupal 7!

...with lots and lots of regions. For flexibility!





BETTER WITH PANELS

Problematic :/

whoopsie, we over did it.

REGION SETTINGS

Specify in which themes and regions this content type should be displayed.

Bartik (default theme)

Help

- None -
- Header
- Help
- Highlighted
- Featured
- Content
- Sidebar first
- Sidebar second
- Triptych first
- Triptych middle
- Triptych last
- Footer first column
- Footer second column
- Footer third column
- Footer fourth column
- Footer

Content types

Not restricted



BETTER WITH PANELS

Also, not good enough :/

Our “content” is still stuck in the middle.





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So what is the solution?



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Panels.

Panels allows you to control the layout of your site.



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Panels.

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



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Are you ready?



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Are you ready?

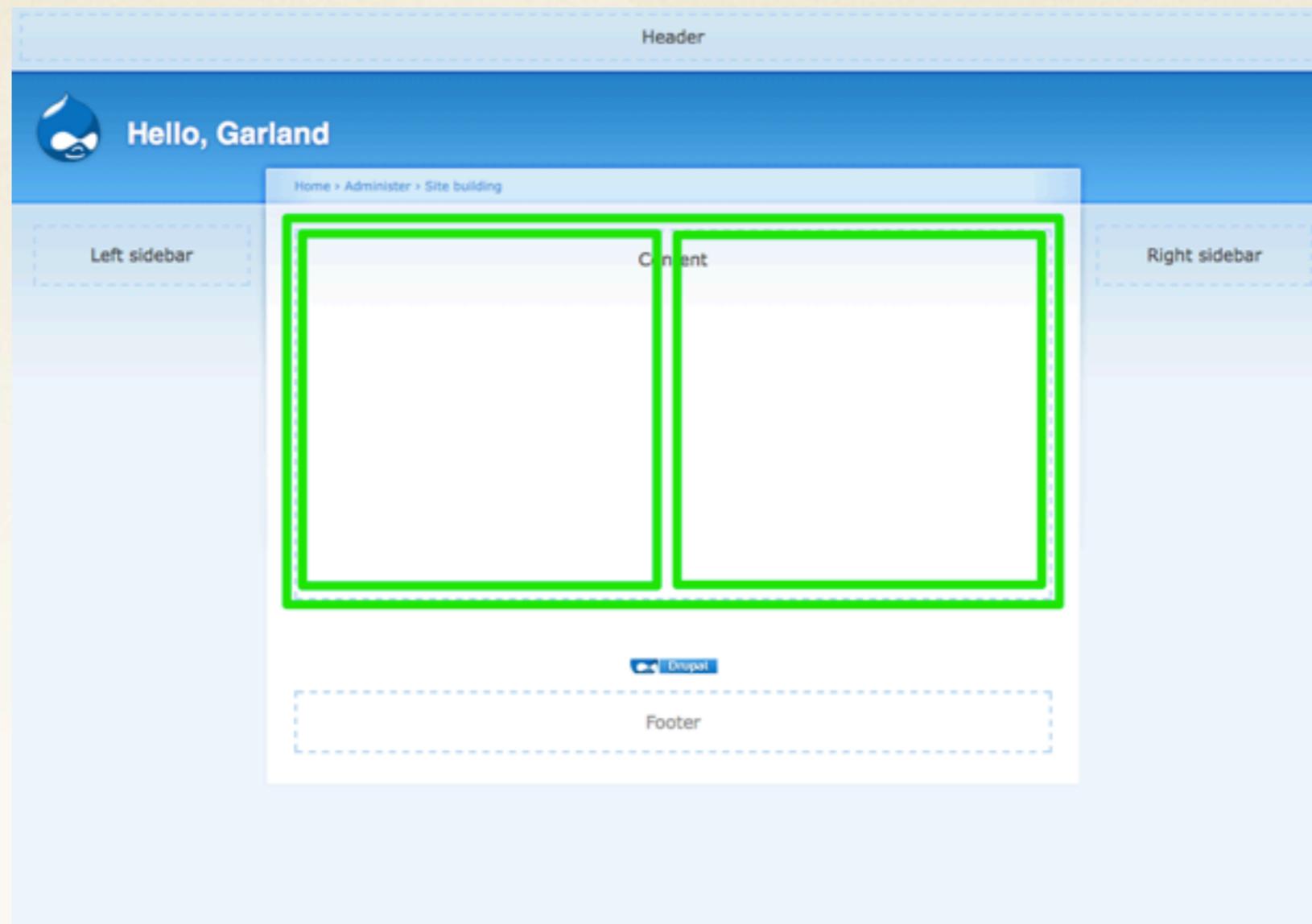
Panels allows you to control the layout of your **site**.
By controlling the layout of your **content**.



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Panels

a two column **content** layout.

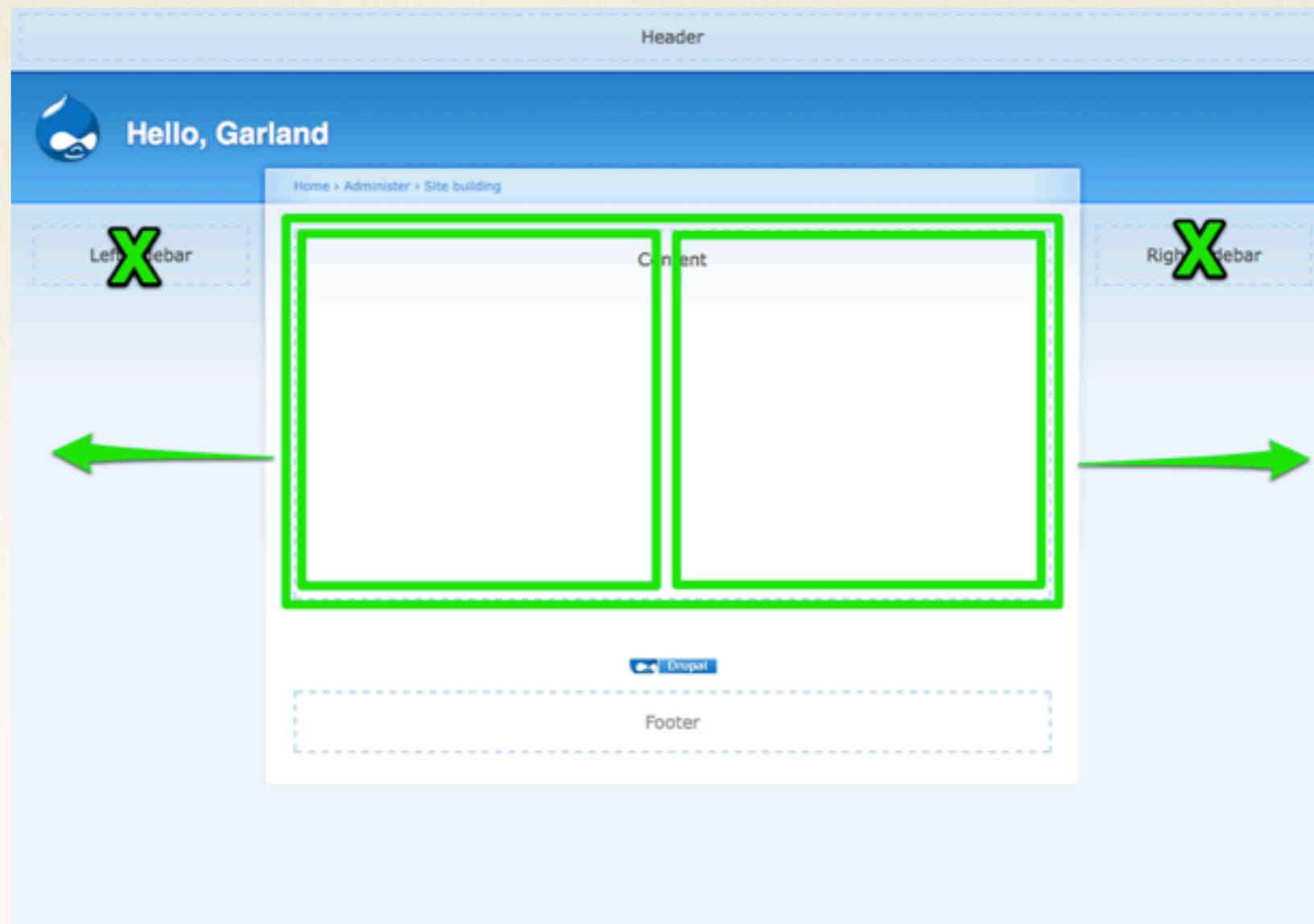




BETTER WITH PANELS

Panels

a two column **site** layout.

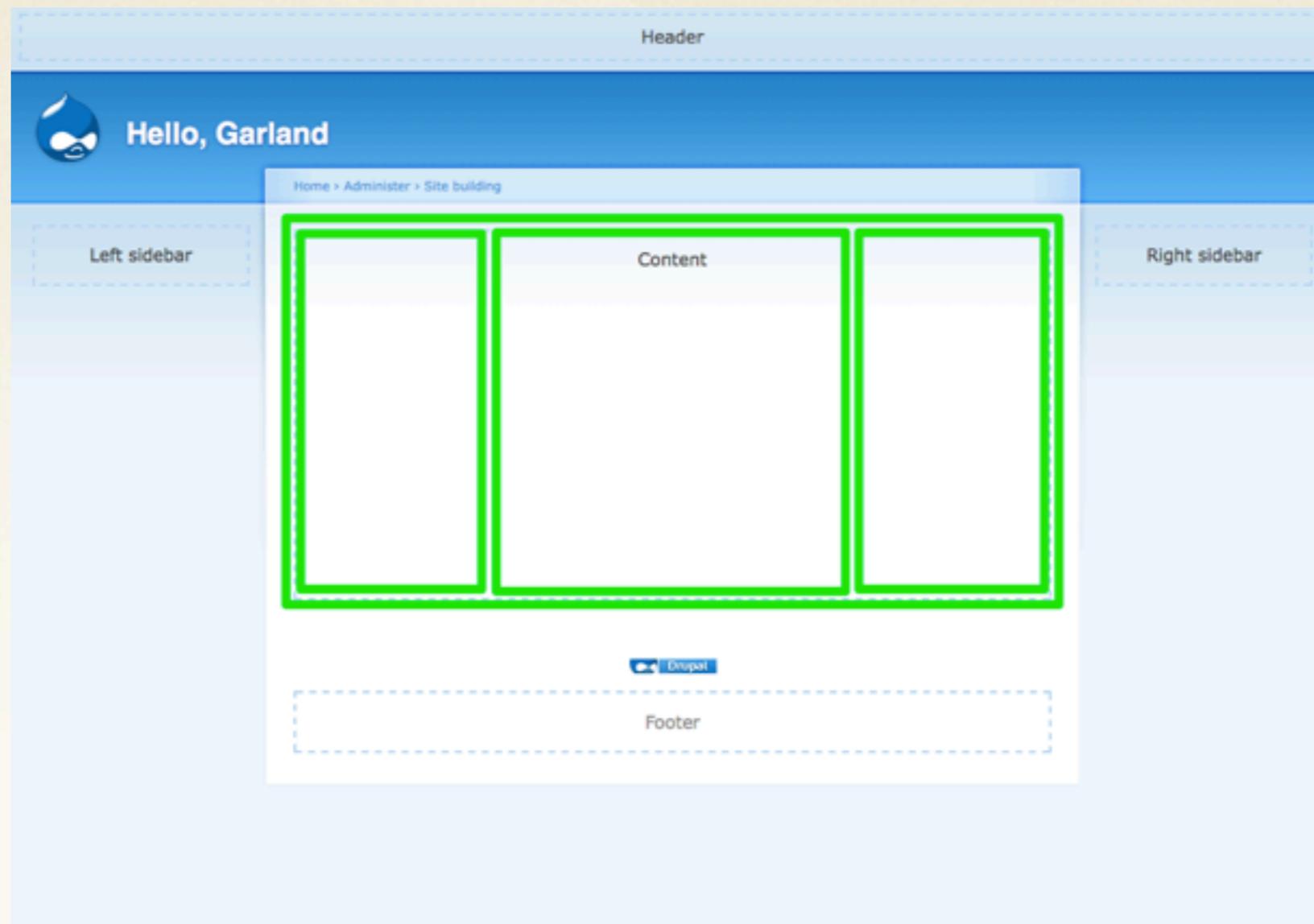




BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Panels

a three column **content** layout.

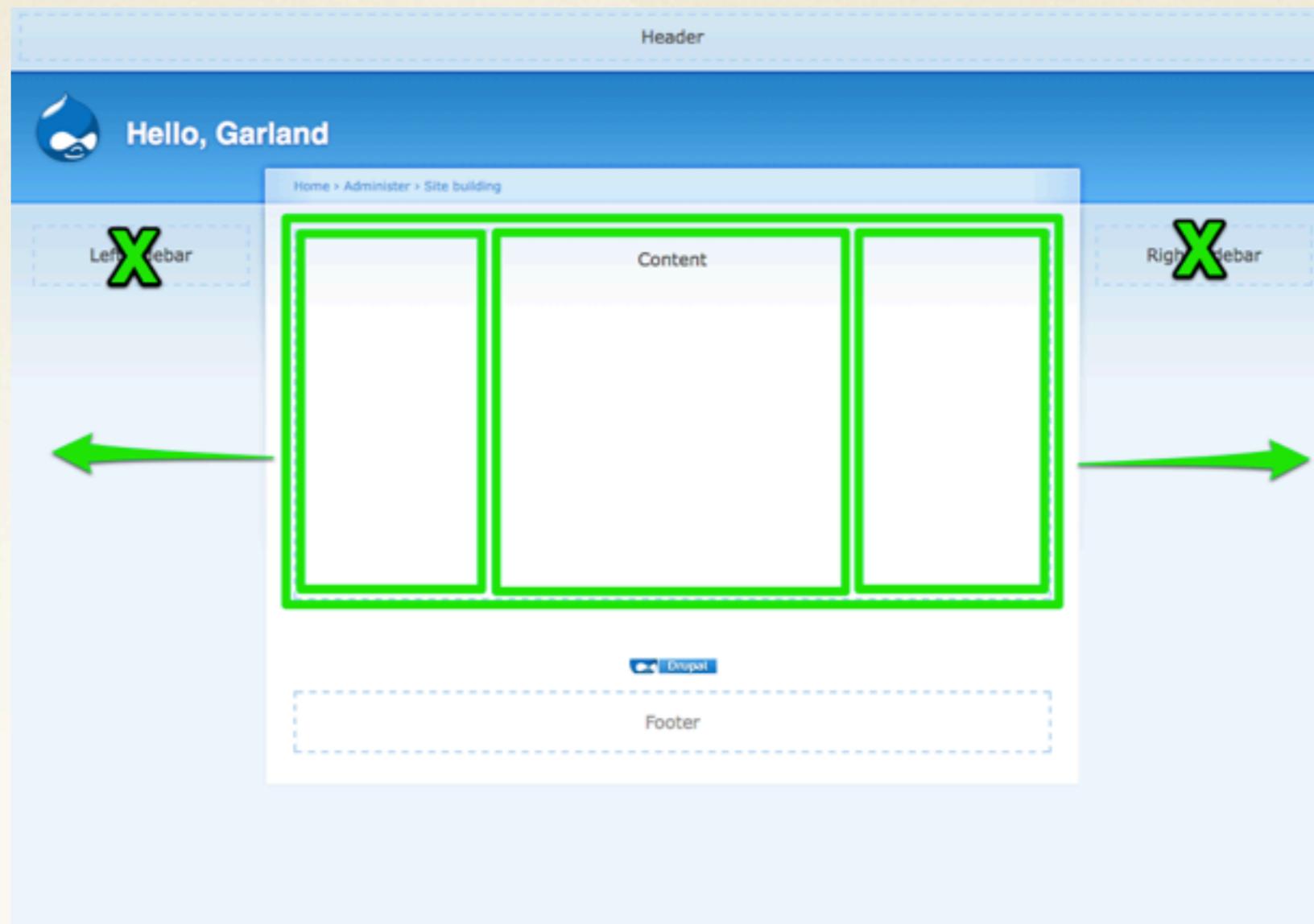




BETTER WITH PANELS

Panels

a three column **site** layout.





BETTER WITH **PANELS**

What does this mean?



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

What does this mean?

- You don't need very many regions in your theme.
(I never have sidebars in any of my themes)



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

What does this mean?

- You don't need very many regions in your theme.
(I never have sidebars in any of my themes)
- You won't be doing much with blocks.
(you can even disable block module if you like)



BETTER WITH PANELS

What does this mean?

- You don't need very many regions in your theme.
(I never have sidebars in any of my themes)
- You won't be doing much with blocks.
(you can even disable block module if you like)
- **Everything** is content.
(don't worry, this is how most people think about pages anyway)



BETTER WITH **PANELS**

Let's make some stuff better, shall we?



BETTER WITH PANELS

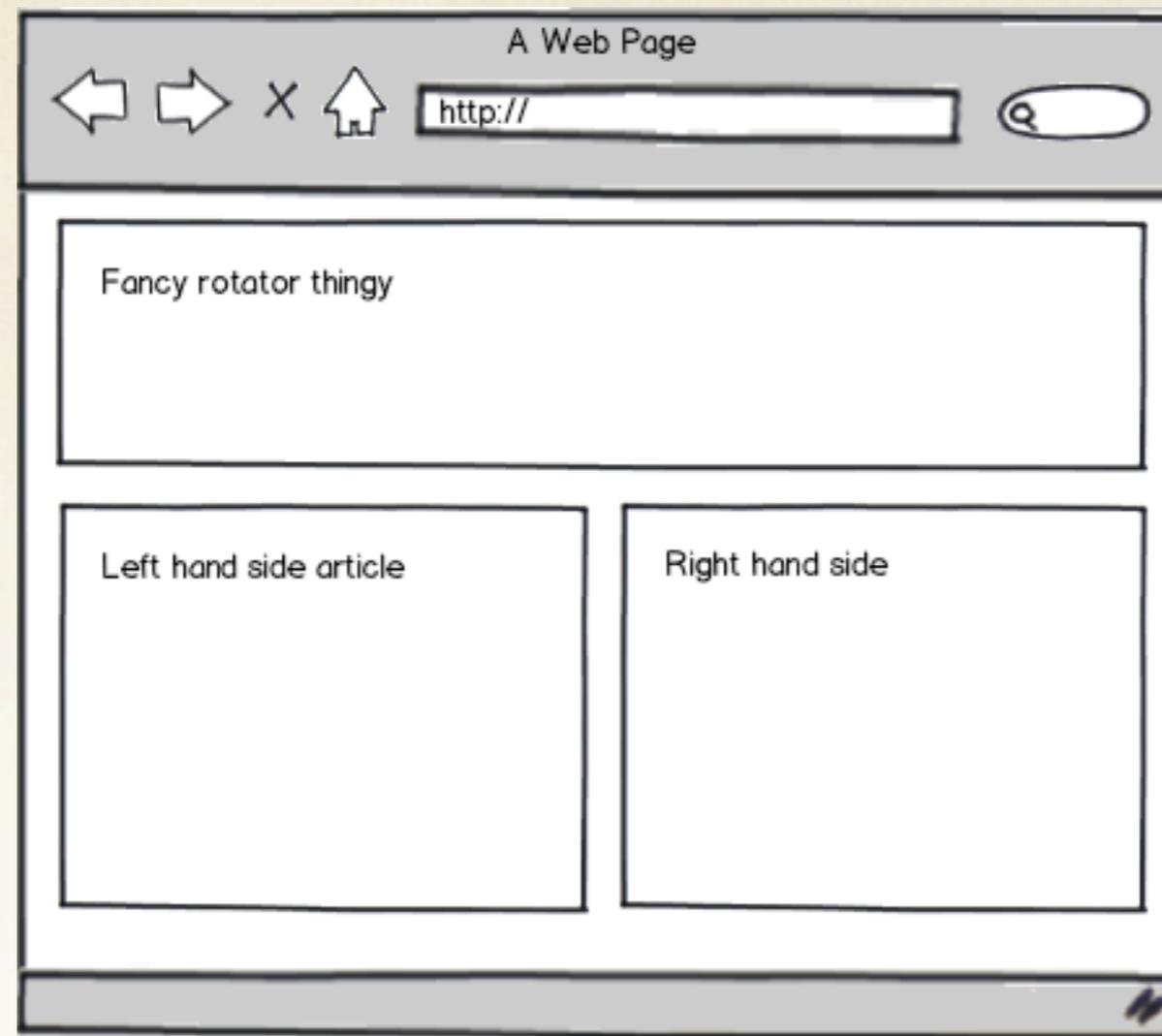
Let's make some stuff better, shall we?

- Home page
- Node page(s)
- User Profile page
- Taxonomy Term page
- Custom landing page(s)



BETTER WITH PANELS

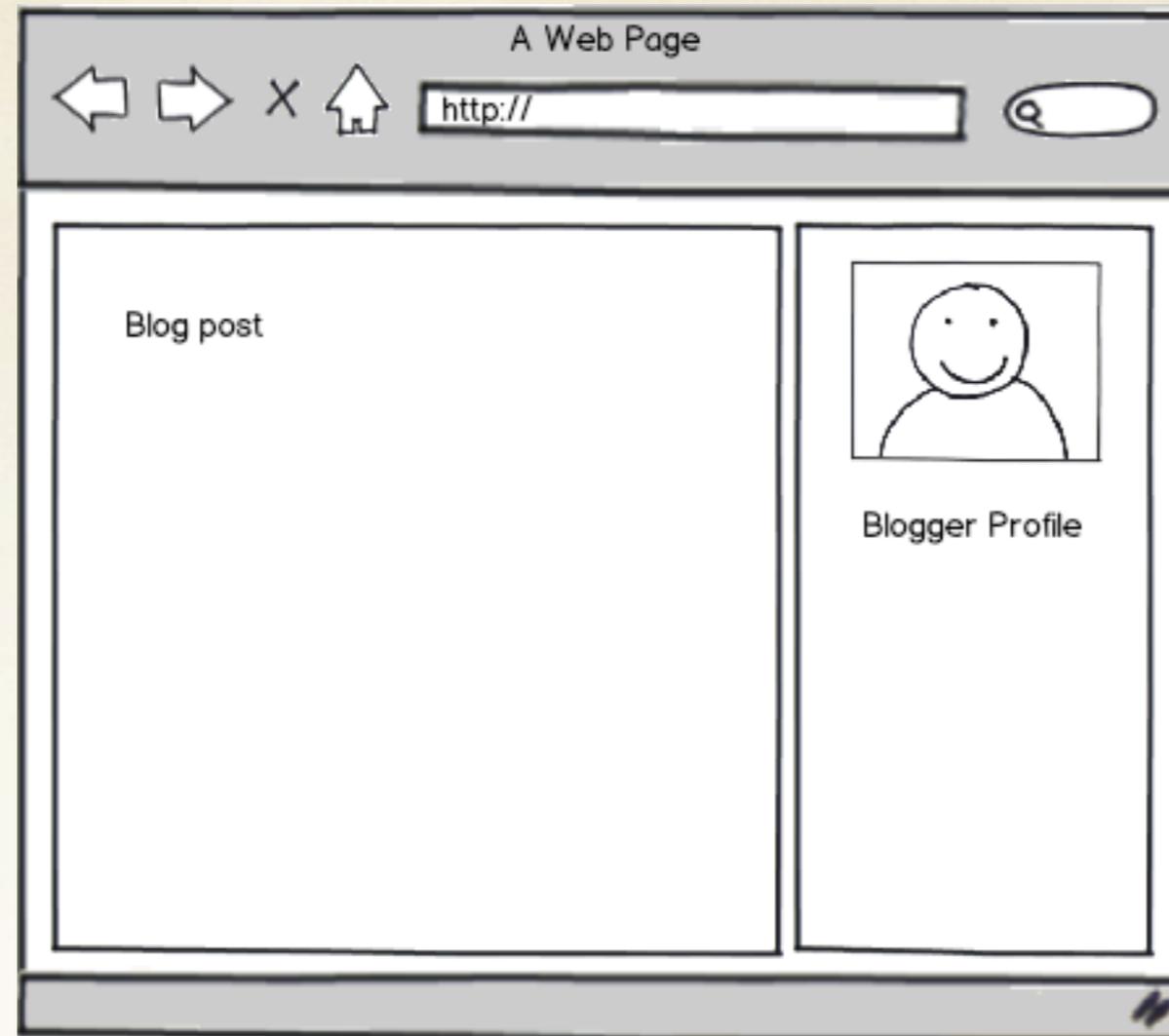
EXAMPLE I: Home Page





BETTER WITH PANELS

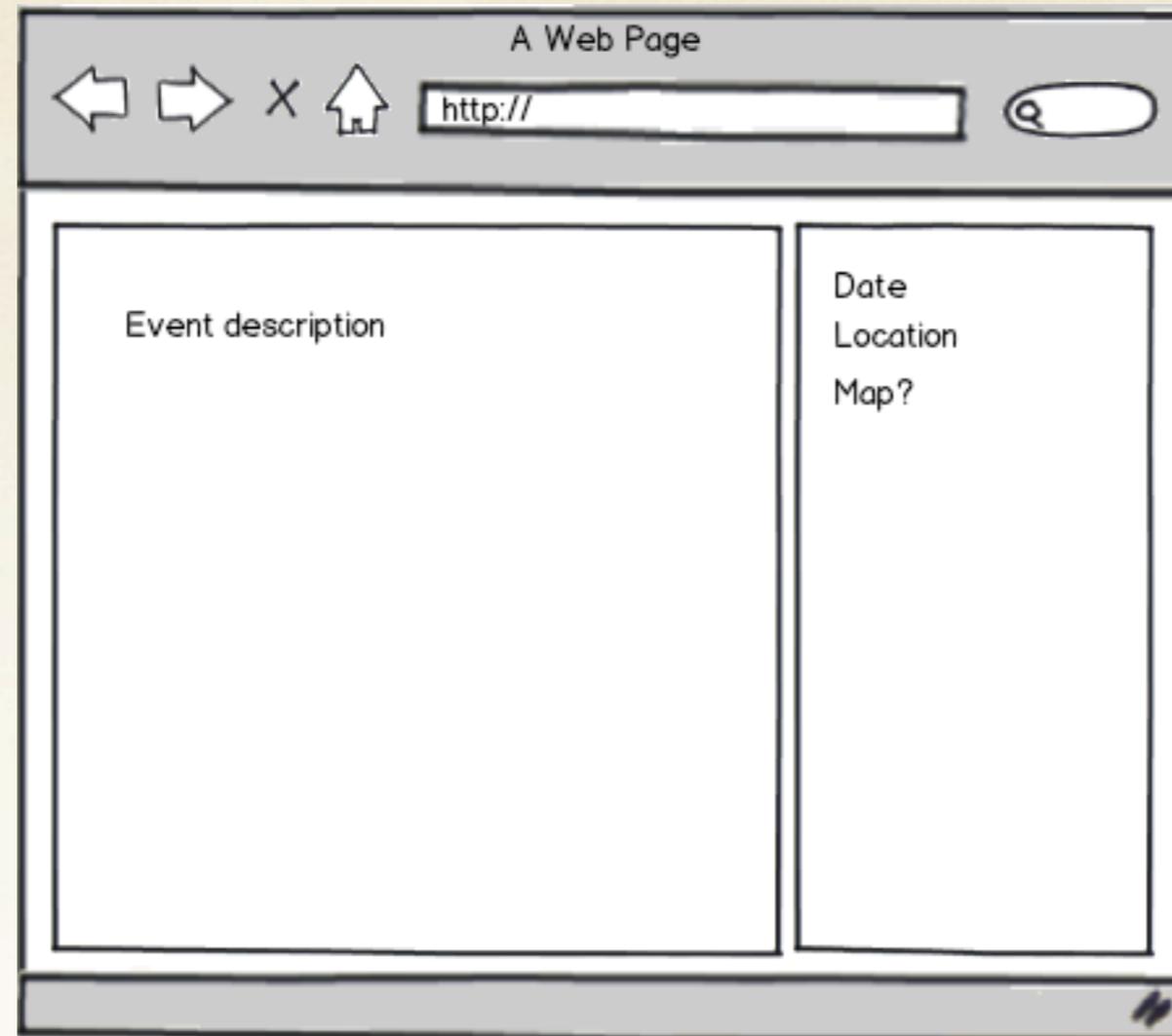
EXAMPLE 2: Node Page (blog)





BETTER WITH PANELS

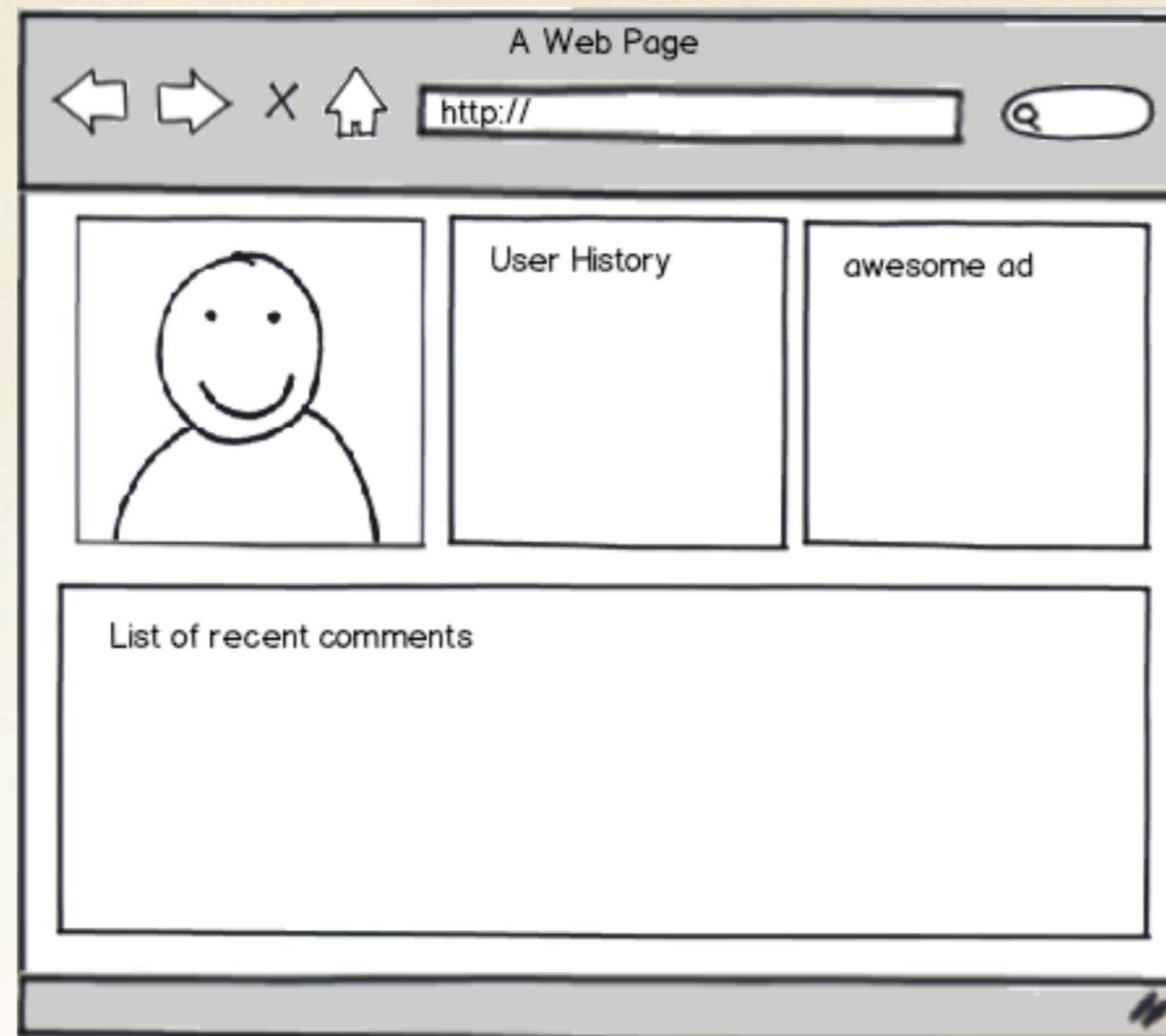
EXAMPLE 2: Node Page (event)





BETTER WITH PANELS

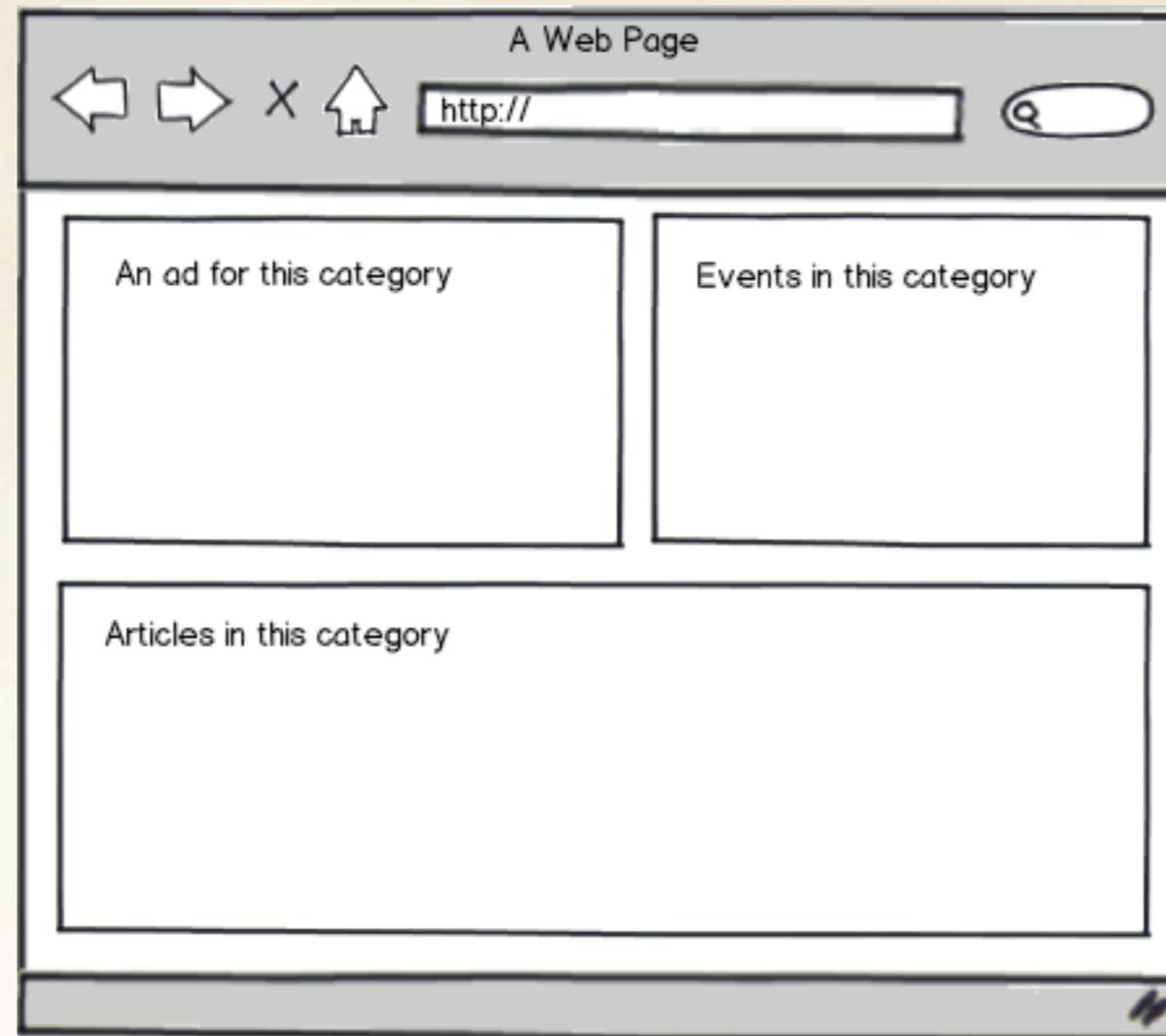
EXAMPLE 3: User Page





BETTER WITH PANELS

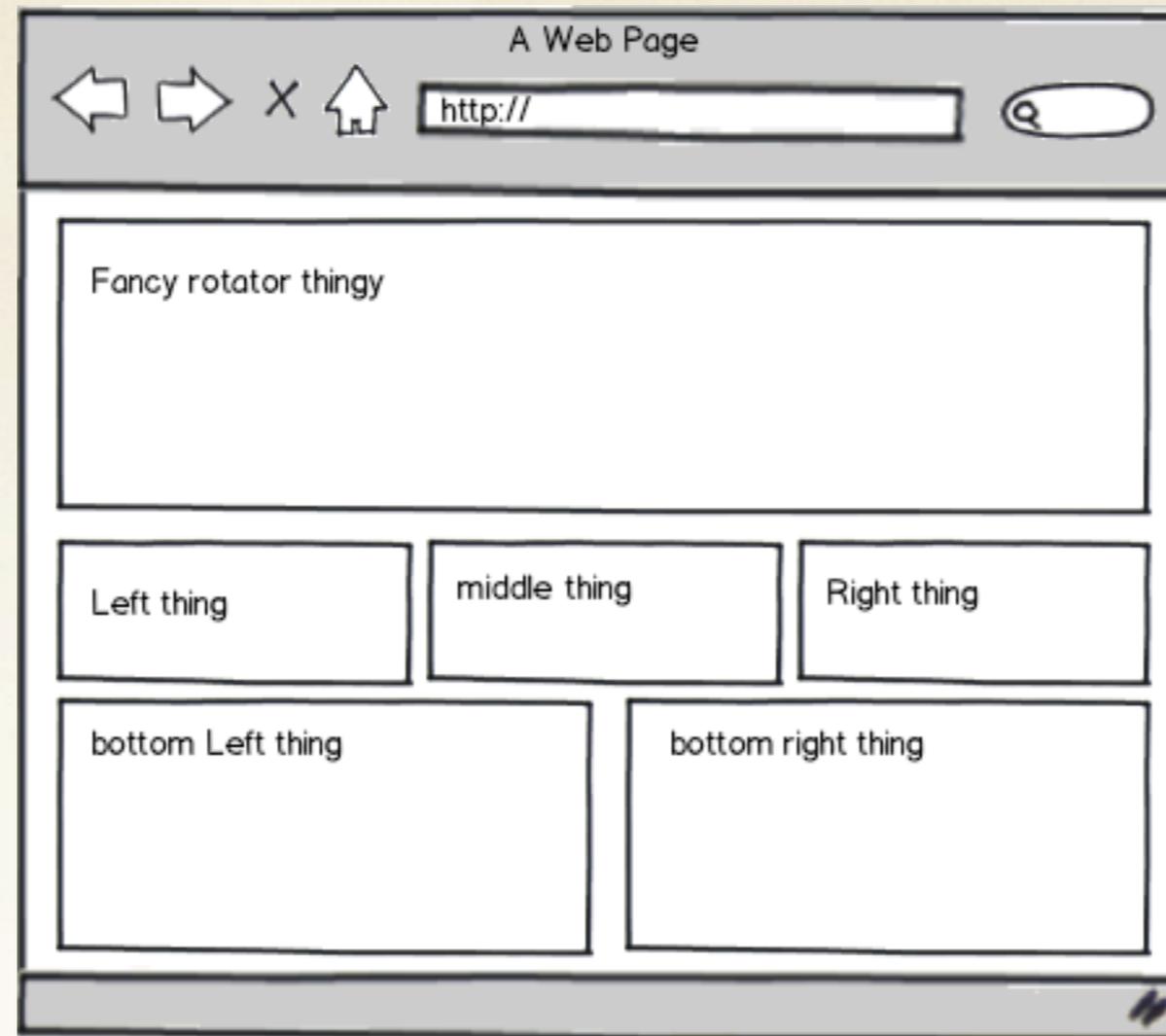
EXAMPLE 4: Taxonomy Term Page





BETTER WITH PANELS

EXAMPLE 5: Custom Landing Pages





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Where's the code?

Everything we've been playing with so far is pluggable.

- You can code your own layouts.
- You can code your own content types.
- You can code your own styles.
- You can even code your own access rules.



BETTER WITH PANELS

Are we out of time?

- Go to the Panelizer session (next, Oceanic ballroom)
- Video series on drupalize.me (more coming soon!)
- Follow me on twitter @jenlampton
- Come talk to me about panels!



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