

A Peek Inside the Kimono: uWestFest.com

Talk by Heather Floyd @ uWestFest March 2017

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Outline, Notes, & Screenshots

The Vision: 1 Umbraco, Every Year Unique, Fast Deployments

1. Before:
 - a. Separate new installs each year
 - b. Hard-coded templates
 - c. Content updates on the fly all over the place
2. Constraints:
 - a. Volunteer project
 - b. Strong desire for Wow! Designs
3. Compromises:
 - a. Tech-savvy content editors needed
 - b. Some items are hard-coded into templates or partial views

The Setup: Umbraco Cloud + Theming + Custom Grid

Umbraco Cloud

- Separation of Code/Design & Content
 - GIT for Schema, Templates, etc.
 - "Queue for Deployment" for Content & Media
- Managed, Phased Deployments
- Fast Deployments

Content

Welcome Get Started **Deployments**

📍 Open uWestFest on Umbraco.io 📖 Help and documentation ▾

Local
Current workspace

Development
Development Workspace

Live
Live Workspace

No pending changes

The queue is currently empty, everything has been transferred already - to add new items to the queue right click content in the tree on the left and select "queue for transfer"

Reload Queue

Theming

Multiple Sites

Each site:

- Same doctypes & code base
- Unique templates, styles, and visual assets

Individual themes allow for overriding page templates, macros, and grid widget rendering

CONTENT

- 🏠 [Site Switcher]
- ▶ 🏠 uWestFest
- ▶ 🏠 2017 - Denver, CO
- ▶ 🏠 2016 - San Diego, CA
- ▶ 🏠 2015 - Orlando, FL
- ▶ 🏠 2014 - Las Vegas, NV



Site Type

Current Event

Theme

2017

CSS Override

Only needed for "general" sites
- to skin with new colors

Event Start Date

2017-03-16



✖ Clear Date

Event End Date

optional - for multi-day
conference

2017-03-17



✖ Clear Date

Site Title

Used in Meta Title Format, as
defined, below

uWestFest 2017

Site-wide Meta Title
Format

Format of Meta titles across
the site. Default if blank:
%%PageTitle%% |
%%SiteTitle%%

%%PageTitle%% - %%SiteTitle%%

Site Description

Used on pages that don't
supply their own description

North America's Annual Umbraco Conference. March 16-17, 2017 in Denver, CO, USA.

2016 - San Diego, CA
Actions ▾

Site Settings
Content
Footer
Social Sites & Links
Page Settings
SEO & Meta
Redirection
Properties

Site Type ▼

Past Event

Theme ▼

2016

CSS Override ▼

Only needed for "general" sites
- to skin with new colors

Event Start Date

2016-03-04 📅

✖ Clear Date

Event End Date

optional - for multi-day
conference 📅

Site Title

Used in Meta Title Format, as
defined, below

uWestFest 2016 - North America's Annual Umbraco Confere

**Site-wide Meta Title
Format**

Format of Meta titles across
the site. Default if blank:
%%PageTitle%% |
%%SiteTitle%%

%%PageTitle%% - %%SiteTitle%%

Site Description

Used on pages that don't
supply their own description

“Site Switcher” Node

- First node in site
- Simple redirect – build out the new site, then switch the homepage to it

[Site Switcher]
Actions ▾

Redirection

Properties

Redirect Option Internal Redirect ▾

Redirect Page to Internal URL
 + 🏠 2017 - Denver, CO
 Open | Edit

Customized Grid

Grid Advantages

- Using a grid control allows for layout flexibility
- Advanced functionality provided via macros
- Reusable widgets keep pages consistent

“Code Snippet” Widget

- Simple HTML/JS Inserts
- Parameterized Partial Views

Code Snippet

Edit your content here

Code Snippet Reference Name
Just displayed in the back-office grid control, for your reference.

Partial View to Render
Root-relative path (ex: /App_Plugins/Theming/Themes/MyTheme/Views/Partials/MyView.cshtml) to code which needs to be processed... otherwise, use the textbox, below.

Partial View Parameters
Optional. Key/Value parameters to pass to the Partial View

+ Add

Cache Partial Minutes
Put in a number of minutes to cache the partial

Code Snippet
Renders JavaScript, stye, and HTML blocks in a widget

```
<div id="svg_umbracoDevelopers" class="img-svg img-right" data-src="/App_Plugins/Theming/Themes/2017/Assets/img/infographic-umbracoDevelopment.svg"></div>
```

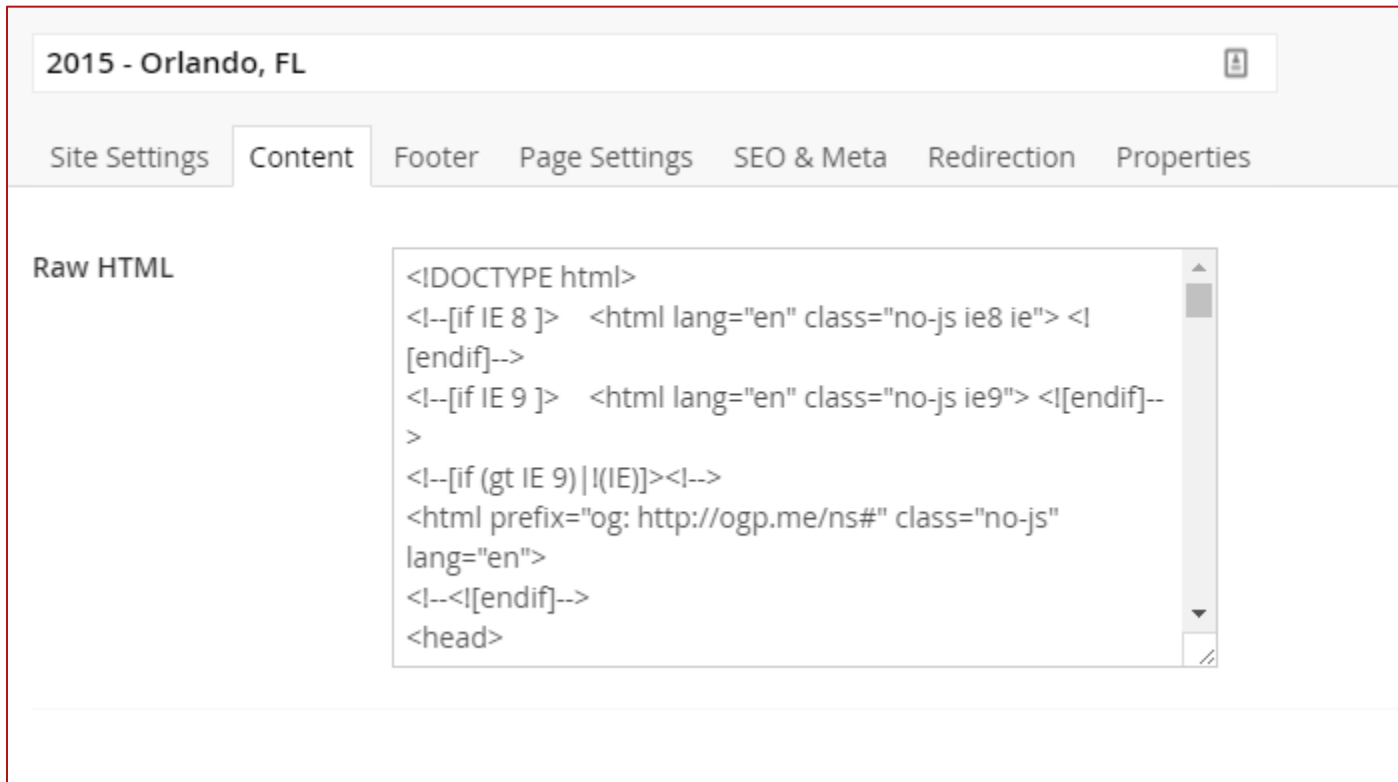
Cancel Update

The Challenges: Incorporating Old Sites, Cloud Bumps, Creative Design Implementation

Incorporating Old sites

Quick-n-Dirty Solution: Raw HTML rendered in templates

```
@Html.Raw(Model.Content.RawHtmlCode)
```



Cloud Bumps

Converting an "on-premise" install to Umbraco Cloud

- Originally migrated about a year ago, the migration process has improved considerably since then. (Use the "19 Steps" method – see "Resources", below)
- A database inconsistency issue caused us to need to shift to a "fresh" project – but Support helped us out with that.

Not every issue is a technical issue

- Need to establish internal processes for content and code deployments.
- Decide on your workflow: Do editors update content on LIVE or staging with a need to deploy?
- Watch out for over-writing content on deployments. Remember to RESTORE from live before working on new features, etc.

Creative Design Implementation

Align Front-end coding with CMS structure

Standard Process: PSD → HTML/CSS → CMS Templates/Content

Result: Back-end coding workarounds, hard-coding bits, etc.

Possible Solution: PSD → CMS-Provided HTML → CSS Styling

Result: Cleaner code-base, more configurable content

Thinking “GRID”

Page design as a Monolith

vs.

Page design as Arrangement of Modules (aka rows/columns/grid widgets)

Room for Future Improvements

1. Front-end development informed by existing CMS & grid structure (as per previous)
2. Up-front annual phase planning – determining in advance all page designs/widgets which will be needed for the whole site lifecycle.

Resources

Recommended Code & Packages

LeBlender

<https://our.umbraco.org/projects/backoffice-extensions/leblender/>

Skybrud. GridDataModel

<https://github.com/skybrud/Skybrud.Umbraco.GridData>

Recommended Info

How to Create Multiple Unique Sites in One Installation Using Theming and the Umbraco Grid

Article for 24 Days 2016, by Heather Floyd

<http://24days.in/umbraco-cms/2016/unique-sites-using-theming>

Building Grid Layouts Based on a Framework

Talk @ uWestFest 2016, by Heather Floyd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0i-gj0tVgE>

Migrating an Existing Site to Umbraco Cloud (in 19 Steps)

Official documentation

<https://github.com/umbraco/.comDocumentation/blob/master/Deployment/existingsite.md>