Sitecore CMS 6.5

Building *A Very Simple Website*

A Self-Study Guide for Developers

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The steps in this document illustrate how to create a basic Website with Sitecore CMS 6.5. The goal is to help you learn Sitecore interfaces, tools, concepts, and terminology.

The chapters in this Self-Study Guide include:

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**
- **Chapter 2: Building *A Very Simple Website***
- **Chapter 3: Conclusion**
- **Chapter 4: Optional Placeholders and Nested Sublayouts**
- **Chapter 5: Conclusion**
- **Chapter 6: Next Steps**
- **Chapter 7: Official Sitecore Training**

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Chapter 2

Creating the Sitecore Web Application Project in Visual Studio 2010

As a Sitecore Developer, you need to create a Web Application Project to modify project files for customization such as Xslt Renderings and Sublayouts. You should already have your website installed and configured properly for this exercise. You can find installation instructions on the Sitecore Developer Network http://sdn.sitecore.net.

To create the Sitecore Web Application Project in Visual Studio 2010, you will first create a blank Web Application Project. This will create the files necessary to turn your Sitecore CMS Installation into a Visual Studio 2010 Web Application Project. Next, you will copy key files from your blank Web Application Project to your Sitecore webroot. You will configure your website and delete unnecessary files. Finally, you will save your Sitecore Web Application Project Solution and build your website.

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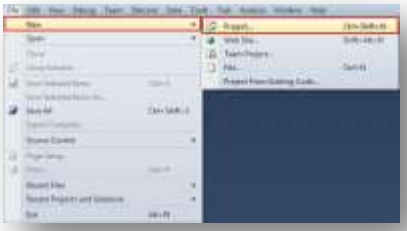
2.1 Creating a blank Web Application Project

Sitecore extension projects should use the ASP.NET Web Application Project, supported by Visual Studio 2010 2005 SP1 and later.

- **Create a blank Web Application Project**

  Start Visual Studio 2010.

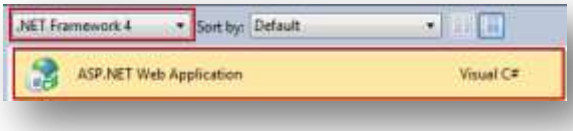
  In Visual Studio 2010, in the **Menu Bar**, select **File.** In the **Context Menu**, select **New**, and then select **Project**.



  In the **New Project** dialog box, in the left side pane, select **Installed Templates**. Click to expand the Visual C# Node and select **Web**.



  In the right side pane, select **ASP.NET Web Application** and .NET Framework 4.



  Provide a Solution Name, for example: Sample Project. When you click OK, Visual Studio 2010 creates a project folder with the name you specified and some related files as well as some additional files that the Sitecore Web Application Project does not need.

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Write It Down!

What is the location of your blank Sample Project? In the space below, write it down.

_____

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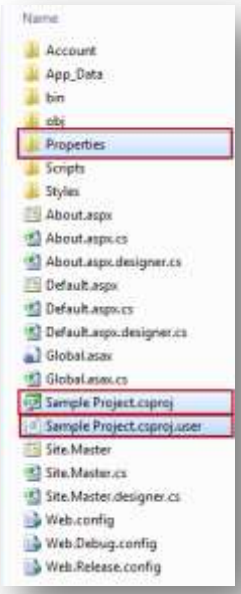
2.2 Creating the Sitecore Web Application Project

In the last exercise, you created a blank Web Application Project in Visual Studio 2010. In this exercise, you will copy key application files to the Sitecore webroot. This exercise will turn your Sitecore CMS installation into a Web Application Project.

- **Copy Web Application Project files to the Sitecore webroot**

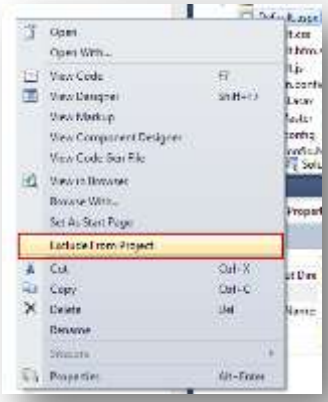
  Locate the blank Sample Project folder in Windows. This will probably be in a folder under `Documents\Visual Studio 2010 2010\Projects`.

  Move or copy the Properties folder, the `*.csproj`, and `*.csproj.user` files to the Sitecore webroot.



  In the Sitecore webroot, double-click the `*.csproj` file to open the project in Visual Studio 2010.

  In Visual Studio 2010, in the **Solution Explorer**, click the arrow next to the project name to expand the file list. Right click the `Default.aspx` page located in the webroot. In the **Context Menu**, select **Exclude From Project**.



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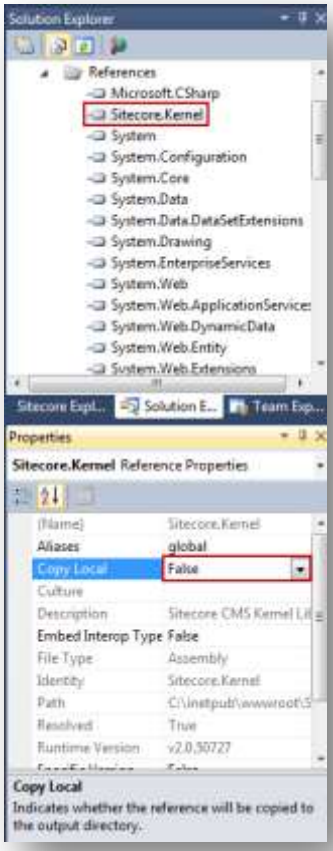
In the **Solution Explorer**, right click the **References** folder located in the webroot. In the **Context Menu**, select **Add Reference**.

In the Add Reference dialog box, select the **Browse** tab. Select the `Sitecore.Kernel.dll` file located in the /bin folder of your Sitecore website, and then click OK.



In the **Solution Explorer**, click the arrow next to the References folder located in the webroot to expand the file list.

Right click the `Sitecore.Kernel.dll` file. In the **Context Menu**, select **Properties**. In the Properties pane, set the **Copy Local** property to false.



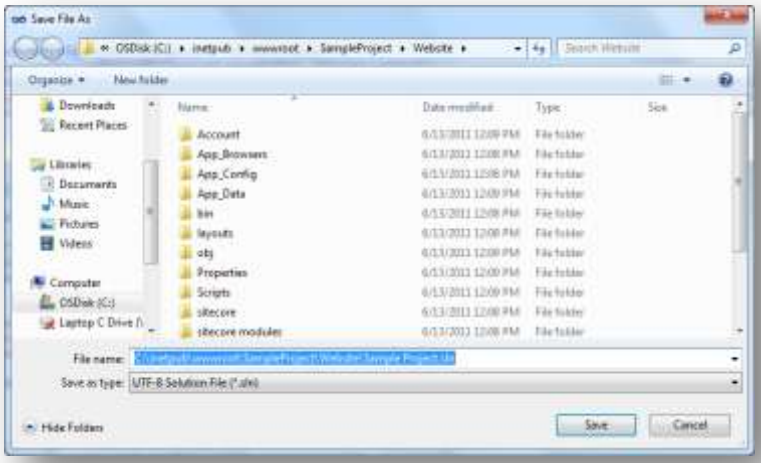
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- **Save the Sitecore Web Application Project Solution**

  In Visual Studio 2010, in the Menu Bar, select **File.** In the context menu, select **Save All**.

  Save the specified items in the default location.

  In the future, you can open this project by opening the corresponding `*.sln` file in the Sitecore CMS webroot.



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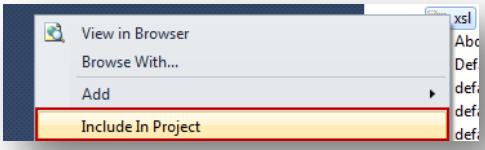
- **Include all files in the Sitecore Web Application Project**

  To edit files in Visual Studio 2010, you must make them visible and include them in the project.

  To make the files visible, in Visual Studio 2010, in the **Solution Explorer**, select **Show All Files**.



  Include the Sitecore CMS files and folders. For example, right click the XSL folder located in the webroot. In the **Context Menu**, select **Include in Project**.



- **Delete unnecessary files**

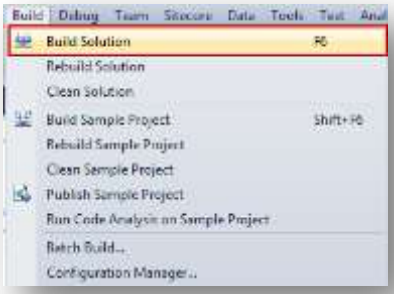
  Visual Studio 2010 may automatically add files from the blank *.csproj file. If the following files are present in Visual Studio 2010 **Solution Explorer**, you need to delete (or exclude) them:

  - About.aspx & .aspx.cs
  - Default.aspx & .aspx.cs
  - Global.asax.cs
  - /Account folder
  - Web.Debug.config & Web.Release.config

- **Build your Web Application Project**

  In Visual Studio 2010, in the **Menu Bar**, select **Build**. In the **Context Menu**, select **Build Solution**.

  Make sure your Web Application Project Solution builds successfully. For troubleshooting assistance, visit the Sitecore Developer Network http://sdn.sitecore.net.



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Find it!

Related Reading:

http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/asp.net/aa336618.aspx
http://webproject.scottgu.com/
http://webproject.scottgu.com/CSharp/Default.aspx
http://webproject.scottgu.com/CSharp/HelloWorld/Helloworld.aspx

Troubleshooting Assistance:

http://sdn.sitecore.net



Important!

If you are using Internet Explorer 9, you will need to turn on Compatibility Mode to be able to use Page Editor. You can also add a Meta tag in the page header to Emulate IE7:

```
<meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=EmulateIE7" />
```

You should place this Meta tag right after the Head tag in all .aspx files included in your website. The Head tag should be similar to:

```
<head runat="server">
    <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=EmulateIE7" />
    <title></title>
    <link href="~/Styles/Site.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
    <asp:ContentPlaceHolder ID="HeadContent" runat="server">
    </asp:ContentPlaceHolder>
</head>
```

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Chapter 3

Building *A Very Simple Website*

Working as a Developer, you will first create the data infrastructure for your basic Website. In Sitecore, creating the data infrastructure means creating data templates, creating template standard values, assigning insert options, specifying default values, and creating content items.

Next, you will create Sitecore presentation components. You will create three types of Sitecore presentation components: XSLT Rendering, Sublayout, and Layout. Presentation components are both definition items in the Sitecore content tree and files in the file system.

Then, you will bind content to presentation. As a Developer, you do this by defining the instructions for how to present specific content on items template standard values.

Finally, you will publish, view, and edit the Website.

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3.1 Create Data Templates

A Very Simple Website features just two types of content: content of the type Product and content of the type Home Page.

The steps outlined will guide your successful completion of this exercise.

- **Login to the Sitecore Desktop**

  Login to the Sitecore Desktop using the Administrator username and password.

  Username: **Admin**
  Password: **b**

  Select Options.

  Next, select Desktop.

  Click Login.



- **Open Template Manager**
  From the Start Menu, select Template Manager.

  Template Manager is your tool for creating new data templates and editing existing data templates.

  In addition, Template Manager is the tool that lets you create Template Standard Values and to assign base templates.



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Explain This!

Why create new Data Templates?

There are two scenarios for when Developers create data templates.

1) Create a new data template when new items require fields not defined in existing data templates.
2) Create a new data template when new items require unique default values and default settings.

Examples of default values are field values. Examples of default settings include workflows, presentation layout details settings, and insert options.

3.1.1 Using Template Builder

In Sitecore, you define types of content type with the construct of a data template. A data template defines content by specifying fields and field types. Field types determine the user interface for how to enter data.

You will create two data templates using Template Manager's Template Builder Editor tab. In this exercise, you will create the Home Page and Product templates as described in the following table:

Data Template	Field Sections	Fields	Field Type	Standard Values	Insert Options
Home Page	Data	Title	Single-Line Text	Home Page	Product
		Description	Rich Text	"Website description goes here..."	
Product	Data	Title	Single-Line Text	$name	*none*
		Description	Rich Text	"Product description goes here..."	
		Price	Single-Line Text	$99.99	

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Find it!

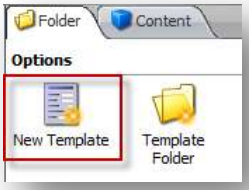
To learn more about how to create data templates, visit the Sitecore Developer Network (SDN) at http://sdn.sitecore.net.

Review the Data Definition Reference for Sitecore CMS 6.5.

- **Create the Home Page data template**

In Template Manager, in the Content Tree, select the User Defined folder.

In the Folder Editor tab, select New Template.



This opens the New Template Wizard's dialogs.

In the Select name dialog, enter Home Page.

Leave the Base Template set to the default.

Click Next.

In the Location dialog, click Next.

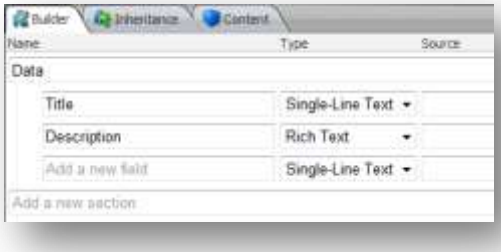
To close the wizard, click Finish.



In the Template Builder, in Add a new section, enter Data.

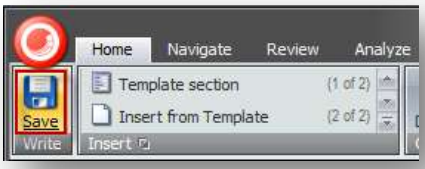
In the first Add a field, enter Title. As the field type, select Single-Line Text.

In the second Add a field, enter Description. Select Rich Text as the field type.



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In the Ribbon, in the Home tab, in the Write group, select Save.





Keyboard Shortcut

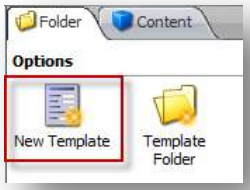
To save without using the Save command, consider a Sitecore Keyboard Shortcut. Save your changes with Ctrl+S. Try it!

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- **Create the Product data template**

In Template Manager, in the Content Tree, select the User Defined folder.

In the Folder Editor tab, select New Template.



This opens the New Template Wizard's dialogs.

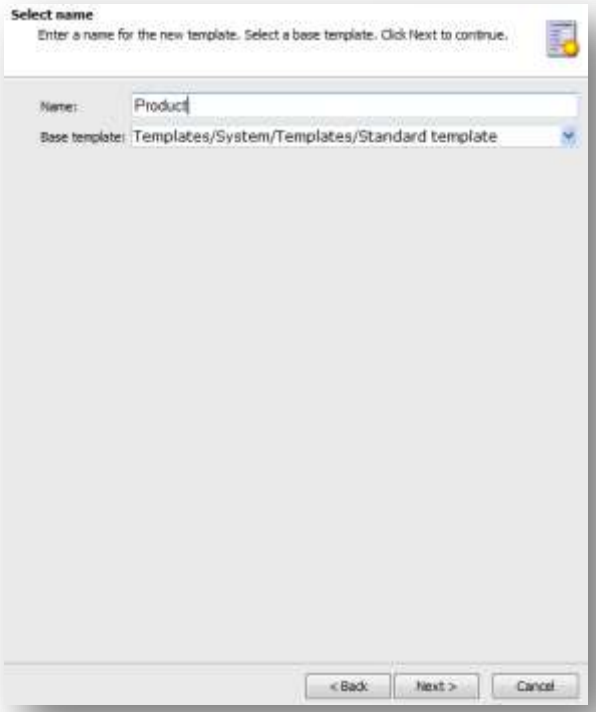
In the Select name dialog, enter Product.

Leave the Base Template set to the default.

Click Next.

In the Location dialog, click Next.

To close the wizard, click Finish.



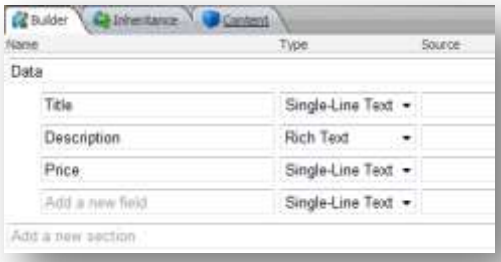
In the Template Builder, in Add a new section, enter Data.

In the first Add a field, enter Title. As the field type, select Single-Line Text.

In the second Add a field, enter Description. Select Rich Text as the field type.

In the third Add a field, enter Price. As the field type, select Single-Line Text.

Save.



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3.1.2 Create Template Standard Values

For a given data template, Developers often want to create default values. Template Standard Values define not only default values, but also default settings. In Sitecore, this construct serves as a way to define both default values and default settings for a given data template.

In this exercise, you will first create Template Standard Values for both the Home Page and Product data templates.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- ❑ **For the Home Page data template, create Standard Values**

  In the Template Manager, in the Content Tree, in the User Defined template folder, select the Home Page data template.

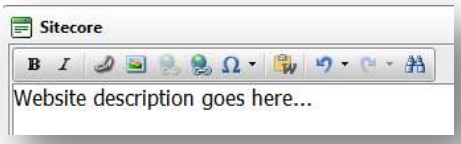
  In the Ribbon, in the Builder Options tab, in the Template group, select Standard Values.

  If not selected, select the standard values item in the Content Tree.

  In the item field editor, for the Title field, enter the token, $name.

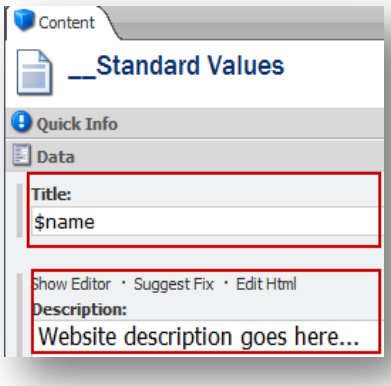
  For the Description field, click Show Editor.

  In the Rich Text Editor, enter Website description goes here...



  Click Accept.

  Save.



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Explain This!

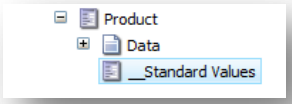
What are tokens?

When Business Users create items, Developers sometimes want to assign field values for the newly created items. Tokens allow Developers to assign field values to a newly created item.

For example, the $name token copies the name of the newly created item. This value comes from the Enter a new item name dialog. Other token examples include $date, $id, $time, and $now.

- **For the Product data template, create Standard Values**

  In the content tree, under the User Defined template folder, select the Product template.



  In the Ribbon, in the Builder Options tab, in the Template group, select Standard Values.



  Select the standard values item in the Content Tree.

  In the item field editor, for the Title field, enter the token, $name.

  For the Description field, click Show Editor.

  In the Rich Text Editor, enter Product description goes here...

  Click Accept.

  For the Price field, enter $99.99.

  Save.

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3.1.3 Assign Insert Options

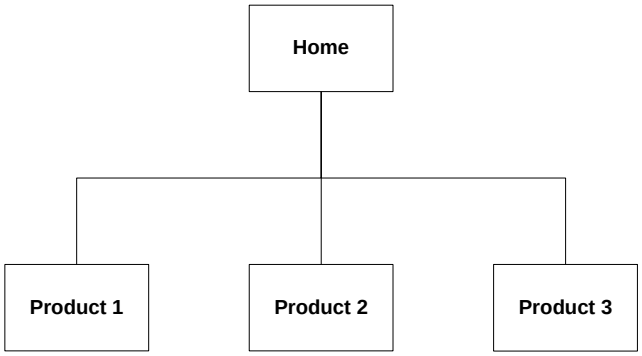
In this exercise, you will define the structure of the Content Tree. Often, this structure relates directly to Information Architecture of your Website. *A Very Simple Website* will have the following Information Architecture:

Home

--- Product 1

--- Product 2

--- Product 3

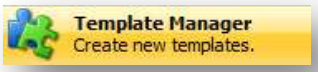


In order to define how content types exist in the Content Tree hierarchy, Developers assign Insert Options. By selecting an Insert Option, a Business User can create an item. For example, beneath the Home item, Business Users will only be able to create Product items.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

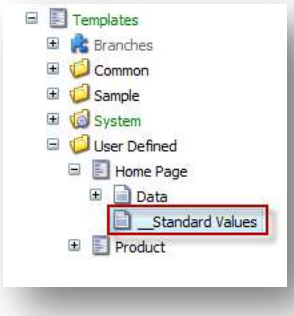
- ❑ **Open Template Manager**

  From the Sitecore Start Menu, open Template Manger.



- ❑ **Select the __Standard Values item**

  In the Content Tree, in User Defined, in the Home Page data template, select the __Standard Values item.



- ❑ **Assign an Insert Option**

  In the Ribbon, in the Configure tab, in the Insert Options group, select Assign.



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In the Insert Options dialog, remove the Folder template if it exists.

In the Insert Options dialog, select the Product template.



Click OK.

Save.



Explain This!

What are Insert Options?

Imagine that your Website has two site sections: a Products section featuring Product Descriptions and a News section with News Articles.

Using Insert Options, Sitecore Developers define what types of content Business Users can create and where they can create it in the Content Tree. In other words, Insert Options let Developers mandate where and what Business Users can create.

For the Product section, a Developer assigns the Product Description data template as the single Insert Option. For the News section, a Developer assigns the News Article data template as the single Insert Option.

In this manner, Business Users can only create items of the type Product Description in the Products section and only items of the type News Article in the News section.

3.1.4 Delete the Home Item

Sitecore has already created a Home item for you. In this exercise, you will delete the Home item.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:



- ❑ **Open Content Editor**

  In the Sitecore Desktop Start Menu, select Content Editor.

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- **Delete the Home Item**

In the Content Tree, select the Home item.



In the Ribbon, in the Home tab, in the Operations group, select Delete.



Important!

By default, deleting the Home item deletes your Website.

If the Breaking Links dialog appears, select Remove Links and click Continue.

- **Publish your changes**

In the Content Tree, select the Content item.



In the Ribbon, in the Publish tab, in the Publish group, select Publish.

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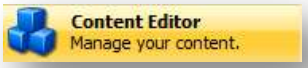
3.2 Create Content Items

In this exercise, you will begin by creating a new Home Item. Next, you will create several Product Items.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- ❑ **Open Content Editor**

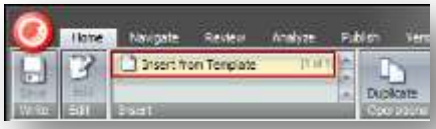
  In the Sitecore Desktop Start Menu, select Content Editor.



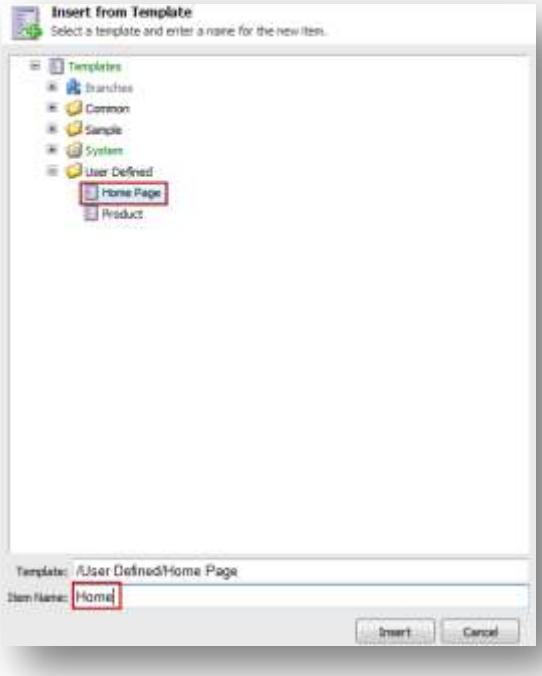
  Select the Content item.



  In the Ribbon, in the Home tab, in the Insert group, select Insert from Template.



  In the Insert from Template dialog, select the Home Page template.



  In the Item Name field, enter Home.

  Click Insert.

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❑ Create a Product Item

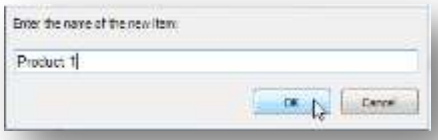
In the Content Tree, right click the Home item.

Select Insert and then Product.



In the Enter the name of the new item dialog, enter Product 1.

Click OK.



❑ Edit the Products Item

Review the field values of the Product 1 item.



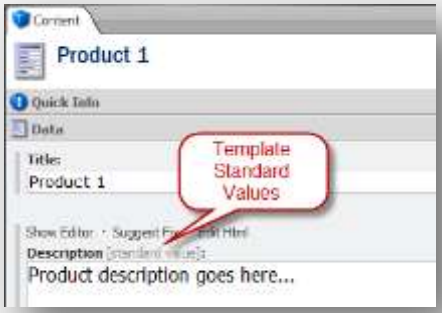
Explain This!

Where did these field values come from?

Notice that the name that you entered appears in the Title field.

Also, observe that the default text you entered into the Product template's standard values appears in the Description field.

The $name token captures the value typed into the Enter the Item Name dialog. It copies this captured value into the Title field of the newly created item.



In contrast, the Description field inherits the __Standard Values item's Description field value. This is why you see [standard value] next to the Description field title in the Content Editor.

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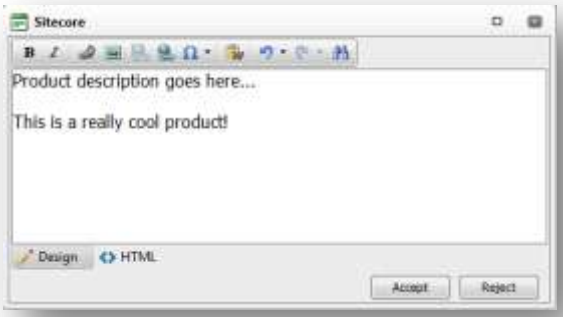
Click the Show Editor link above the Description field.

This opens the Rich Text Editor.

Use the Rich Text Editor to change the text in the Description field.

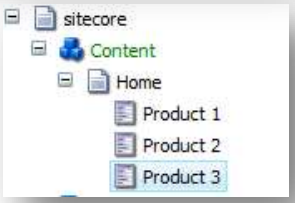
Click Accept.

Save.



- **Create at least two more Product items**

  Repeat these steps to add a more product items. You should have at least three products when done.





Find it!

To learn these exercises using the Sitecore Rocks Visual Studio 2010 Extension, please refer to the **Self Study Guide** for Building *A Very Simple Website* in your Student CD.

Also find the following related Sitecore Rocks resources:

http://vsplugins.sitecore.net/
http://www.sitecore.net/Community/Technical-Blogs/John-West-Sitecore-Blog.aspx



Verify your work with your Instructor

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3.3 Create Presentation Components

Presentation Components are both definition items (an item defined by a specific data template) and a file in the file system. For this exercise, you will create three "building block" Presentation Components:

1. Side Menu XSLT Rendering
2. Product Display XSLT Rendering
3. Generic Display Sublayout

You will create both the Side Menu and Product Display XSLT Renderings using Developer Center.

The following checklist will help you get started.



- ❑ **Open Developer Center**

  From the Sitecore Start Menu, select Development Tools, in the Context Menu, select Developer Center.

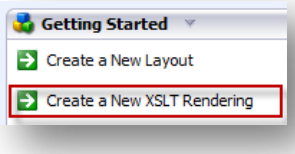
3.3.1 Create the Side Menu XSLT Rendering

In this exercise, you will use Developer Center to create an XSLT Rendering that displays links to the Home item and all Product items.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- ❑ **Create the XSLT Rendering**

  From the Start Page of Developer Center, in the Getting Started Pane, select Create a New XSLT Rendering.



  In the Create XSLT File Wizard, in the Name dialog, enter Side Menu.

  Click Next.

  In the Location dialog, select the Renderings item.

  Click Next.

  In the File Location dialog, select the xsl file folder.

  Click Create.

  Click Finish.

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❑ Edit the Side Menu XSLT file

Uncomment the first variable line.

```
<!-- variables -->
<xsl:variable name="home" select="sc:item('/sitecore/content/home',.) " />
```

After the main comment section, replace the <xsl:template and closing </xsl:template tags with the following:

```
<!--============================================================-->
<!-- main                                                       -->
<!--============================================================-->
<xsl:template match="*" mode="main">
 <br />
 <sc:link select="$home">
   <xsl:value-of select="$home/@name"/>
 </sc:link>
 <br/>
 <xsl:for-each select="$home/item">
   <sc:link>
     <sc:text field="title" />
   </sc:link>
   <br />
  </xsl:for-each>
</xsl:template>
```

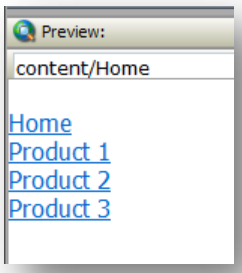
Save!

Click the Save Icon or use the Ctrl+S keystroke.

❑ Preview the Side Menu XSLT Rendering

After saving, in the Preview pane, you will see hyperlinks for the Home item and Product child items.

If you are unable to view the Preview pane, in the Side Menu.xslt tab, select the Preview command. This command toggles the display of the Preview pane.



To refresh the Preview Pane, click the Refresh button.



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Find it!

To learn more about XSL and XPath constructs and functions as well as Sitecore Xsl Extension controls and functions, visit the Sitecore Developer Network (SDN) at http://sdn.sitecore.net.

Review the Presentation Component XSL Reference for Sitecore CMS 6.5.

3.3.2 Create the Product Display XSLT Rendering

In this exercise, you will use Developer Center to create an XSLT Rendering that shows details about a given Product item.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- **Create the XSLT Rendering**

  From the Start Page of Developer Center, in the Getting Started Pane, select Create a New XSLT Rendering.

  In the Create XSLT File Wizard, in the Name dialog, enter Product Display.

  Click Next.

  In the Location dialog, select the Renderings item.

  Click Next.

  In the File Location dialog, select the xsl file folder.

  Click Create.

  Click Finish.

- **Edit the Product Display XSLT file**

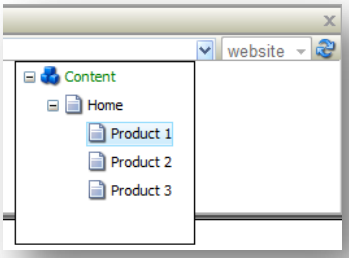
  After the main comment section, replace the <xsl:template and closing </xsl:template tags with the following:

```
<!--=====================================================================-->
<!-- main                                                                -->
<!--=====================================================================-->
<xsl:template match="*" mode="main">
  <h1><sc:text field="title" /></h1>
  <sc:text field="description" />
  <br />Price: <b><sc:text field="price" /></b>
</xsl:template>
```

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Save!

Click the Save Icon or use the Ctrl+S keystroke.



- **Preview the Product Display XSLT Rendering**

  In the Preview pane, in the path field drop tree, select Product 1.

  The item path is:

  `content/Home/Product 1`

  To view the product details, in the Preview pane, click the Refresh command.



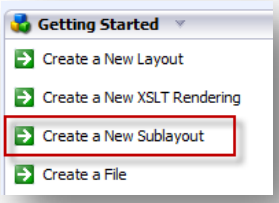
3.3.3 Create the Generic Display Sublayout

In this exercise, you will use the Sitecore Sublayout wizard to create both the Sublayout definition item and the Web User Control file.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- **Create the Sublayout**

  From the Start Page of Developer Center, in the Getting Started Pane, select Create a New Sublayout.



  In the Create Sublayout Wizard, in the Name dialog, enter Generic Display.

  Click Next.

  In the Location dialog, select Sublayouts.

  Click Next.

  In the File Location dialog, select the layouts folder.

  Click Create.

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To close the wizard, click Finish.

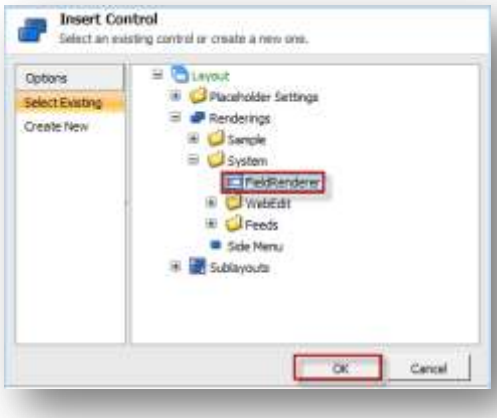
- **Edit the Generic Display Sublayout with Grid Designer**

In the Ribbon, in the Add group, select Control.



In the Insert Control dialog, in the Content Tree, expand Renderings, expand System, and select FieldRenderer.

Click OK.



In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.



In the Rendering dialog, in the Attributes tab, set the ID to MyTitle.

Set the Field Name to Title.

Click OK.

In the Ribbon, in the Add group, select Control.

In the Insert Control dialog, in the Content Tree, expand Renderings, expand System, and select FieldRenderer.

Click OK.

In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.

In the Rendering dialog, in the Attributes tab, set the ID to MyDescription

Set the Field Name to Description.

Click OK.

Save your changes!

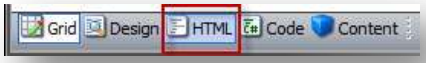
Click the Save command.

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If you do not save, you will lose your work.

❑ Edit the Generic Display.ascx Markup

In Developer Center, in Grid Designer, switch to HTML view.



In the Application tab, click HTML.

.

Enclose the first <sc:fieldrenderer /> tag with <h1> </h1>

Your final markup should be similar to:

```
<h1>
<sc:fieldrenderer runat="server" renderingid="1AF4AA3-3B5D-4611-8C71-
   959AD261E5B7%7d" id="MyTitle" fieldname="Title"></sc:fieldrenderer>
</h1>
<br />
<sc:fieldrenderer runat="server" renderingid="1AF4AA3-3B5D-4611-8C71-
   959AD261E5B7%7d" id="MyDescription" fieldname="Description">
</sc:fieldrenderer>
```

Save! Use the Ctrl+S keystroke.

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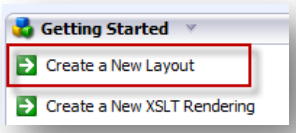
3.4 Create the Browser Layout

Presentation Components are both definition items (an item defined by a specific data template) and a file in the file system. For this exercise, you will create a Layout Presentation Component named Browser Layout. You will use the Sitecore Layout wizard to create both the Layout definition item and the Web Form file.

To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- ❑ **Create the Sublayout**

  From the Start Page of Developer Center, in the Getting Started Pane, select Create a New Layout.



  In the Create Layout Wizard, in the Name dialog, enter Browser Layout.

  Click Next.

  In the Location dialog, select Layouts.

  Click Next.

  In the File Location dialog, select the layouts folder.

  Click Create.

  To close the wizard, click Finish.

- ❑ **Edit the Browser Layout with Grid Designer**

  In the Ribbon, in the Add group, click the Div command.

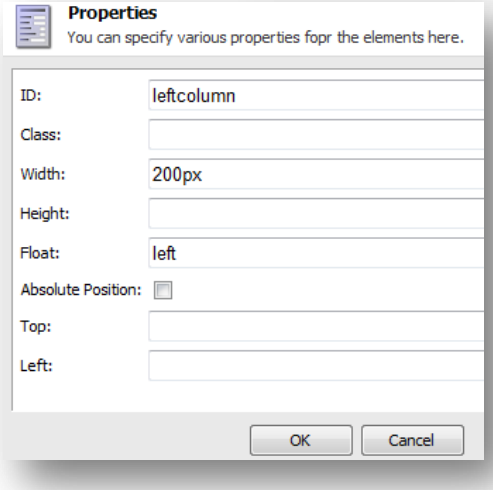


  In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.

  In the Properties dialog, set ID to leftcolumn.

  Set width to 200px.

  Set Float to left.



  Click OK.

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In the Ribbon, in the Rows & Columns group, select Right.

In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.

In the Properties dialog, set ID to rightcolumn.

Set width to 600px.

Set float to right if no value exists.

Click OK.

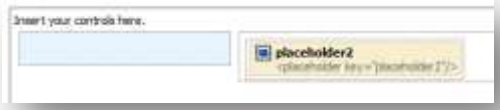
In the Grid Designer, select placeholder1.



In the Ribbon, in the Edit group, select Delete.



In the Grid Designer, select the remaining Div.



In the Ribbon, in the Add group, select Control.

In the Insert Control dialog, in the Content Tree, select Side Menu.

Click OK.

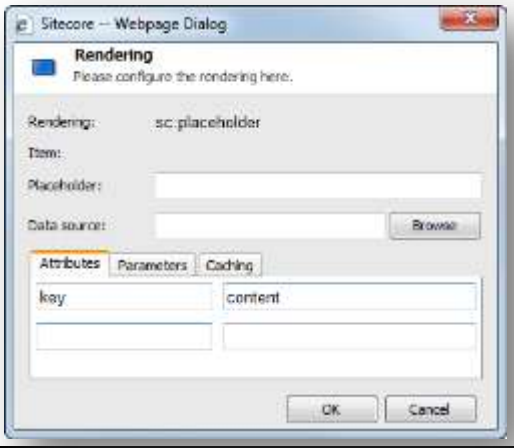


In the Grid Designer, select placeholder 2.

In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.

In the Rendering dialog, in the Attributes tab, seth the key field value to content.

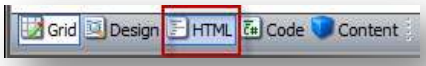
Click OK.



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Save!

❑ Edit the Browser Layout.aspx Markup



In Developer Center, in Grid Designer, switch to HTML view.

In the Application tab, click HTML.

.

After the <form> tag, replace the text

```
Insert your controls here.
```

with

```
<div style="width:800px;"><i>Header</i></div>
<div style="width:800px;">
```

Before the closing `</form>`, add a footer.

```
</div>
<div style="clear:both;"></div>
<div style="width:800px;"><i>Footer</i></div>
```

Your final markup should read like:

```
<div style="width: 800px;"><i>Header</i></div>
<div style="width: 800px;">
    <div id="leftcolumn" style="width: 200px; float: left;"
       class="scGridDesignerArea">
        <sc:XslFile runat="server" RenderingID="{4AA8050E-87E3-4D26-BD8D-
           26EFE9C25272}" Path="/xsl/Side Menu.xslt" ID="XslFile1"></sc:XslFile>
    </div>
    <div id="rightcolumn" style="width: 600px; float: right;"
       class="scGridDesignerArea">
        <sc:Placeholder runat="server" Key="content"></sc:Placeholder>
    </div>
</div>
<div style="clear: both"></div>
<div style="width: 800px;"><i>Footer</i></div>
```

Save! Use the Ctrl+S keystroke.

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- **Verify your changes**

  In the Application tab, select Grid.



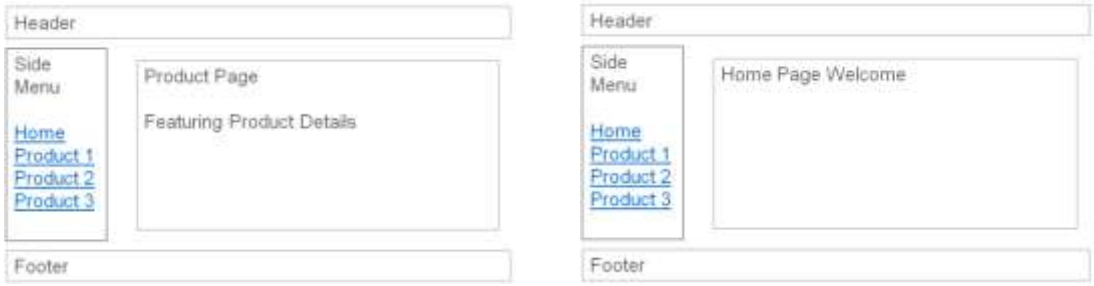


In the Grid Designer, verify that you see Header, Side Menu, Content, and Footer.

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3.5 Bind Content to Presentation

Consider the following wireframes for both the Home Page and Product Pages:



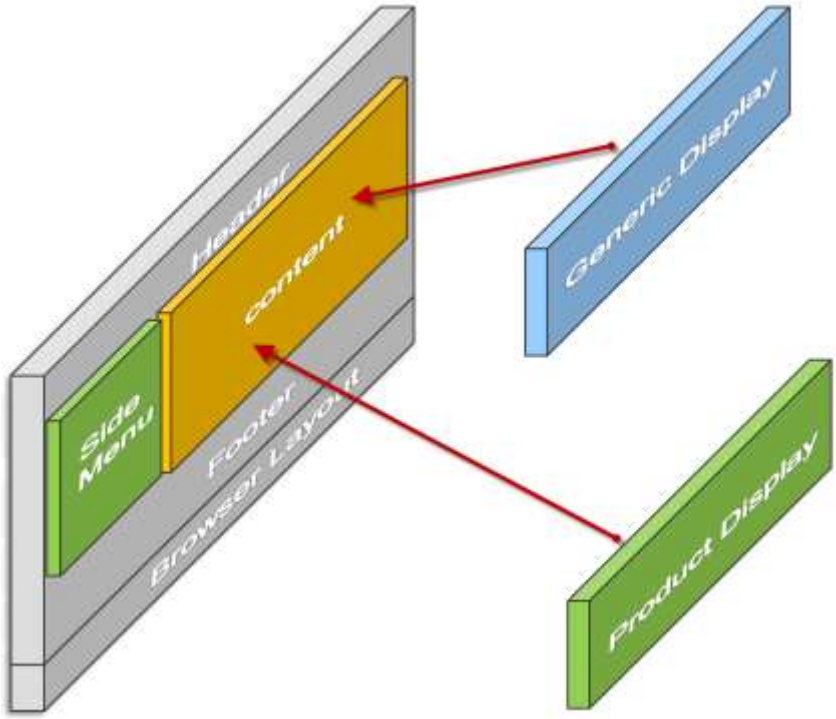
As a Sitecore Developer, you define the instructions for how to present specific content using Layout Details settings. This instruction set is how Sitecore binds content to presentation.

When Sitecore receives a runtime request for content, Sitecore interprets the Layout Details settings and processes these instructions through the Sitecore rendering engine and pipeline. To the requesting device, Sitecore then returns outputs a data stream. Usually, this is HTML, XHTML, XML, or RSS.

There are two places where you can define Layout Details settings. The first place is on the item. The second, and most ideal, is on Template Standard Values. In this exercise, you will define the presentation instructions for both the Home Page and all Product items.

Using template standard values, you will specify layout, sublayout, and renderings to use. The

Home item will feature the Browser Layout with the Generic Display sublayout.



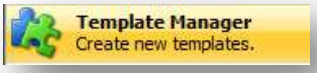
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Product items will use the Browser Layout with the Product Display XSLT rendering. The diagram illustrates both static and dynamic binding of presentation components.

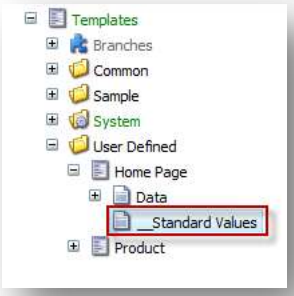
To complete this exercise, use the following checklist:

- ❑ **Assign Layout Details to the Home Page template standard values**

  From the Sitecore Start menu, open Template Manager.



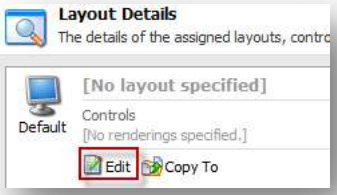
  In the Content Tree, for the Home Page data template, select the __Standard Values item.



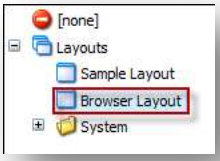
  In the Ribbon, in the Presentation tab, in the Layout group, select Details.



  In the Layout Details dialog, for Default device, select Edit.



  In the Device Editor dialog, in the drop-down list, select Browser Layout.



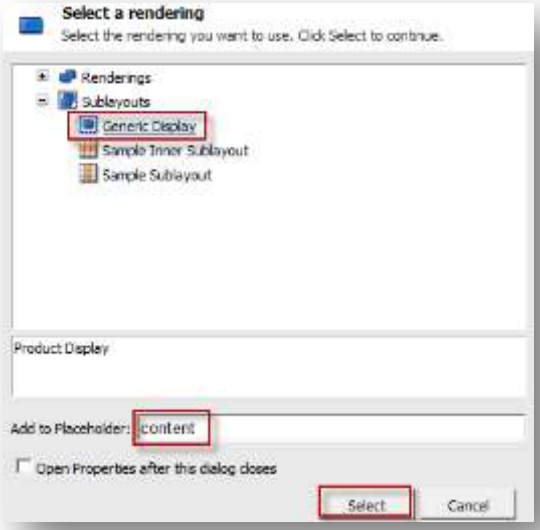
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In the Device Editor dialog, select Controls.



To add the Generic Display sublayout, click Add.

In the Select a rendering dialog, select Generic Display.

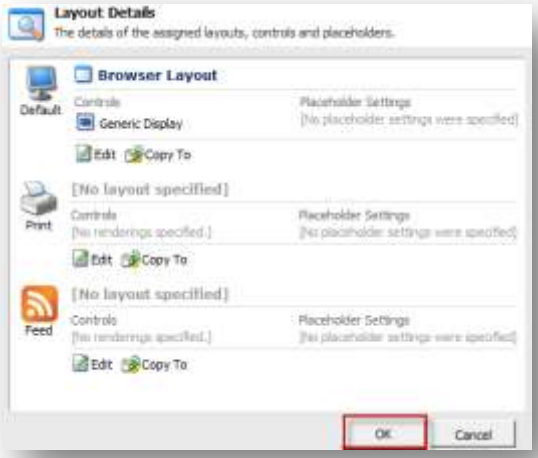


In the Add to Placeholder, enter content.

Click Select.

In the Device Editor dialog, click OK.

In the Layout Details dialog, click OK.



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Best Practice

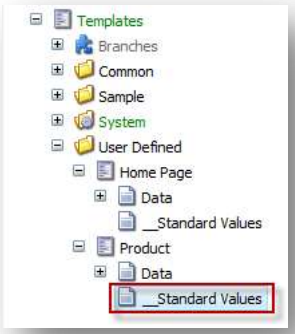
A Sitecore Developer best practice is to inherit presentation Layout Details settings from template standard values. On an item, you can always override the default settings and likewise reset back the template standard values default settings.

Imagine tens of thousands of items of the type Product. It would take days to update the Layout Details for each product item individually. With template standard values, it takes only minutes. Update the Layout Details on the Product data template's standard values item. All the Product items inherit the change.

- **Assign Layout Details to the Product template standard values**

  From the Sitecore Start menu, open Template Manager.

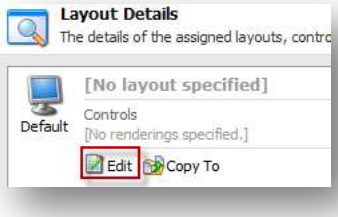
  In the Content Tree, for the Product data template, select the __Standard Values item.



  In the Ribbon, in the Presentation tab, in the Layout group, select Details.

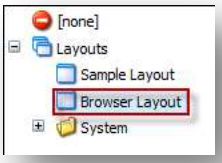


  In the Layout Details dialog, for Default device, select Edit.



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In the Device Editor dialog, in the drop-down list, select Browser Layout.



In the Device Editor dialog, select Controls.

To add the Generic Display sublayout, click Add.



In the Select a rendering dialog, select Product Display.

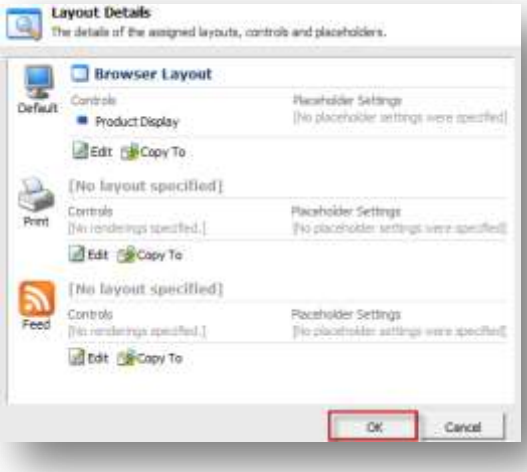
In the Add to Placeholder field, enter content.

Click Select.



In the Device Editor dialog, click OK.

In the Layout Details dialog, click OK.



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3.6 Publish and View the Website

For this exercise, publish and view the live Website.

The following checklist will help guide you.

- ❑ **Publish the Site.**

  From the Sitecore Start menu, select Publish Site.



  In the dialog box, select Incremental Publish.

  Click Publish.

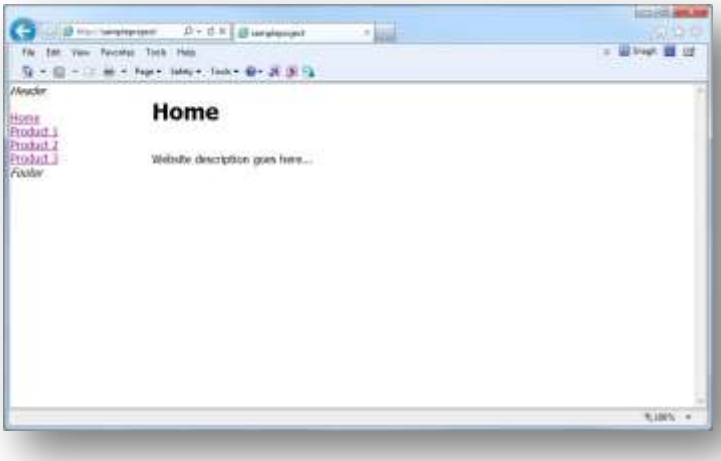


- ❑ **View the live Website**

  Open a new browser window.

  Navigate to http://localhost

  Use the links on the side menu to view all of your product pages.



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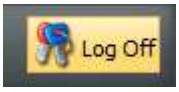
3.7 Working with Page Editor

For this exercise, edit the website just like a Business User.

The following checklist will help you get started.

- ❑ **Login using Page Editor**

  To leave the Sitecore Desktop, on the Sitecore Start menu, select Log Off.



- ❑ **Login into Page Editor**

  Login to the Sitecore Page Editor using the Administrator username and password:

  Username: **Admin**

  Password: **b**

  Select Options.

  In the User Interface pane, select Page Editor.

  Click Login.





Explain This!

Why use Page Editor?

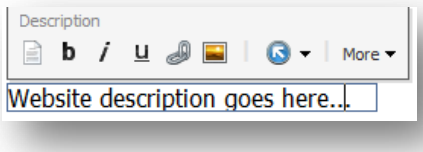
Page Editor allows Business Users to edit content in the “work in progress” site. The Website that you can see in the Page Editor looks the same as the live site except for the ribbon on the top of the page. Any changes that you make here must be published before they are visible on the live website.

3.7.1 Editing Content with Page Editor

For this exercise, your will design the website just like a designer. The following checklist will help you get started.

- ❑ **Edit the Home Page**

  Edit the Description of the Home item.

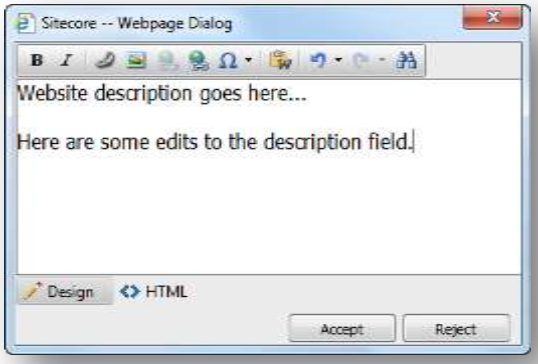


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Hover the mouse over the Description field. You will see a Floating Toolbar for the field.

In the Floating Toolbar, select the Edit Text command.

In the Rich Text Editor, make some edits.

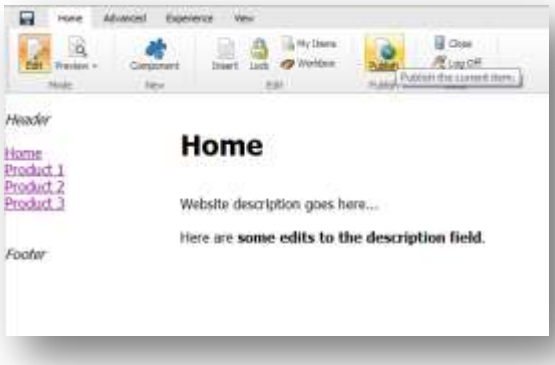


Click Accept.

At the top of the page, click the Save icon. Or, use the Ctrl+S keystroke.

- **Publish the Website**

In the Ribbon, in the Home tab, in the Publish group, click Publish.



If prompted to save your changes, click Yes.

In the Publish Item wizard, click Next.

In the Settings dialog, click Publish.

Click Finish.

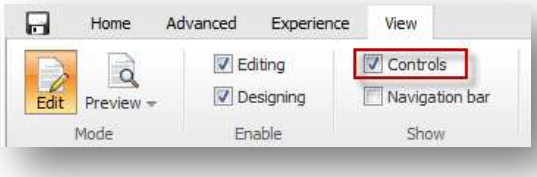
3.7.2 Designing Content with Page Editor

For this exercise, explore design changes to the website.

The following checklist will help you get started.

- **Select the Content placeholder**

In the Ribbon, in the View tab, in the Show group, check the Controls checkbox.



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If Designing is not checked, then check this checkbox, too.

Select the outline of the Control that borders the Title field and Description field. The Floating Toolbar will read Generic Display.

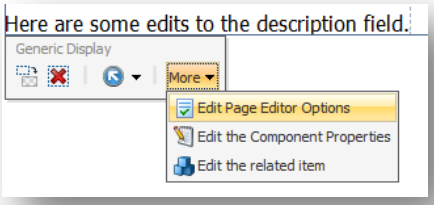
Generic Display is a Sublayout that dynamically binds to the Content Placeholder.

In the Floating Toolbar, click Show Parent.



- **Edit the Allowed Controls**

In the Floating Toolbar, click More, in the Context Menu, click Edit Page Editor Options.

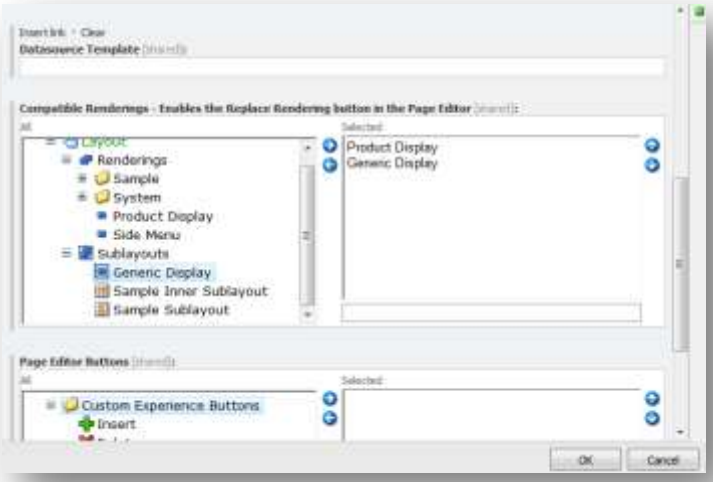


In the dialog, in the Compatible Renderings field, add the Product Display Layout and the Generic Display Sublayout.

In the Layout Tree, in the All Pane, in Renderings, select Product Display.

To move the Product Display item to the Selected pane, use the left arrow or double click.

In the Layout Tree, in the All Pane, in Sublayouts, select Generic Display.



To move the Generic Display item to the Selected pane, use the left arrow or double click.

Click OK.

Save.

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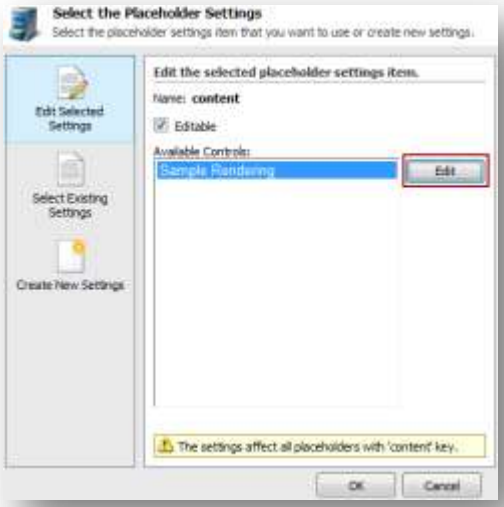
Select again the out Control that borders the Title field and Description field. The Floating Toolbar will read Generic Display.

Generic Display is a Sublayout that dynamically binds to the Content Placeholder.

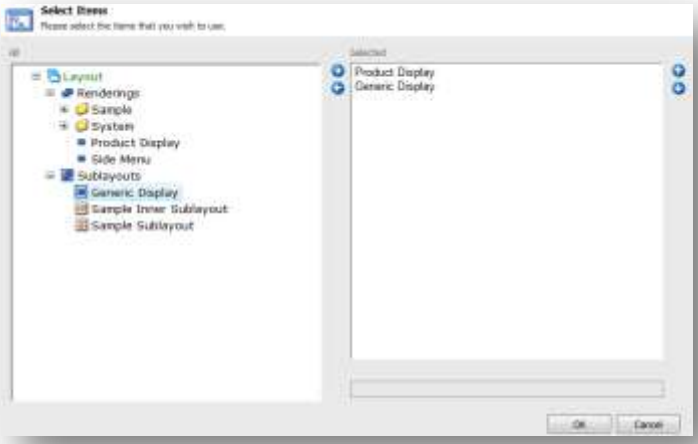
In the Floating Toolbar, click Show Parent.



In the Floating Toolbar,
click Edit The Placeholder Settings.



In the Select the Placeholder Settings dialog box,
Select Edit.



In the Select Items dialog box, select the Product Display Layout and the Generic Display Sublayout.

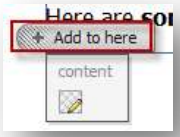
Remove Sample Rendering if it exists.

Click OK.

In the Select the Placeholder Settings dialog box, click OK.

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In the Floating Toolbar, click Add to here.



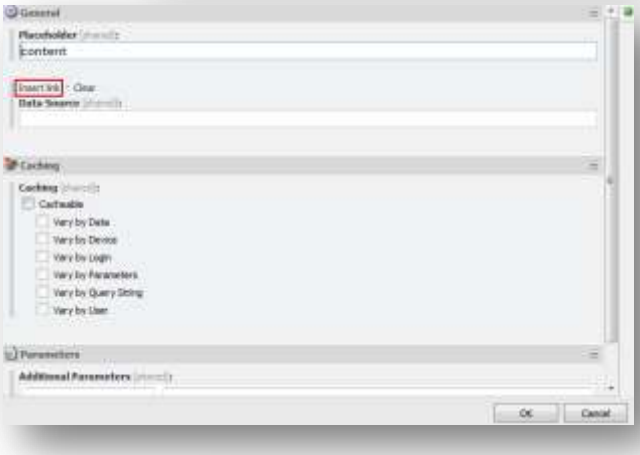
In the Select a Rendering dialog box, select Product Display.

Next check the Open the Properties dialog box immediately.

Click Select.



In the Control Properties dialog, in the Data Source field, click the Insert Link Command.



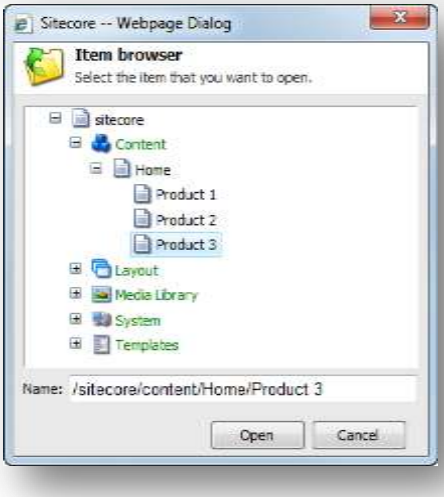
In the Item browser dialog, select a Product Item.

Click Open.

In the Control Properties dialog, verify that the Data Source filed shows an item path. For example, the item path is:

```
/sitecore/content/Home/Product 3
```

Click OK.



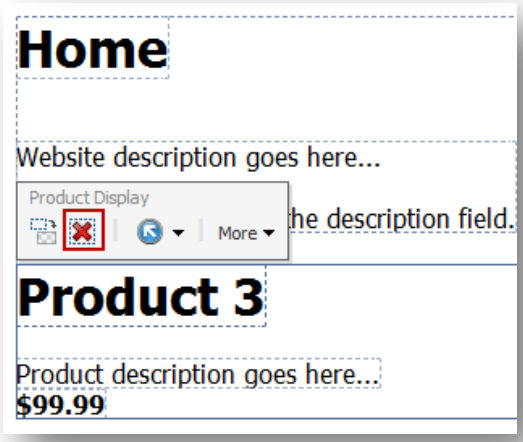
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Verify that Product 3 details display on the Home item.

In the Floating Toolbar for the Product Display control, click the Delete Command.

Verify the removal of the Product Display XSLT Rendering from the content placeholder.

Save.



Find it!

To learn these exercises using the Sitecore Rocks Visual Studio 2010 Extension, please refer to the **Self Study Guide** for Building *A Very Simple Website* in your Student CD.

Also find the following related Sitecore Rocks resources:

http://vsplugins.sitecore.net/MainPage.ashx
http://www.sitecore.net/Community/Technical-Blogs/John-West-Sitecore-Blog.aspx

Verify your work with your Instructor

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Chapter 4

Optional Placeholders and Nested Sublayouts

The exercises in this chapter offer you the opportunity to create nested sublayouts.

This chapter includes the following exercises:

- Create the Two Columns Sublayout
- Assign the Two Columns Sublayout to the Home Item

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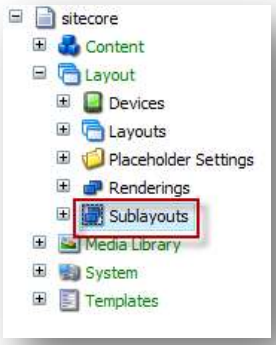
4.1 Create the Two Columns Sublayout

In this exercise, you will create a more complex sublayout containing two columns to which we can add placeholder settings and controls.

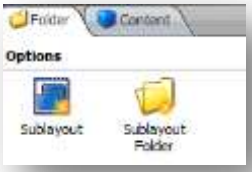
The following checklist will help you get started:

- ❑ **Create the Two Column Sublayout**

  Using the **Content Editor**, in the Content Tree, expand Layout, and then select Sublayouts.



  In the Folder Editor tab, select Sublayout.



  In the Welcome to the Create Sublayout wizard, click Next.

  In the Name dialog box, enter Two Columns as a sublayout name in the Name textbox.

  Click Next.



  In the Location dialog box, select a location for the definition item in the Content Tree.

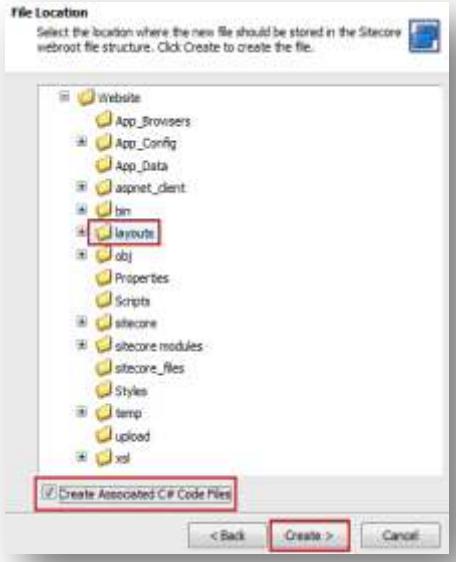
  Click Next.



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In the File Location dialog, select a location for the file in your website file system. Click to place a check mark to Create Associated C# Code Files. Click Create.

In the final dialog, click Finish.



To close the wizard, click Finish.



Explain This!

What about creating a Sublayout with Developer Center?

Creating a Sublayout with Content Editor calls a command that opens the Create Sublayout Wizard. This is the same wizard used by Developer Center.

❑ Edit the Two Column Sublayout with Grid Designer

In the Ribbon, in the Grid Designer tab, select Layout.



In the Add group, click the Div command.



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In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.



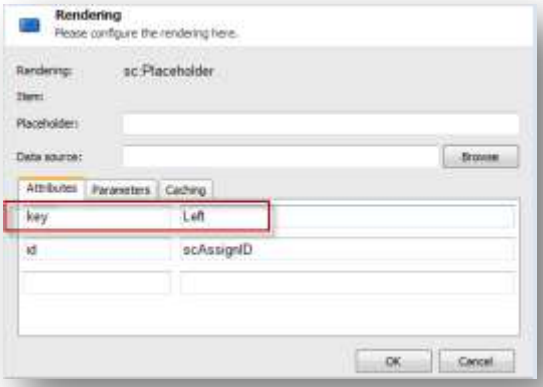
In the Properties dialog, set the width of the Div tag to 300 and the Float to left.

Click OK.



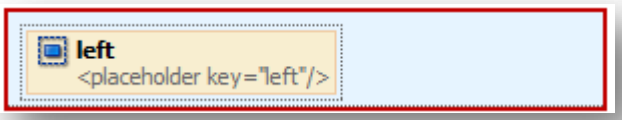
Select placeholder1. In the Properties group, click the Properties command.

In the Rendering dialog, for the attribute named key, change the value of placeholder1 to left. To close the dialog, click OK.

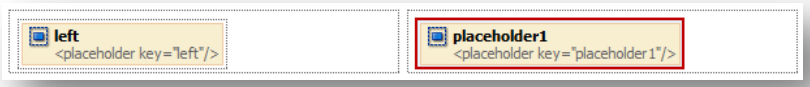


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Select the div surrounding the left placeholder.



In the Ribbon, in the Rows & Columns group, select Right.



In the Ribbon, in the Properties group, select Properties.



In the Properties dialog, set width to 300 and float to right.

To close the Properties dialog, click OK.

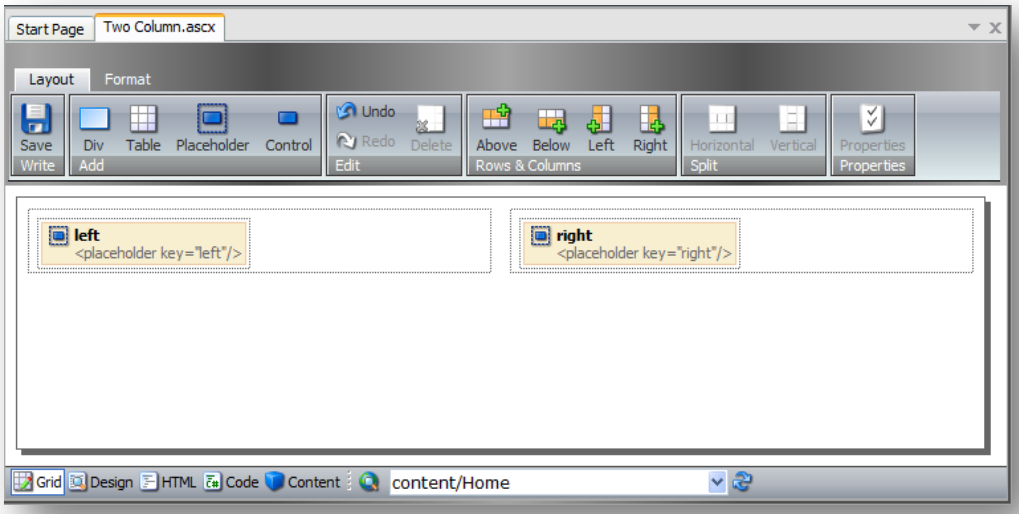
Select placeholder1.

In the Properties group, click the Properties command.

In the Rendering dialog, for the attribute named key, change the value of placeholder1 to right.

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To close the dialog, click OK.



Save.

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4.2 Dynamically Bind the Two Columns Sublayout

In this exercise, you will dynamically bind the Two Columns sublayout by assigning the sublayout to the Home item.

The following checklist will help you get started:

- ❑ **Select the Product1 Item**

  Using the **Content Editor**, in the Content Tree, select the Product1 item. The path is /Home/Product1.

  Click the Presentation tab. in the Layout group, click the Details command.

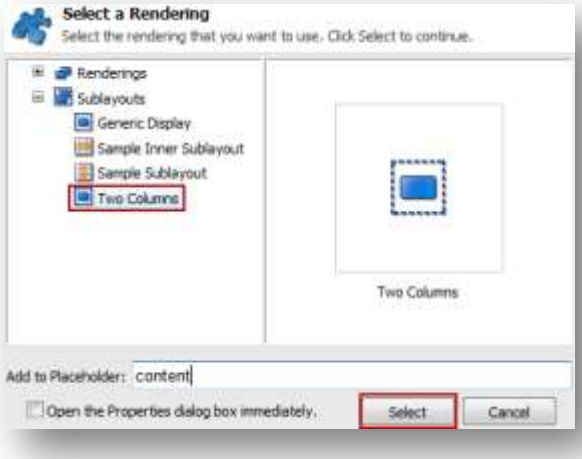


- ❑ **Assign the Two Columns sublayout to the Product1 item**

  Click “Edit” by the Default device.

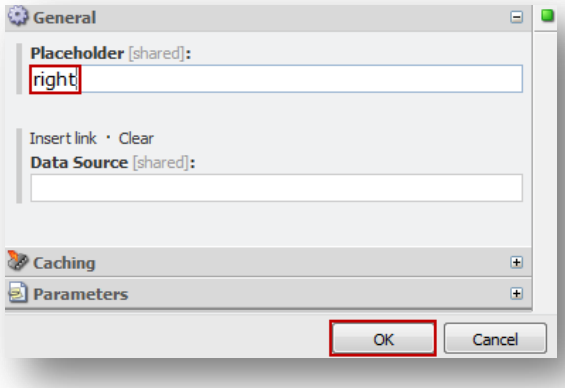
  Add the Two Columns sublayout to the placeholder name “content”.

  Click Select.



  Edit the Product Display sublayout. Update the placeholder from Placeholder name from “content” to “right”.

  Click OK.

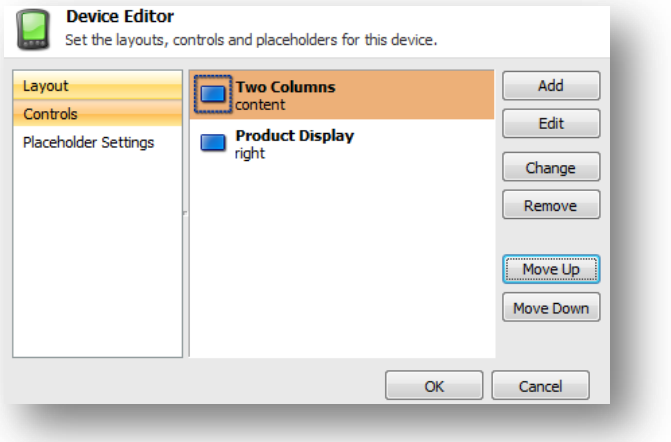


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Select the Two Columns sublayout and click the Move Up button, so that Two Columns is the first control listed.

Click OK to close the Device Editor dialog.

Click OK to close the Layout Details dialog.



- **Preview the changes to the Product1 item**

  Select the Product1 item in the content tree. The path is /Home/Product1. Click the Publish tab. Under the Publish group, click the Preview command.

  Verify that your Two Columns sublayout is displayed on the Product1 page and that the Title and Description fields (from the Product Display) are displayed in the right table cell.

  Close the Preview browser.

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Explain This!

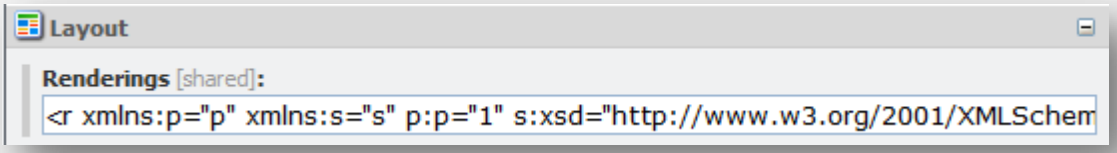
Layout Delta

Layout deltas allow items to inherit partial layout details from a cloned item or standard values from the data template.

When you update layout details on an item that inherits layout details the field that contains layout details stores only the differences from the inherited layout details. Changes to layout details in the base item dynamically apply to items that contain layout deltas.

Layout details are cumulative. A layout delta in a clone applies to a layout delta in the cloned item that applies to standard values.

In the Content Editor, you can edit the layout details for standard items on the template or customize the layout details on individual content items. The setting is stored as XML in the Renderings property of the item.



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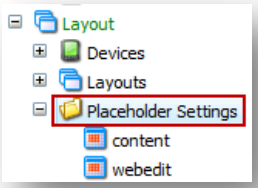
4.3 Add Placeholder Settings to the Left Column

In this exercise, you will create the Left Column Placeholder Settings Item and then apply it to the Two Column Sublayout.

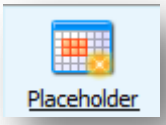
The following checklist will help you get started:

- ❑ **Create the Left Column Placeholder Settings Item**

  Using the **Content Editor**, in the Content Tree, select Layout and then select Placeholder Settings.

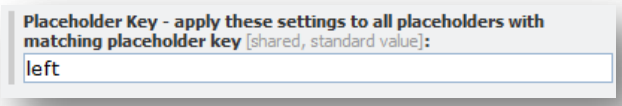


  Select Placeholder.

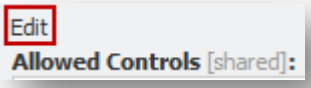


  In the Name dialog box, enter Left Column as a Placeholder Settings name in the textbox.

  In the Placeholder Key property, enter left.

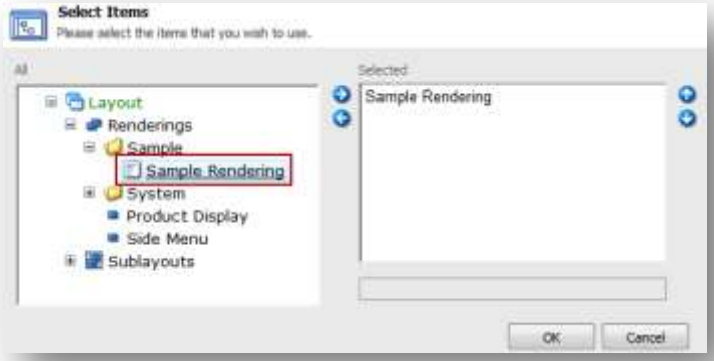


  Click the Edit button in the Allowed Controls property.



  In the Select Items dialog box, expand the Renderings node. Select Sample Rendering in the Sample folder.

  Click OK.



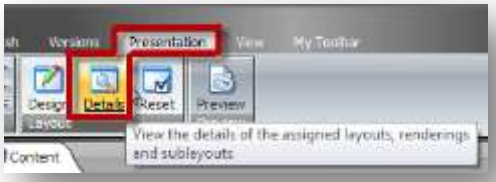
  Save.

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❑ Select the Product1 Item

Using the **Content Editor**, in the Content Tree, select the Product1 item. The path is /Home/Product1.

Click the Presentation tab. in the Layout group, click the Details command.



❑ Assign the Left Column Placeholder Setting to the Two Columns Sublayout

Click Edit by the default device.

In the Device Editor dialog box, click Placeholder Settings.

Click Add.

In the Placeholder Settings Dialog box, enter left as the Key name.

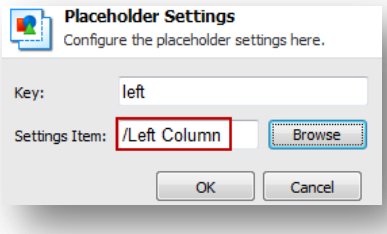
Click Browse next to Settings Item.

In the Select a placeholder meta data item dialog box, select the Left Column placeholder setting and click Select.

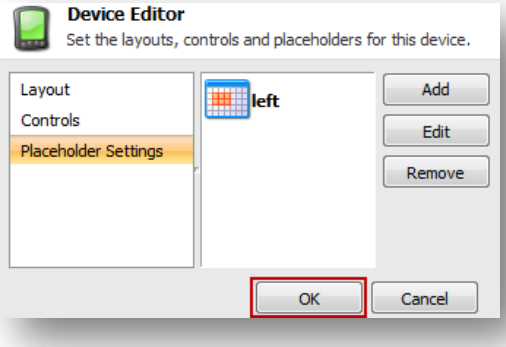


You should see /Left Column in the Settings Item textbox.

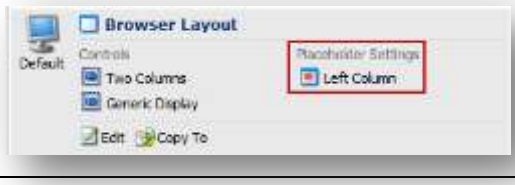
Click OK.



In the Device Editor dialog box, click OK.



In the Layout Details dialog box, you should see the Left Column Placeholder Setting applied to the Default Layout.



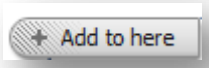
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Click OK to close the Layout Details dialog box.

Save.



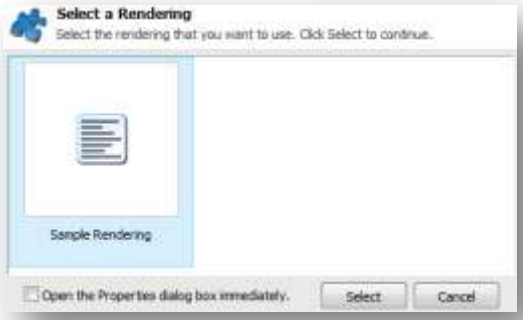
- **Add Controls to the Left Column in the Two Columns Sublayout**



In the Ribbon, in the Publish Tab, in the Publish Group, select **Page Editor**.

In Page Editor, in the Ribbon, in the Home Tab, click **Component**.

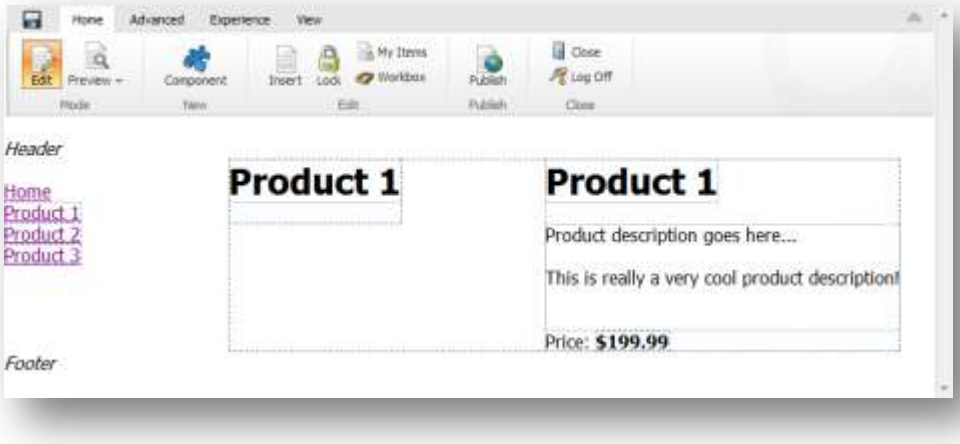
Click the top **Add to here** button to add a control defined in the Left Column placeholder settings to the left column.



In the Select a Rendering dialog box, select Sample Rendering.

Click Select.

Verify that the Sample Rendering displays in the left column of your Two Column Sublayout.



Save.

Close Page Editor.

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Explain This!

Placeholder Controls and Placeholder Settings

To bind the Sample Rendering to the left column, Sitecore Developers create ASP.NET presentation components that use Sitecore placeholder controls. Left and right are both placeholder controls.

Placeholder Settings are items in the Content Tree that Sitecore Developers configure to define the allowed controls for a given placeholder control. Usually, Sitecore Developers name these items with the same identifier as the control. Developers and Designers can override these settings on an item's Layout Details Settings.

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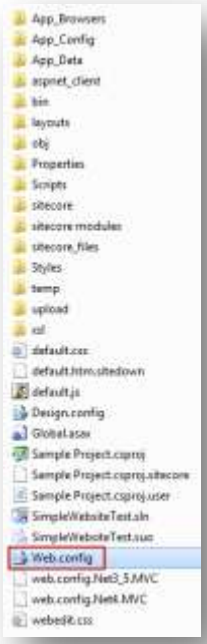
4.4 Edit Placeholder Settings Configuration

In this exercise, you will edit the web.config file to turn off access to Placeholder Settings by default.

The following checklist will help you get started:

- ❑ **Open the web.config file**

  Open the web.config file located in your site root in a text editor.



- ❑ **Edit Placeholder Settings default configuration**

  In the web.config file, search for Placeholder Settings. The setting `WebEdit.PlaceholdersEditableWithoutSettings` indicates whether placeholders should be editable in the Page Editor if placeholder settings are not specified. The default value is false.

  Set `WebEdit.PlaceholdersEditableWithoutSettings` value to true.

```
<!--  WEB EDIT PLACEHOLDERS EDITABLE WITHOUT SETTINGS
      Indicates whether placeholders should be editable in the Page Editor if placeholder settings are not specified.
      Default value: false
-->
<setting name="WebEdit.PlaceholdersEditableWithoutSettings" value="true"/>
```

  Save.

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Explain This!

Placeholder Configuration Settings

In the web.config file, the configuration setting **`WebEdit.PlaceholdersEditableWithoutSettings`** has a default value of false. This means that when you are in Page Editor Design mode, you can only add Components to Placeholders where Placeholder Settings have been defined. If this configuration setting is set to true, you will be able to add Components to any Placeholder on the page.

- **Edit the Product1 Page**

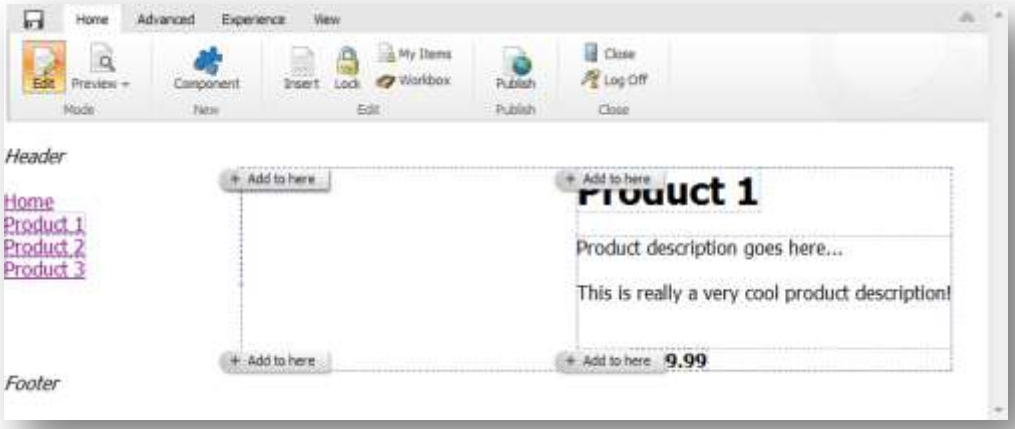
  Using the **Content Editor**, in the Content Tree, select the Product1 item. The path is /Home/Product1.

  In the Ribbon, in the Publish Tab, select **Page Editor**.

  In Page Editor, in the Ribbon, in the Home Tab, click **Component**.

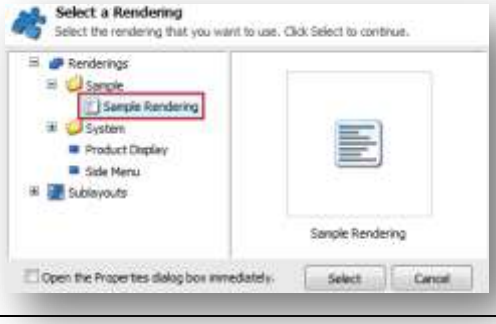


  You should notice that there are **Add to here** buttons for all Placeholders, both with and without Placeholder Settings.



  Click the **Add to here** button next to the Product 1 title.

  In the Select a Rendering dialog box, you should notice that you are able to select any Rendering or Sublayout from your Content Tree.

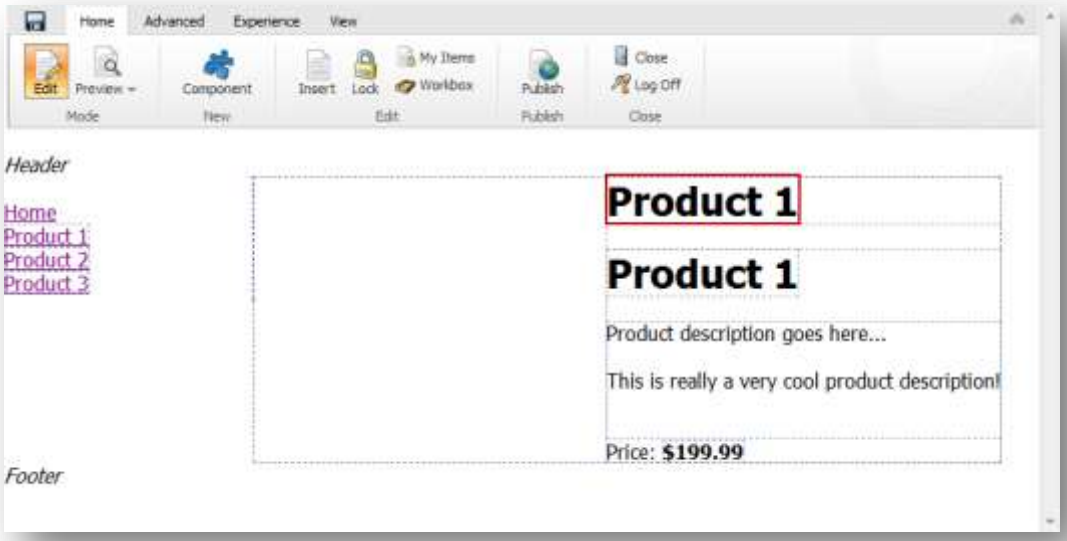


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Click to expand the Renderings node. Select Sample Rendering in the Sample folder.

Click Select.

Verify that the Sample Rendering displays in the right column of your Two Column Sublayout.



Do not Save. Close Page Editor.

Write It Down!

If the `WebEdit.PlaceholdersEditableWithoutSettings` configuration setting is set to false, to which Placeholders will you be able to add Components in Page Editor?

_____

Best Practice

A Sitecore Developer best practice is to set Security Access on Placeholder Settings. In the Sitecore Desktop, you can use the Access Viewer to control what users and roles are able to Read, Write, Rename, Create, Delete, and Administer Placeholder Settings. It is suggested that Developers set up Security on Placeholder Settings because if you delete a setting, it will remove that setting from any page to which it was applied.

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Find it!

To learn these exercises using the Sitecore Rocks Visual Studio 2010 Extension, please refer to the **Self Study Guide** for Building *A Very Simple Website* Using Sitecore Rocks in your Student CD.

Also find the following related Sitecore Rocks resources:

http://vsplugins.sitecore.net/
http://www.sitecore.net/Community/Technical-Blogs/John-West-Sitecore-Blog.aspx



Verify your work with your Instructor

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Chapter 5

Conclusion

Congratulations, you did it! You just built *A Very Simple Website* in Sitecore. Now, let us review what you accomplished:

- You created the data templates for your Website. In Sitecore, data templates structure data. In doing so, they define the interfaces for how Business Users enter data.
- For your data templates, you created template standard values.
- On template standard values, you created default field values. You learned that some default field values are static and others dynamic. You learned that tokens copy values.
- On template standard values, you also defined default settings. You learned about two types of default settings: layout details and insert options. Layout details describe the instructions for how Sitecore binds presentation components. Insert options control the types of items Business Users create.
- In assigning insert options, you structured the information architecture of the website. Acting as a Business User, you then created items in the content tree according to this structure.
- Next, you created presentation components to display data from your content tree. You learned that a presentation component is both a definition item and a file. You also learned that there are at least three types of presentation components: Layout, Sublayout and Xsl Rendering.
- You learned that Layout Details are the instruction set which tells Sitecore how to bind content to presentation. Using template standard values, you defined Layout Details settings. Content items defined by your data templates will inherit these default settings.
- You published the Website.
- You edited the home item with Page Editor. You made design changes to the home item with Page Editor.

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Chapter 6

Next Steps

Most likely, the Websites you will build will be more complex than this very simple website. Consider these next steps:

- Add new fields to your template using the Template Manager. For example, add an image field to the Product data template.
- With FieldRenderer, display the image field on product pages.
- To organize products, create a Product Category data template with template standard values. Define both default values and default field settings. With insert options, allow for the creation of Product items.
- Update the Side Menu to show product categories.

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Chapter 7

Official Sitecore Training

Now that you have completed building your first website with Sitecore, it is time to consider official Sitecore Training.

To get you started immediately, Sitecore offers a broad range of courses in a variety of delivery formats for both customers and partners. With offices in Australia, North America, Europe, and Asia, we work with you to accommodate your specific training needs. Only Sitecore Certified Trainers conduct trainings using courses from the Sitecore Official Curriculum, ensuring an excellent learning experience.

With the goal being mastery of key Sitecore concepts, tools, features, and functionality, we tailor our training for each audience: Developer, Administrator, Business User, and Marketer.

To both learn more about and to register for training, please visit http://www.sitecore.net/training.

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