

dotCMS: Webpage Content Architecture

STRUCTURE

Structure fields define the format by which content will be stored in the content store. New content is added by choosing a structure type and filling in required fields

CONTENT STORE

- **HTML Fragments**
- **Text:** news items, press releases, documentation, blogs, etc.
- **Widgets***

- Relate (add) content to a container from an HTML page
Note : The same piece of content can be related (added), to many containers/pages

Content does **NOT** live on the page. Particular pages can display different aspects (fields), of one piece of content.

(i.e., A title and short summary to a news item can be displayed on one page while a detail page shows the complete story. Both pages display only desired fields from one piece of content.)

CONTAINER

Containers determine the **content type** and **format** of the content they hold

Two Basic Types of Containers

0 Content Container

Setting max content to 0 on a container is normally used for headers or containers that will not be allowing users to change the content of the container.

Content Container

Setting max content to 1+ allows users to contribute the specified number of contentlets to the container



*WIDGET

(Dynamic Reusable Content)

Collection of Velocity (HTML, JavaScript), used to pull:

- Dynamic content of various types
- Macros

Example:

Create a dynamic pull of the latest 5 news items and save it as a piece of content. Reuse the content "widget" on many different webpages.

TEMPLATE

Templates are the layout through which webpages are displayed. Templates allow the input of JavaScript, HTML, and make use of multiple containers.

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The screenshot shows a dotCMS HTML page with a navigation menu (HOME, GETTING STARTED, CALENDAR, NEWS) and a main content area. The main content area features a large green button labeled 'Let's Get Started >>'. Below the main content area, there are two sidebars. The left sidebar contains a widget titled 'Need Help?' with a link to 'dotCMS Mailing List' and a 'Post Message' link. The right sidebar contains a widget titled 'Four Macros You Need to Know!' with a list of macros: 'Pull Content', 'Menu Generator', 'Displaying Resized Images', and 'Photo Gallery'. A 'More on Macros...' button is located at the bottom of the right sidebar.

The use of the widget concept is a dotCMS best practice. Store macros, collections of macros, and dynamic pulls of many content types as a content "widget" and then re-use the widget throughout your site!

HTML pages display the resulting combination of the template layout, the containers, and the content