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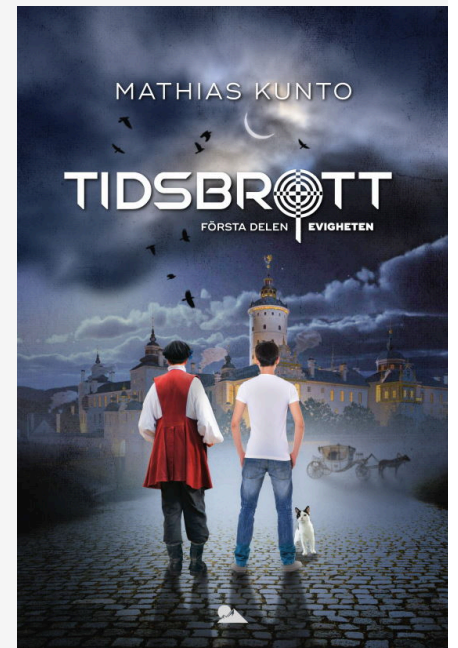
Allow only certain number of items in ContentAreas in Optimizely

 Mathias Kunto  October 12, 2025  EPiServer, Optimizely  No Comments

Here is a validation attribute that I wrote in order to limit the number of items that editors may put in [Optimizely ContentAreas](#) to a specific set of numbers, instead of having max and min values.

The part that may be of interest to highlight is the possibility to skip validation in certain cases, for instance when combining the validation with the Hide-attribute discussed in the article [Hiding and showing edit mode properties on same content type in Optimizely CMS depending on context](#). We need the validation on properties that previously was visible to all editors, but now are not. If the property did contain the wrong number of items, and was then hidden, the validation would fail, and the editors in question would not be able to do anything about it.

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```
8)] to a prop-definition limits number
of items to any of these.
5 ///
6 /// [Display(Name = "Prop name")]
7 /// [AllowedNumberOfItems(2, 4, 6,
8   8)]
9 /// public virtual ContentArea
SomeContentArea { get; set; }
10 /// </summary>
11 /// <remarks>
12 /// Should you wish to allow zero (0)
blocks in the area, include zero in the
number array ([AllowedNumberOfItems(0,
2, 4)]).
13 /// SkipValidationOnLocalContent option
may be used for instance in cases where
existing properties are hidden on local
pages
14 /// and risk to fail the validation
(preventing local editors from
publishing their pages).
15 /// </remarks>
16 [AttributeUsage(AttributeTargets.Property)]
17 public sealed class
AllowedNumberOfItemsAttribute :
ValidationAttribute
18 {
19     private readonly int[] _validCounts;
20     private readonly bool
_skipValidationOnLocalContent;
21     private readonly bool _countAllItems;
22     public
AllowedNumberOfItemsAttribute(bool
skipValidationOnLocalContent = false,
bool countAllItems = false, params
int[] validCounts)
23     {
24         _validCounts = validCounts;
25         _countAllItems = countAllItems;
26         _skipValidationOnLocalContent =
skipValidationOnLocalContent;
27     }
28     protected override ValidationResult
IsValid(object value, ValidationContext
validationContext)
```

vägen genom. Det finns inte ett kapitel, inte en sida då jag inte vill veta vad som händer härnäst.” — Linnea Lindblom, Recension hos NSD, 2020-01-08

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```

ContentArea)
41     {
42         return new
ValidationResult($"Only {string.Join(",
", _validCounts)} number of blocks area
allowed in
'{validationContext.DisplayName}");
43     }
44
45     return null;
46 }
47
48     private bool ShouldValidate(object
value, ValidationContext
validationContext)
49     {
50         if (!_skipValidationOnLocalContent)
51         {
52             return true;
53         }
54
55         if (!
(validationContext.ObjectInstance is
PageDataBase pageDataBase))
56         {
57             return true;
58         }
59
60         return pageDataBase.GlobalPage ==
null || pageDataBase.CompanyId == 0;
61     }
62
63     private bool
ValidateContentArea(ContentArea
contentArea)
64     {
65         var allItems = contentArea?.Items
?? Enumerable.Empty<ContentAreaItem>();
66
67         // Count the personalization group
names (distinct), replacing non
personalized ones with a unique name.
68         var i = 0;
69         var maxNumberOfItemsShown =
_countAllItems ?
contentArea?.Items?.Count ?? 0 :
70         allItems.Select(x =>
string.IsNullOrEmpty(x.ContentGroup) ?
i++.ToString() :
x.ContentGroup).Distinct().Count();
71

```

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expected page type, we may use it to access properties our page type in the validation attribute, without having to implement IMetadataAware.

About The Author



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Mathias is a developer from the northern parts of Sweden who currently works at Neoleaf AB in Stockholm.

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