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Allow only certain number of items in ContentAreas in Optimizely

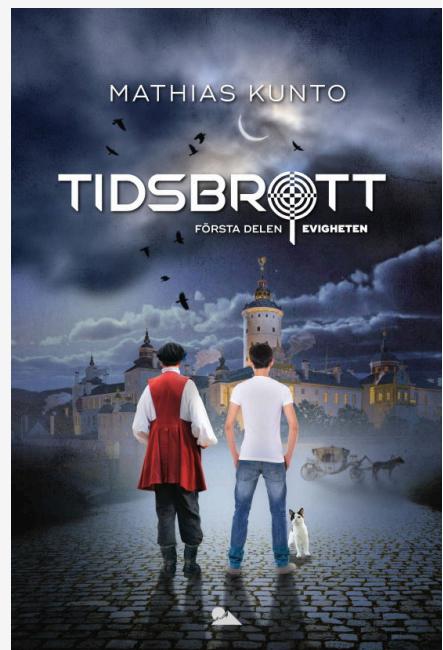
• Mathias Kunto ⏰ October 12, 2025 🛍 EPiServer,
Optimizely 💬 No Comments

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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```
5     /// to a prop-definition limits number
6     /// of items to any of these.
7
8     /// [Display(Name = "Prop name")]
9     /// [AllowedNumberOfItems(2, 4, 6,
10    /// 8)]
11    /// public virtual ContentArea
12    SomeContentArea { get; set; }
13    /// </summary>
14    /// <remarks>
15    /// Should you wish to allow zero (0)
16    /// blocks in the area, include zero in the
17    /// number array ([AllowedNumberOfItems(0,
18    /// 2, 4)]).
19    /// SkipValidationOnLocalContent option
20    /// may be used for instance in cases where
21    /// existing properties are hidden on local
22    /// pages
23    /// and risk to fail the validation
24    /// (preventing local editors from
25    /// publishing their pages).
26    /// </remarks>
27    [AttributeUsage(AttributeTargets.Property)]
28    public sealed class
29    AllowedNumberOfItemsAttribute :
30    ValidationAttribute
31    {
32        private readonly int[] _validCounts;
33
34        private readonly bool
35        _skipValidationOnLocalContent;
36
37        private readonly bool _countAllItems;
38
39        public
40        AllowedNumberOfItemsAttribute(bool
41        skipValidationOnLocalContent = false,
42        bool countAllItems = false, params
43        int[] validCounts)
44        {
45            _validCounts = validCounts;
46
47            _countAllItems = countAllItems;
48
49            _skipValidationOnLocalContent =
50            skipValidationOnLocalContent;
51        }
52
53        protected override ValidationResult
54        IsValid(object value, ValidationContext
55        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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Allow only certain number of items in ContentAreas in Optimizely

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```

41     concentrated);
42     {
43         return new
44             ValidationResult($"Only {string.Join(", "
45             , _validCounts)} number of blocks area
46             allowed in
47             '{validationContext.DisplayName}'");
48     }
49
50     return null;
51 }
52
53     private bool ShouldValidate(object
54     value, ValidationContext
55     validationContext)
56     {
57         if (!skipValidationOnLocalContent)
58         {
59             return true;
60         }
61
62         if (!(validationContext.ObjectInstance is
63             PageDataBase pageDataBase))
64         {
65             return true;
66         }
67
68         return pageDataBase.GlobalPage ==
69             null || pageDataBase.CompanyId == 0;
70     }
71
72     private bool
73     ValidateContentArea(ContentArea
74     contentArea)
75     {
76         var allItems = contentArea?.Items
77             ?? Enumerable.Empty<ContentAreaItem>();
78
79         // Count the personalization group
80         // names (distinct), replacing non
81         // personalized ones with a unique name.
82         var i = 0;
83         var maxNumberOfItemsShown =
84             _countAllItems ?
85                 contentArea?.Items?.Count ?? 0 :
86                     allItems.Select(x =>
87                         string.IsNullOrEmpty(x.ContentGroup) ?
88                             i++.ToString() :
89                             x.ContentGroup).Distinct().Count();
90
91     }

```

output with
EPiServer.ContentDeliveryAp

wałdis iljuczonok
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and EPiServer: Aggregated
output with

EPiServer.ContentDeliveryAp

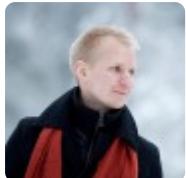
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rendering of EPiServer
block in XhtmlString field
without partial block
controller

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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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