**Hosting Requirements**

* .NET Framework 4.5.2
* MS SQL Server 2012 +
* IIS 8 +

**Software Required**

* Visual studio 2015 ( Works perfectly fine with the Free Community Edition )
* MS SQL Server 2012 + ( Works perfectly fine with the Free Express Editions )

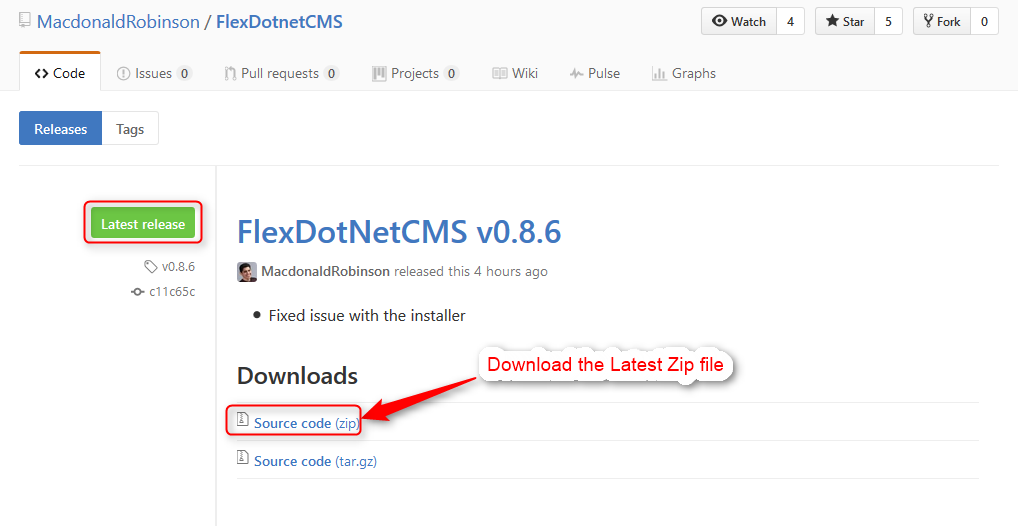
**Introductions**

This project is open source and hosted on Github, you can view a full list of features by going to: <https://github.com/MacdonaldRobinson/FlexDotnetCMS>

**Download the CMS**

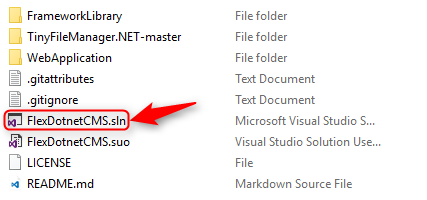
* Browse to: <https://github.com/MacdonaldRobinson/FlexDotnetCMS>
* Click on the “Releases tab”
* Download the Latest Release

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**Open the FlexDotnetCMS Solution in Visual studio**

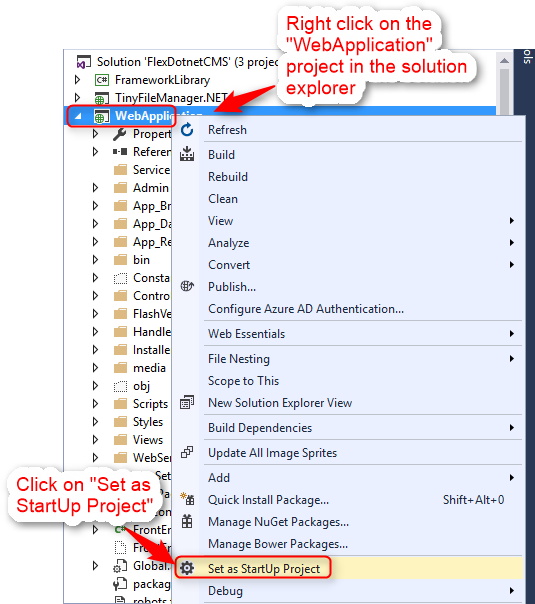
* Unzip the file
* Double click on the “FlexDotnetCMS.sln” file
* This will load the project in visual studio



**Set the “WebApplication ” project as the Startup Project**

Once the project finishes loading in visual studio, you will see 3 projects in the Solution Explorer. The “WebApplication” Project contains all the CMS files and needs to be set as the start up project so it would run this project by default.

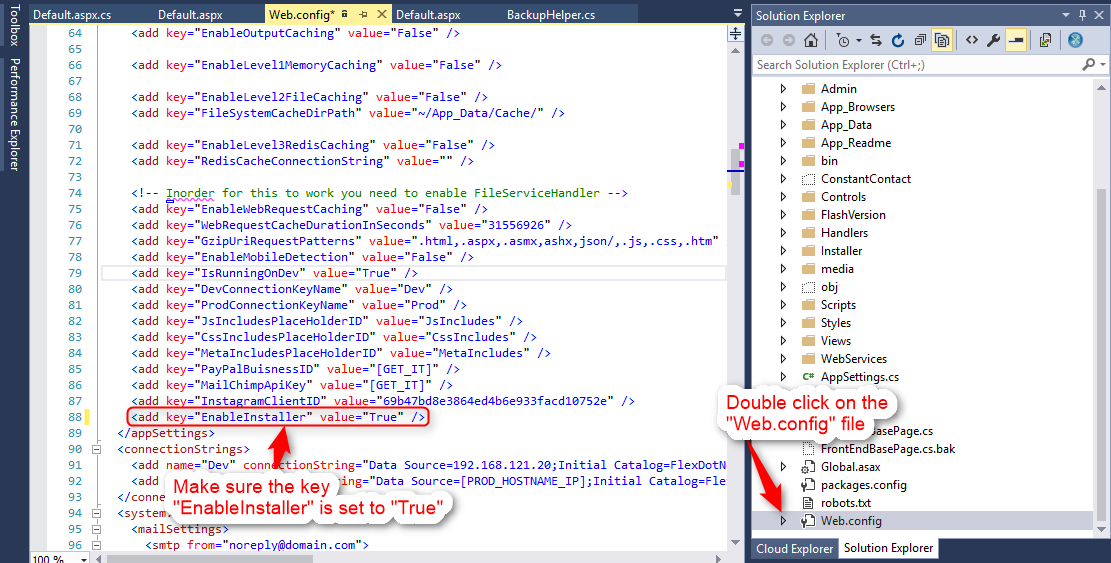
* Right click on the “WebApplication” project
* Select “Set as StartUp Project” from the menu that pops up



**Enable the Installer**

For security reasons the installer needs to be enabled in the “Web.config” file

* Search for the “Web.config” file under the “WebApplication” Project
* Double click on the “Web.config” file to open it
* Search for the key “EnableInstaller”
* Make sure the value for this key is set to “True”



**Create the database**

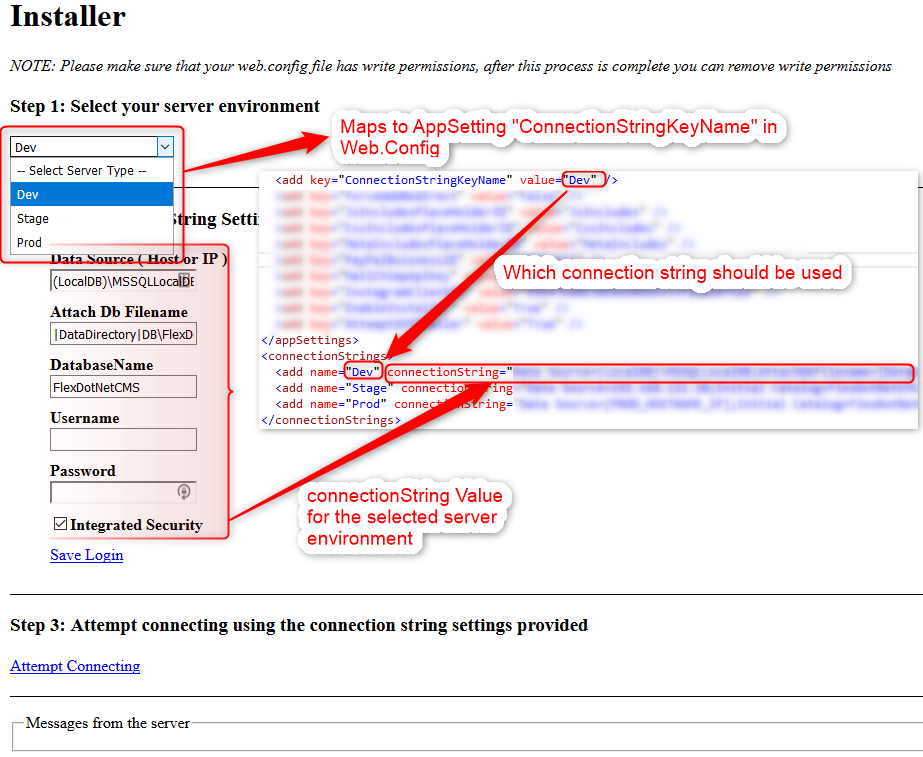
* Create a new MSSQL Database
* If you don’t already have a user, create one and give the user full permission to this database.

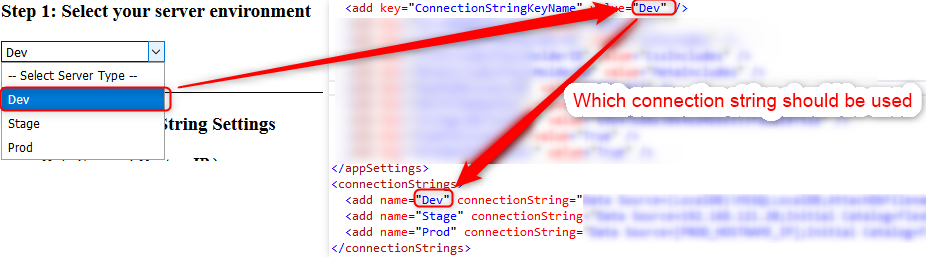
**Run the Project from Visual Studio**

You can now run the project by clicking on the Play button  in the visual studio toolbar. If the “EnableInstaller” key is set to “True” you will be taken to the Installer screen.

The installer provides step by step instructions on how to setup the database. It also updates the “Web.config” file based on the information you provide in the installer steps.

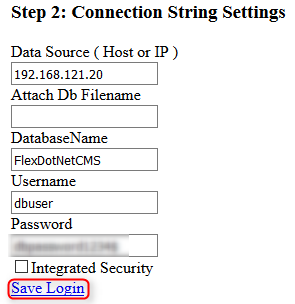
Below is how the Steps map to the web.config file.



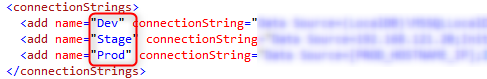


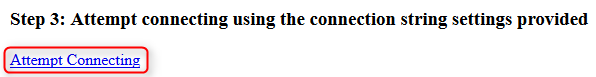
This step maps to the “ConnectionStringKeyName” AppSetting in the Web.config file.

Switching the dropdown options here will update the fields in “Step 2”



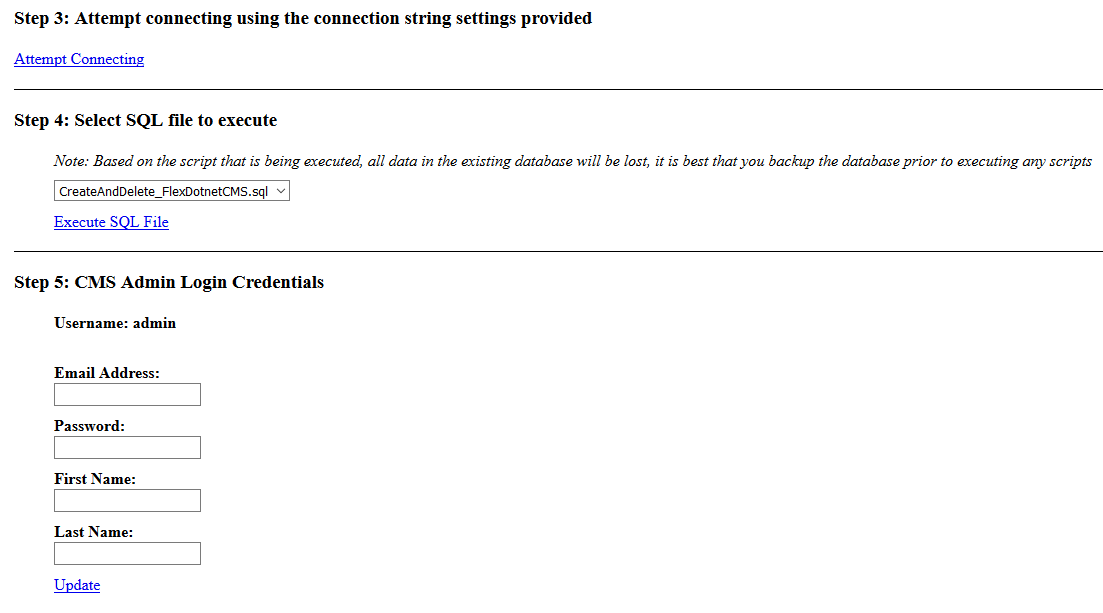
Clicking on the “Save Login” link will update the connection string in the Web.Config File.

Which connection string will be updated is based on the value selected in Step 1



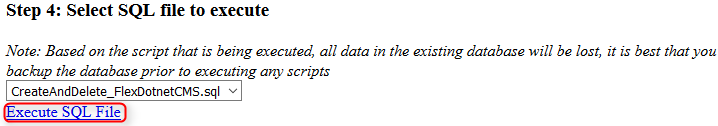
Clicking on the “Attempt Connecting” link will attempt to connect to the database using the connection string set in the previous step.

If the connection to the database is successful, you will see the next steps.



If the connection is not successful you will see the reason why in the “Messages from the server” area.



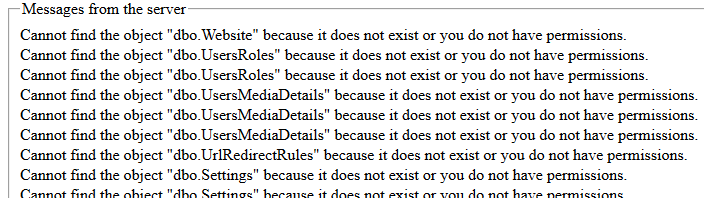


The dropdown list is populated with a list of all the sql files located in this folder: “/WebApplication/Installer/SqlFiles/”.

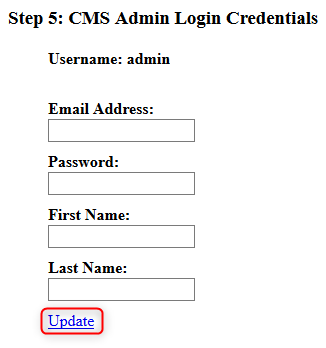
By default the file “CreateAndDrop\_FlexDotnetCMS.sql” is the sql for the CMS

Clicking on the “Execute SQL File” will execute the script from the selected file against the database.

If the database is empty, then you will get the following errors in the “Messages from the server” file



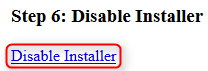
This is expected, since the script also includes “Drop” commands.



Clicking on the “Update” link will update the default “admin” user’s Email Address and Password.

If the information was successfully updated you will see the following success message in the “Messages from the server” area, and you will be taken to the next step





Clicking on the “Disable Installer” link will update the “EnableInstaller” AppSetting in the web.config file and set its value to “False”.



This will disable the installer and take you to the CMS login.

You can also manually go to the login page by going to “[DOMAIN]/admin/”

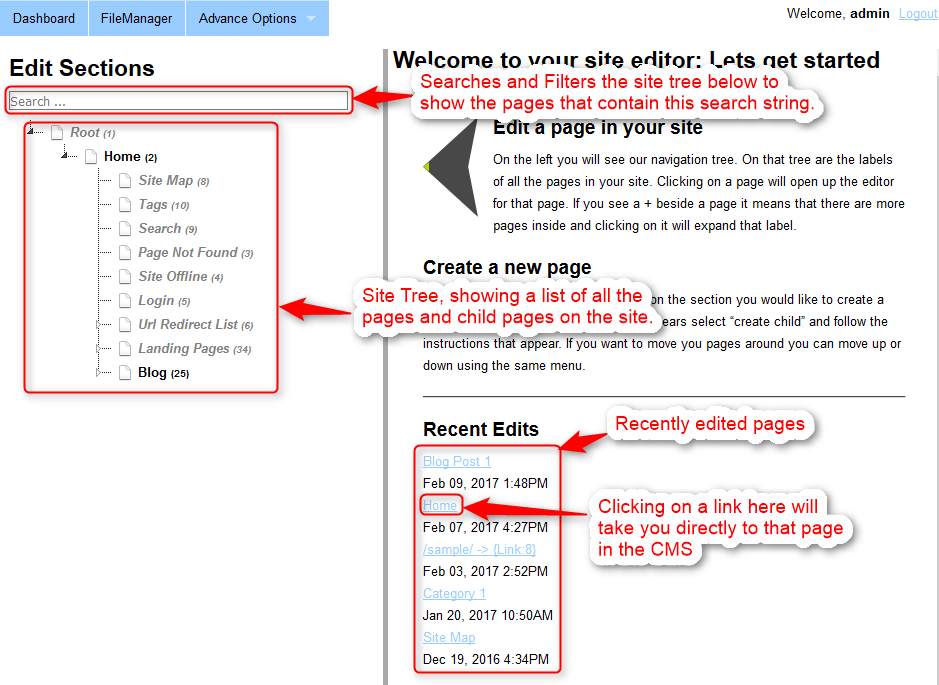


Enter the username ‘admin’ and password that you set in Step #5 and click the “Login” Link. You will now be logged into the CMS.

**CMS Overview**

The dashboard is the first screen you will see once you login to the CMS

The dashboard contains a list of recently edited pages. Clicking on the link will take you directly to that page in the CMS

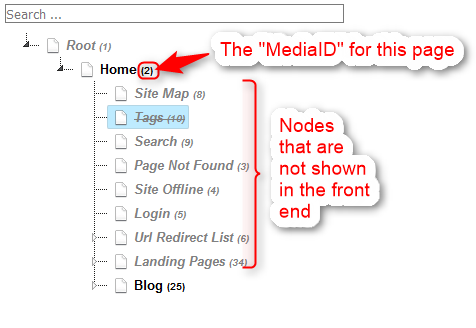


**Site Tree**

The Site Tree show’s you a list of all the pages on the website, including all the other nodes on the site that are not visible in the front end.

The “Home” node in the site tree is the home page of the website. All other pages are under this node.

The Search field will filter the site tree showing nodes that contain the search text.



Every node has a number beside it. This is the “MediaID” of the page. This will be important later.

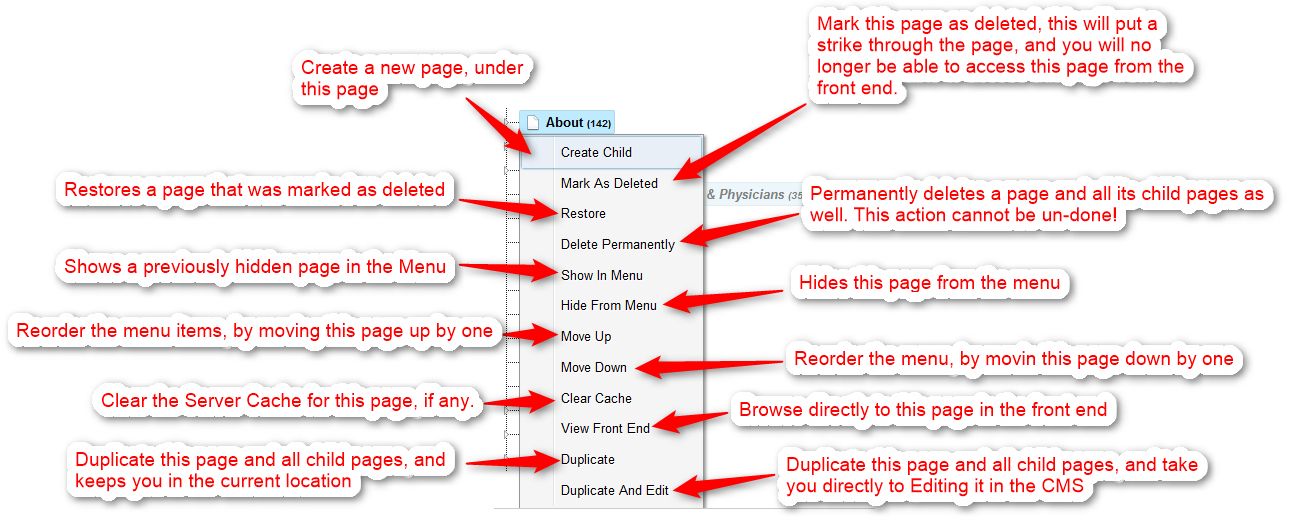
Nodes that are Grayed out are nodes that are not shown on the site.

Nodes that have a strike thru them are nodes that are marked as deleted.

Deleted nodes cannot be accessed from the front end of the site. However, nodes that are simply hidden can be accessed from the front end, provided you know the URL to that node.

**Site Tree Right Click Context Menu**

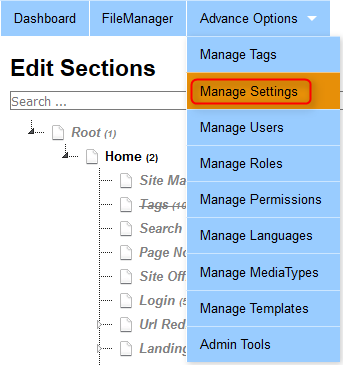
Right clicking on any node in the site tree will bring up a context menu, which provides a list of actions that can be taken on this node.



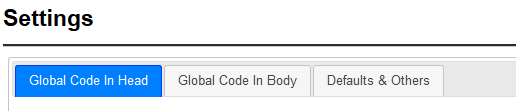
* **Create Child:** This will allow you to create a new page, under this node.
* **Mark As Deleted:** This will mark this page with a strike through it. This page will no longer be accessible from the front end ( Please note, if you are logged into the CMS as an Admin or Developer you will still be able to browse to the page ) .
* **Restore:** This will restore a page that has been marked as deleted, so you will once again be able to access this page from the front end.
* **Hide From Menu:** This will gray out this page, You can still access this page from the front end, however it will no longer be shown in the menu.
* **Show In Menu:** This will make a page that was hidden from the menu previously, show in the menu once again.
* **Duplicate:** This will duplicate a page and all its child pages.
* **Duplicate and Edit:** This will duplicate a page and all its child pages, once its done duplicating it will take you to that page in the CMS so you can edit it right away.
* **View Front End:** This will open a new tab and browse you to the page.
* **Clear Cache:** This will clear any server cache for the current page.

**Settings Section**

The settings section contains global settings that will be used by the CMS. You can access the settings section by going to “Advance Options -> ManageSettings”



The settings section is split under 3 different tabs



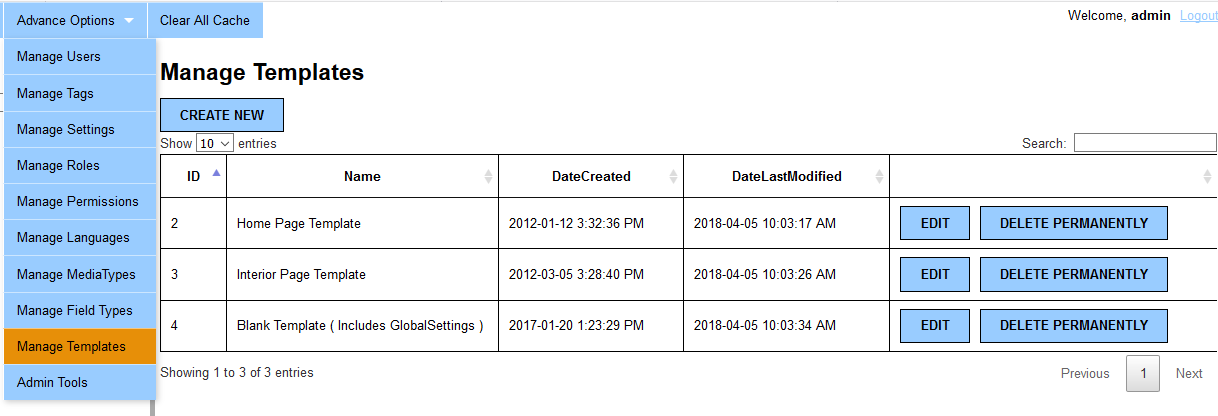
**Global Code In Head –** This is the code that will be rendered in the “head” tag. This is pulled into the Template by using the short code: {Settings:GlobalCodeInHead}

**Global Code In Body –** This is the code that will be rendered in the “body” tag. This is pulled into the Template by using the short code: {Settings:GlobalCodeInBody}

**Defaults & Others –** This tab contains settings that control the defaults settings like, default language, Default Template ext.

**Create / Edit a Template**

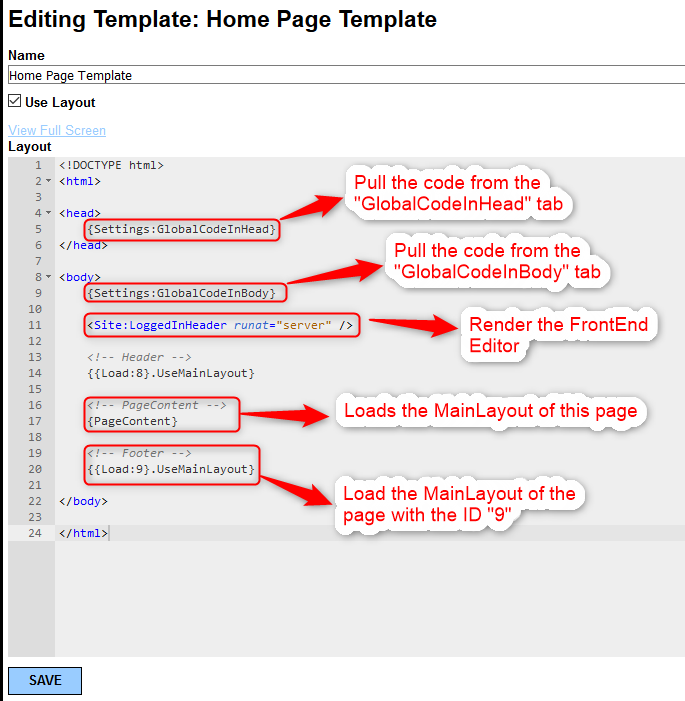
The first thing you would want to do is to create / edit a template, you can do this by going to “Advance Options-> Manage Templates”

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I have created 3 different templates by default, which should work for most scenarios

* **Home Page Template**: This is used by the Home Page Only.
* **Interior Page Template**: This is the default template that all pages will use.
* **Blank Template ( Include Global Settings )**: This does not include anything else except for the Global Code in Head and Global Code In Body from the settings tab.
  + This is perfect when you want to create component nodes in the site tree, which provide their own HTML like the pages under the “Includes” node

Clicking on the “Edit” beside a template will popup a modal window allowing you to edit that template.



* **{Settings:GlobalCodeInHead} :** Pull the code from the“Global Code In Head” tab of the settings section
* **{Settings:GlobalCodeInHead} :** Pull the code from the“Global Code In Body” tab of the settings section
* **{PageContent}:** Loads the “UseMainLayout” property of the current page.
* **{{Load:9}.UseMainLayout}**: Loads the MainLayout of the page with the ID “9”

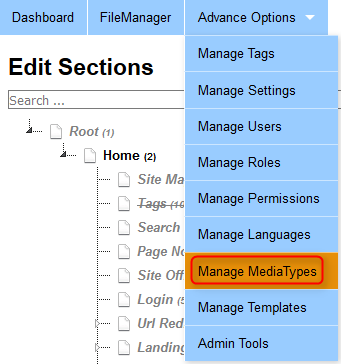
The reason we use “UseMainLayout” instead of just the “MainLayout” is because the “UseMainLayout” has logic to determine if it should be loading the MainLayout of the media type or from the layout of the page.

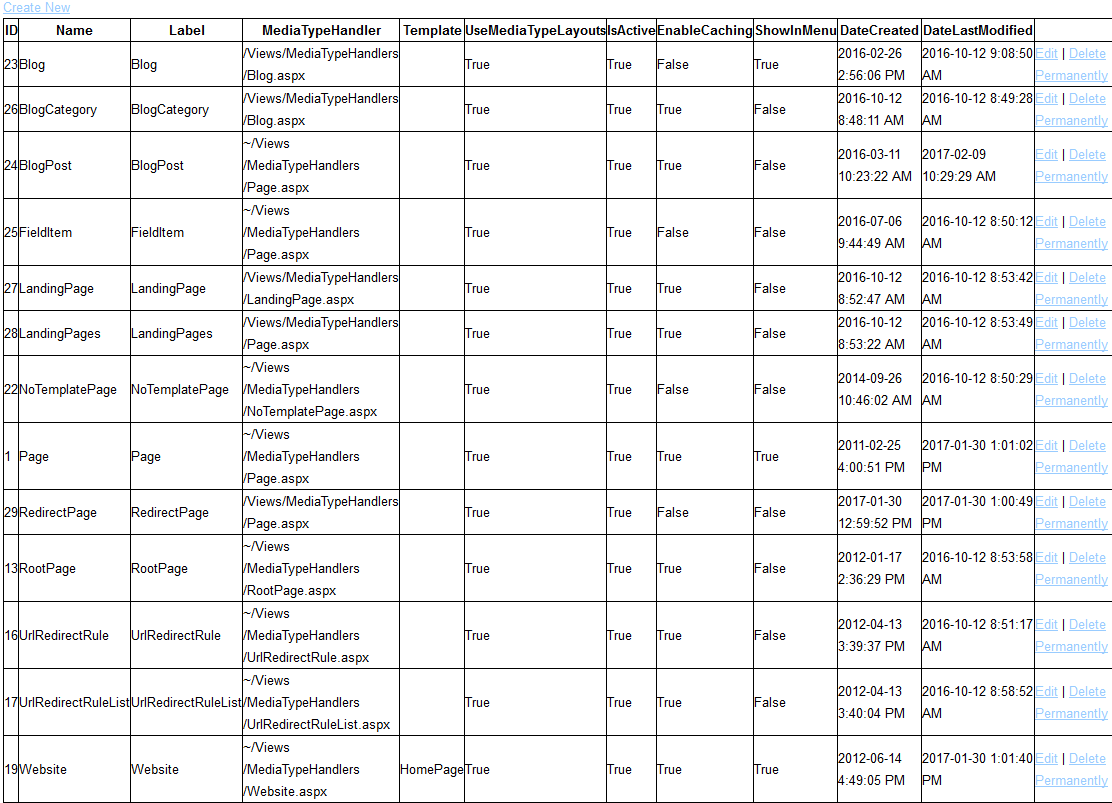
**Creating / Editing a Media Type**

Every node in the “Site Tree” has a “Media Type”, which is essentially the type of the page. Which means you can have multiple nodes that have the same “Media Type” and you can control the layout of all the nodes that use the same “Media Type” from one location i.e “MediaType” Layout.

For example, you can create a media type called “BlogPost” and have a layout associated with it, every page that uses the “BlogPost” Media Type automatically inherits that layout.

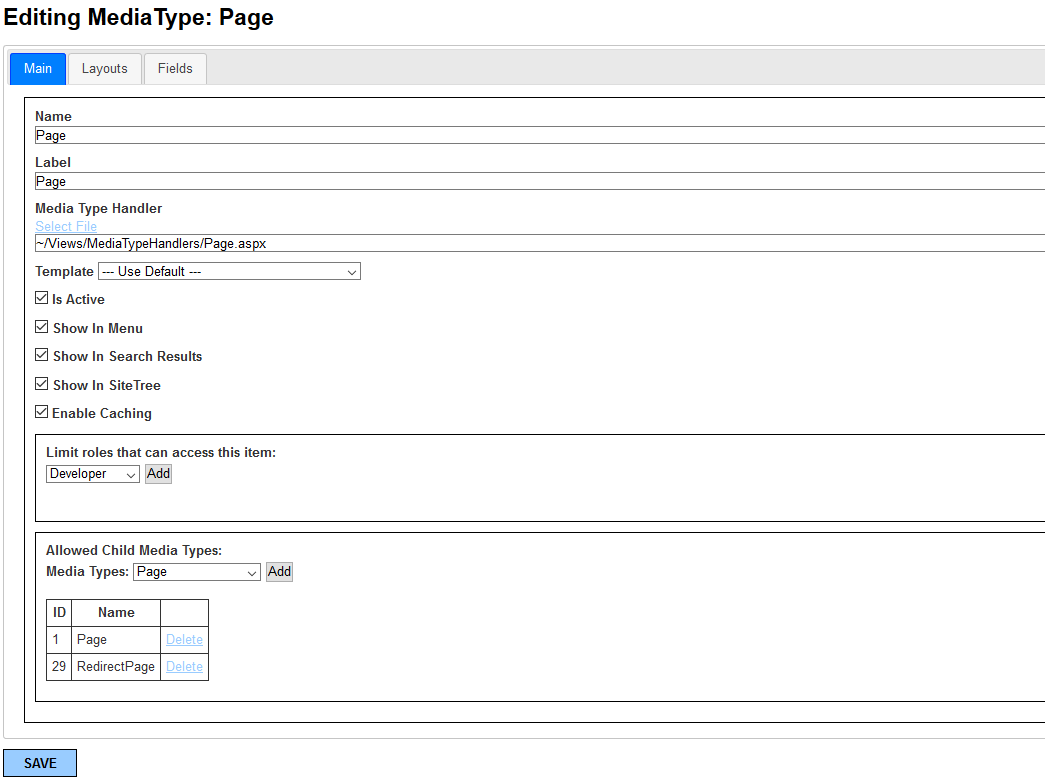
You can view a list of all the Media Types by going to “Advance Options -> Manage MediaTypes”





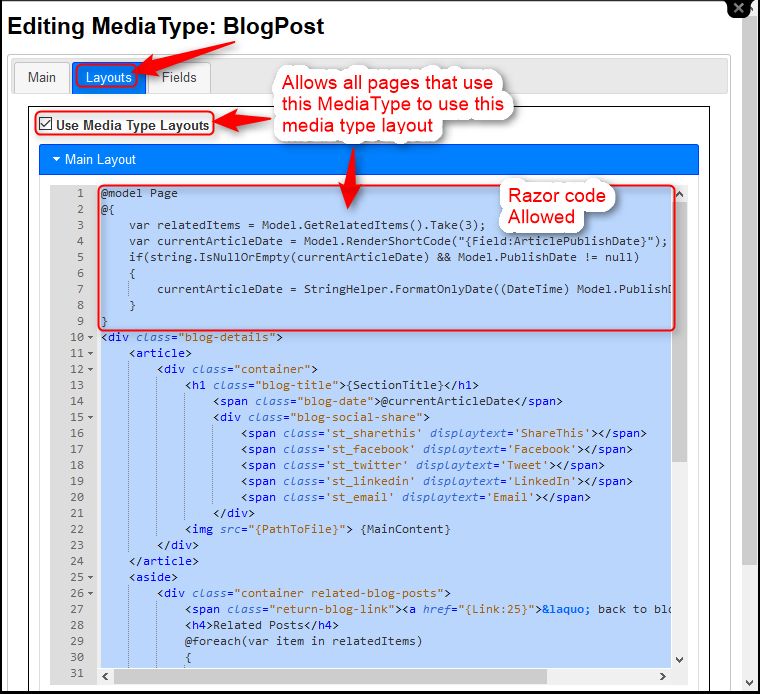
You can click on the “Create New” Link to create a new media type. Or click on the “Edit” Link to edit an existing media type.

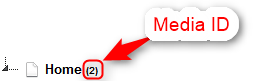
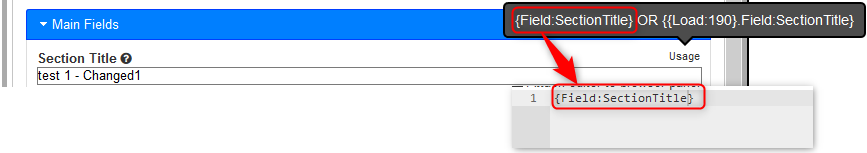
Below is how a MediaType Editor looks:

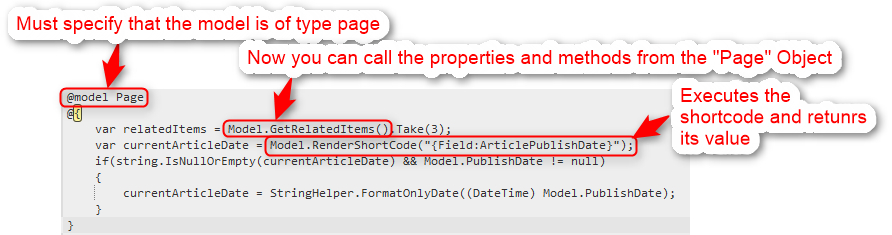


* **The MediaType Handler Field**: In general should be set to “~/Views/MediaTypeHandlers/Page.aspx”
* **Template:** all pages that use this media type will automatically use the template specified here
* **Is Active:** Means that this MediaType is Active and will show up in the selector when creating a new page.
* **Show In Menu:** This page can show up in the Menu of the website.
* **Show In Site Tree:** Any pages created using this media type will show in the “SiteTree”
* **Enable Caching:** Pages that use this media type can be cached.
* **Allowed Child Media types:** Assign what type of children can be created under this page.

**MediaType Layouts Tab**



* **Use MediaType Layouts Field:** If Checked All pages that use this media type will by default get its layout from the media type layout field
* **Main Layout field:** The Main Layout section contains the HTML for the current media type. You can also add razor code in here which makes it extremely powerful. You can also add short codes in here which allow you to pull the different fields and perform other actions.
  + **ASP.NET Webform tags:** You can include ASP .NET Webform tags as well, this includes pulling in Custom User Controls and built in controls.  
      
    ****
  + **{Link:[MediaID]}:** This will create a link to the page. Replace “[MediaID]” with the MediaID of the page  
    ****
  + **{Field:[FieldCode]}:** You can load a custom field that you have created in the “Fields” tab. Replace “[FieldCode]” with the actual code of the field.
  + 
  + **Razor Code:** This allows you to program directly in the Layouts section its self. You can use @if, @foreach etc to write C# code which will be compiled on the fly using the Razor Engine Template Parser ( <https://github.com/Antaris/RazorEngine> ) .

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You can render a variable, by using the syntax “@VariableName”

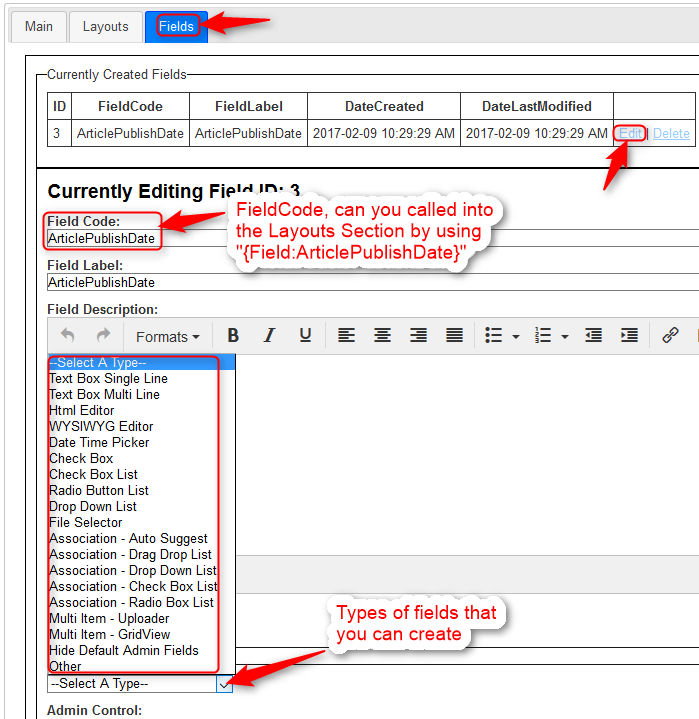
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**MediaType Fields Tab**

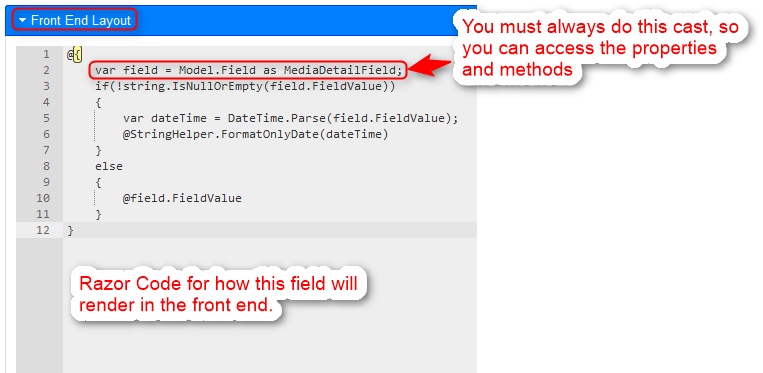
The Fields tab allows you to create custom fields that will show up in the “Main” Tab when editing a specific page with this type.

All pages that use this media type will automatically get these fields

Custom fields can be rendered in the front end by using: “{Field:[FieldCode]}” in the Main Layouts Section where “[FieldCode]” needs to be replaced by the actual field code.

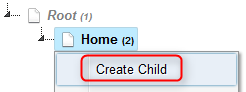


Every field has a “Front End Layout” section. This is what tells how to render this field in the front end when calling {Field:[FieldCode]}

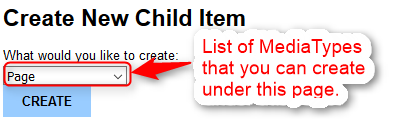
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**Create a Page with a specific Media Type**

Right click on the “Home” Node in the “Site Tree” and select “Create Child”



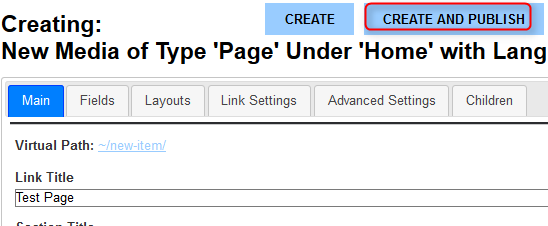
This will take you to a page where you will need to select the “Media Type” for this page.



The dropdown list will show you a list of the MediaTypes that you can create under this page. This is based on the “Allowed Media Types” field in the MediaType Editor for the “Home” Page.

Now click on the “Create” button

You will be taken to the page editor, enter the name of the page in the “Link Title” section and click on the “Create And Publish” button

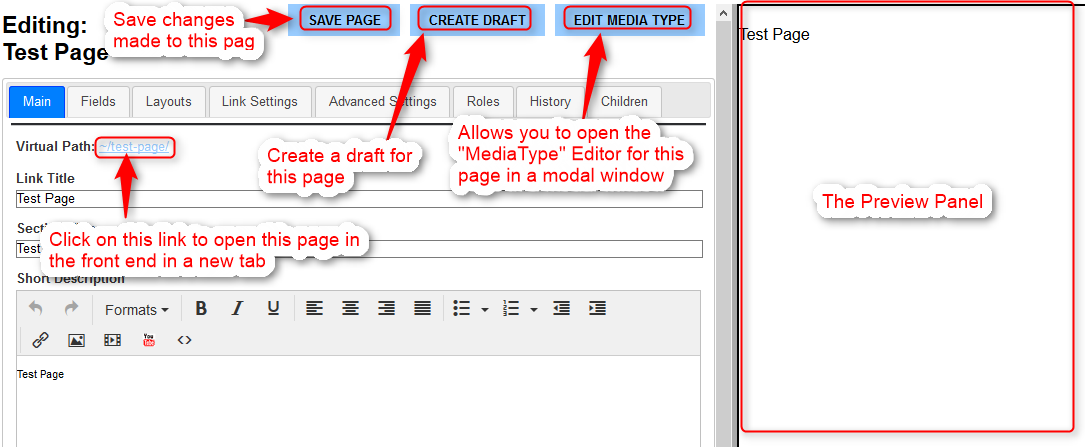


The page is now created and will show up in the site tree.

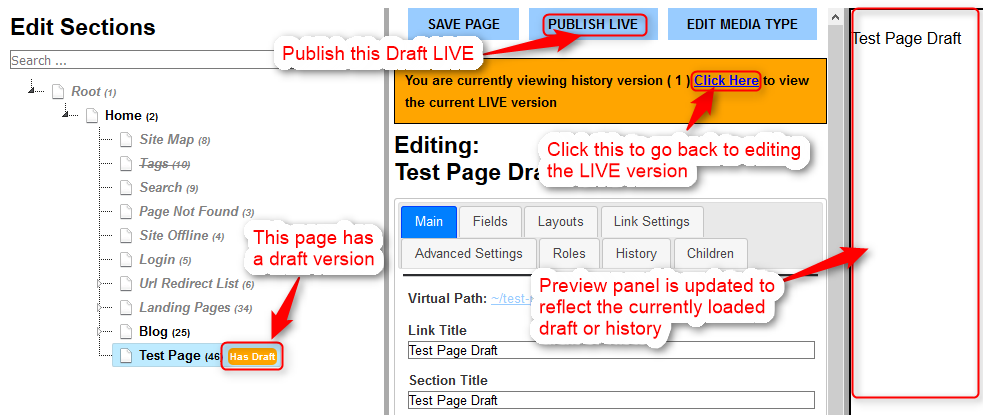


**Editing a Page**

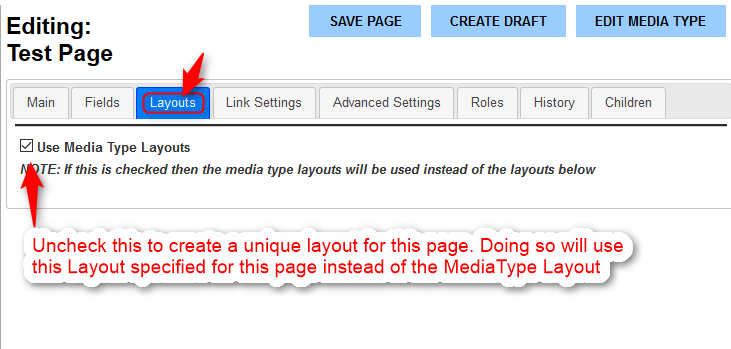
Simply click on a node from the site tree that you would like to edit. This will load the Editor for that page.



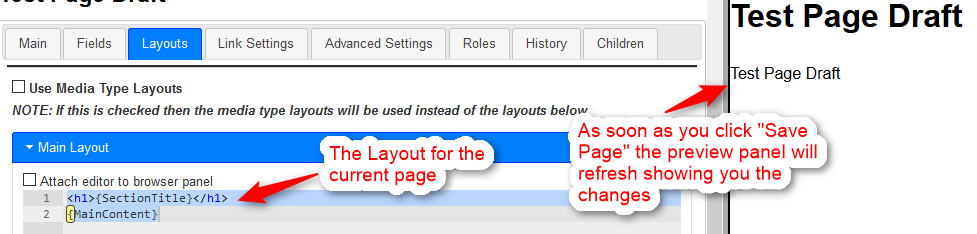
* **Save Page:** Clicking on this button will save any changes you have made to the fields
* **Edit Media Type:** Clicking on this button will open the MediaType Editor for the current page.
* **Create Draft:** Clicking on this button, will immediately create a snapshot of the current live version of the page and put you in an edit mode for the Draft  
  + When in Draft Editing Mode, you will see a button show up called “Publish Live” clicking on this button will immediately push this draft version LIVE, It will also create a history version of the current LIVE version of the page.
  + You can change the publish date of the draft version of the page to some time beyond the publish date of the LIVE version of the page, if this is done then the system will automatically trigger a publish live, when the date time of the draft is hit



Click on the “Layouts” Tab. If the checkbox labeled “Use Media Type Layouts” is check then the layout for the page will come from the “Media Type” Layouts section.



If you uncheck the “Use Media Type Layout” field, it will show you the layout only specific to this 1 page.

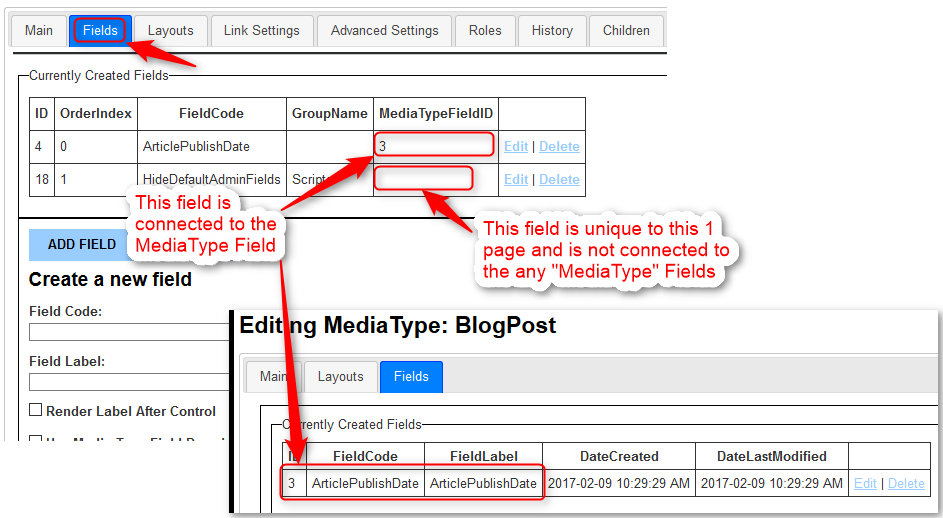


**Fields Tab: Custom Fields for a specific page.**

Click on the “Fields” Tab. All custom fields for this page will show up in the “Currently Created Fields” section.

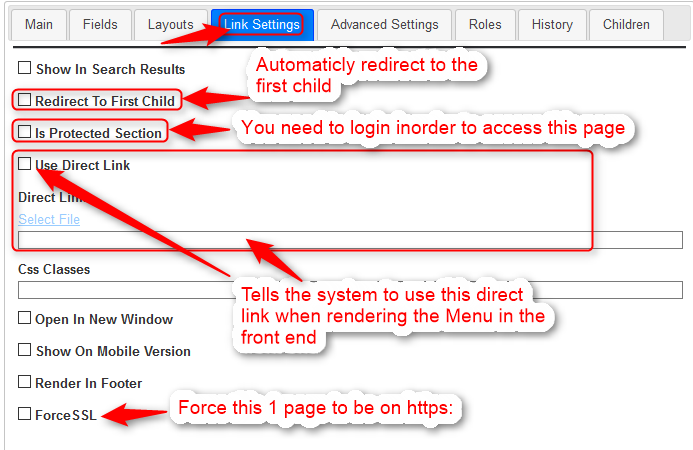
Fields that have a value in the “MediaTypeFieldID” column are associated with the Media Type Field with the same name in the MediaType Fields section. And must be Edited there.

Fields that don’t have a value in the “MediaTypeFieldID” column are not associated with the MediaType and are specific to this one page.



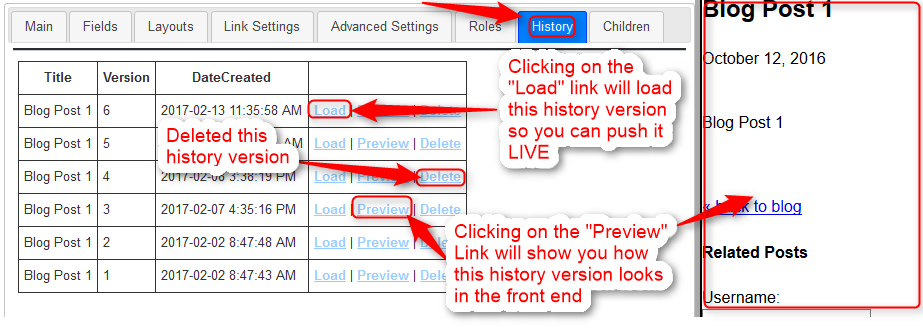
**Links Settings Tab**

Click on the “Link Settings” Tab.



**History Tab**

Click on the “History” Tab.



Every time you click the “Save Page” button, it will create a history version.

The system stores the last 20 history versions for each page.

Clicking on the “Preview” link for a history item will load that history version in the preview panel.

Clicking the “Load” link for a history item, will load that history in the main tab so you can publish it.

Clicking the “Delete” link will permanently delete that history item.

**Advance Settings Tab**

Click on the “Advance Settings” Tab.



**Changing the Media Type of an existing page**

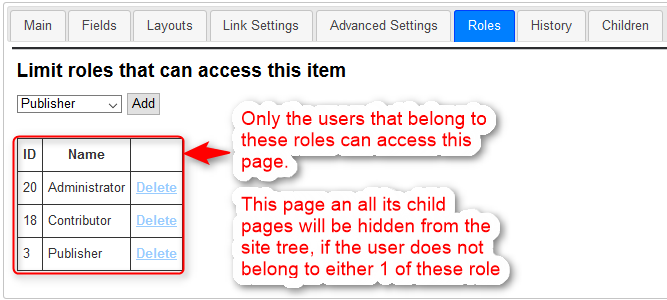
You can change the media type of a page by going to the “Advance Settings” Tab.

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Changing a media type will copy all the fields from the new media type and change any existing media type field references to the new media type fields

**Roles Tab**

Click on the “Roles” Tab



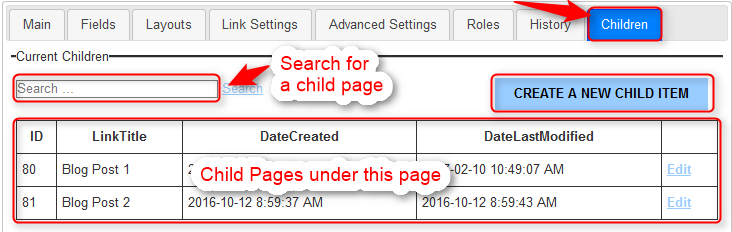
You can restrict what roles can access this page. If a user does not belong to any of the roles you specify, that user will not be able to access this page.

Also this page will not show up in the site tree for the user.

**NOTE:** Any child pages under this page will also not show in the site tree.

**Children Tab**

Click on the “Children” Tab



This section allows you to easily search for a child page under the current page. Also provides quick shortcuts to edit the child pages and create child pages under the current page.

**Using Handler Files**

If the functionality for a page is too complicated to simply program in the Layouts section, or in the MediaType layout section, you can link the page or the media type to a specific “aspx” file.

This allows you to use all the power of visual studio to layout the page as you need.

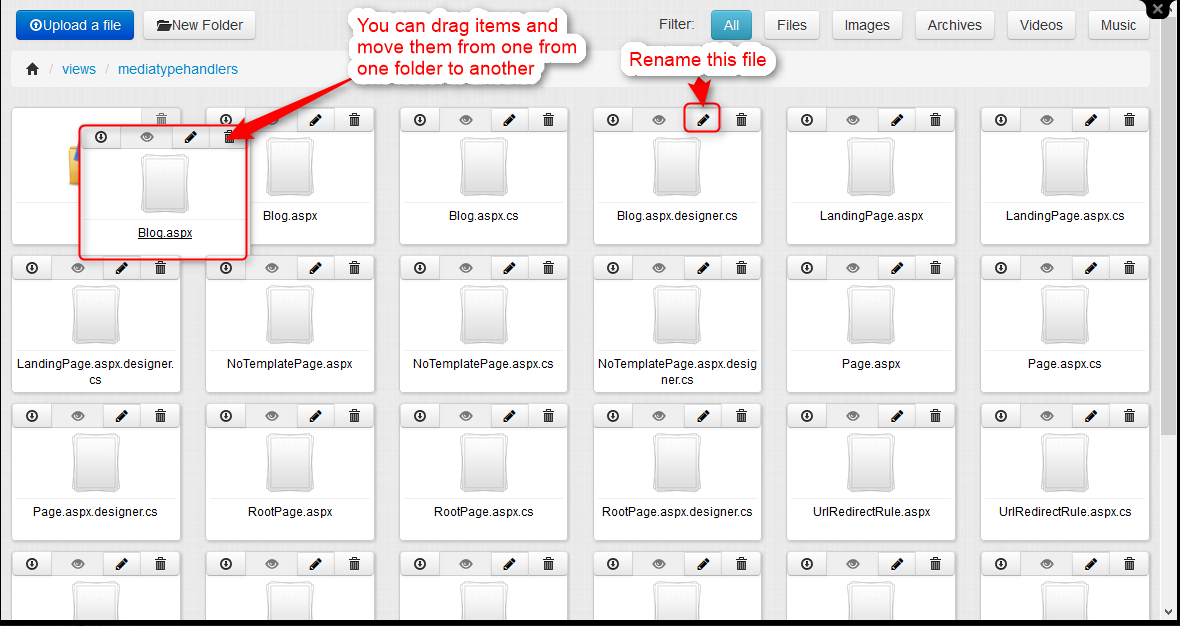
The “Blog” MediaType and the “BlogCategory” MediaType both use a handler file.

**Selecting a Handler File for the MediaType**

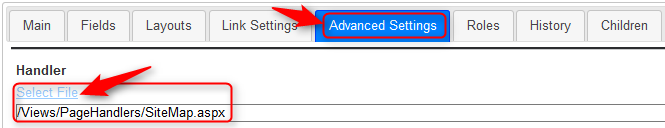


Clicking on the “Select File” in the MediaType will open the file manager, showing you all the files under the following folder “/Views/MediaTypeHandlers/”

Make sure to select the file with the extension “.aspx” in the file manager.

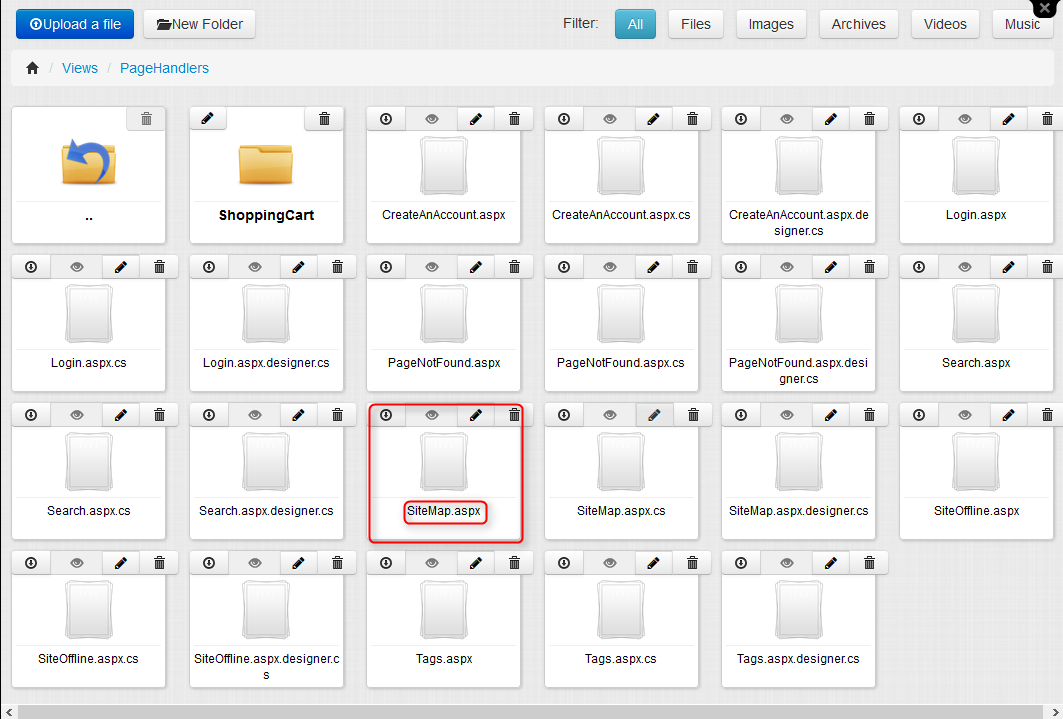


**Advance Settings Tab: Selecting a Handler File for an individual page**

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Clicking on “Select File” will open the file manager showing you the files at the following location: “/Views/PageHandlers/”

Make sure to select the file with the extension “.aspx”

****

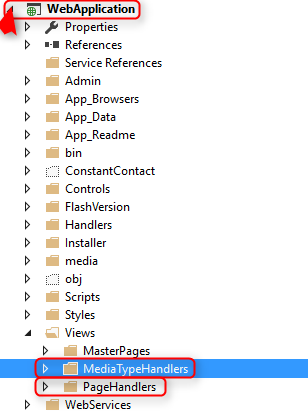
**Creating a handler file**

Every handler file is a webform page ( aspx ) which inherits from “FrontEndBasePage”. There are several handler files that are included, which you can use as a reference.

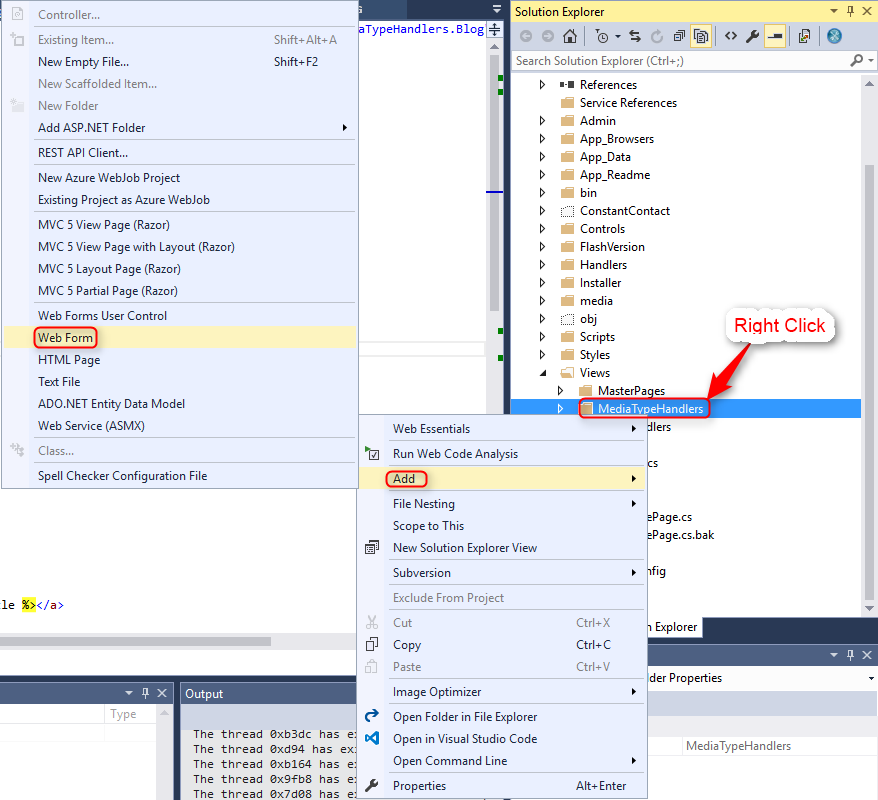
I have divided the handler files into 2 folders: “PageHandlers” and “MediaTypeHandlers”. A Page handler is the layout for 1 single page, where as a media type handler file is a layout for a type of page ( “MediaType” )

You can find these handler files in the following locations

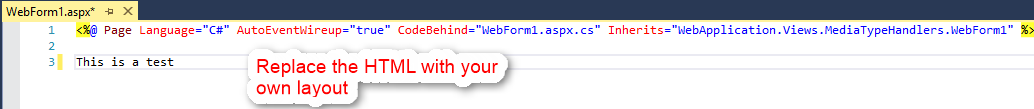
* PageHandlerFiles: “/Views/PageHandlers/”
* MediaTypeHandlers: “/Views/MediaTypeHandlers/”

****

To create a handler file simply right click on the folder that you want to create the handler file under and select “Add”-> “Web Form”



Once the WebForm file has been created, you can simply remove all the HTML code that is placed in the “.aspx” file with what you want.



Open the Code Behind file“.aspx.cs” and change the Base Class from “System.Web.UI.Page” to “FrontEndBasePage”



For an advance reference of a handler file please open the “Blog.aspx” and the “Blog.aspx.cs” pages and view how the Blog Handler file is created.

**“Blog.aspx” file**

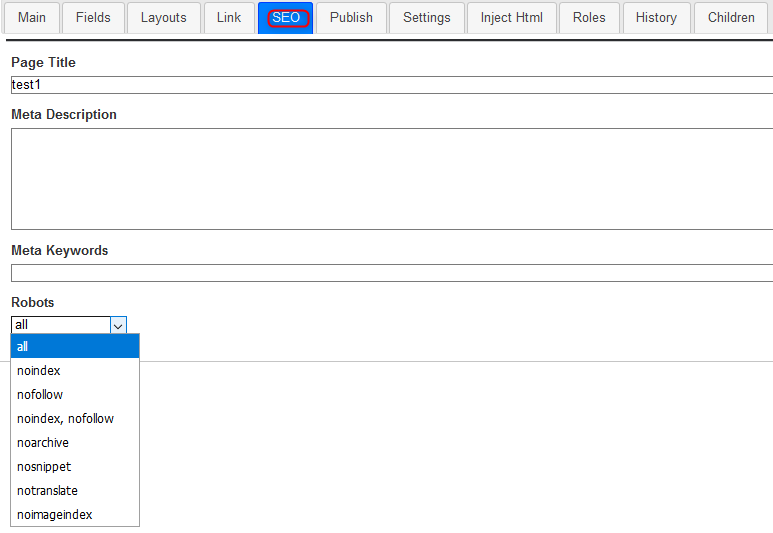


**“Blog.aspx.cs” file**



**Editing SEO Settings**

Every page has a tab called “SEO”



Clicking on this tab shows the following fields:

* **Page Title**: This is what is shown in the browser title bar and is what Google shows as the name of the page in the search results
  + **Note**: The CMS automatically concatenates this title with the parent page titles
* **Meta Description:** This is what Google shows for the description of the page in the search results
* **Meta Keywords:** These are keywords that are relevant to this page
* **Robots:** This will render the meta tag that the crawlers will use to crawl this page, you can find more details about the robots meta tag here: <https://moz.com/learn/seo/robots-meta-directives>

**Caching**

To enable cache, you will need to open the Web.Config file and search for the AppSetting “EnableOutputCaching” and set the Value to “True”



The system comes with 3 levels of caching, you need to enable at least 1 of them, for the caching to work.

* **Level 1 - Memory Caching:** Set “EnableLevel1MemoryCaching” to “True”. This uses the ASP .NET Cache object to store the cache in.   
  ****  
   **Please note:** *Memory Caching cannot be used as a reliable storage medium as it is flushed whenever the Application Pool recycles and is automatically purged if the server is running out of memory.*
* **Level 2 – FileSystem Caching:** Set “EnableLevel2FileSystemCache” to “True”. This uses a FileSystem location that you can provide to store the cache in.  
  ****
* **Level 3 – Redis Caching:** Set “EnableLevel3RedisCache” to “True”. This uses a redis database to store its cache in. You need to provide the Redis Connection string.  
  ****

**It is recommended to use “FileSystemCaching”. If you are using Azure it is recommended to use “RedisCaching”.**

The duration of the cache is determined by the value you provide in the “Output Cache Duration ( in Seconds)” field in the Settings section in the CMS.



The entire HTML for a page is cached and placed in cache with the key representing the exact url that was used to access it.

So, the next time someone visits that exact URL it will load from cache and will not even hit the database, this makes the caching system extremely fast.

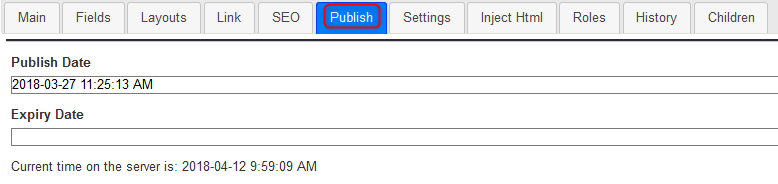
So, if you have the entire website cached you can browse the entire website even if the DB is down.

You can tell if a page is being loaded from cache or not by viewing the page source and going all the way to the bottom, if the page is coming from cache you will see an HTML comment as below:

<!-- Loaded from level 2 - File Cache -->

**Page Publish Settings**

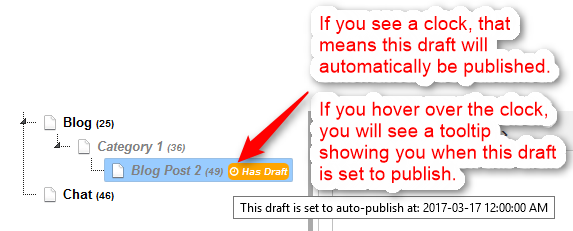
Every page in the CMS has a tab called “Publish”, Clicking on the tab will show you the fields that you can change.



* **Publish Date:** The Date and Time this page should go LIVE
* **Expiry Date:** The Date and Time this page should come down. Leave this blank to keep this page online forever.
* **Current time on the server:** Both the Publish Date and the Expiry date need to be relative to this time, in order to work properly.

**Auto Publishing a Draft**

You can change the publish date of the draft version of the page to some time beyond the publish date of the LIVE version of the page, if this is done then the system will automatically trigger a publish live, when the date time of the draft is hit.



If you see a clock beside the “Has Draft” notification, that means this draft will automatically be published.

If you hover over the clock, you will see a tooltip showing you when this draft is set to publish.

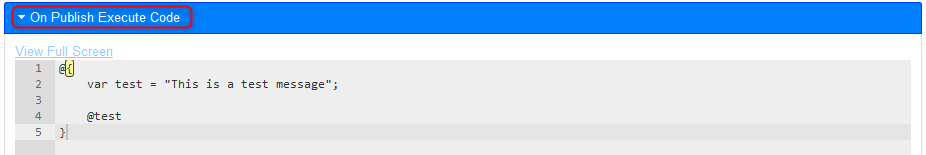
**Execute Custom Code on Publishing of a Page**

The CMS gives you the ability to execute custom razor code when a page or a page with a specific media type is published.

And example would be if you want to automatically notify subscribers when a blog post is published.



Click on the “Layouts” Tab, you will see a tab called “On Publish Execute Code”, if you put code in here then it will be executed when a page with the media type is published.



**Below is an example of how to create a MailChimp campaign using the helper class included**

@{

var mailChimpHelper = new MailChimpHelper("[MailChimpAPI]");

var emailTemplateId = 1443; // ID of the Page Who’s Layout contains the HTML for the email

var emailTemplateMedia = MediasMapper.GetByID(emailTemplateId); // Get the media

var mediaDetail = emailTemplateMedia.GetLiveMediaDetail(); // Get the media detail

var layout = mediaDetail.MainLayout; // Get the contents from the Layouts - > MainLayout

var parsedLayout = MediaDetailsMapper.ParseSpecialTags(Model, layout); // This method parses the HTML and replaces the placeholders with the values from “Model” which is the current page.

var returnMessage = "On publish script was not executed";

var listId = "[MailChimpListID]";

var returnObj = mailChimpHelper.CreateAndSendCampaign(listId, "[FromName]", "[FromEmailAddress]", "Blog Post Notification", "Blog Post Notification", parsedLayout); // This method creates a campaign using the HTML template and tells MailChimp to send the email

if(!returnObj.IsError)

{

returnMessage = "Successfully sent out email notifications to subscribers";

}

else

{

returnMessage = "Error sending email to subscribers :" + returnObj.Error;

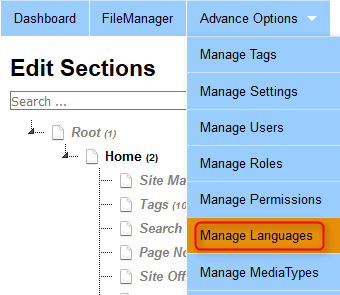
}

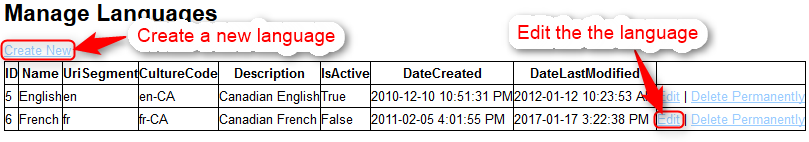
@returnMessage // This will display the notification message in the backend

}

**Enabling Multi Language**

Go to “Advance Options -> Manage Languages”

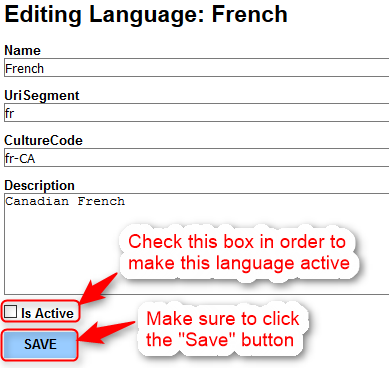




This will show you a list of all the languages that are currently setup in the system

You can create a new language by clicking on the “Create New” Link

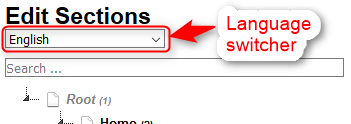
You can edit an existing language by clicking on the “Edit” Link besides a language.



You need to make sure that the checkbox labeled “Is Active” is checked and then hit save to make this language active.

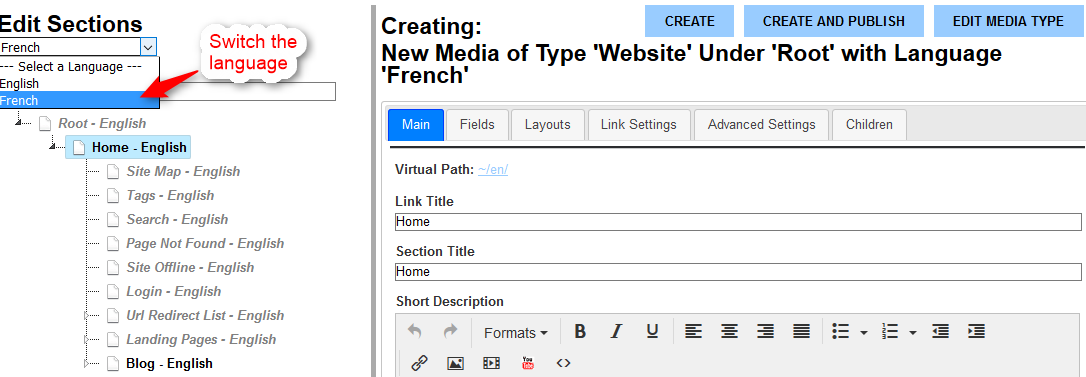
Close the Language Editor and refresh the CMS

You will now see a “Language Switcher” show up above the search box in the site tree



**Adding a new language version of a page**

Click on a page in the site tree for which you want to create a new language version.



Simply switch the language in the “Language Switcher” to the language you want.

The page will refresh and show you the Editor for the selected language.

Change the link title to the French copy and click the “Create and Publish” button.

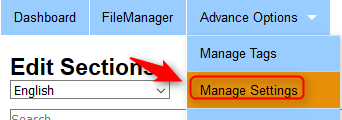
That’s it, you have now created a new language version for the page.

Also note all the URLs for the pages will now contain the language segment “/en/” and “/fr/”

Pages that show “-English” in the site tree, means that there is no version for the selected language that exists for that page. Clicking on these pages will allow you to create a language version for that page.

**Manage Glossary Terms**

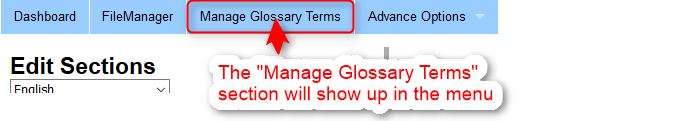
Go to “Advance Options -> Manage Settings”



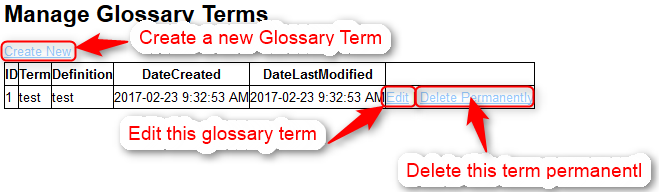
Search for the checkbox labeled “Enable Glossary Terms” and make sure it is checked.



Click the “Save” button after your done. And then refresh the CMS. You will now see a new item in the Menu called “Manage Glossary Terms”

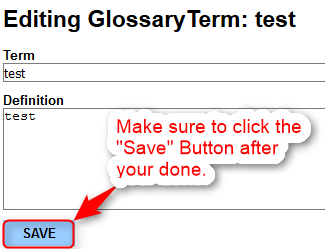


Clicking on this Menu Item will take you to a list showing all the current glossary terms



You can click on the “Create New” link to create a new glossary term.

You can click on the “Edit” link to edit an existing glossary term. This will open a modal window showing you the Glossary Term Editor.



After you are done making changes you must click the “Save” button and close the popup.

The list will automatically update showing you your changes.

Now every occurrence of the “Term” in the frontend will be wrapped with a span tag with the title property containing the “Definition” so you can add a tooltip JavaScript library to create a tool tip popup.



**NOTE:** The JavaScript for the glossary term for the frontend is in “/Scripts/commonFrontEnd.js’

**File Manager**

****

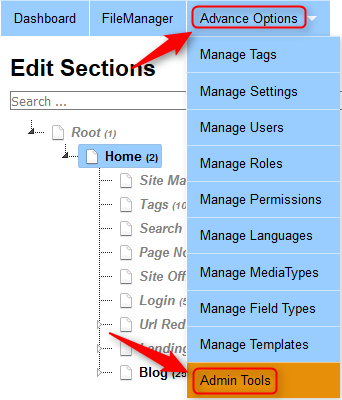
****

The file manager provides the following functionality

* Ability to Create a new folder
* Ability to Upload files
  + Supports dragging and dropping files
* Drag and Drop files and folders and move images and folders
* Ability to rename files and folders
* Ability to download files
* Ability to delete files and folders.
* Ability to preview items
* Ability to edit a file

**Admin Tools**

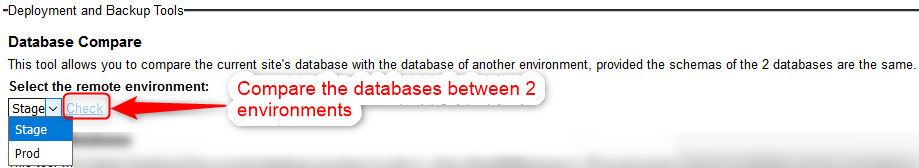
Go to “Advance Options -> Admin Tools”



This section allows you to perform operations that are administrative in nature. Like Clearing all the Cache on the website. Viewing all the error logs generated by the system etc.

**NOTE: The system uses Elmah to keep track of errors.**

**Admin Tools – Database Compare**

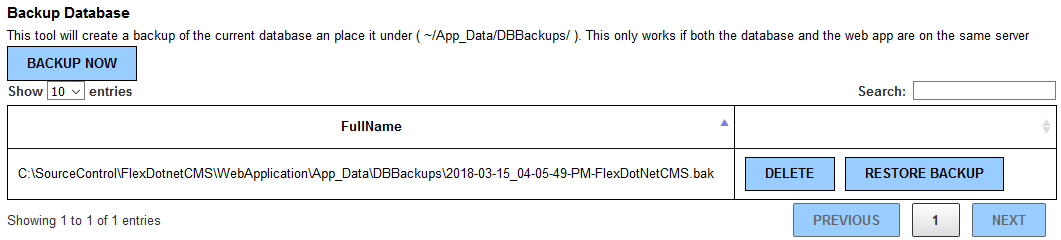


This tool compares the differences between the current database and a remote environment, provided the schemas are the same.

It will show you the following differences

* Missing Pages
* Differences in content for fields
* Differences in Layouts

**Admin Tools – Backup Database**

****

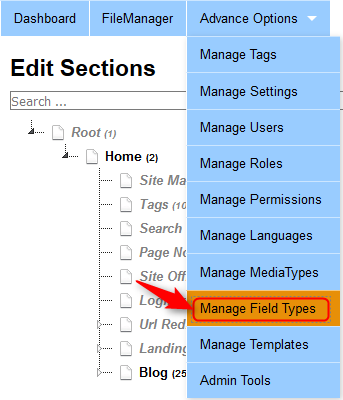
This tool creates a backup of the current database and places it under ( ~/App\_Data/DBBackups/ ). This will only work if both the database and the web app are on the same server.

This tool provides the following functionality

* Backup the current database
* Shows you a list of all the backed-up files
* Delete a backup file
* Restore from an existing file ( This will create a backup of the database prior to restoring it )

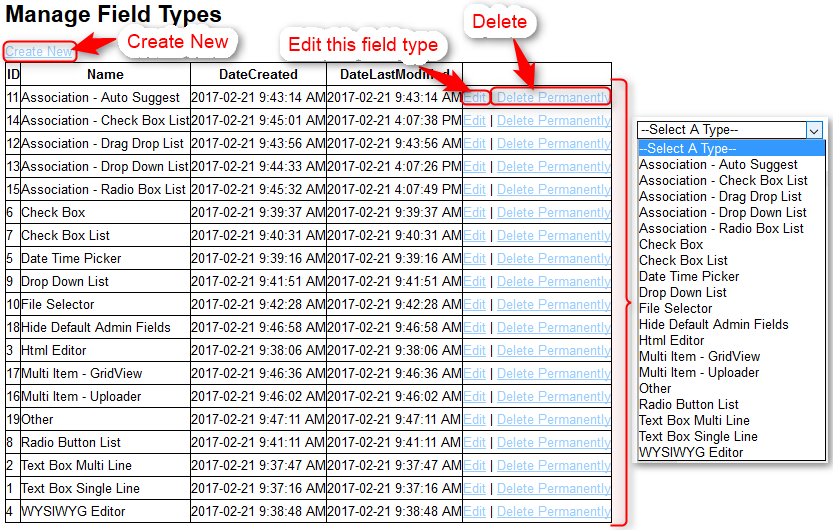
**Manage Field Types**

Go to “Advance Options -> Manage Field Types”



This will take you to a page showing you a list of all the field types that have been created.

These field types are what show up under the “Fields” Tab for both the MediaType as well as the individual pages.



There are several pre-built field types, which should cover most use cases.

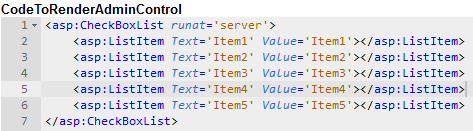
The Field types that have “Association -” in the name are the field types that create a database relationship between the field and the other nodes in the site tree.

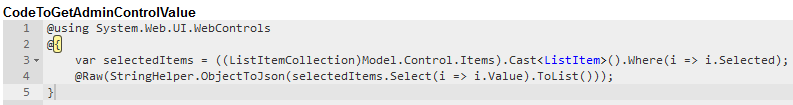
The “WYSIWYG” option creates a field with a TinyMCE Editor ( <https://www.tinymce.com/> )

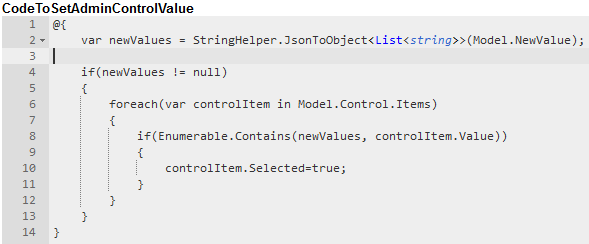
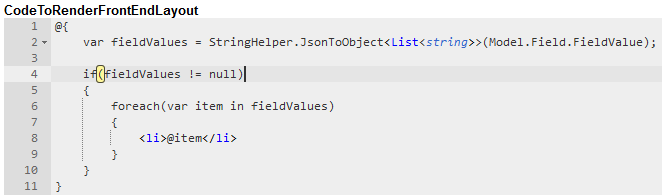
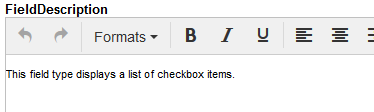
The “Html Editor” option creates a field with a ACE Editor ( <https://ace.c9.io/> )

Clicking on the “Edit” link besides a field type item will popup a modal window showing you the Field Type Editor

The field type editor gives you the ability to program:

* How the field will render in the CMS backend.  
    
  

How the system will read the value from the field in the CMS and put it into the database as a JSON String.  
  


* How the system will update the field from the JSON value stored in the database   
    
  
* How the field will render in the front end when you call the field using: {Field:[FieldCode]}  
    
  
* The default field description for this field type  
    
  

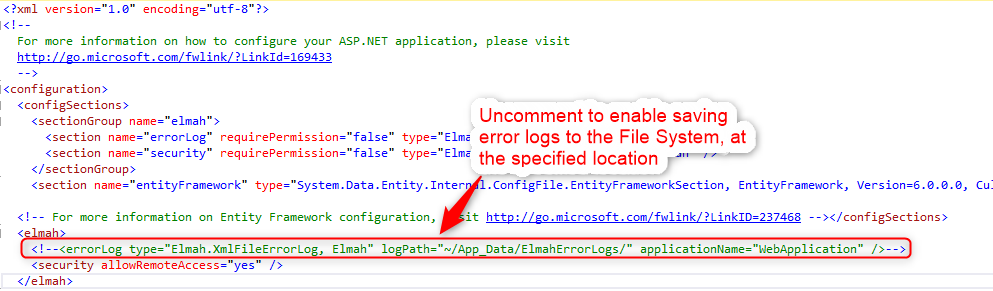
All the above are defaults and can be overwritten when creating a field of this type.

**Error Handling and Logging**

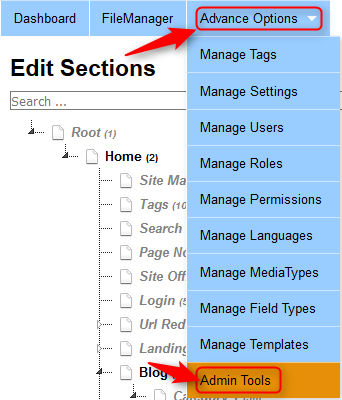
I am using the “Elmah” library to log errors.

By default, all errors are stored in memory.

You can find the elmah configuration in the web.config file:

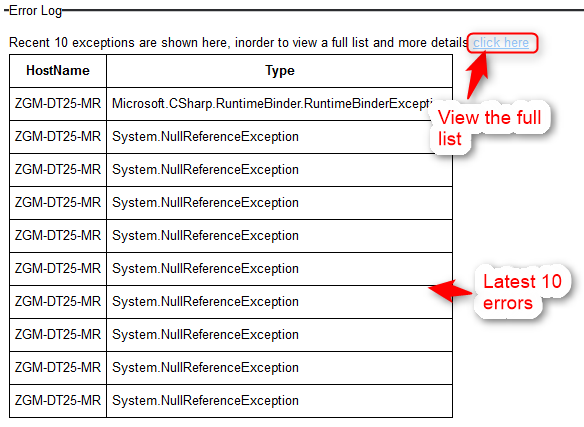


You can view the logs by logging into the CMS and going to “Advance Options -> Admin Tools”



At the bottom of the page you will see the “Error Log” section, which will display the latest 10 errors.

If you want a full list of all the errors, click on the “Click Here” link. This will pop up the “Elmah.axd” page.



All errors generated by the system are logged, Including Razor Compilation Errors.

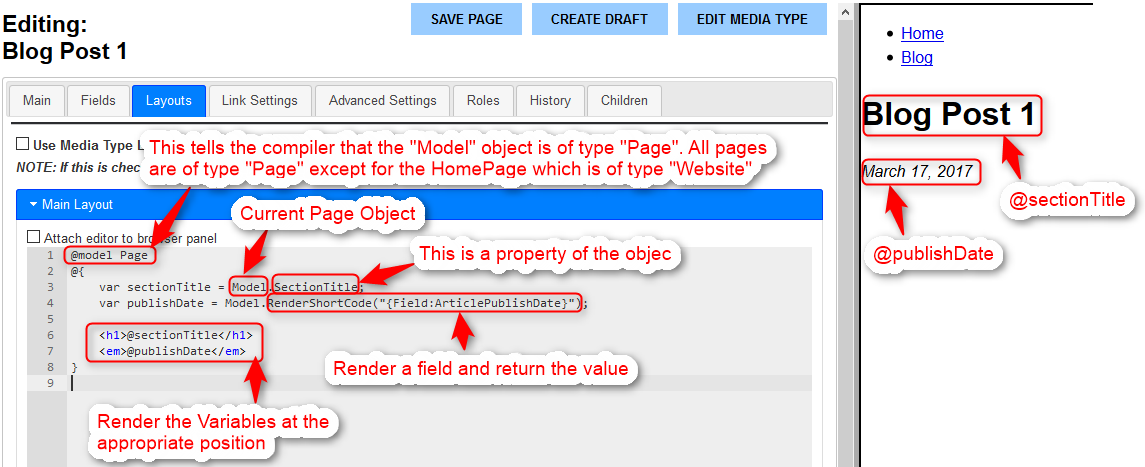
**Programming directly in the CMS using Razor Code**

You can program directly in the CMS using Razor Code.

The System will automatically compile the code at runtime using the RazorEngine Compiler ( <https://antaris.github.io/RazorEngine/> ).

**This is the same compiler that Microsoft uses to compile their MVC views.**

Please see the screenshot below for an example:



Find out what the type of the model is by using the following code: **@Model** this will render the following output:

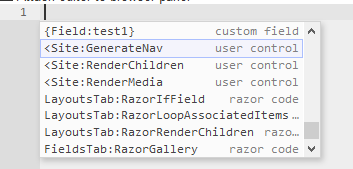


Now that you know that the type of the object is “Page” you will need to explicitly specify that by using the following code: **@model Page**

You can now access all the properties and methods of the object by simply using “Model.[PropertyOrMethod]”, please see the example in the next page

In the Html Editor, if you press “Ctrl + SPACEBAR” that will popup a auto complete list. The list comes with razor code snippets and user control snippets, this makes it easy to get started.

The snippets that start with “LayoutsTab:” should be used in the layouts tab and the ones that start with “FieldsTab:” should be used in the Front-End Layout when editing a field.



Below is an example of using Razor Code:

**@model Page**

**<!--Start a Razor Code Block -->**

**@{**

**var sectionTitle = Model. RenderField(“SectionTitle”); // Get the "SectionTitle" of the current page**

**var publishDate = Model.RenderField("ArticlePublishDate"); // This is a helper method that allows you to render a field and return its value and put it in a variable**

**}**

**<!--End of Razor Code Block -->**

**<!-- You can now render the variables in your HTML -->**

**<h1>@sectionTitle</h1>**

**<em>@publishDate</em>**

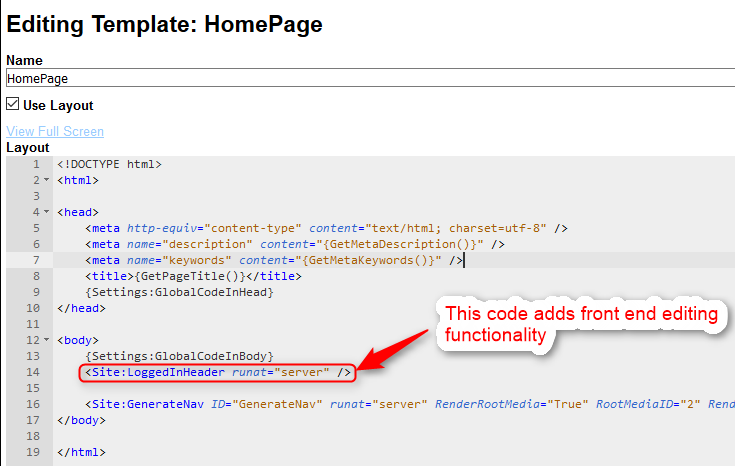
If you ever make an error, you can see the error right away by going to the page in the front end. Please note you must save before seeing the error.

If you are in the Page Layouts section or the Page Fields section, you can see the error right away after saving the page, in the “Preview” Panel.

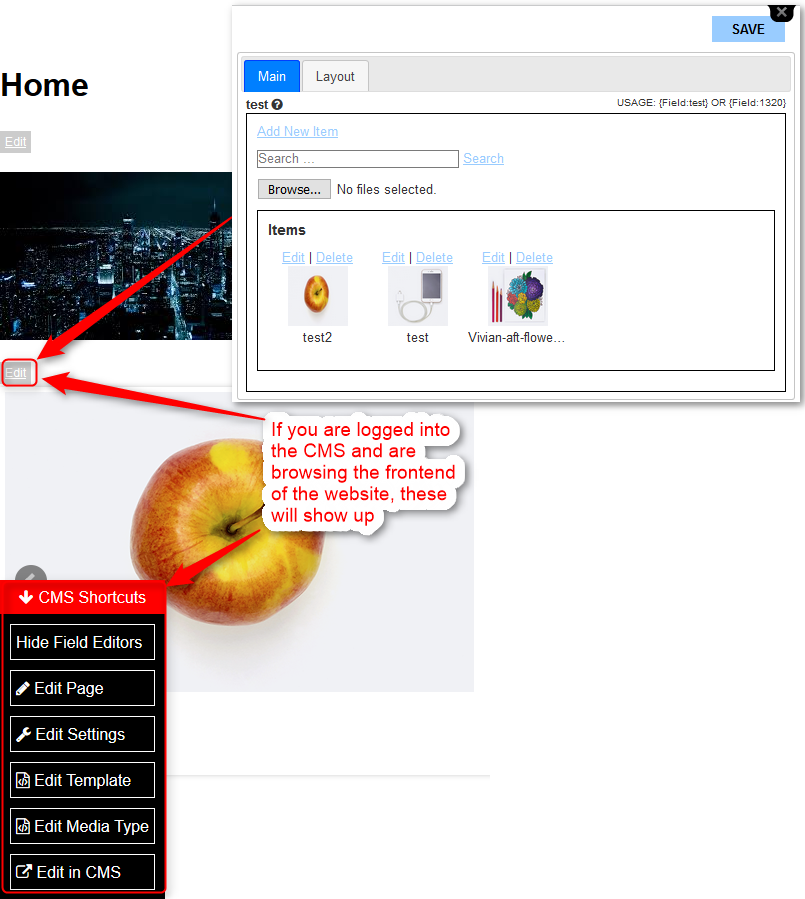
**Front End Editing**

To enable this, you will need to make sure that you have the code ( **<Site:LoggedInHeader runat="server" />** ) added at the top of every template.

Please see the screenshot below for placement:



Now if you browse the frontend of the website, you will see a “CMS Shortcuts” toolbar.



All the Fields that have been set to allow an editor will have an “Edit” besides it. Clicking on the “Edit” besides a field will open the field editor in a modal window.

The Field Editor also contains a “Layout” tab, which allows you to update the code that renders the field in the front end. Closing the modal window will refresh the page so that you can see your changes.

**Front End Editing – Visual Layout Editor**

The CMS Shortcuts tab should contain a button called “Toggle Visual Layout Editor”



Clicking on that button will refresh the page showing you all the rows and columns and allowing you the ability to create, delete and re-order rows, columns and fields.

When in Visual Layout Editor Mode, a button called “Save Layout” will show up at the top of the CMS Shortcuts tab

**Include File – Can be used to move all your code into files**

The System provides a useful ShortCode called {IncludeFile:[PATH\_TO\_FILE]}

You can think of this as a standard include, which simply loads the content of a file and injects it where ever the shortcode is placed.

You can use this feature to move ALL your code outside the CMS into files, this is now the preferred method, this provides you with the possibility to use your source control system and your own file editor, instead of trying to make all your code changes in the CMS

