**Hosting Requirements**

* .NET Framework 4.5 +
* MS SQL Server 2012 +
* IIS 8 +

**Software Required**

* Visual studio 2015 Community Edition +

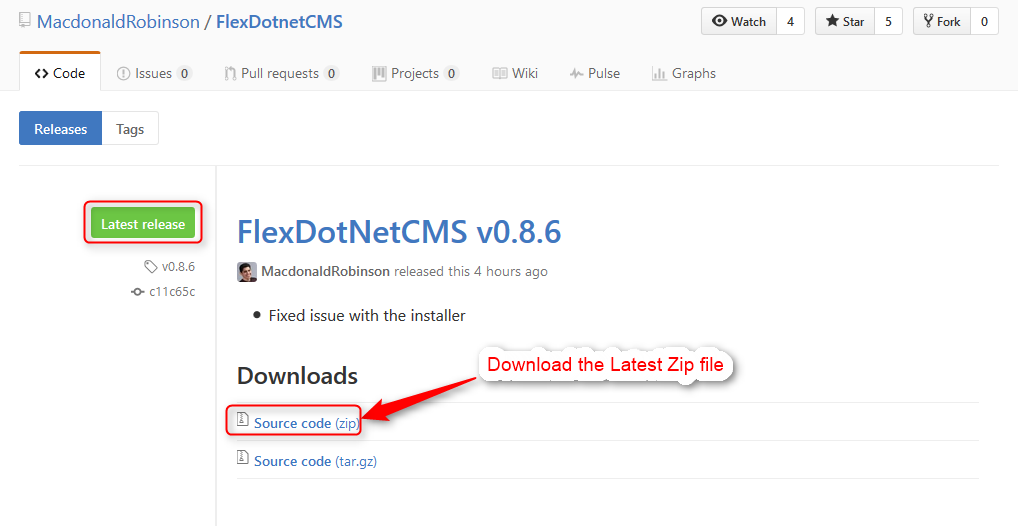
**Introductions**

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**

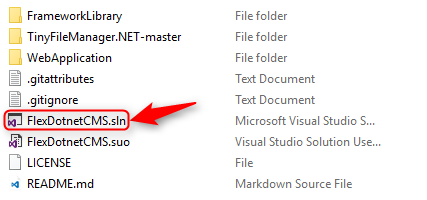
* Browse to: <https://github.com/MacdonaldRobinson/FlexDotnetCMS>
* Click on the “Releases tab”
* Download the Latest Release

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**Open the FlexDotnetCMS Solution in Visual studio**

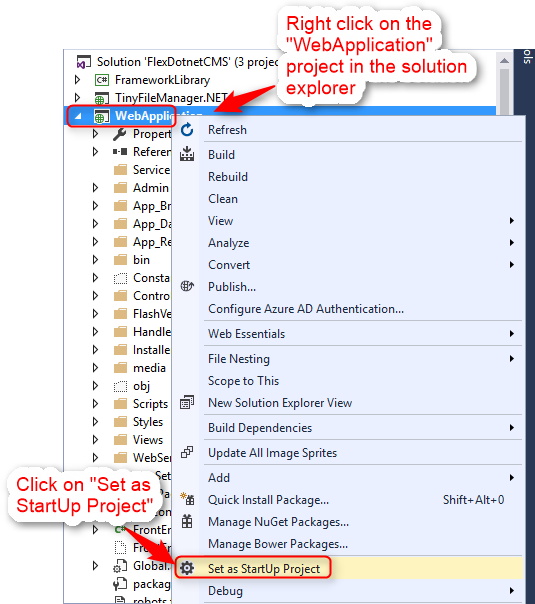
* Unzip the file
* Double click on the “FlexDotnetCMS.sln” file
* This will load the project in visual studio



**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.

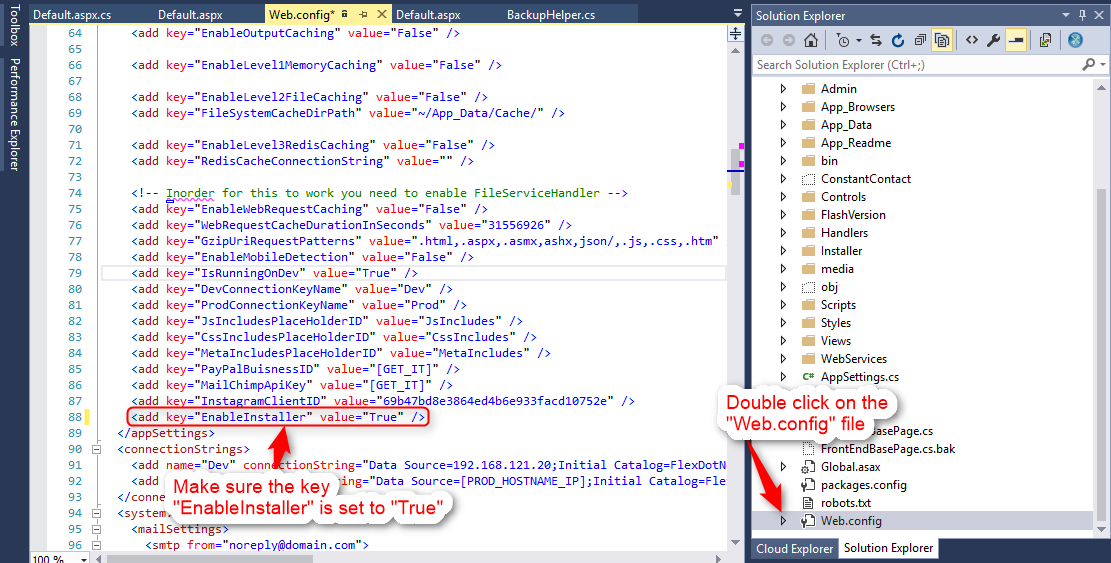
* Right click on the “WebApplication” project
* Select “Set as StartUp Project” from the menu that pops up



**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.

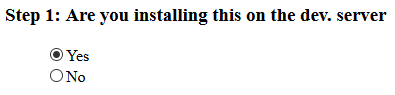
**Run the Project from Visual Studio**

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.

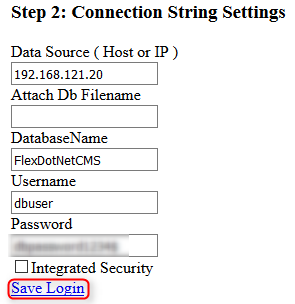




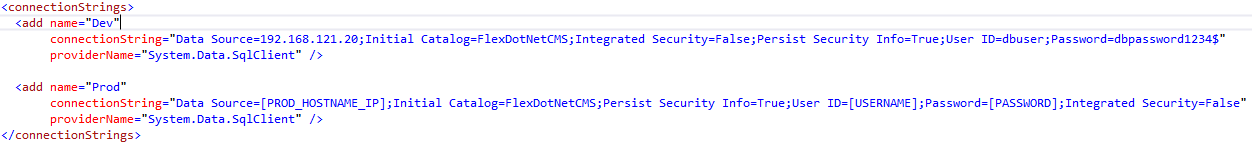
This step maps to the “IsRunningOnDev” AppSetting in the Web.config file.



If you select Yes, the value in the web.config will change to “True”. If you select “No” it will change to “False”



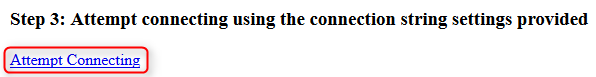
Clicking on the “Save Login” link will update the connection string in the Web.Config File.



Which connection string will be updated is based on the values set for the “IsRunningOnDev” AppSetting, which is set based on the previous step.

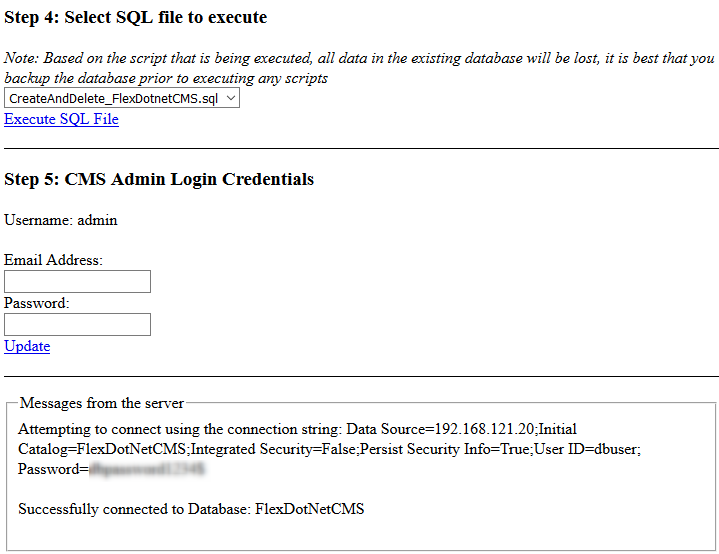
If “IsRunningOnDev” is set to “True”, it will update the “Dev” connection string.

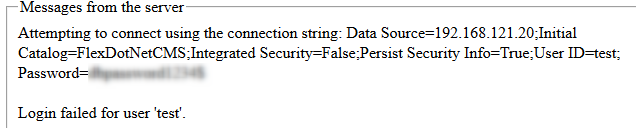
If “IsRunningOnDev” is set to “False”. It will update the “Prod” connection string.

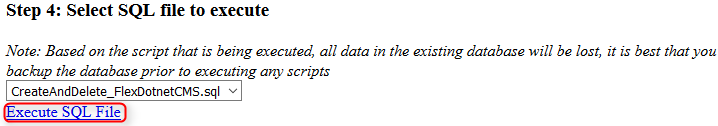


Clicking on the “Attempt Connecting” link will attempt to connect to the database using the connection string set in the previous step.

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.   


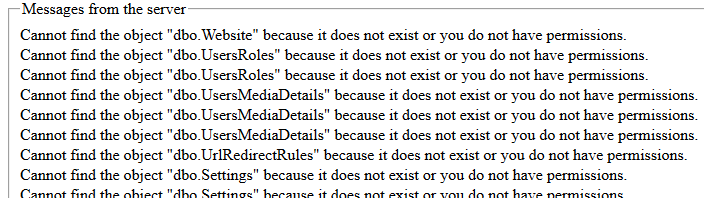


The dropdown list is populated with a list of all the sql files located in this folder: “/WebApplication/Installer/SqlFiles/”.

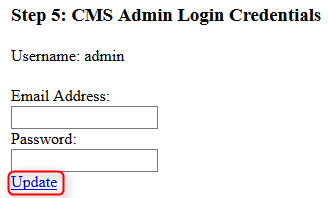
By default the file “CreateAndDrop\_FlexDotnetCMS.sql” is the sql for the CMS

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/”

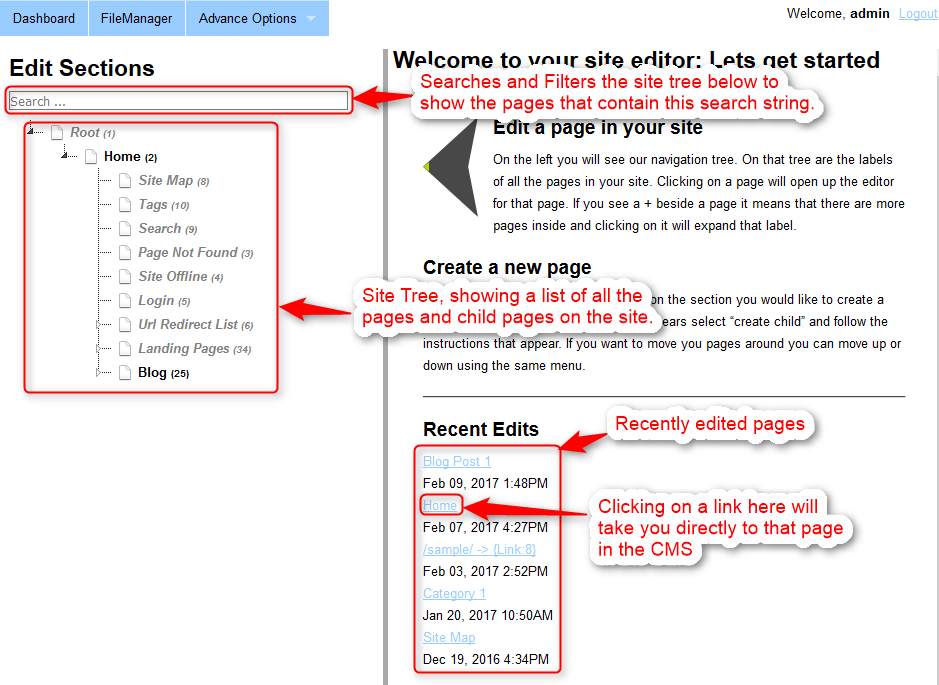


Enter the username ‘admin’ and password that you set in Step #5 and click the “Login” Link. You will now be logged into the CMS.

**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

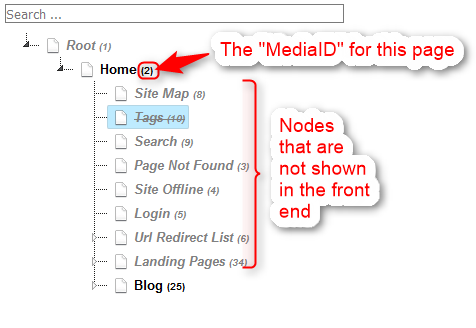


**Site Tree**

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.

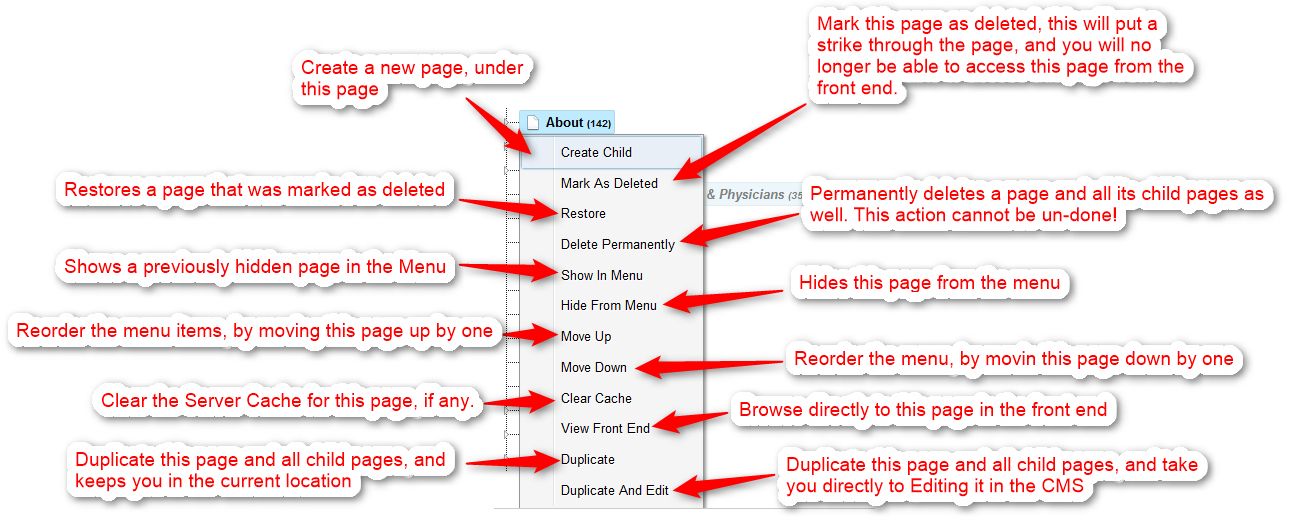
Nodes that are Grayed out are nodes that are not shown on the site.

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.
* **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.

**Editing SEO Settings**

At the bottom of every page that you edit in the CMS you will find the “SEO Settings” tab



Clicking on this tab will expand the SEO sections, show 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

