

# Sitecore MVC layout

In recent times **Sitecore MVC** has gained much popularity & it has become a standard choice now.

With every new **Sitecore** release, this is becoming more popular & powerful.

I get more & more requests to write about **Sitecore MVC** so here it is, a blog series about **Getting Started with Sitecore MVC** for beginners like me.

In this blog series we will create a demo website while learning basics of **Sitecore MVC**.

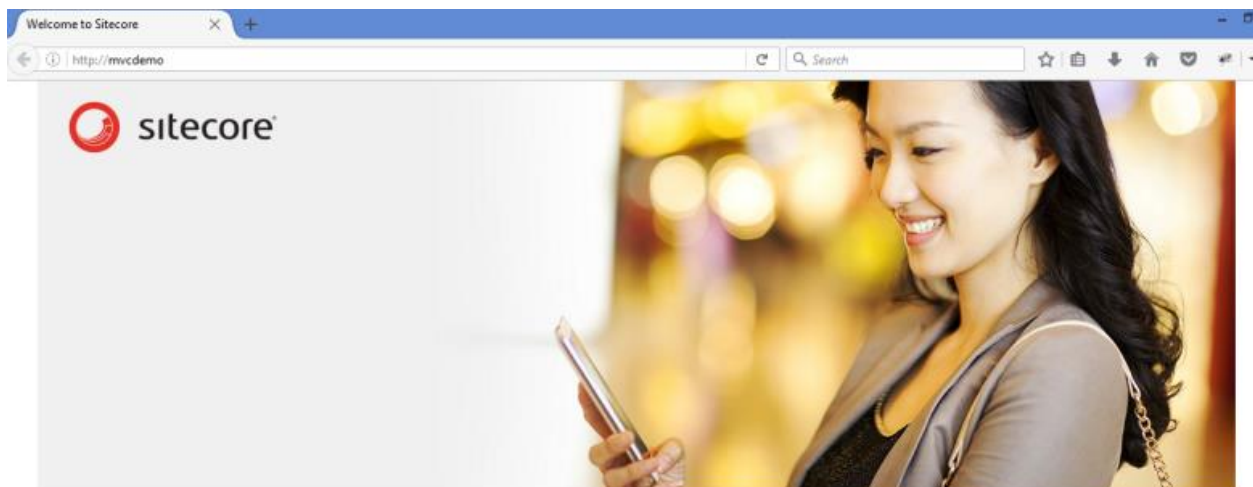
For this blog series I'm using **Sitecore 8.1 update 3 [SC81rev160519]** but this tutorial should work for **Sitecore 8+** versions.

In this part of the blog series, we will install a blank instance of the **Sitecore** & create a **Sitecore MVC Layout** to print "**Hello Sitecore MVC!!!**".

Let's start with installing the fresh **Sitecore**.

I named my website (or **Sitecore** instance) as **MVCDemo**.

If I navigate to <http://mvcdemo/> URL in any browser, this is how our default website looks like :



## Sitecore Experience Platform

From a single connected platform that also integrates with other customer-facing platforms, to a single view of the customer in a big data marketing repository, to completely eliminating much of the complexity that has previously held marketers back, the latest version of Sitecore makes customer experience highly achievable. Learn how the latest version of Sitecore gives marketers the complete data, integrated tools, and automation capabilities to engage customers throughout an iterative lifecycle – the technology foundation absolutely necessary to win customers for life.

For further information, please go to the [Sitecore Documentation site](#)

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Nothing fancy yet just what usual clean **Sitecore** website's home page look like.

Let's start with saying Hello to **Sitecore MVC**.

For this I'm going to create a new **MVC Layout**.

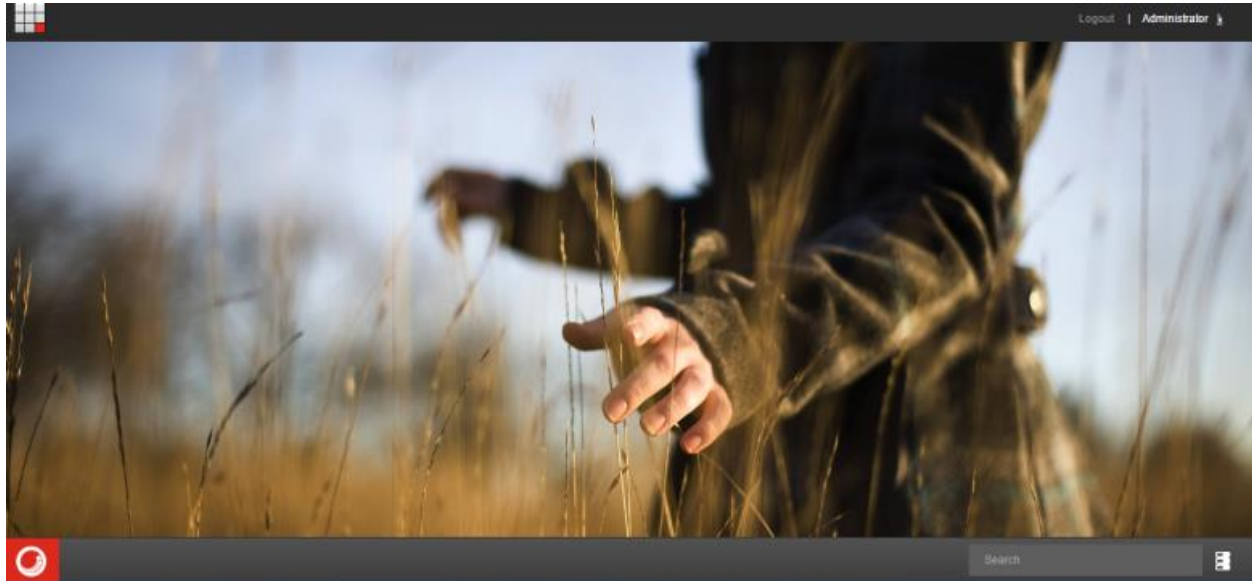
If you haven't login to the **Sitecore** shell website yet, it's time to do it.

Hit the **/sitecore/login** after the website's domain, in my case it is:

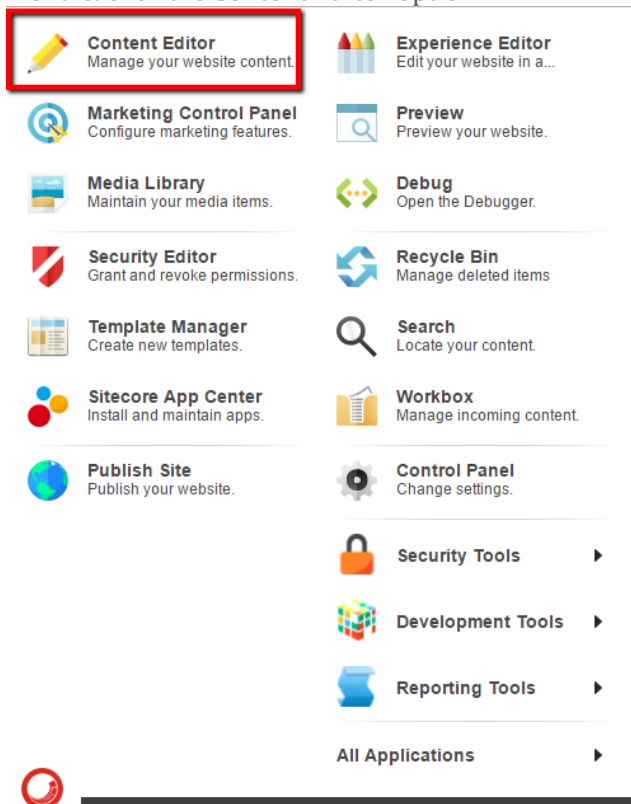
<http://mvcdemo/sitecore/login>

Provide the user name & password here to login.

After the successful login you should the below screen:



As you can see **Sitecore** has a Window style **Start** button (in bottom let corner), let's Open the **Start Menu** & click the **Content Editor** option.



Clicking this should open the **Content Editor** with **Content Tree** in the left-side.  
This is how my content tree look like in clean **Sitecore**:

The screenshot displays the Sitecore user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: HOME, NAVIGATE, REVIEW, ANALYZE, PUBLISH, VERSIONS, CONFIGURE, and PRES. Below the navigation bar, there are several toolbars. The first toolbar contains 'Save' (Write) and 'Edit' (Edit) buttons. The second toolbar shows a list of items: 'Sample Item' (1 of 3) and 'Folder' (2 of 3), with an 'Insert' button. The third toolbar contains 'Duplicate', 'Copy to', 'Move to', and 'Delete' buttons, with an 'Operations' label. Below the toolbars, there is a search bar and a 'Content' button. The main area is divided into two sections. On the left, the 'Content Tree' is shown, with a red box highlighting the 'Content' folder and its sub-items: 'Home', 'Layout', 'Media Library', 'Social', 'System', and 'Templates'. A red callout box labeled 'Content Tree' points to this section. On the right, the 'Home' item is selected, showing its details. The 'Home' item is a 'Content' type, with a 'Welcome to Sitecore.' message. Below this, a 'Quick Info' section displays the following information:

Quick Info	
Item ID:	{110D559F-DEA5-42EA-9C1C-8A5DF7E70}
Item name:	Home
Item path:	/sitecore/content/Home
Template:	/sitecore/templates/Sample/Sample Item - {7

### Creating Our MVC Layout (Sitecore Layout):

If the term **Sitecore Layout** is new to you, I would strongly recommend you read [this](#) document before moving ahead.

To create our new **Sitecore MVC Layout**, I'm going to open (expand) the **Layout** folder item from the **Content Tree**.

After expanding we see below folders under the **Layout** folder item:

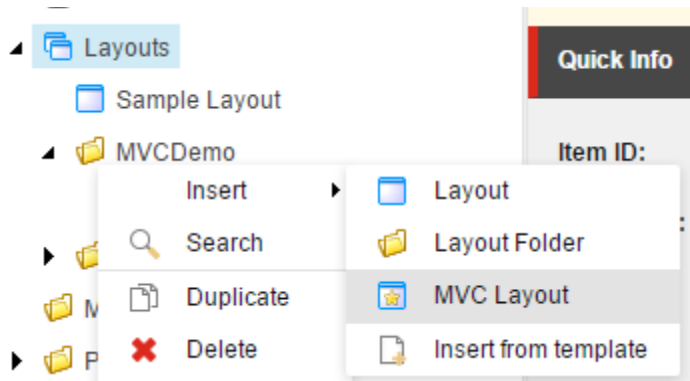
- Layout
  - Controllers
  - Devices
  - Layouts
  - Models
  - Placeholder Settings
  - Renderings
  - Sublayouts
  - Simulators

As a standard practice, we will be creating our **MVC Layout** under **Layouts** folder item.

Let's expand the **Layouts** folder item & create a new folder item called **MVCDemo**.

Again creating our custom folder is recommended as this separates our **Sitecore Layout(s)**, from default **Sitecore Layouts**.

Now right click on the **MVCDemo** folder item & from insert options, click **Add a new MVC Layout** option:



This will open a wizard to create the **MVC Layout** item.

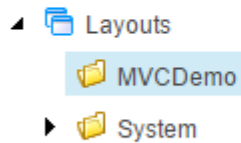
A screenshot of the Sitecore wizard for creating a new MVC Layout item. The wizard has a title bar that says 'Name' and a subtitle that says 'Enter a name for the new file. Click Next to continue.' Below the subtitle, there is a text input field with the label 'Name:' and the text 'Main' entered. The 'Next' button is highlighted with a red box. At the bottom of the wizard, there are 'Next' and 'Cancel' buttons, with the 'Next' button also highlighted with a red box.

Let's name our MVC Layout "**Main**" & click next in the wizard.

In the next screen, choose the **MVCDemo** folder & click Next:

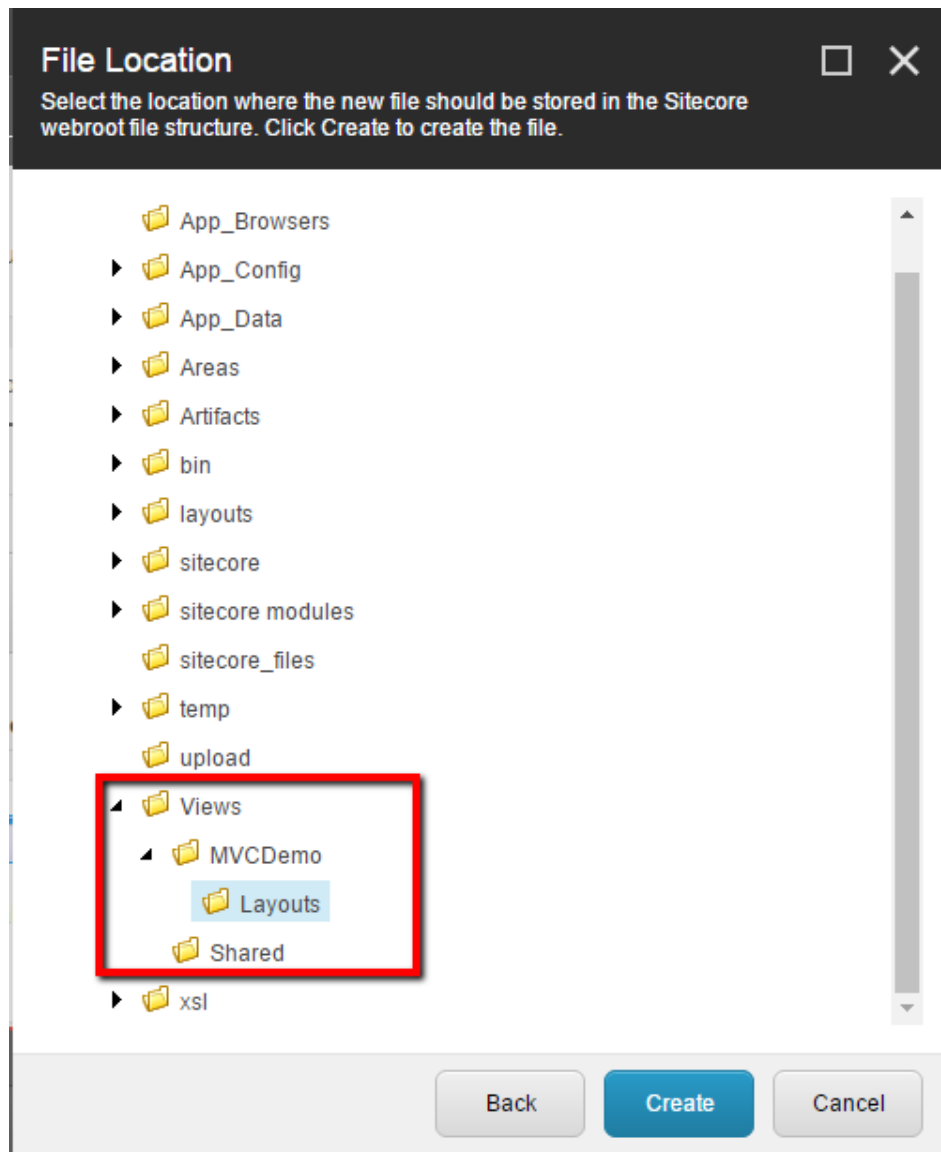
## Location

Select the location where the item representing the new file should be stored in the Sitecore content tree. Click Next to continue.

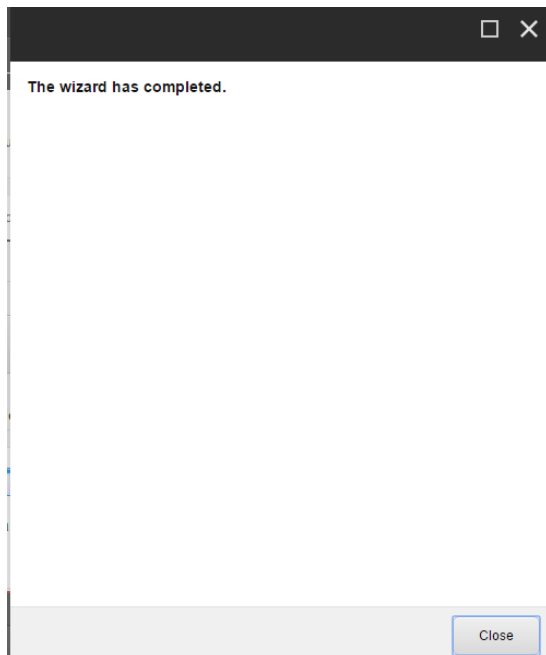


After we click Next, we need to choose the file location (under the web root) for our **MVC Layout**. You can choose to simply click Next or you can do as I did before clicking the Next, navigate to the **View** folder in the website root & create a physical folder and name it **MVCDemo**. Under this **MVCDemo** folder I created another folder called **Layouts**.

Now comeback to the wizard & refresh the Views folder (by collapsing & expending again) & you should see the **MVCDemo** folder & if you expand it you should see the **Layouts** folder as well:



Choose the **Layouts** folder here, click **Create** button & let wizard do the rest.  
If everything goes right (it should be), & you see the below screen click Close to make wizard disappear.



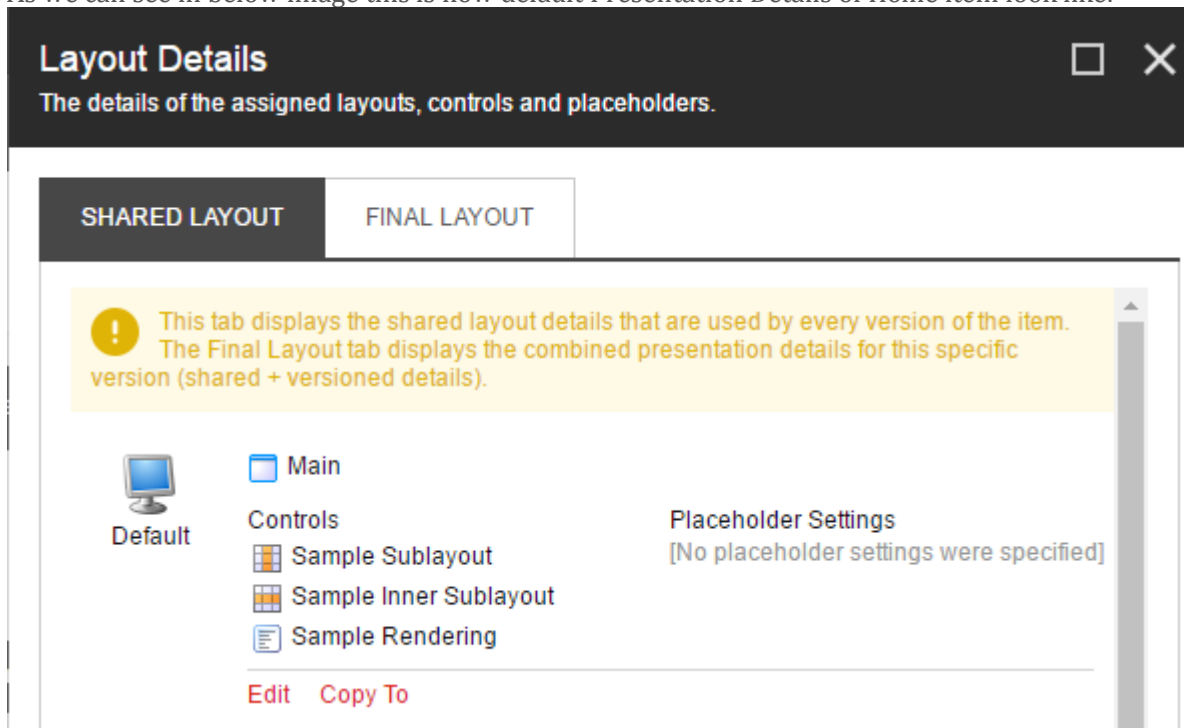
We should see Main layout inside the Sitecore under **Layout** folder item as well as we should see **Main.cshtml** file [razor file -we will use this to write HTML & few lines of code] under the **Webroot/Views/MVCDemo/Layouts** folder.

Before going ahead let's save & publish the Main layout in **Sitecore**.

We will now assign this **MVC Layout (named Main)** to the **Home** item.

Let's navigate to the **Home** item & open it's **Presentation Details**.

As we can see in below image this is how default Presentation Details of Home item look like:



We need to change the Layout of the Home item & for this select the newly created Main layout in the Layout.

There are many other rendering (or **Sublayouts**) assigned to the Home item, let just leave them for now. After changing the Layout, close the Presentation Details & Save and publish the Home item. Let's see how our change will affect our homepage.

Open our website's homepage (the only page we have as of now) in browser & you should just see the page title [**Sitecore Experience Platform**] instead of the default page we were seeing earlier.

#### **Did we break anything?**

Well, No, we did not break anything but since our new Layout is applied which is almost plain as of now, we see nothing but the page title.

#### **Why do we see page title, if we haven't code for it?**

If you open the **Main.cshtml** with any text editor (I'm using **Notepad++**), you should see content below:

```
1
2     @using Sitecore.Mvc
3     @* @using Sitecore.Mvc.Analytics.Extensions *@
4     @{
5         Layout = null;
6     }
7     <!DOCTYPE html>
8     <html>
9         <head>
10             <title>@Html.Sitecore().Field("title", new { DisableWebEdit = true })</title>
11             @* @Html.Sitecore().VisitorIdentification() *@
12         </head>
13         <body>
14             <h1>@Html.Sitecore().Field("title")</h1>
15             <div>
16                 @Html.Sitecore().Placeholder("main")</div>
17         </body>
18     </html>
```

When we create the **Sitecore MVC Layout**, **Sitecore** provide us the basic scaffolding & example to render fields.

```
1     <h1>@Html.Sitecore().Field("title")</h1>
```

The above line is responsible for rendering the content of **Title** field from **Home** item.

We also get one **Sitecore placeholder** (don't worry if you don't know what **Sitecore placeholder** is) called **main**, where we can add other **Sublayouts/Renderings**.

Next we will print the "**Hello Sitecore MVC!!!**" on the page.

Go back to the **Home** item in **Sitecore** & update the content of the Title field to "**Hello Sitecore MVC!!!**".



sitecore

Content

Home

Layout

Media Library

Social

System

Templates

Item owner: sitecore\admin

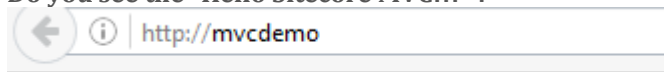
Data

Title - Please enter title of the item here:  
Hello Sitecore MVC!!!

Text - Please enter text of the item here:

Save and publish the Home item.  
Refresh the home page in browser.

Do you see the “Hello Sitecore MVC!!!” ?



# Hello Sitecore MVC!!!