How roles, permissions & sections work together in Drupal

Stakeholder discovery/research
SME: Kevin Walsh, Civic Actions/Agile 6
Information collected by: Jen Lee, OCTO-DE

Roles, permissions & sections

Sections are organized in a hierarchy. Each section includes subsections. Permission and access flows downward.

Users have to be assigned both a user role and a section.*

What: User roles determine what tasks they can do in the CMS – "permissions."

Where: "Sections" determine product access – which content products they can do those tasks for.

Except for "global" admin type of users.

CMS user roles

1. Administrator
2. User admin
3. Content API consumer
4. Content admin
5. Content creator
6. Content editor
7. Content reviewer
8. Content publisher

C	D	E
STATUS	ROLES	SECTIONS
Active	Administrator	All Sections Edit
Active	Content admin	All Sections Edit
Active	Content creator - Benefits hubs Content creator - VAMC Content editor Content reviewer Content publisher	Outreach Hub Edit
Active	User admin	All Sections Edit
Active	Content creator - VAMC Content publisher	VA Pittsburgh Edit
	Content creator - VAMC	VA Pittsburgh

"Global" Drupal user roles – not attached to sections

These roles have ability to do things in any/all sections, and are not tied to sections.

Administrator – Technical CMS admin: Assigns user admins

User admin – Assigns user roles and sections {currently not in use – future, may want to narrow this role so that it's associated with a certain section only}

Content API consumer – API bots

Content admin – Create, archive, delete, edit, review, publish

Drupal user roles – must be attached to a section

A user can be assigned one or more of these roles per section. These roles are always associated with a particular section.

EX: A content creator for Pittsburgh VAMC subsection cannot create pages for health care benefit hub.

Content creator (xproduct) – Can create certain product pages and add to specific products in a section

Content editor – Edit

Content reviewer – Edit and review

Content publisher – edit, review, publish, archive

How user roles and sections work in Drupal: You cannot be assigned a specific role for a specific section

A – user roles

You can have more than 1 user role.

Example:
Jane Smith has Publisher, Reviewer, and Editor user roles.

B - sections

You can be assigned to more than 1 section.

Example:
Jane Smith has access to the Veterans Affairs > Outreach section; and the NCA section.

In the example above, Jane has Publisher, Reviewer, and Editor permissions.

So whatever sections she's assigned to, she will have all of those permissions for all of those sections. I.e., whatever is the highest role Jane needs for one section is be default the permission level she gets for any other section she needs access to, even if she should only have a lower permission setting for a different section.

Sections: What are we talking about when we say "sections" in the CMS?

Sections

All VA.gov content published from Drupal belongs to a section.

Sections are organized in a hierarchy, each section with subsections.

Currently there are 5 sections: Veterans Affairs, NCA, VBA, VHA, and DEPO.

Sections and permissions

A user can be assigned to a section at the top level; at one or more sub-section levels; or tertiary section level; and so on.

Ex: A CMS user who has access to the VHA top "section" level has access to all products and subsections under it:

- All VAMC sites and health facility pages

- All health care benefit hub pages

- All Vet Center pages

- All national health services descriptions

Veterans Health Administration

View

Home

Subsections

- Health care benefits hub
- Nationally-standardized VAMC content
- National health care service descriptions
- VAMC facilities
- Vet Centers

Permission and access flow down from section, subsections, and so on

A user with access at the VAMC facilities sub-section level has access to everything under that sub-section, from the VAMC facilities subsection level on down:

VHA > *==VAMC facilities==* > *VISNs* > *VISN X location pages.*

VAMC facilities

View

Home » Veterans Health Administration

Subsections

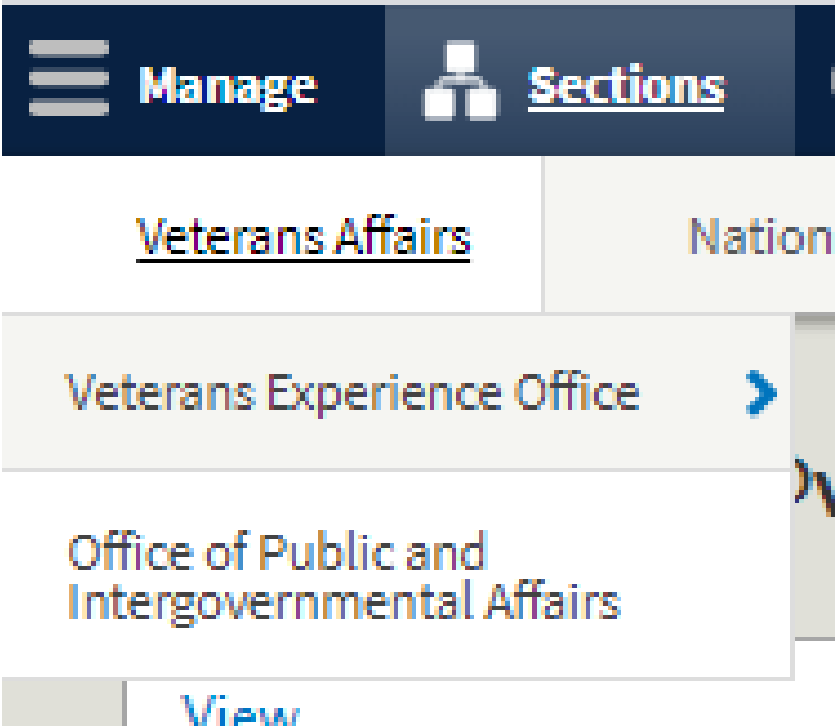- VISN 1
- VISN 2
- VISN 4
- VISN 5
- VISN 6
- VISN 7
- VISN 8
- VISN 9
- VISN 10
- VISN 12
- VISN 15
- VISN 16
- VISN 17
- VISN 19

Content types (products) owned by each section

Products under the Veterans Affairs section

- VEO > Outreach Hub

- OPIA

Products under DEPO section

- PW team > Form detail pages, CLPs, Find a VA form search landing page

- Global UX

- CMS team > CMS user guides

Products under VHA section

- Health care benefit hub

- VAMC facilities > VISNs > local facilities

- Vet Centers

- National standardized health services descriptions

- National standardized content nodes on VAMC sites

Veterans Health Administration

View

Home

Subsections

- Health care benefits hub
- Nationally-standardized VAMC content
- National health care service descriptions
- VAMC facilities
- Vet Centers

Products under VBA section

- VBA benefit hubs
- VBA RO facility statuses

Veterans Benefits Administration

View

Home

Subsections

- VBA facilities
- VBA Benefits Hubs

VBA Benefits Hubs

View

Home » Veterans Benefits Administration

Subsections

- Decision reviews
- Disability benefits hub
- Pension benefits hub
- Life insurance benefits hub
- Housing assistance benefits hub
- Education benefits hub
- Careers and employment benefits hub

Products under NCA section

- Burials/memorials benefit hubs
- NCA facilities --??

- Same question as previous slide re NCA facility statuses

National Cemetery Administration

View

Home

Subsections

- NCA facilities
- Burials and memorials benefits hub

COPE products like alerts, assets, RS Q&As, and promos

Certain content types (e.g., reusable things) are 'owned' by one section but can be 'shared' across sections.

Example:

- Each section can upload media assets, and create reusable alerts.

- So VBA can reuse a VHA mental health alert or link to a VHA PDF mental health fact sheet.

- But a VBA section user cannot edit or remove those VHA alert and fact sheet.

Sections

Enhancements to governance – assign pages to sections at higher level than at the node by node level by each content editor.

- 1/ Assigned at higher taxonomy level rather than page by page

- 2/ Possibly assigned by a different role from content admin?

KW has a ticket out already to address nomenclature and helper text.

Content Type: Benefits Detail Page

Owner: Veterans Benefits Administration » VBA Benefits Hubs » Disability benefits hub

VA.gov URL:
https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim

See the TeamSite deck for a comparison of roles, permissions, and access in TeamSite

https://github.com/department-of-veterans-affairs/va.gov-team/blob/master/products/global/governance-new-vagov/TeamSite-example-artifacts/teamsite-administration-gov-basics-051821.pdf