

NAVIGATION IN THE
ENSEMBLE CMS

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Objectives

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□ Importance of navigation

□ How navigation works in Ensemble

□ Exercises

- ▣ Homepage
- ▣ Site and Image Headers
- ▣ Navigation Elements

□ Important Notes

Importance of Navigation

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□ Good navigation should show:

- ▣ Where a user is
- ▣ Where a user can go
- ▣ Where a user has been
- ▣ An intuitive path

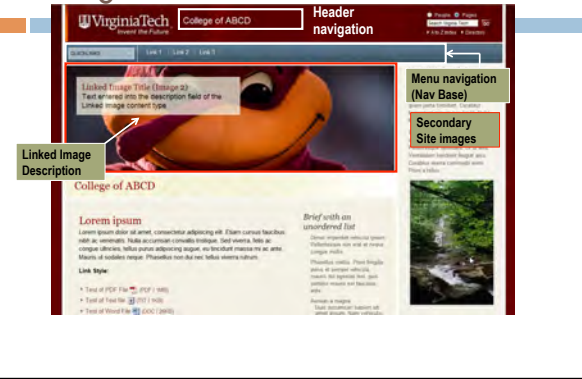
□ Breadth of your site

Navigation within the Ensemble CMS

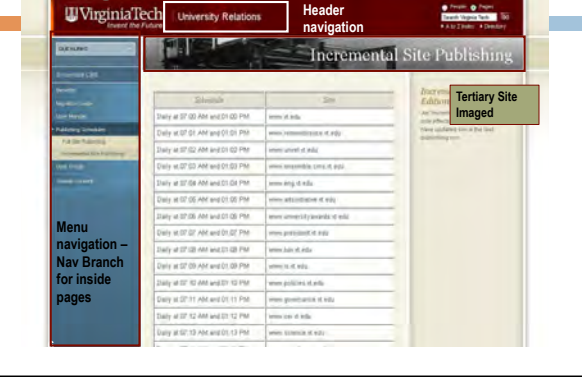
Architecture and navigation

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- How content is organized often determines site navigation
 - Can organize a site around:
 - Topics
 - Tasks
 - Distinct sections of your site
 - Navigation should be consistent
 - A good content plan will lead to good navigation
 - Web Planning and Structuring Course

Navigation in Ensemble



Navigation in Ensemble



Nav Base

- 7 ☐ Each site should have only **one** Nav Base
- ☐ Nav Base can determine secondary template and tertiary template images, along with the site index page
- ☐ It's possible to use just the Nav Base for navigation on your site

Nav Branch

- 8 ☐ For sites with multiple folders that contain additional directories, create a Nav Branch for sub-menu navigation
- ☐ In Active Table Assembly editor:
 - ☐ Assign a landing page for the directory;
 - ☐ Link additional pages in the submenu slot
- ☐ Attach Nav Branch to Nav Submenu slot in Nav Base

How it all fits together



Let's log in

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- Visit: <https://ensemble.vt.edu/>
- Log in with PID/password
- Choose **CMS_Sandbox** community
- Navigate to the folder
training-[semesterYR]/[today's date]-nav

Homepage Exercise

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- In your folder, create:
 - A Generic Homepage Five item called "index" with your initials
 - Choose "Style 1" for the style
 - Add a few lines of content
 - Save. Choose file.
 - Right-click >> Preview >> Full page

Linked Image Exercise

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- Create a link
 - New Item>URL
- Create linked header images³
 - New Item>Linked Image>Save
 - Edit All>Insert Image and URL
- Edit the Homepage through AATE*
 - Insert the three images in S-Features
- Save>Close
- Right-click homepage>Preview

*Active Assembly Table Editor

NavBase Exercise

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- In the same folder, create a Nav Base
 - ▢ Choose New Item >> Nav Base
 - ▢ Filename: navBase-Your Initials
 - ▢ Page title should be name of the site (Last name CMS Training)
 - ▢ Save >> Close

NavBase/NavBranch Slots

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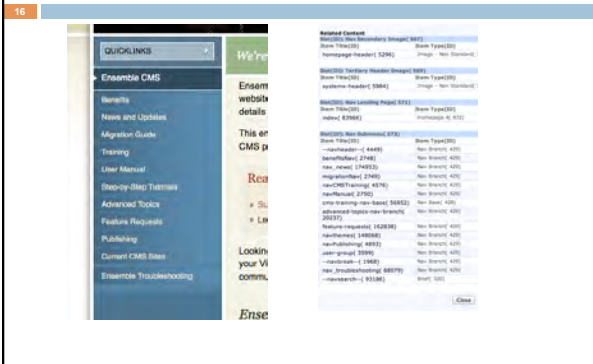
- Slots allow you to:
 - Assign landing (index) page *
 - Choose template images
 - Place header and footer files
 - Choose the order for left-rail navigation.
- NavBase and NavBranch have similar slots
- * Each NavBase and NavBranch must have a Landing Page

Slots exercise

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- Choose your NavBase file, right-click >> Edit
- Click “Edit All” in Related Content field
- Click:
 - ▢ NavLandingPage. Insert your index page
- Save

Complete Example



Making a header

- Choose New Item >> Brief
- Filename: --navheader--
 - The name and dashes trigger certain behavior when used
- Brief title should be last name CMS Training
- Add last name to keywords
- Add site title to Body field
- Save

Slots exercise (cont'd.)

- For the header
 - Click on Nav Submenu slot
 - Find and select header item
 - Choose Brief No Title
- For the footer
 - Click on Nav Submenu slot
 - Find and select footer item
 - Choose --navfooterlinks-- Brief No Title
- Close AATE and save Nav Base
- Preview

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Creating a Image Header

From the Shared Folder on your desktop

Download any of those below:

navigation1_785.jpg

navigation2_785.jpg

navigation3_785.jpg

Create non-standard image content type in your folder

Required size: 785 x 236px

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Creating a NavBranch

Create a folder within your folder called News

Create a general content item

Choose Standard Secondary Template

Create a NavBranch

Using Active Assembly Table Editor, link:

General content item to Nav Landing Page

Image Header into the Nav Secondary Image Slot

Save >> Preview item

Link NavBranch to NavBase

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Creating tertiary submenu

Create a folder within your News folder called Archives

Create a general content item

Create a NavBranch

Using Active Assembly Table Editor, link:

General content item to Nav Landing Page

Link Archive NavBranch to News NavBranch

Preview your awesomeness

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Linking to Outside Sites

- Insert the VT link into the navigation
 - Right-click the Archive navbranch
 - Select the Active Assembly Table Editor
 - Click on the Nav Submenu link
 - Browse for the url content item and insert it into the slot
 - Preview the Archive Page

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Basic Navigation Checklist

- Create Folder
- Create content item in folder ("Index")
- Create Nav Branch
- Link content item to nav branch (Nav Landing Page)
- Link new nav branch into the nav branch of the parent folder(Nav Submenu)

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Navigation gotchas

- To view navigation correctly, all elements must be in the same state
 - Including images
- Navigation changes/updates are made on the full site publish cycle (nightly)

Navigation Faux Pas

- Do not rearrange folders without first removing their navbranches from their parent folder's navbranch
- Do not put a base or branch in it's own slot (navigation recursion)
- No Navjacking (inserting another sites navigation into yours)

Resources

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□ User Manual

<http://www.ensemble.cms.vt.edu/>

□ Problems? Call 4-HELP or email: ensemble@vt.edu

□ Training Issues

jawalker@vt.edu or 1-7620
