

The Contao Managed Edition :: X

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docs.contao.org/dev/getting-started/initial-setup/managed-edition/

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The **Manager Plugin** is a **Composer plugin** which hooks into Composer to automate tasks on every **composer install** or **composer update** (see how similar it works to Symfony Flex?). As mentioned in the section above, it also provides all the interfaces aka the API for other bundles to configure the **Managed Edition**.

Maybe an illustration helps you to understand how the pieces are put together:

```
graph LR; ME[Managed Edition] -- requires --> MB[contao/manager-bundle]; ME -- requires --> NB[contao/news-bundle]; ME -- requires --> AB[acme/another-bundle]; ME -- manages --> MP[contao/manager-plugin]; MB -- requires --> Core[contao/core-bundle<br/>doctrine/dbal<br/>symfony/framework-bundle<br/>etc.]; MB -- requires --> MP; NB -- requires --> MP; AB -- requires --> MP;
```

The diagram illustrates the dependencies and management relationships between various components. A central box labeled 'Managed Edition' (purple) has arrows labeled 'requires' pointing to three bundles: 'contao/manager-bundle' (pink), 'contao/news-bundle' (light blue), and 'acme/another-bundle' (light blue). Additionally, an arrow labeled 'manages' points from 'Managed Edition' to 'contao/manager-plugin' (yellow). The 'contao/manager-bundle' has two outgoing 'requires' arrows: one to a large light blue box listing dependencies ('contao/core-bundle', 'doctrine/dbal', 'symfony/framework-bundle', 'etc.') and another to 'contao/manager-plugin'. Both 'contao/news-bundle' and 'acme/another-bundle' also have 'requires' arrows pointing to 'contao/manager-plugin'.

The key of a **Managed Edition** are the following lines in your **composer.json** which you'll get automatically when you run **composer create-project contao/managed-edition**:

Core Concepts :: Contao Devel

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Data Container Arrays & Models

[Data Container Arrays](#) (DCA for short) are a key concept of the Contao framework. The management of any record within the Contao CMS is usually described via so called Data Container Arrays. It is possible to create custom DCAs as well as extending or altering existing ones.

[Models](#) are object representations of any DCA record, while *Collections* are object representations of a collection of such Models. Models can be used to create, load and change these records. They usually also provide convenient functions for loading records according to a specific set of parameters.

Front End Modules

[Front end modules](#) are used for any type of complex functionality on specific pages or specific places on a page of your website managed by Contao. Simple examples are login forms, displaying news entries, showing a navigation etc.

Content Elements

While any data record can hold information for content to be displayed in the front end, another key concept of Contao is the usage of [Content elements](#) for arbitrary and more complex content. The content of regular