

# Yet An Otter Block Editor

## What is a block editor ?

A block editor is a rich content WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) editor redesigned for the web, based on the concept of blocks.

This enhanced editor is easy to use, intuitive and does not require any knowledge in any web languages such as HTML. It can be easily extended if you know JavaScript a bit.

## What is a block ?

Let's imagine that you wish to make a webpage like the one below. This page comes from a free website template downloaded from the Internet and is also included in the package.



The webpage can be basically divided in 2 areas : the main area where your content is located (red dashed rectangle) and the rest of the webpage, composed of a menu, a header, a footer and the background. These elements are part of the graphic charter of the website and often contain static contents.

The block editor is designed to manage the main area only.

If you have a closer look at the main area, you can see that it's composed of 3 blocks:

- the first one (I) contains a single static image which takes up the whole width of the main area ,
- the second one (II) is composed of 3 blue text cells ,
- and the last one (III) contains a paragraph entitled "Welcome To Your Website".

Theses blocks are important as they organise your webpage.

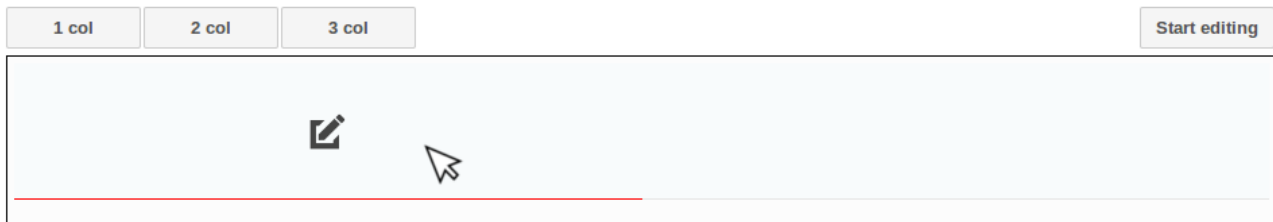
## In what way will a block editor help me ?

A classic WYSIWYG editor doesn't take in charge the structure of a webpage. You have to write and add the appropriate code yourself in the source file. The block editor is a powerful tool that combines a layout editor with a classic WYSIWYG editor (for instance) in an intuitive way.

Let's imagine you would like to reproduce the webpage seen in the previous section.

## Adding blocks

The procedure is easy and takes only a few steps, with the help of the block editor.

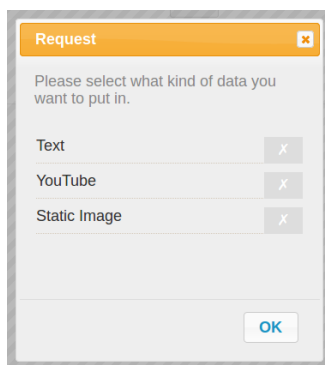


To do this, click on the button “1 column” to add one block for the image (I). Then, in the same way, add a “3 column” block for the 3 text areas (II) and finally, another “1 column” block for the “Welcome” paragraph (III).

💡 Notice that these blocks can be dragged and dropped to change the order of blocks.

## Editing content

Editing the content of each cell is allowed by switching the block editor to editing mode. In this mode, it's no longer possible to drag and drop the blocks. You only have to click on each cell to select the type of content you want to put in. A window will open like the one below.



Choose between “Text”, a YouTube video or a static image and click on the OK button to save your choice. And then ? Once the type of data is selected, you only have to click on the cell once again to edit its content.

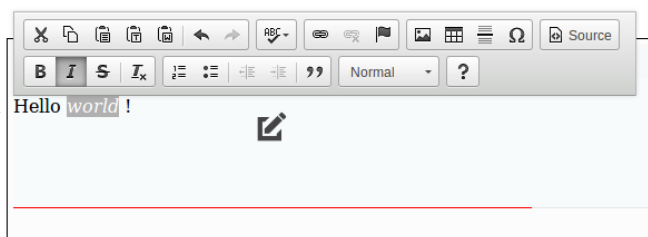
The number of cell types is quite limited at this stage of development but the block editor can be extended easily.

As was previously said,

-the first block contains a static image. You only have to type the URL of the image when prompted.

-do the same for the 3 following cells of the second block, which contain text. We can see that a word processor appears in each cell, allowing us to edit and format the text intuitively.

-do exactly the same for the last block.



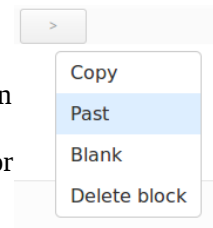
## Final step

When you are done editing the webpage, switch back to the preview mode. You can click on the save button to send the page content and layout to the server.

## More options

You may have noticed that a menu-bar is attached to each cell when the block editor is in editing mode.

A drop-down menu show you more options like deleting a block and blanking or coping/pasting a cell.



## Installation

This task is easy: after downloading the package, unpack it and copy the files and folders to a PHP server (no database is required for running the demonstration script). PHP 5.2 is necessary for JSON support.

At the time this document is written, the block editor uses 3 external libraries : JQuery (v. 1.12), JQuery UI (v. 1.11) and CKEditor (v. 4.5). There are already included in the package.

Go to <http://www.yoursitename.com> or <http://localhost/<path to files>> if you installed the package locally and play with the editor ! No configuration step is necessary.

! Note that only English is fully supported yet.

## Initialising the block editor

The block editor is append to an HTML form like the one below:

```
<form id="article" action="template.php" method="post">
  <textarea id="article_content" name="article_content"></textarea>
  <button type="submit">Save</button>
</form>
```

You need to initialize the block editor to inject the code inside the webpage as below:

```
<script>
  BEDITOR.replace ( 'article', 'article_content' );
</script>
```

## The output

The data exchanges between the webpage and the server is a combination of arrays and objects in JSON format. Below is an example of a 2 column block with the first cell containing a text and the second cell a static image.

```
[
  {
    "type": "2col",
    "data": [
      { "type": "text",
        "data": "<p>Hello <em>world</em>!!</p>" },
      { "type": "staticimage",
        "data": "http://www.mypic.org/img.jpg" }
    ]
  }
]
```

## **Last word**

This project is still under development, under a MIT license. You should not use this block editor in a system in production for now.

You can download it , test it and contribute to it freely at this address:  
<https://github.com/lmout82/yoBEditor>.

## **About this document**

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