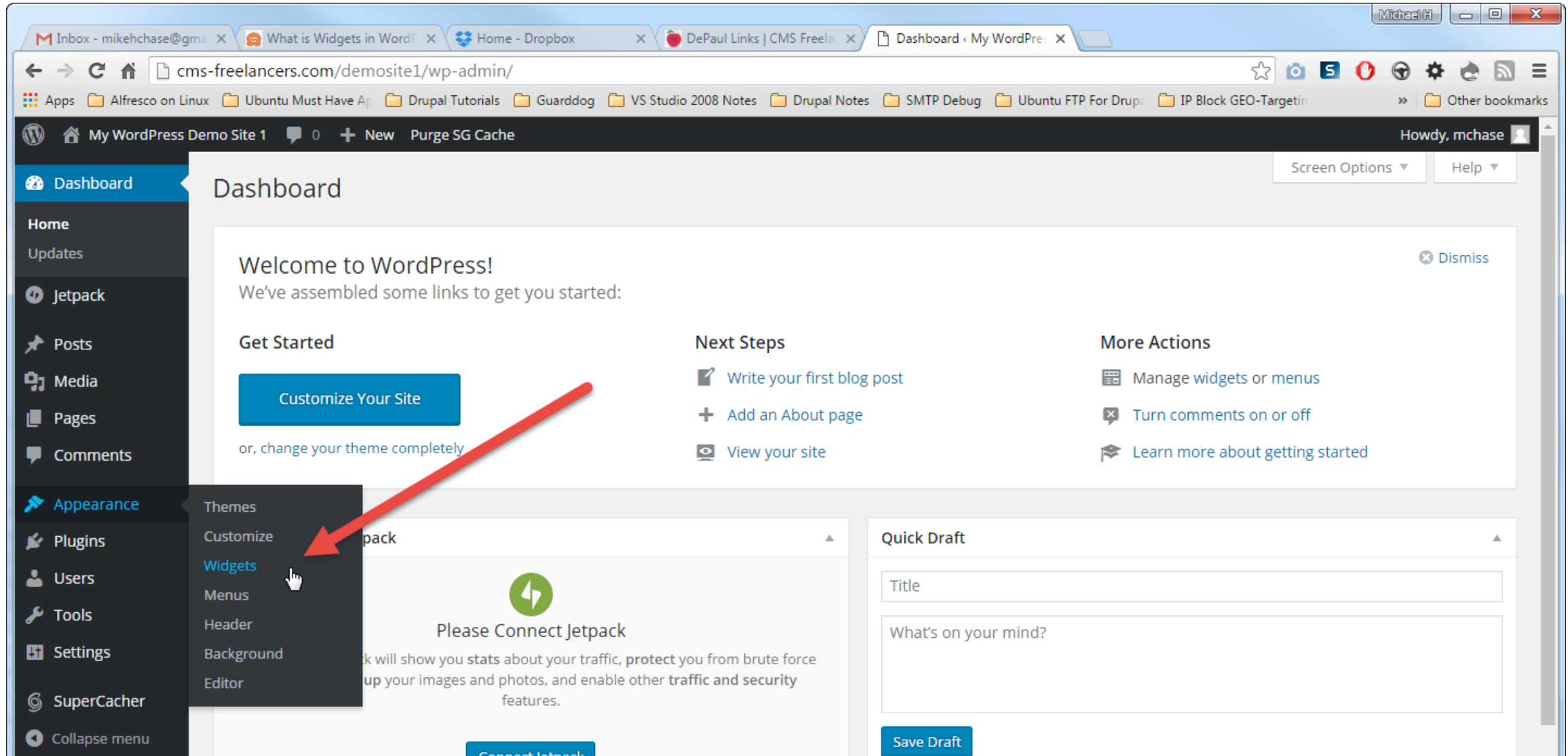# WordPress Widgets

How to add native and plugin widgets to your WordPress site

What is a Widget

- A WordPress Widget is a small block that performs a specific function.

- You can add these widgets in [sidebars](#) also known as widget-ready areas on your web page.

- WordPress widgets were originally created to provide a simple and easy-to-use way of giving design and structure control of the WordPress theme to the user. Widgets can be easily dragged and dropped into a specific widget area.

- You can find the list of available widgets and widget areas by going to the **Appearance » Widgets** section in your WordPress dashboard.

Dashboard > Appearance > Widgets

What is a Widget – Only work on Themes that support them

- Widgets in WordPress allow you to add content and features in the **widgetized** areas of your theme which is mostly the sidebar.

- However these widget-ready areas can be in the header, footer, sidebar, below content, and basically any other area in your theme.

- The available widget areas that you have in your theme will vary from theme to theme.

- Most WordPress themes are widget ready and have multiple widget areas.

- However themes are NOT required to have widget areas.
  - If you do not see any widget areas, then it means that your theme does not support widgets.

What is a Widget – Native & Plugin

- Widgets are mostly standalone areas of code that perform a certain function.
- Plugins often add their own widgets to give users more control over the display of plugin functions.
- Examples of an native widget are:
  - Pages – a list of pages on your site
  - Recent Posts
  - RSS – Entries from any RSS or Atom feed
  - Search – a search of your site
  - Text - arbitrary test or HTML
- Examples of a plugin widget are:
  - OIO Publisher which allows you to add a specific banner ad zone in your widget areas by using the widget.
  - OSM Image Widget – allows you add pictures as widgets to the widget supported arrears of your theme

Native Available WordPress Widgets

Theme Twenty Sixteen's widget supporting areas
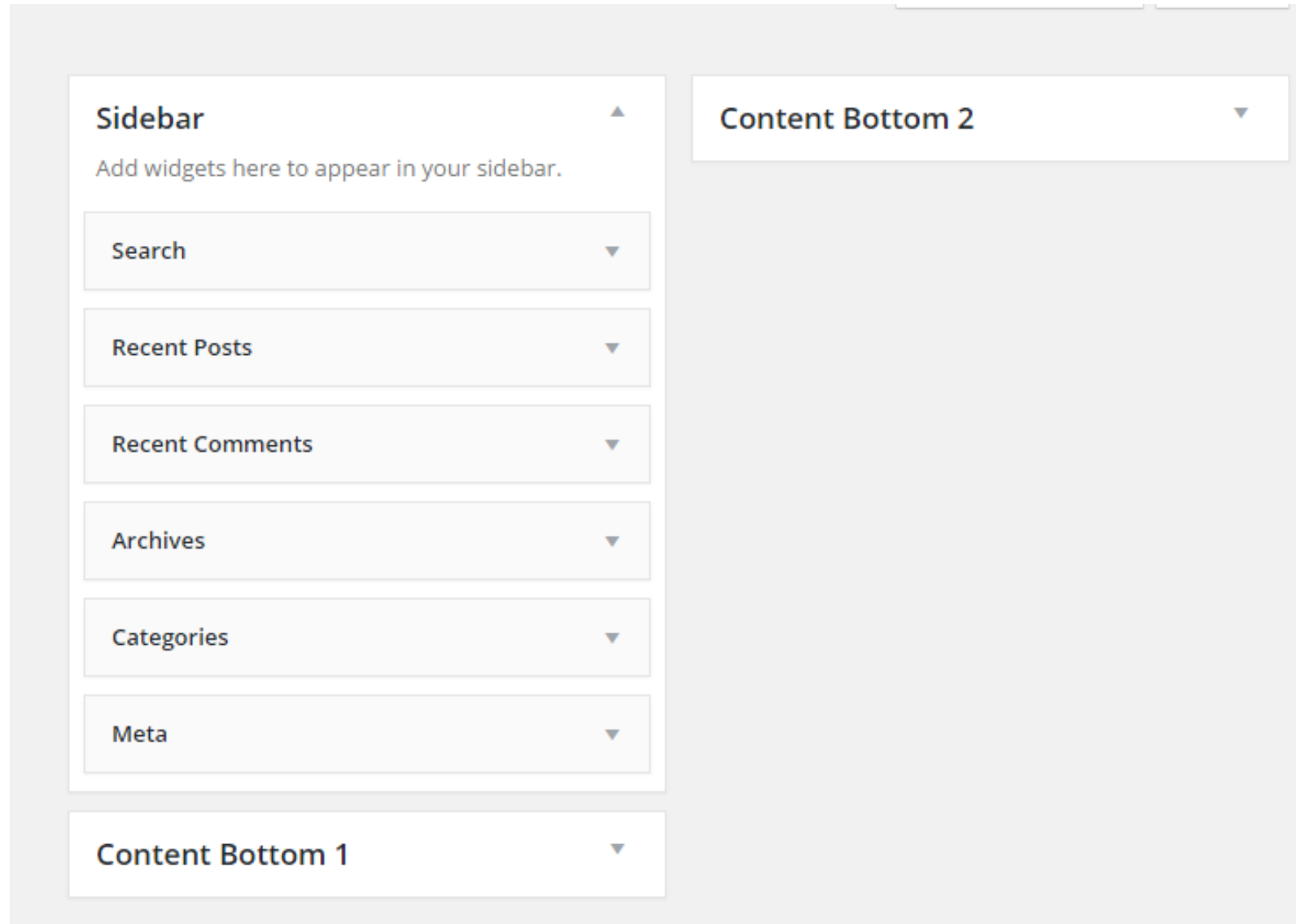
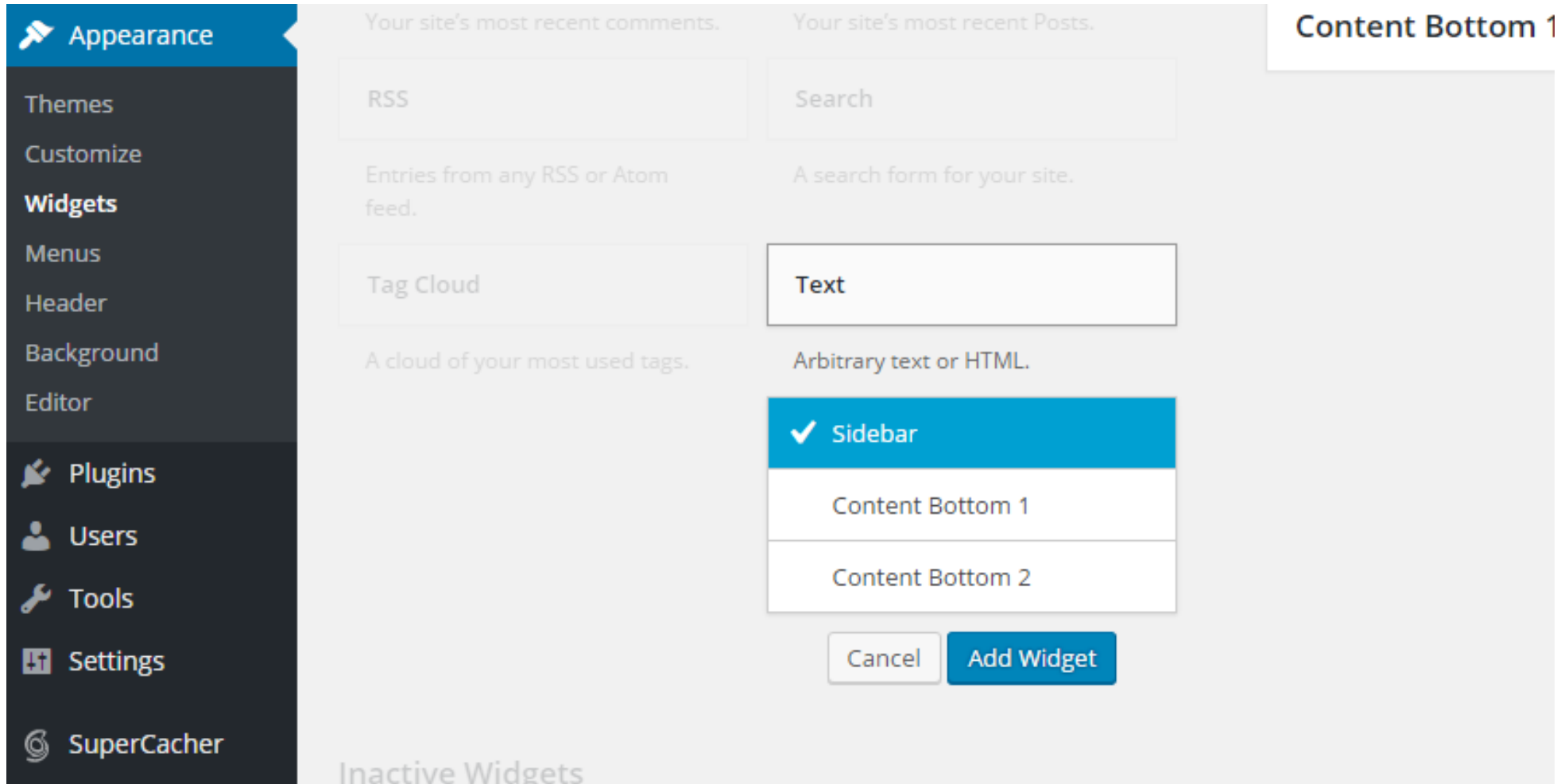# Adding a text widget to the sidebar

1. Compose your content in a document
2. Login to the WP site backend as the Site Administrator
3. Dashboard > Appearance > Widgets
4. Click on the Text Widget block you want to add
5. Scroll down (slightly) and select the theme supported area that he widget will display in and press the "Add Widget" button
   - on my WP site sidebar is selected by default
6. Enter the widget (1) title and (2) content, then (3) press the "Save" button and (4) then press the "Close" link to close the Widget window
7. Verify the widget displays on the Widget Summary page
8. Drag and drop the new widget to change its location within the theme area (change the order of the widgets)
9. Verify the widget displays on the front end

#4 Select the Widget to add.
In this case it's the text widget
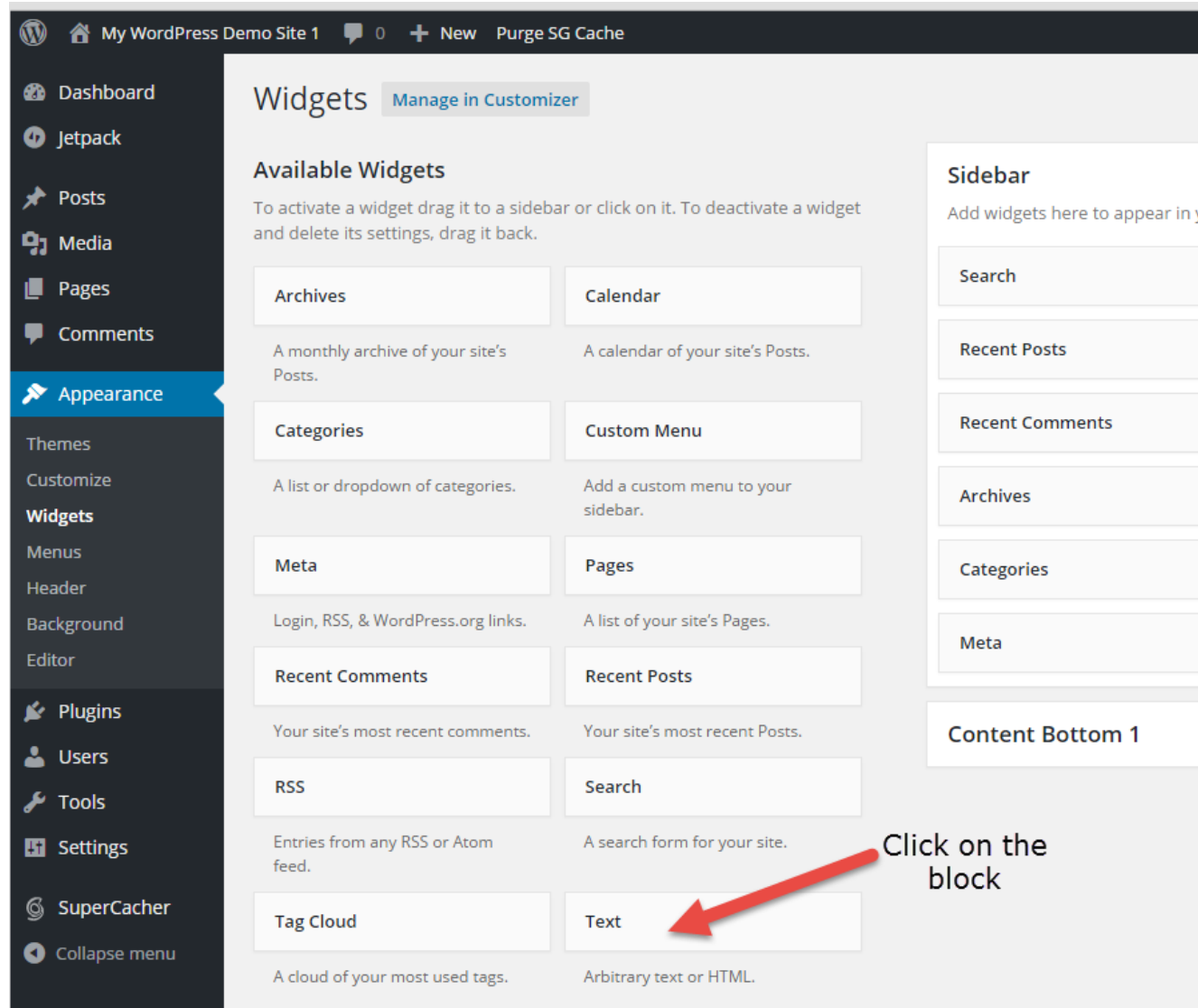
#5 Select the theme area for the widget and press the "Add Widget" button

#6 Enter widget content, Save and Close

Added content, now Save and Close

Text ▲

Title:

My First Widget

Content:

Widgets are mostly standalone areas of code that perform a certain function. Plugins often add their own widgets to give users more control over the display of plugin functions. An example of a plugin widget would be OIO Publisher which allows you to add a specific banner ad zone in your widget areas by using the widget.

☐ Automatically add paragraphs

Delete | Close   Save

Verify Widget exists on Widgets Summary Page

Move widget display order

Verify Widget displays on WP Frontend

Find, Install, and Activate a Widget Plugin

Adding a Plugin widget

1. Research the type of widget plugin you want – What do you want it to do?
    *   Google search and use plugin best practices when selecting the plugin
2. Login to the WP site backend as the Site Administrator
3. Dashboard > Plugins
4. Add New Widget Plugin
5. Dashboard > Appearance > Widgets
6. Click on the Text Widget block you want to add
7. Scroll down (slightly) and select the theme supported area that he widget will display in and press the "Add Widget" button
    *   on my WP site sidebar is selected by default
8. Enter the widget content (different for each widget), then (3) press the "Save" button and (4) then press the "Close" link to close the Widget window
9. Verify the widget displays on the Widget Summary page
10. Drag and drop the new widget to change its location within the theme area (change the order of the widgets)
11. Verify the widget displays on the front end

OSM Image Widget Has been Added Successfully
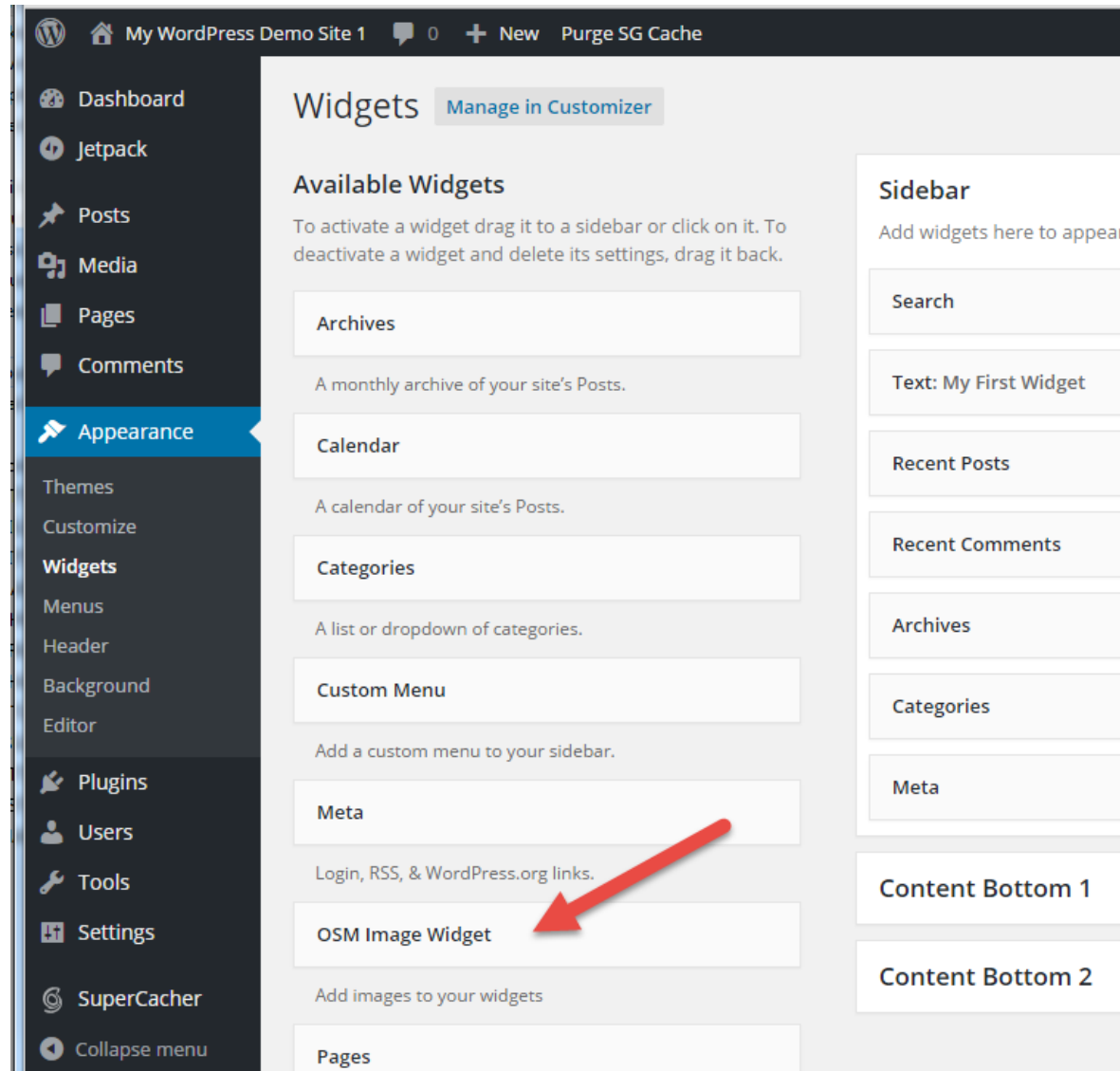
OSM Image Widget Added Successfully