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Build a Blog in Drupal 8: Create and Manage Menus

By Ivan Zugec / Drupal / November 24, 2015 / 4 Comments

This tutorial is part of the “Build a Blog in Drupal 8” series:

- 1. Content types and Fields*
- 2. Adding Comments*
- 3. Using Views*
- 4. Managing Blocks*
- 5. Create and Manage Menus*
- 6. Custom Contact Forms*

A website’s navigation plays an important part in how easy a site is to use. It’s essential that you spend time fleshing out the overall IA ([Information architecture](#)) or you’ll end up with a site that’s hard to use and difficult to navigate through.

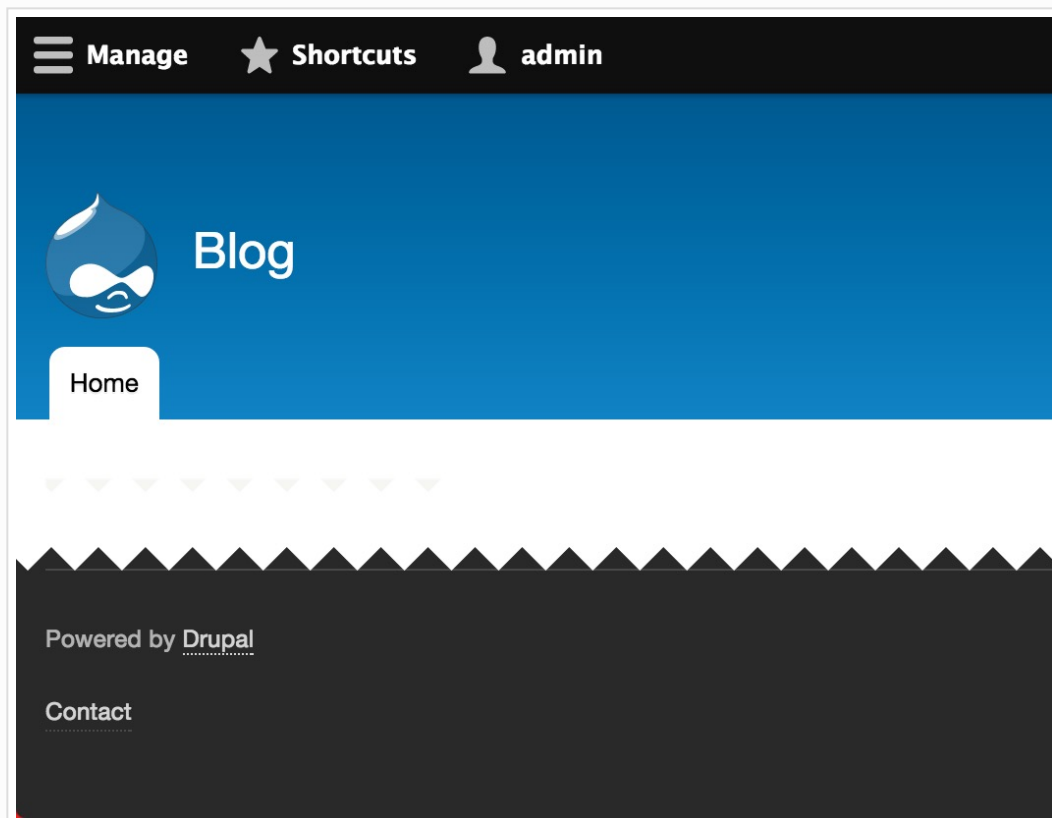
Previous versions of Drupal have always offered a simple interface for managing menus, and Drupal 8 is no exception.

In this tutorial, we'll continue building our site by adding in some menus. We'll create a custom menu which'll be used to display links to popular categories, then create an "About us" page and add a menu link to the footer.

This tutorial is part of the "Build a Blog in Drupal 8". Make sure you've read the previous tutorials if you want to follow along.

How to Manage Menus

When you install Drupal 8 using the Standard Installation profile, a menu called "Main navigation" is used as the primary site navigation with the single link called Home. Another, called Footer, is used in the footer region with the single link pointing to the contact form.



Create Menu

Let's now create a custom menu which'll display a list of curated popular categories. On a blog, these links will help you promote categories and send traffic to those pages.


1. Go to Structure, Menus and click on “Add menu”.
2. Enter “Popular categories” into the Title field and “Curated list of categories.” into “Administrative summary”. Then click on Save.

Add menu ☆

[Home](#) » [Administration](#) » [Structure](#) » [Menus](#)

You can enable the newly-created block for this menu on the [Block layout page](#).

Title *

 Machine name: popular-categories [\[Edit\]](#)

Administrative summary

[Save](#)

Once it's been created, you'll be redirected to the menu edit page. You'll be able to manage all menu links from here.

Create Menu Link

1. Now click on “Add link”.
2. Enter “Drupal content” into “Menu link title”, enter in the taxonomy term URL to your Drupal category. On my site it's “/taxonomy/term/1” so I'll enter that in. Then in Description, enter in “Latest Drupal content.”

Add menu link ☆

[Home](#) » [Administration](#) » [Structure](#) » [Menus](#) » [Popular categories](#)

Menu link title *



The text to be used for this link in the menu.

Link *



Start typing the title of a piece of content to select it. You can also enter an internal path.

☒ Enabled

A flag for whether the link should be enabled in menus or hidden.

Description

Shown when hovering over the menu link.

The Link field is something which is new in Drupal 8 and it allows you to link directly to internal content pages by typing in the title of the content.

However, the autocomplete will only work for node content. You can't search for a taxonomy term. You can add one manually by adding the internal URI e.g, /taxonomy/term/1. You can also link to external pages or domains just by entering in the absolute URL.

Link *



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Description

Place Menu into Region

Now let's go and add our new menu into the footer.

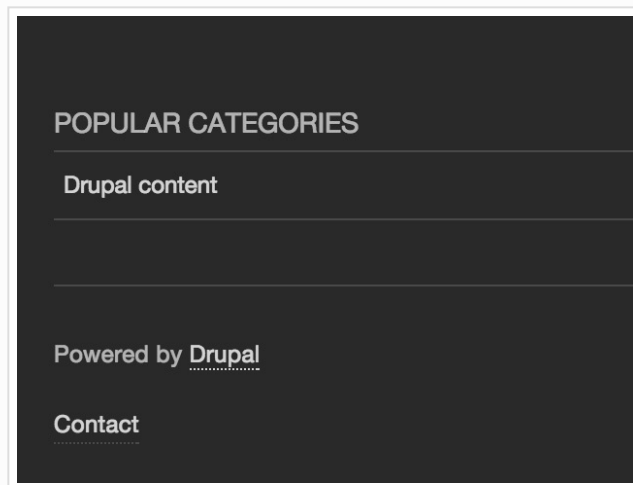
1. Go to Structure, "Block layout" and click on "Place block" in the "Footer first" region. Search for "Popular categories" and click on "Place block".

Popular categories

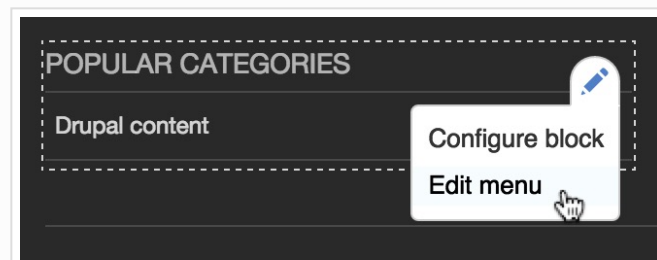
Menus

Place block 

2. Leave the “Configure block” modal pop-up as is and click on “Save block”.
3. Don’t forget to click on “Save blocks” at the bottom of the page.
4. Go to the homepage and in the footer region you should see the menu.



The menu links can be managed by hovering over it and clicking on “Edit menu”.



Create About Us Page

Now we need to create an “About us” page and place a menu link in the main navigation so it’s easily accessible. We’ll add the menu link directly from the content edit form.

1. Go to Content, “Add content” and click on “Basic page”.
2. In the Title field add “About us” and some text into the Body field.







Create Basic page ☆

[Home](#) » [Node](#) » [Add content](#)

Title *

About us

Body ([Edit summary](#))

B *I*      Normal ▾  Source

About us page.

3. In the right sidebar, click on the “Menu settings” vertical tab then check the “Provide a menu link” checkbox.

▼ MENU SETTINGS

☒ Provide a menu link

Menu link title

About us

Description

Shown when hovering over the menu link.

Parent item

<Main navigation> ▾

Weight

0

Menu links with lower weights are displayed before links with higher weights.

From this settings, you can set the menu link title; this is automatically pulled from the Title field. If you want text to appear when you hover over the link, then add it to the Description field.

The “Parent item” drop-down lets you select a parent menu link or a menu group. By default you can only add menus to the “Main navigation” but other menus can be accessible from this drop-down if configured.

Finally, the Weight field lets you control the order in which the links will be displayed. But I recommend you reorder the links from the menu page because it's much easier.

Once you've defined the menu link, scroll to the bottom and click on "Save and publish".

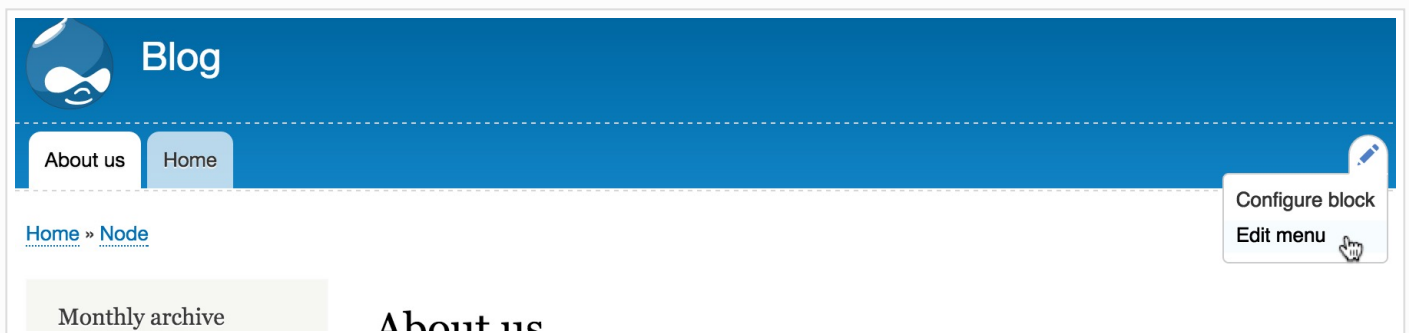
4. Now in the header you should see the "About us" before the Home link.



Reordering Menu Links

In the image above, "About us" appears before the Home link which is not ideal. Let's reorder the links so it's Home first then "About us".

To reorder the links you must go to the menu edit page and this can be done in two ways. First, you can edit the menu by going to Structure, Menus and by clicking on "Edit menu" in the "Main navigation" row. Another way, is to hover over the menu and click the edit icon then "Edit menu".



Once you're on the edit menu page, simply drag the Home menu to the top and then click on Save.

⚠ * You have unsaved changes.

MENU LINK	ENABLED	OPERATIONS
⛶ Home*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edit
⛶ About us	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edit ▾
Save		

Now Home should be the first link in the menu.

Summary

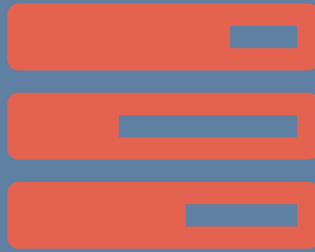
From a site building standpoint, the UI for managing menus has stayed relatively the same. If you know how to manage menus in Drupal 7 then you should be fine in Drupal 8.

But from an architectural standpoint, the routing system in Drupal 8 has been rebuilt using Symfony components. If you want to learn more about the technical changes check out this great post, [“What Happened to Hook_Menu in Drupal 8?”](#).



About Ivan Zugec

Ivan is the founder of Web Wash and spends most of his time consulting and writing about Drupal. He's been working with Drupal for 10 years and has successfully completed several large Drupal projects in Australia.



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4 thoughts on “Build a Blog in Drupal 8: Create and Manage Menus”



JAMES ROME

MARCH 2, 2017 AT 6:37 AM

How do you make the menu items appear vertically rather than horizontal

[Reply](#)



IVAN ZUGEĆ

MARCH 2, 2017 AT 8:26 AM

Hi James,

You'll need to style this using CSS. Drupal can't do it out-of-the-box.

Cheers,

Ivan

[Reply](#)



MARITZA

OCTOBER 13, 2017 AT 5:17 AM

I love your tutorial fantastic work

Question:

How to add a menu to a page different than the home page top or footer or side bar.

example:

I have a page call Colombian coffee, in this page I want at the right site menu with all Colombian's coffee.

I created the menu and the page but I do not know how to place the Colombian's coffee menu on this page.

Any advise

Thank you

Maritza

[Reply](#)



IVAN ZUGEĆ

OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT 8:27 AM

Hi Maritza,

Sorry for the late response.

You could create two different menus, “main menu” or “custom menu”. Then use the “Blocks layout” page to control where the menu gets displayed.

Cheers,

Ivan

[Reply](#)

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