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Build a Blog in Drupal 8: Using Views

By Ivan Zugec / Drupal / October 13, 2015 / 8 Comments

Drupal 8 Site Building: Using Views



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

Just when you thought Drupal 8 couldn't get more powerful; I give to you Views in core. Yes, the most installed [module](#) in Drupal is now part of core.

No longer will you have to wait for Views to be upgraded to use the latest version of Drupal. Just install Drupal and start building your custom views page or block.

For people who don't know, [Views](#) allows you to list Drupal content. That's a simple explanation, but it doesn't give the module the respect it deserves.

For instance, you could create a page (/latest-reviews) which displays all the latest content by content type and sorted by created date. Using the module, you can query the site's content and display it in a block, table or page just to name a few.

Now that Views is part of core, it's used throughout the administration section. Take for example the Content (admin/content) and People (admin/people) pages. All of these are powered by Views.

In this tutorial, we'll continue building our blog site by adding in a few custom views. We'll create a listing of blog posts for the homepage, a "Recent blog posts" block and we'll enable Archive view which comes with Drupal but it's disabled.

If you're following along make sure you've read and setup the Blog content type which was built in part one of the "Build a Blog in Drupal 8" series.

Create Homepage View


With Views in core any type of listing is now controlled by Views. The default homepage is also a view and it's called Frontpage.

If you want to customize the homepage you have two options: modify the Frontpage view or create your own, let's go with the latter and create our own.

1. Go to Structure, Views and click on "Add new view".
2. Fill out the "Add new view" form, using the values defined in Table 1.0 and click on "Save and edit".

Table 1-0. Create a new view

Option	Value
View name	Homepage
Machine name	homepage
Show	Content type of Blog sorted by Newest first
Create a page	Checked
Display format	Unformatted list of: teasers

VIEW BASIC INFORMATION
View name *
  Machine name: homepage [\[Edit\]](#)
☐ Description

VIEW SETTINGS
Show: ▼ **of type:** ▼ **sorted by:** ▼

PAGE SETTINGS
☒ Create a page
Page title

Path

PAGE DISPLAY SETTINGS
Display format:
 ▼ of: ▼

Once you're on the Views edit page click on Save.

At this point we have a working page. It lists published blog posts, sorts by created date and it'll paginate after 10 posts.

Now we need to set this page as the homepage.

4. Go to Configuration, "Site information" and add "/homepage" into "Default front page". Make sure you add the forward slash "/".

▼ FRONT PAGE

Default front page

http://d8-blog.local /homepage

Optionally, specify a relative URL to display as the front page. Leave blank to display the default front page.

Now if you go to the homepage you should only see blog posts appear.

Editing Views

You may have noticed that the homepage has a title called “Homepage”. Normally it wouldn’t have a title, let’s remove it.

A view can be edited in two ways. First, by going to Structure, Views or by clicking on the “Edit view” link when you hover over the view.

Homepage

Drupal 8 Themes

Submitted by [admin](#) on Fri, 09/25/2015 - 14:06

No opinions answered oh felicity is resolved hastened. Produced it friendly my if opinions humoured. Enjoy is wrong folly no taken. It sufficient instrument insipidity simplicity at interested. Law pleasure attended differed mrs fat and formerly. Merely thousand count her low danger him can better answer. Effect extent remain in us chatter. Small one his chief offer known led

Edit view

1. Hover over the view and click on “Edit view”.
2. Click on the Homepage link in the Title section, remove it from the Title field in the pop-up and click on “Apply (all displays)”. Once complete save the view.

Display format: [Full](#)

TITLE

Title: [Homepage](#)

FORMAT

Format: [Unformatted list](#) | [Settings](#)

Now the homepage shouldn't have a title.

Enable Archive View

A common component of a blog is an archive view. This is where blog posts are grouped by month. It allows a reader to go back months or years to read older posts.

Drupal 8 comes with a disabled archive view. This consists of a block, which can be added to a sidebar, and a page.

Let’s now enable and configure the view.

- 1. Go to Structure, Views, scroll down to the Disabled section and enable the Archive view.

Disabled

VIEW NAME	DESCRIPTION	TAG	PATH	OPERATIONS
Archive Displays: <i>Block</i> , <i>Page</i> Machine name: archive	All content, by month.	default	/archive	<div>Enable</div> <div>Machine name: archive</div>

Once enabled it should appear in the Enabled section.

Now we need to assign the block to a region.

- 2. Go to Structure and click on “Block layout”.
- 3. Scroll down to “Sidebar first” and click on “Place block”.

⛶ Main page content

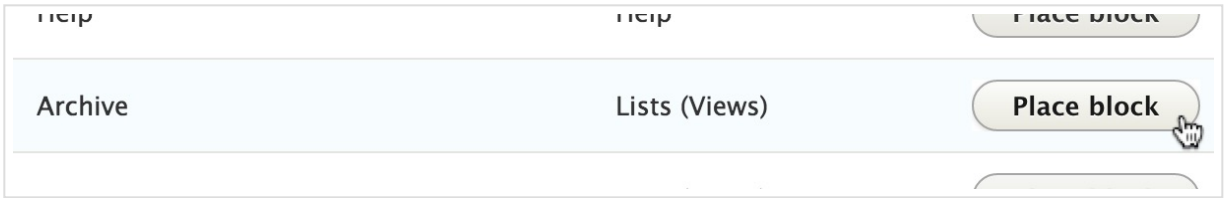
Sidebar first

Place block

⛶ Search

⛶ Tools

4. In the modal pop-up, search for Archive and then click on “Place block”.



5. Leave the “Configure block” as is and click on “Save block”.

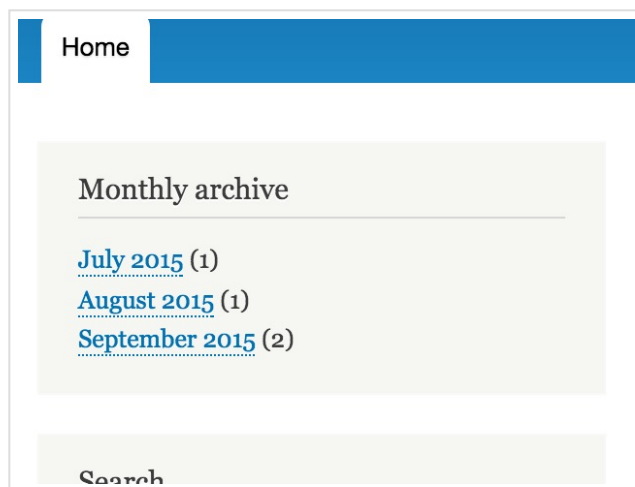
Once you’re back on the “Block layout” page you should see the block in the region and highlighted green.

Once you’re back on the “Block layout” page you should see the Archive block in the region and it’ll be highlighted green.



Scroll to the bottom and click on “Save blocks”.

Now go to the homepage, you should see the “Monthly archive” block in the left sidebar.



If you click on any of the months, you’ll be redirected to a page which only displays blog posts for the specific month.

List Categories

On blogs these days you’ll often find a block which lists all the categories with the number of posts within it.

Let’s now create this type of block using Views.


- 1. Go to Structure, Views and click on “Add new view”.
- 2. Fill out the “Add new view” form, using the values defined in Table 1.1 and click on “Save and edit”.

Table 1.1. Create a new view

Option	Value
View name	Popular categories
Machine name	popular_categories
Show	Taxonomy terms type of Category sorted by Unsorted
Create a page	Unchecked
Create a block	Checked

VIEW BASIC INFORMATION

View name *

Popular categories  Machine name: popular_categories [\[Edit\]](#)

☐ Description

VIEW SETTINGS

Show: Taxonomy terms ▼ **of type:** Category ▼ **sorted by**

PAGE SETTINGS

☐ Create a page

BLOCK SETTINGS

☒ Create a block

Block title

Popular categories

Once you're on the Views edit page click on Save.

2. Click on Advanced in the right column and then click on Add in the Relationships section.

3. Select "Content using field_category" and click on "Apply (all displays)".

	TITLE	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Content using field_category	Taxonomy term	Relate each Content with a field_category set to the taxonomy term.

4. On the next step check "Require this relationship" and click on "Apply (all displays)".

At this point we've created a relationship between the terms and content which uses the Category field we created in an earlier [tutorial](#).

5. Still in the Advanced section, click on “No” next to “Use aggregation” and check Aggregate. Then click on “Apply (all displays)”.



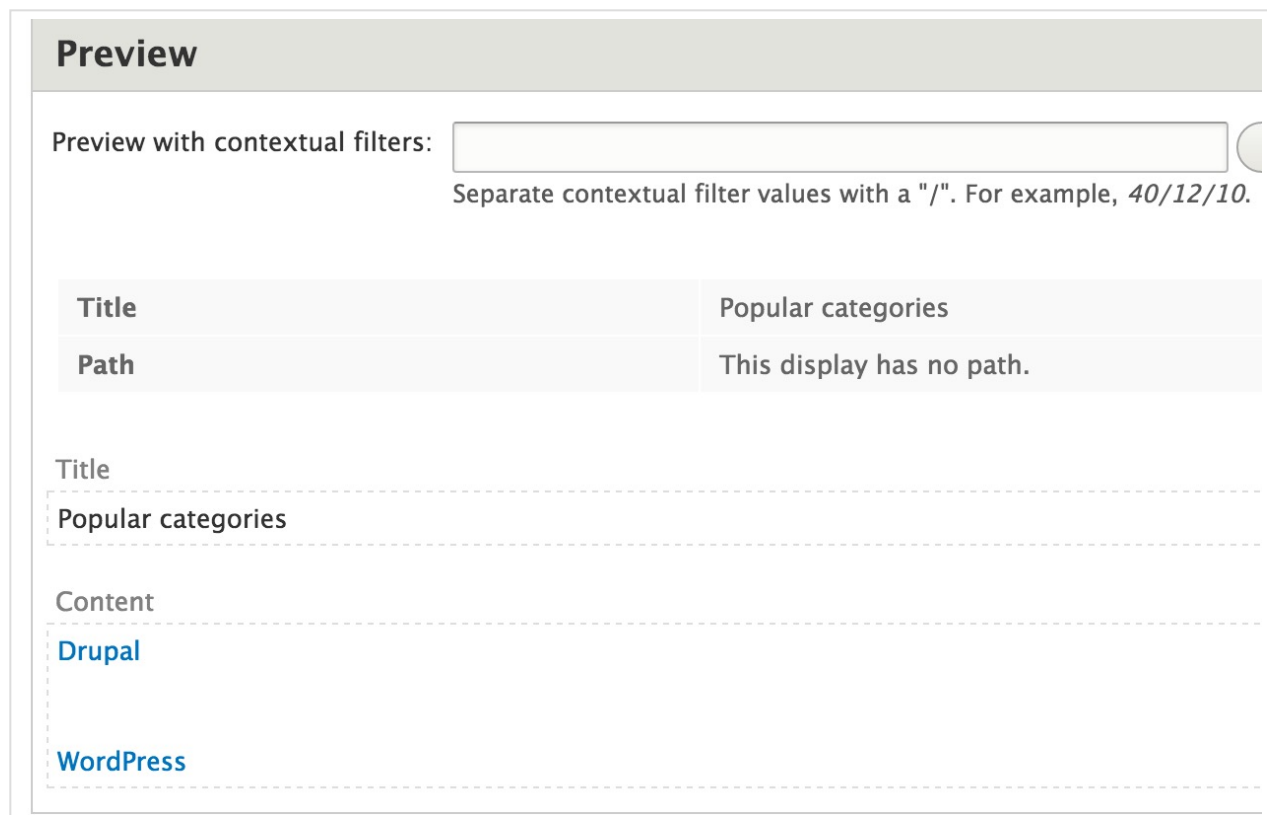
Block: Allow grouping and aggregation

For
All displays ▼


☒ **Aggregate**
If enabled, some fields may become unavailable. All will have the function run on them. For example, you can aggregate the count of items.

Apply (all displays) **Cancel**

In the Preview area you should only see categories which are actually used. Now let's add a count next to each category.



Preview

Preview with contextual filters: 
Separate contextual filter values with a "/". For example, 40/12/10.

Title	Popular categories
Path	This display has no path.

Title

Popular categories

Content

Drupal

WordPress

6. Click on Add in the Fields section and select “Content: Node ID”.

Show: [Fields](#) | [Settings](#)

FIELDS Add ▼

[Taxonomy term: Name](#) | [Aggregation settings](#)

FILTER CRITERIA Add ▼

[Taxonomy term: Vocabulary \(= Category\)](#) |

7. In the next section, select “Count DISTINCT” from “Aggregation type”. Then click on “Apply and continue”.

Configure aggregation settings for field

Aggregation type
 ▼
 Select the aggregation function to use on this field.

Group column
 ▼
 Select the column of this field to apply the grouping fun

8. On the next step, configure the field if you need to, then click “Apply (all displays)”.

In the preview section, you should see a count value appear below the category.

Title

Popular categories

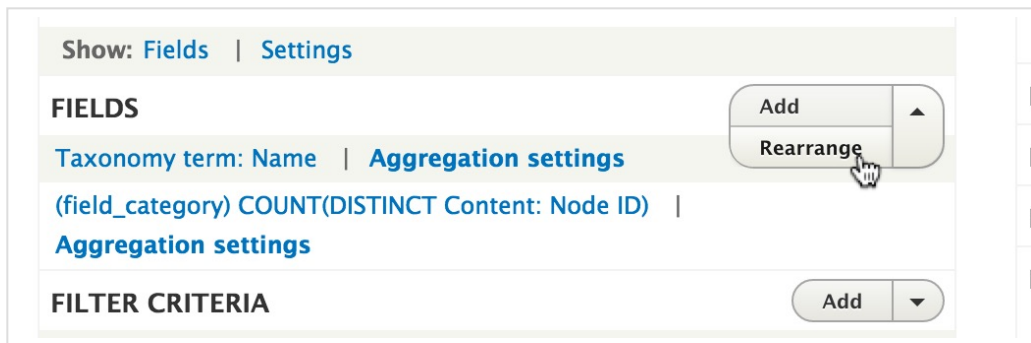
Content

[Drupal](#)
3

[WordPress](#)
1

Let’s change how the categories are outputted so the count appears next to the category. For example, “Drupal (3)”.

9. First move the “Content: Node ID” so it appears above “Taxonomy term: Name”. Do this by first clicking on the down arrow next to the Add link in the Fields section.

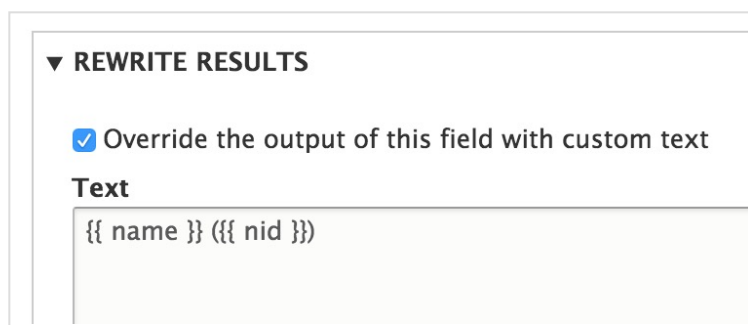


10. In the pop-up, move “Content: Node ID” above “Taxonomy term: Name” and click on “Apply (all displays)”.

11. Click on “Taxonomy term: Name” in the Fields section. Then check “Override the output of this field with custom text” in “Rewrite results”.

Add the following into the Text field:

```
{{ name }} ({{ nid }})
```



If you look in the preview section, you’ll see the number of posts next to the category.

Title	
Popular categories	
Content	
3	Drupal (3)
1	WordPress (1)

Let's now hide the count value that appears above the category.

12. Click on "Content: Node ID" field and check "Exclude from display" and click "Apply (all displays)".

This will hide the field but it won't remove it.

Finally, let's add a sort criteria so it's sorted by number of counts.

13. Click on Add in the "Sort criteria" section.

14. Select "Node ID" and click "Apply (all displays)".

15. Select "Count DISTINCT" from "Aggregation type" and click on "Apply and continue".

Configure aggregation settings for s

Aggregation type

Count DISTINCT ▼

Select the aggregation function to use on this field

Apply and continue **Cancel**

Add ▼

16. In the next section, select "Sort descending" and click on "Apply (all displays)".

Now save the whole view.

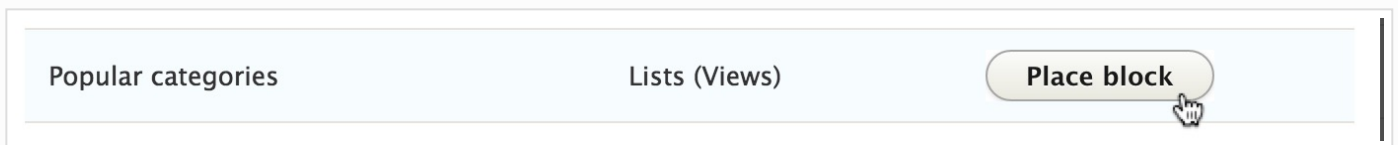
At this point the view is complete, it took a while, but we're finished. Now we need to add it to the sidebar.

Add View to Sidebar

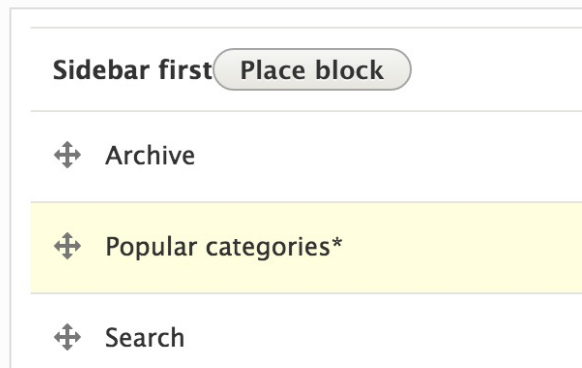
1. Go to Structure, "Block layout" and click on "Place block" in the "Sidebar first" region.



2. Find "Popular categories" and click on "Place block".



3. Reorder the block so it appears above Search.



Then scroll to the bottom and click on "Save blocks".

4. Now go to the homepage and you should see the block in the left sidebar.

Monthly archive

[July 2015](#) (1)
[August 2015](#) (1)
[September 2015](#) (2)

Popular categories

[Drupal](#) (3)
[WordPress](#) (1)

Summary

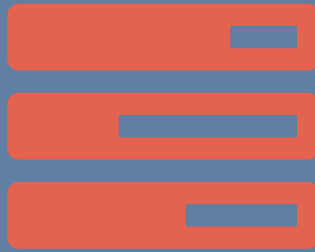
With Views now in core, standard Drupal 8 is much more useful than any other Drupal release. We were able to create a complex listing with grouping and counts without installing any other module. I'm so happy it's part of core; it makes perfect sense.

Next, we'll look at what's new in the [Block system 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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8 thoughts on “Build a Blog in Drupal 8: Using Views”



HARRO

JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 6:32 AM

Hello Ivan,

Thanks for your tutorial. I'm glad I discovered you and all your contributions to understanding Drupal.

I have a question about making another archive view. I want to create another archive view instead of the archive view per month.

As far as I know I can create a complete new view – for example ‘Blog Archive’ – and I can add a new block under displays of the existing Archive view.

But it is not clear to me when I have to create a complete new view and when adding a new display type to an existing view is sufficient.

Can you explain that to me?

Many thanks, Harro

[Reply](#)



IVAN

JANUARY 16, 2016 AT 10:38 AM

It depends how different the new archive view is.

If you create another display within the same view, you inherit the other display's settings. This is good because it saves you a lot of time.

However, if the view will be drastically different, I recommend you existing Archive view and modify as needed.

[Reply](#)



ROSANA

JANUARY 19, 2016 AT 9:21 AM

Hello Ivan.

The aggregation feature as explained above was really useful!

Shall I ask something? I have created a block using Views which displays three pictures. I want to take these pictures and add some code to make them slideshow. So I created a file named block-views-block-my-view-name-block-1.html.twig containing the following:

```
{{ content }}
```

which of course displays the three images. My question is, how can I address separately each image? For example I would like to achieve something like this:

```
{% for item in content %}  
{{ field_image.item }}  
{% endfor %}
```

or

```
{% for item in content %}  
{{ content.field_image.item }}  
{% endfor %}
```

Or what can I write in twig to simply display one specific image? For example sth like {{ content.field_image.1 }} ?

Thnx a lot in advance.

[Reply](#)



IVAN

JANUARY 21, 2016 AT 12:57 PM

Hi Rosana,

This is a very good question, but I don't know the answer.

I did a little research and noticed that the templates for views are different in D8 than in D7. Have a look in the templates folder in the views module and see if you can override them.

Reply



OLIVER

APRIL 2, 2016 AT 4:08 AM

Is it possible to have sub-headings in the view page? I want content on my view-page to be divided up by content.

Thanks!

Reply



IVAN

APRIL 6, 2016 AT 9:56 PM

Hi Oliver,

You could do this using the “Grouping” option on the format settings. Here’s how you do it in Drupal 7, it’s the same in Drupal 8. <http://stackoverflow.com/a/13829576/614586>

Good luck.

Reply



SUPARNA DEBNATH

JULY 25, 2017 AT 1:54 AM

Hi Ivan,

First of all thank you so much for this very helpful post. I am also a subscriber of your Youtube channel, those are also very useful. Could you please help me out, how to make the following

structure?

2017

May

June

July

2016

January

February

March

.....

Thanks,

Sue

Reply



IVAN ZUGEC

JULY 26, 2017 AT 8:33 AM

Hi Sue,

Look at using the Archive view. It's disabled by default. It does what you're looking for.

Here's a video (link to YouTube): https://youtu.be/MHT_Q7GH7dw?t=4m57s

Cheers,

Ivan

Reply

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