Discover the Power of Paragraphs

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Welcome!

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Introduction

- My Background
  - Senior Web Developer: Georgia Tech Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
  - Joined the IAC two years ago
  - Primary goal was to rebuild all six school websites and dozen or so project center sites
    - Implement core technical and branding standards
    - Make it easier for content managers to maintain their content

The "Holy Grail" Problem

- Content managers want layout control!
- Drupal makes it difficult to grant layout control without full admin power
- Even with full admin power, Drupal OOTB doesn't make custom layouts easy
- How do you give content managers the right abilities?

The Catalyst

- School of History and Sociology wanted a complex and flexible layout system
- School hired an outside vendor to develop their look-and-feel branding
- Vendor sent sample site built in Panels / Pages

  - Too complicated for the needs of the school

- We needed dynamic layout control that any communications manager could use

Alternate Techniques Evaluated

- Drupal Block System

  - Okay for one or two pages, but definitely doesn't scale up

- Drupal Content Types

  - Okay for a handful of standard page layouts, but no flexible per-page control

- CKEditor Widgets

  - Provide some functionality, but difficult to install and potentially fragile (all layout stored in a single text area field)

More Alternatives

- Panels / Pages

  - Requires additional *Fieldable Panels Panes* module. Not sure if supports all features of *Paragraphs*.
  - User interface is very complicated, with content management buried deep down.

- Field Group

  - Only groups fields visually – no internal control over actual data fields

- Field Collection

  - Something like an early ancestor to Paragraphs. On the right track, but missing some key features needed to do layout management

Introducing Paragraphs!

- Paragraphs lets the administrator define reusable layout "bundles"
  - A **bundle** is a collection of Drupal fields, but think of it as a content section template
- Using the provided **Paragraph** field type, these sections can be added to anything that uses Drupal fields:
  - Content Types, Taxonomies, the User Profile, etc.
- Sections are added and managed through the normal node editing interface using standard Drupal UI
  - Nothing new to learn!
  - Sections are "opened" via AJAX, so editing is fast and easy
  - Standard Drupal drag-and-drop ordering lets you quickly order sections
  - Previews let you see how a section will look before saving the page

The Real Power of Paragraphs

- Any number and combination of bundles can be attached to a Paragraph field
- Bundles can be used in any Paragraph field instance anywhere in your site
- A bundle can contain a Paragraph field, allowing for nested layers of bundles
- In short, Paragraphs gives you:
    - Flexible page layouts that can vary by page without changing Content Types

Demonstration

Georgia Tech | Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

General Sampler   Headline Sampler

🔍 **SEARCH**

Demonstration of Paragraphs Module Custom Layout Bundles

Standard Section

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More About Standard Sections

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Paragraphs Caveats

- No samples provided – must build everything from scratch.
- By itself, **Paragraphs** doesn't let you reuse content – only layouts.
  - But, with **block reference** and **node block**, you can easily reuse content.
- For maximum usefulness, you have to do a lot of CSS coding to style your bundles.
- So, a bit of effort needed to get started, but once built out, pages are really easy to maintain.

Paragraphs Reuse

- How to build a reusable Paragraphs configuration

    - Create a new module and put all of your custom CSS and JS in that module
    - Install the **Bundle Copy** (bundle_copy) module
    - Export your Paragraph bundle configurations and build them into your module's .install file
    - Note that some field config settings are stored outside of standard field configuration, so to automate setting them, you'll have to dig into the *variables* table, extract the settings, and load them as part of your module's .install file

- Slightly easier method

    - Install the **Features** (features) module and use it to export a feature containing your Paragraphs bundles
    - Add your custom CSS to the feature module that Features creates

Stability, Roadmap, and Footprint

- Paragraphs development started in November of 2013 for Drupal 7
- Current Drupal 7 version is 1.0RC4, released in October of 2015
- Already has a working 1.0 **Drupal 8** release
- Only requires the **Entity API** (1.2+) for D7 or **Entity Reference Revisions** for D8

For More Information

http://webdev.iac.gatech.edu/dtpp/

Presentation Slides, Getting Started Guide, Resources