OUTSTANDING ADMIN UX

DRUPALCON GLOBAL 2020

elevated third

Slides:
https://bit.ly/391Jqcf

Stop by our booth:
#Event/expo/51475

US.

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Our agency exists to help organizations succeed. Elevated Third is an agency that designs, builds and optimizes digital experiences using Drupal.

NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT.

A complex digital platform requires a well-architected, and practical administrator experience. Don’t wait until it’s too late.

START AT THE BEGINNING AND MAKE IT A PART OF THE ENTIRE BUILD

PLANNING

KNOW YOUR USERS.

Plan and build for real people. Put yourself in the shoes of someone who is actually working with the site every day.

CONSIDER YOUR ADMINS

1

How technical are they?

2

How much control do they *need*?

3

How much control do they *want*?

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Do they know just enough to be dangerous?

Separate configuration and content roles.

Don’t slack on documentation.

CONTROL THEY NEED

Priority tasks should be easy.

Don’t bog them down with extra stuff.

Principle of least privilege.

CONTROL THEY WANT

Reluctant or overzealous?

Align admin wants with requirements.

Open-ended experience vs curated tasks.

ARCHITECTURE.

Understand the major elements of your build and how they will affect the admin experience.

UNSTRUCTURED CONTENT.

Introduces lots of variation due to the wide range of possibilities for the build.

- Layout Builder vs. Paragraphs.
- Naming conventions: be consistent and clear.

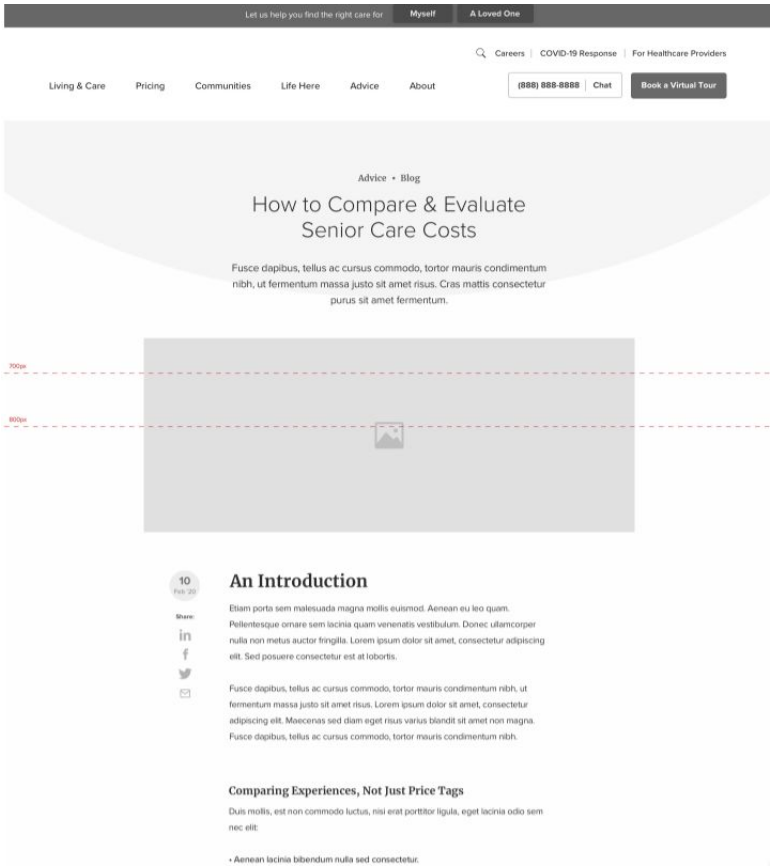
STRUCTURED CONTENT.

We've been doing this in Drupal for a long time, but it still deserves the same amount of attention.

- Each field should be focused on doing one job well.
- Use the right field for the job. It's called structured content for a reason.

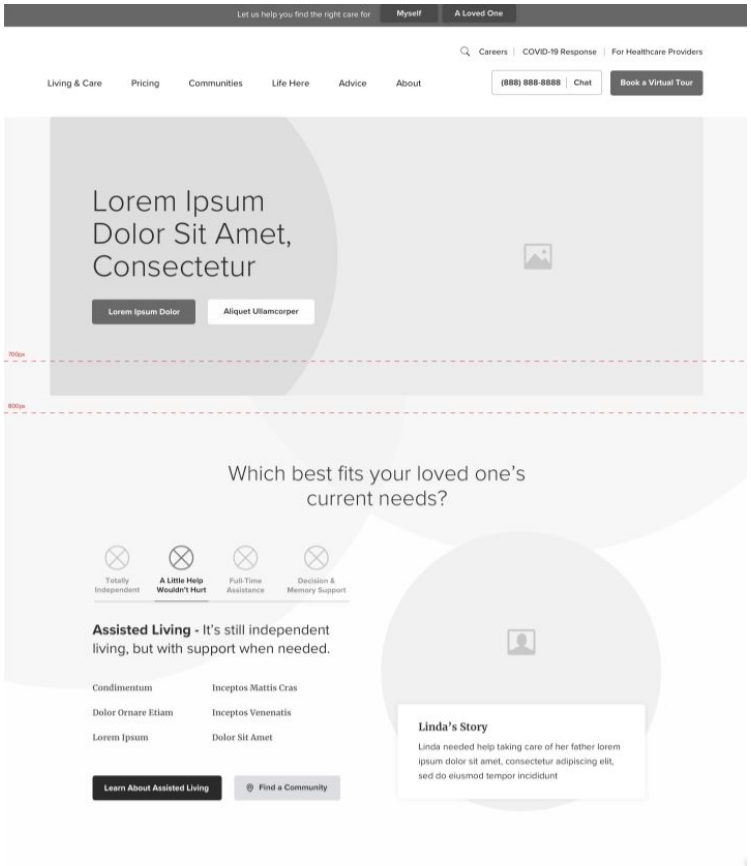
Structured Page (Templated)

Example: Resource Detail



Unstructured Page (Flexible)

Example: Homepage



NAMING CONVENTIONS.

Leave your developer brain at the door and use conventions that make sense to the marketing team.

- Connect elements to the business need, not the technical function.
- Billboard vs. Banner, Lead-In vs. Basic Copy

WYSIWYG CONFIG

Limit the need for a WYSIWYG by building clean, well-structured content types.

- When it is necessary, make sure it works as advertised.
- Use tools like Media Library to make it an integrated experience.

BUILD SPEC.

Don’t start the build in Drupal. Use a document that is easy to change to flesh out site structure and relationships early.

Think through everything - field names, help text, required text, allowed values.

Fields

Label	Machine name	Req	Description
Description	field_description	Y	
Link	field_p_link	N	
Description	field_description	N	
Link	field_p_link	N	
Background Color	field_bg_color	N	
Featured Image	field_p_media_item	N	
Quote	field_quote	Y	
Attribution	field_attribution	Y	
Attribution Description	field_attribution_description	N	
			Will have an expire time it will remove itself from
Small Heading	field_small_heading	N	
Heading	field_heading	Y	
Link	field_p_link	Y	
		Y	
			Wrapper for tab content
Label	field_label	Y	
Content	field_p_tab_content	Y	
			Wrapper for tab content
Label	field_label	Y	
Content	field_p_tab_content	Y	
			Wrapper for accodion c
Label	field_label	Y	
Content	field_p_accordion_content	Y	

CHOOSE YOUR FORMAT.

The format matters less than the content.

Spreadsheet, UML, Freehand.

With architecture planned and admin roles defined, it's time to move on to the build.

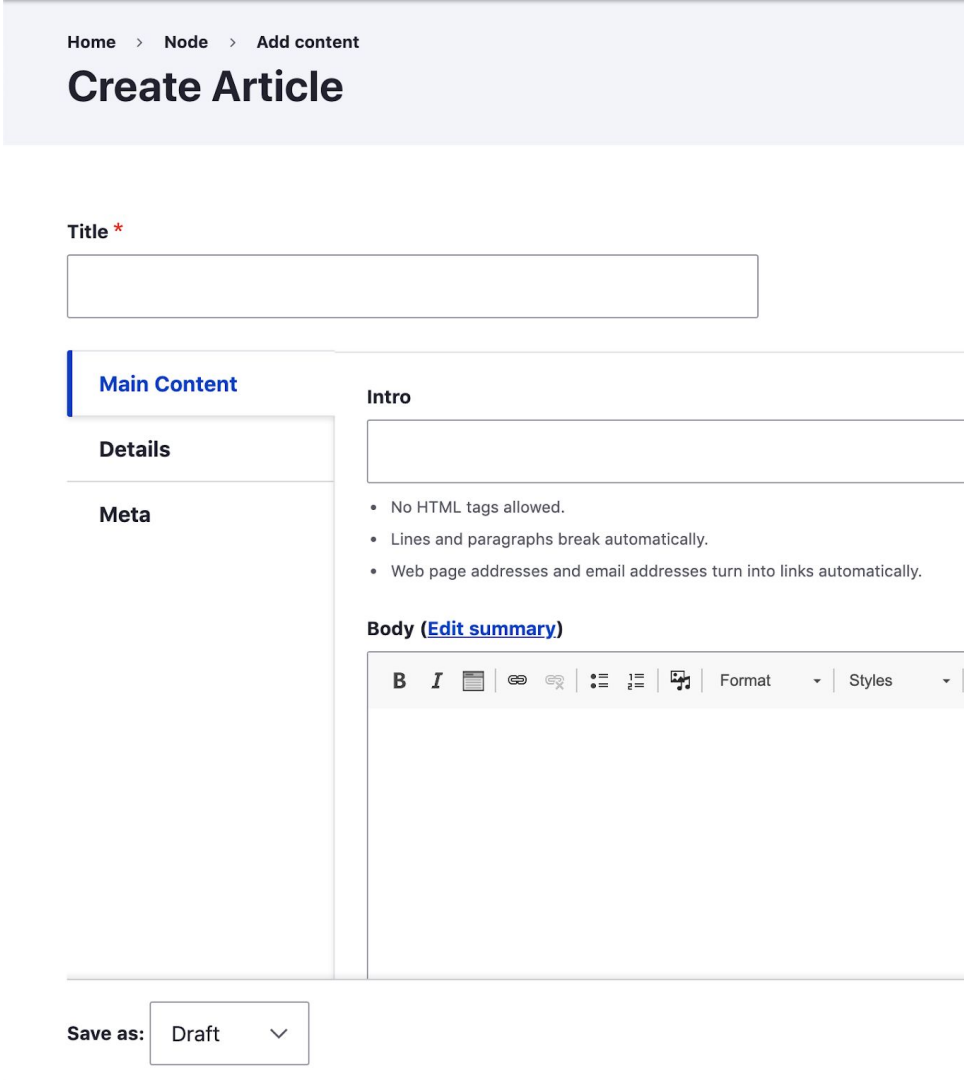
IMPLEMENTATION

START WITH CORE.

Drupal core has a some great modules built right in to get us started making a great admin experience.

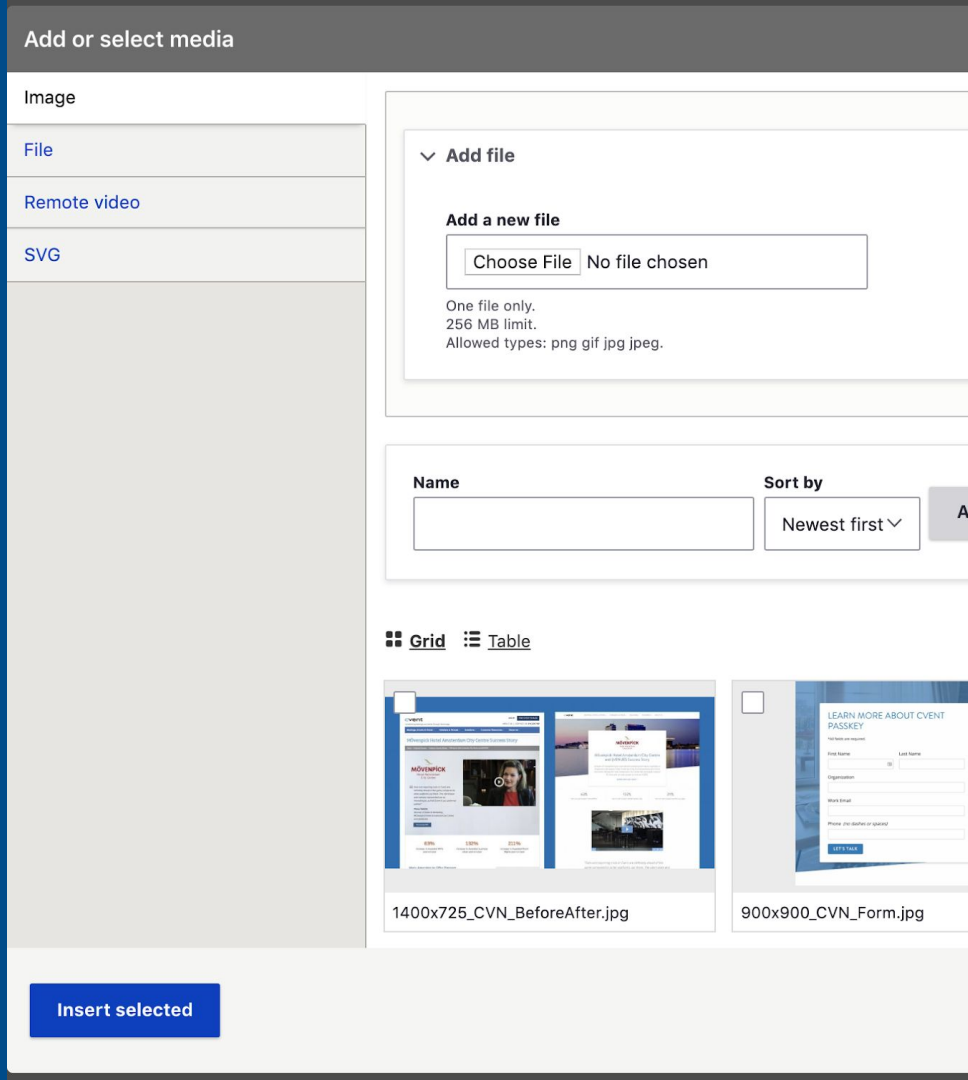
CLARO

A clean, accessible and powerful administration theme that ships in core starting with 8.8



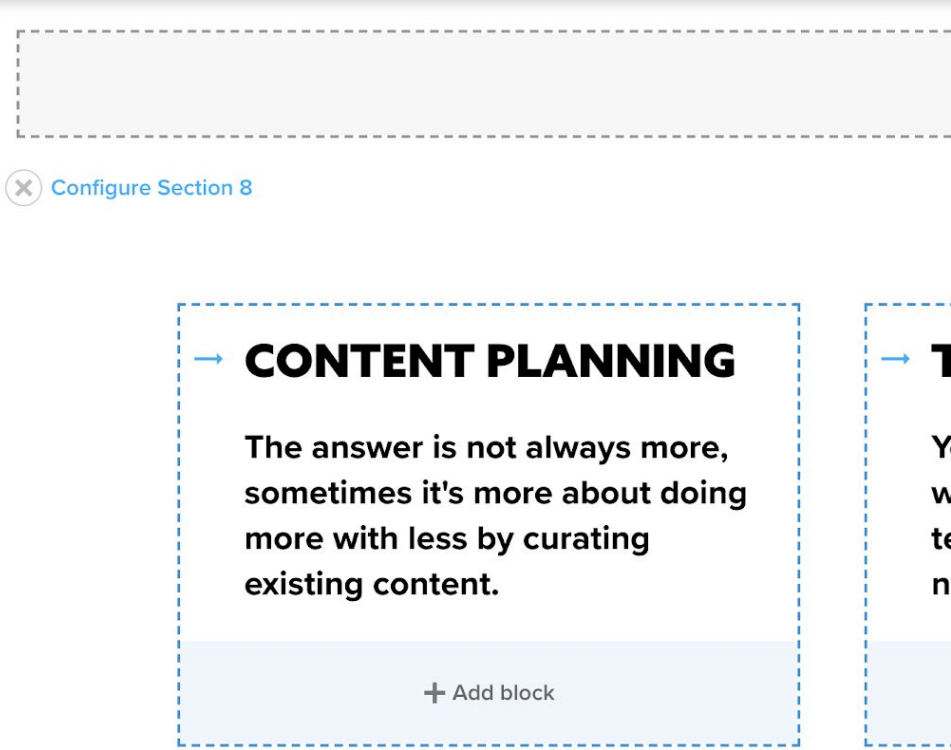
MEDIA & MEDIA LIBRARY

Create re-usable, browsable, searchable media libraries for admins to quickly find the asset they need.



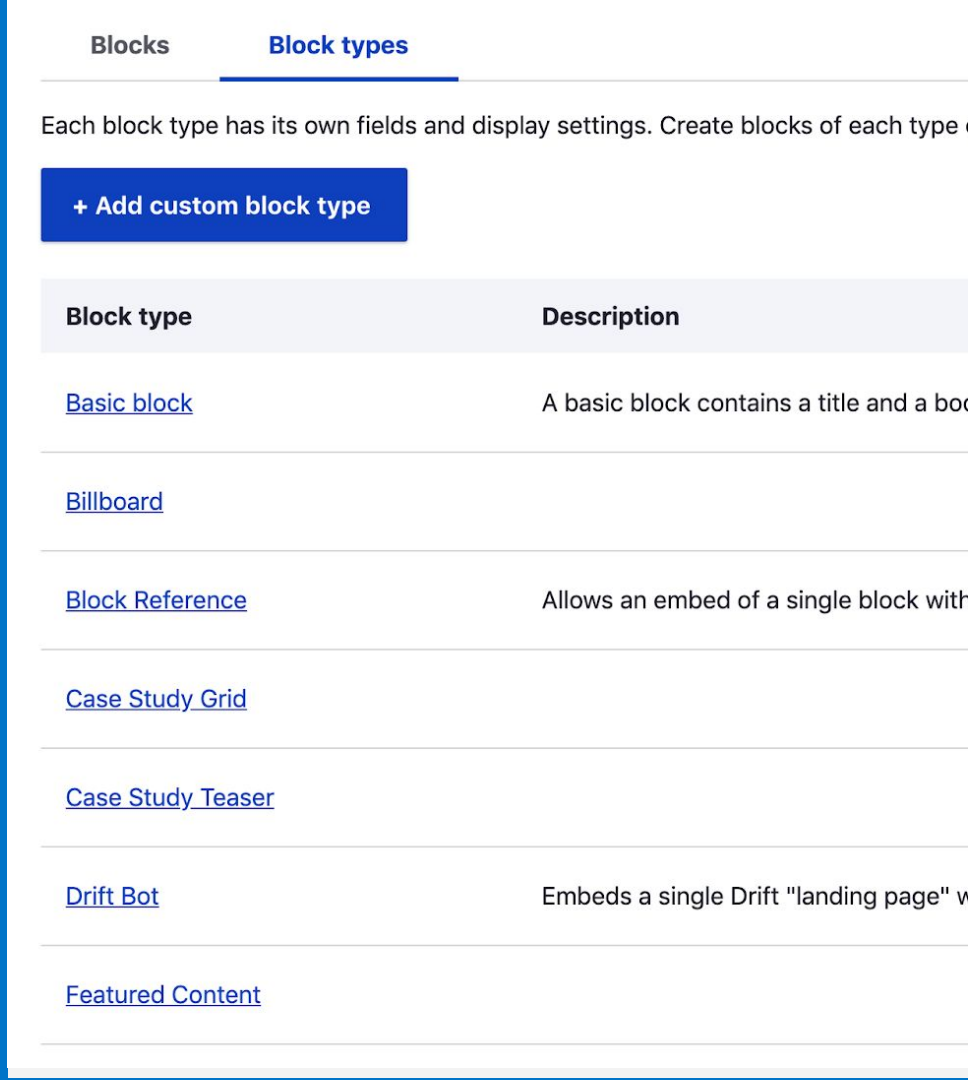
LAYOUT BUILDER

Visual design tool for custom drag and drop layouts.



CUSTOM BLOCKS

Create “LEGO” blocks to design pages



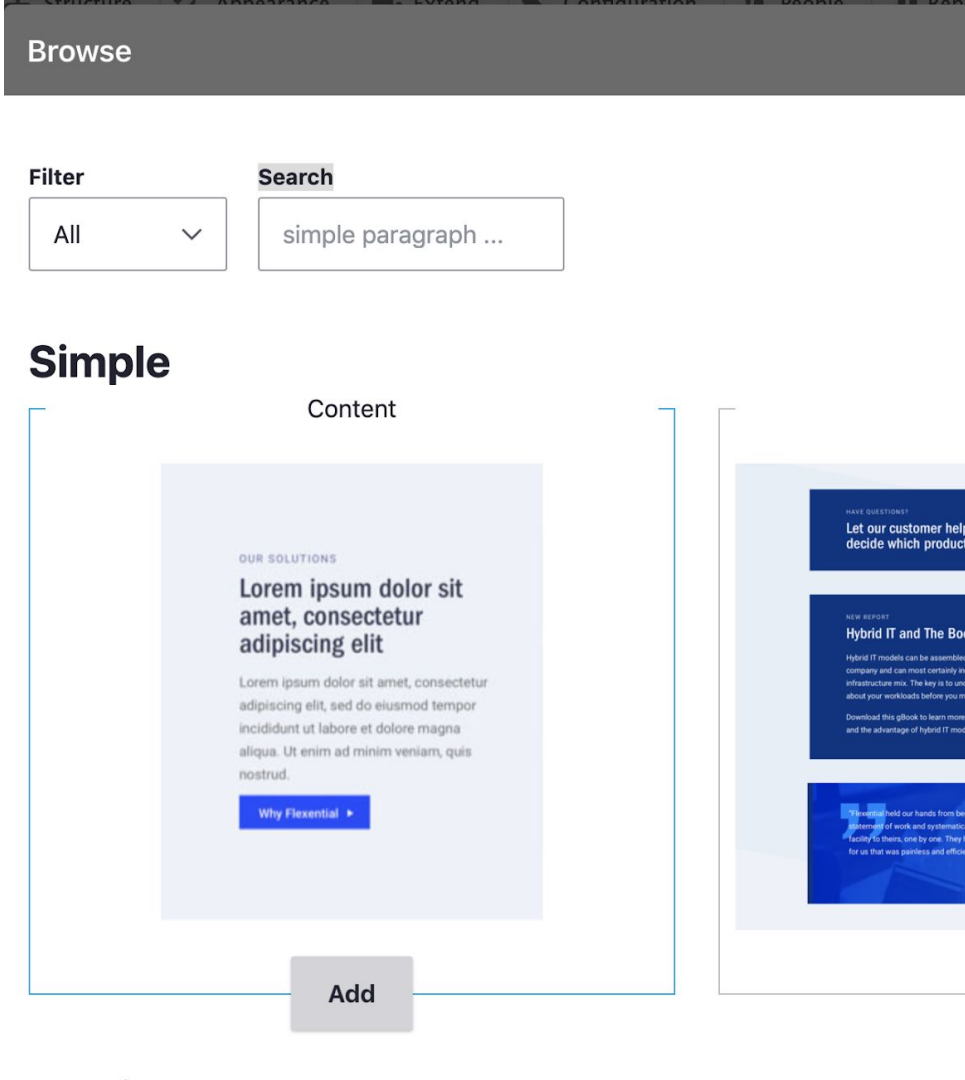
LOOK TO THE COMMUNITY.

The Drupal.org is full of exceptional modules that take a site's admin experience to the next level.

PARAGRAPH BROWSER

Give admins a visual understanding of the content they are inserting.

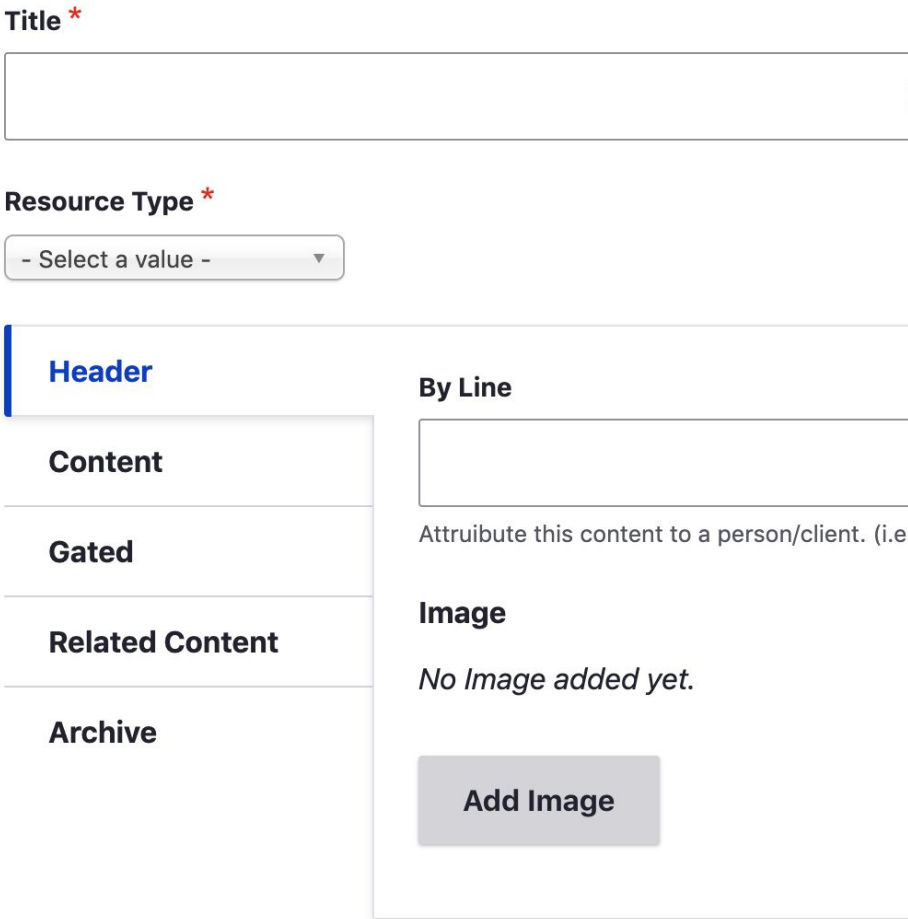
https://www.drupal.org/project/paragraphs_browser



FIELD GROUP

Organize content entry for admin for a clear understanding of what they are editing.

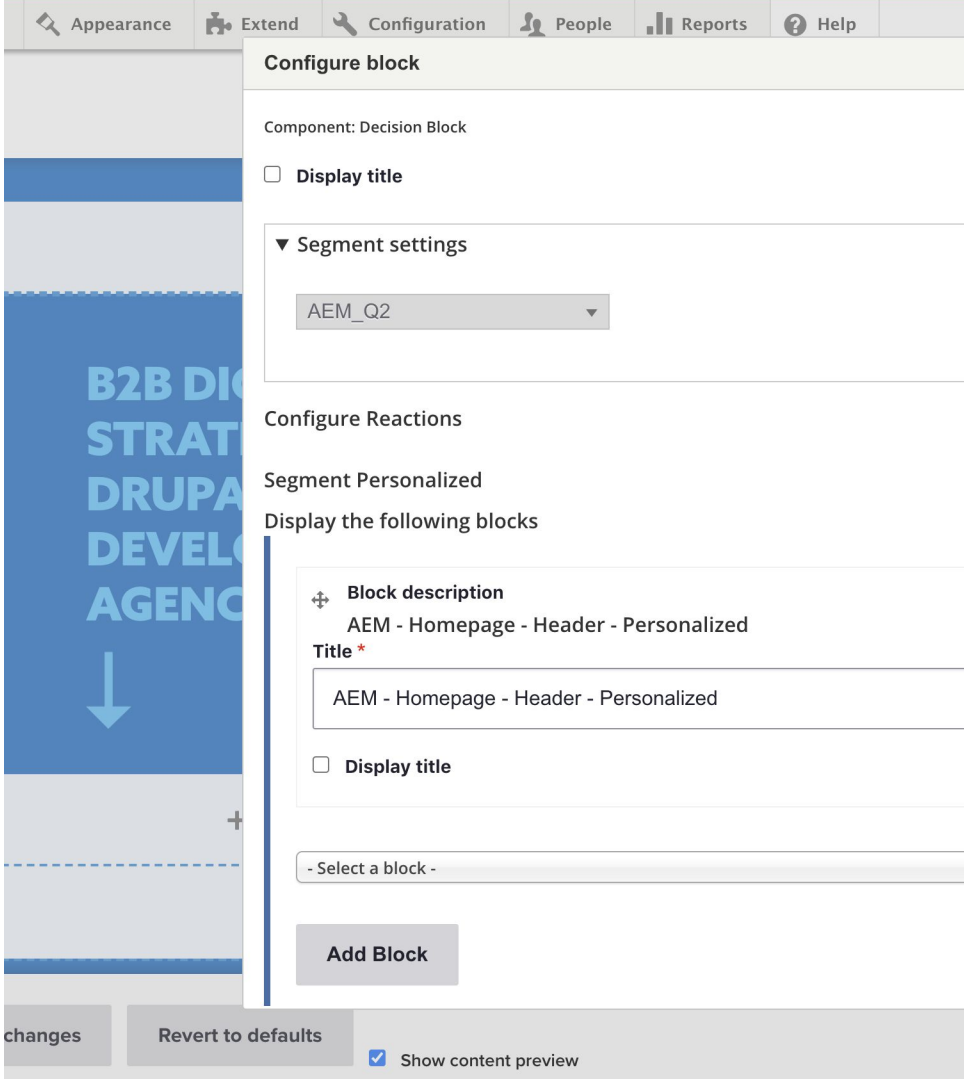
https://www.drupal.org/project/field_group



LAYOUT BUILDER MODAL

Edit layout builder content in a modal window

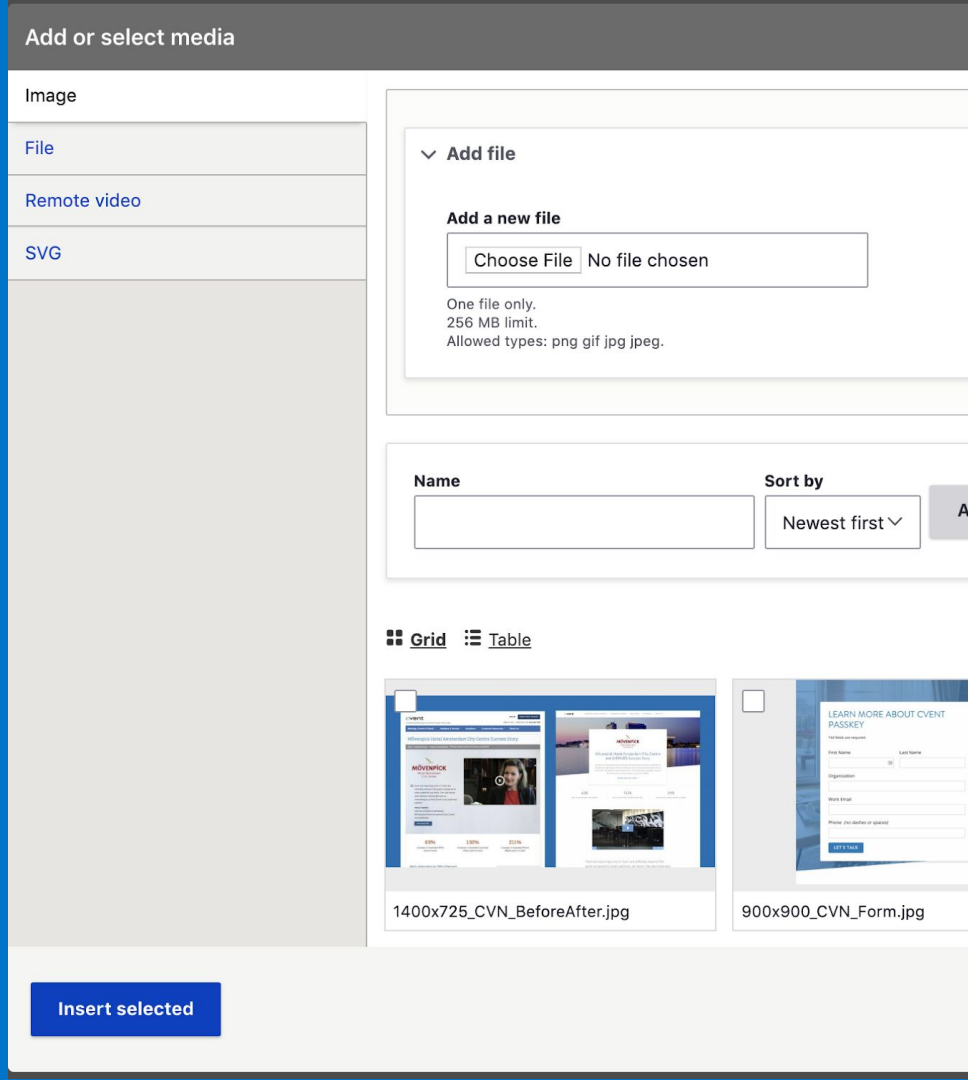
https://www.drupal.org/project/layout_builder_modal



MEDIA LIBRARY THEME RESET

Helps alter media libraries theme when used in layout builder / layout builder modal.

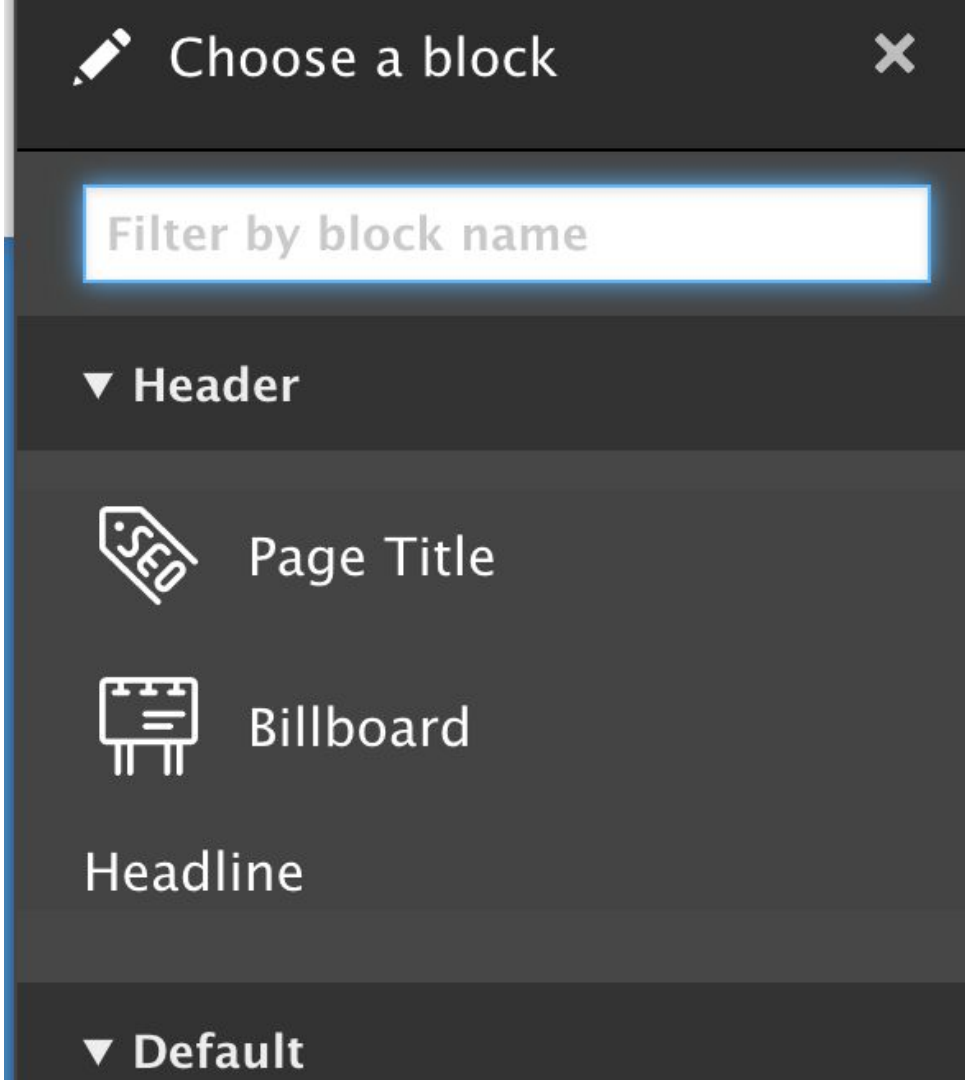
https://www.drupal.org/project/media_library_theme_reset



LAYOUT BUILDER BROWSER

Organize blocks into categories, quickly add visual icon

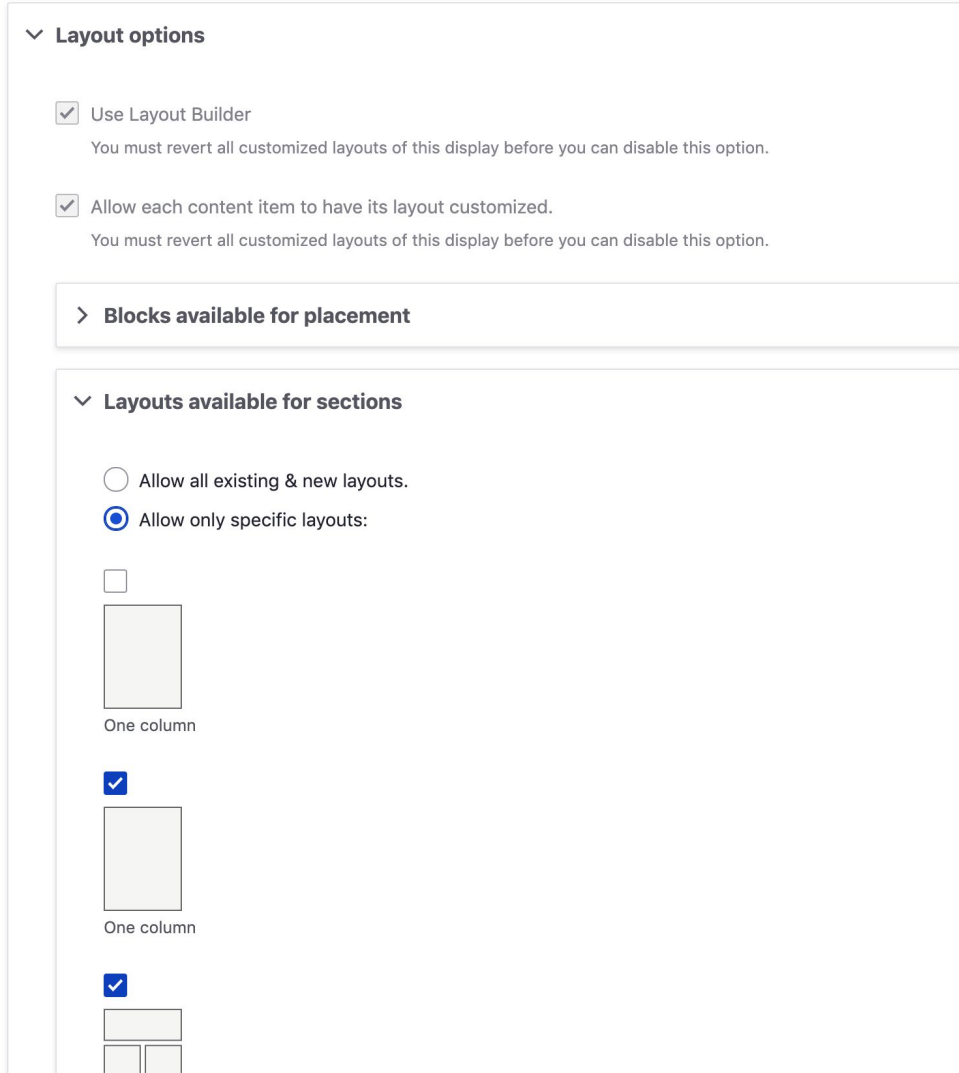
https://www.drupal.org/project/layout_builder_modal



LAYOUT BUILD RESTRICTIONS

Restrict layouts and blocks allowed per content type

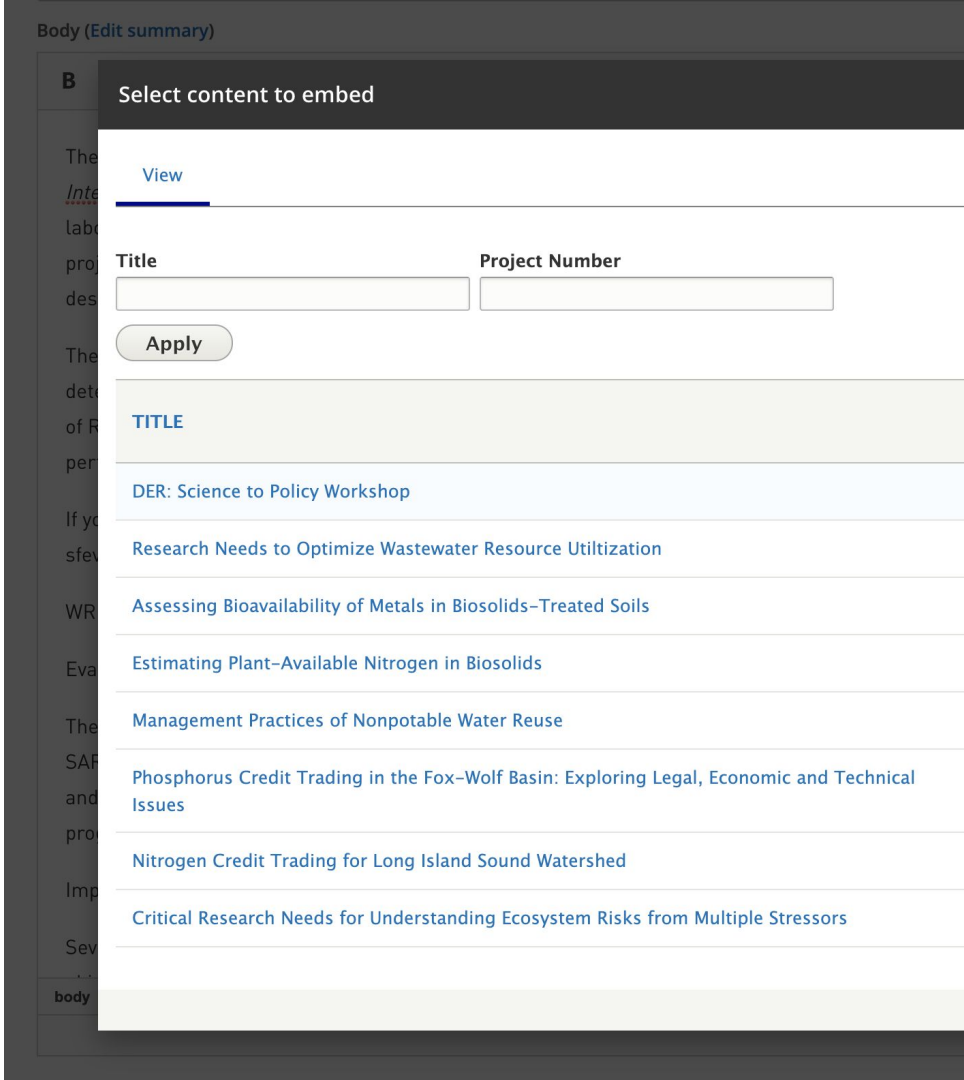
https://www.drupal.org/project/layout_builder_restrictions



ENTITY EMBED & ENTITY BROWSER

Allow admin to embed entities into WYSIWYG

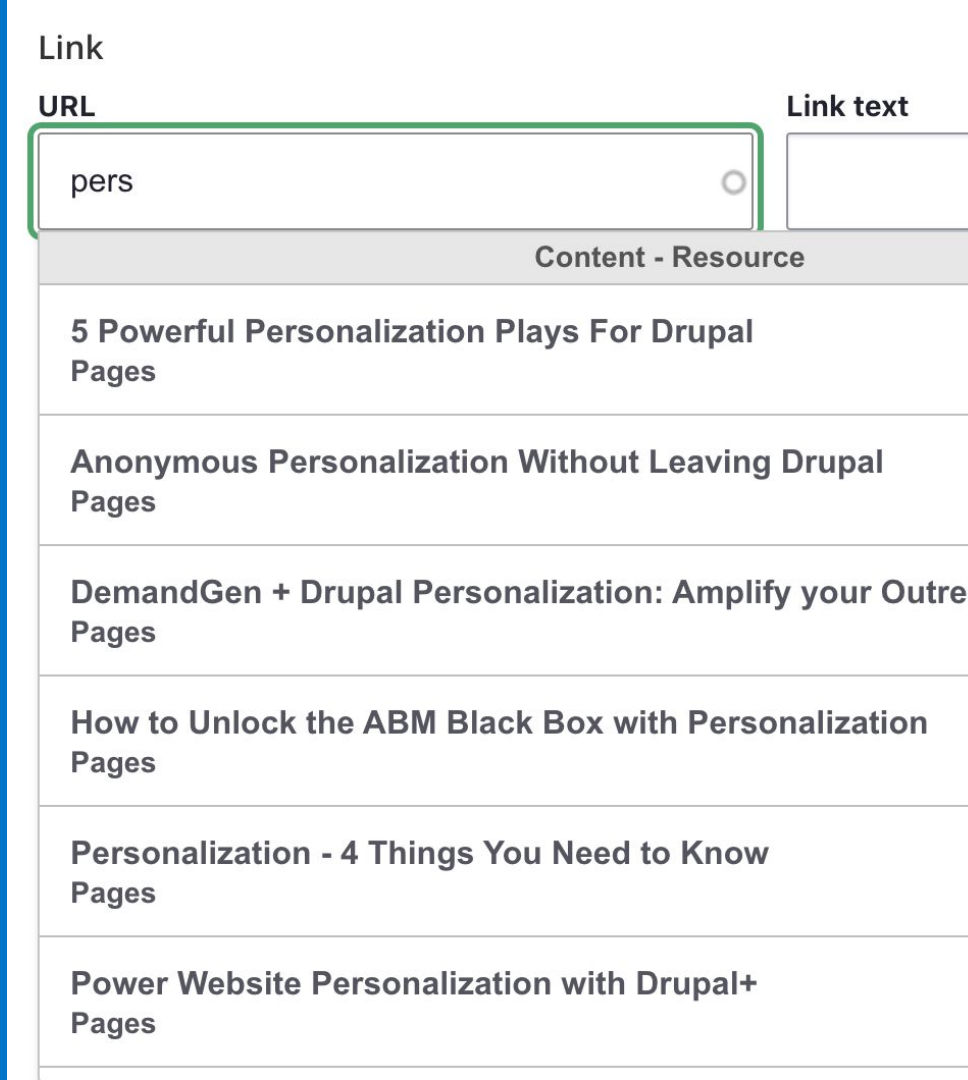
https://www.drupal.org/project/entity_embed
https://www.drupal.org/project/entity_browser



LINKIT

Adds autocomplete link field to WYSIWYG

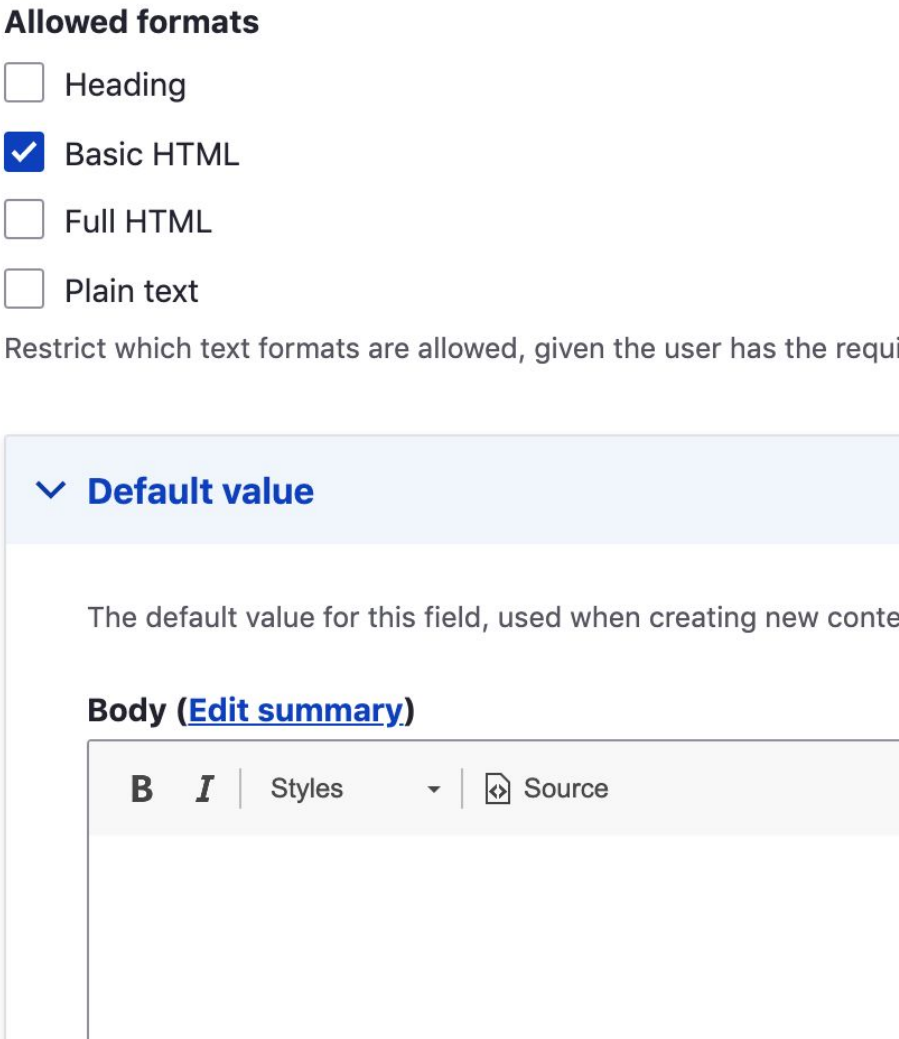
https://www.drupal.org/project/linkit



ALLOWED FORMATS

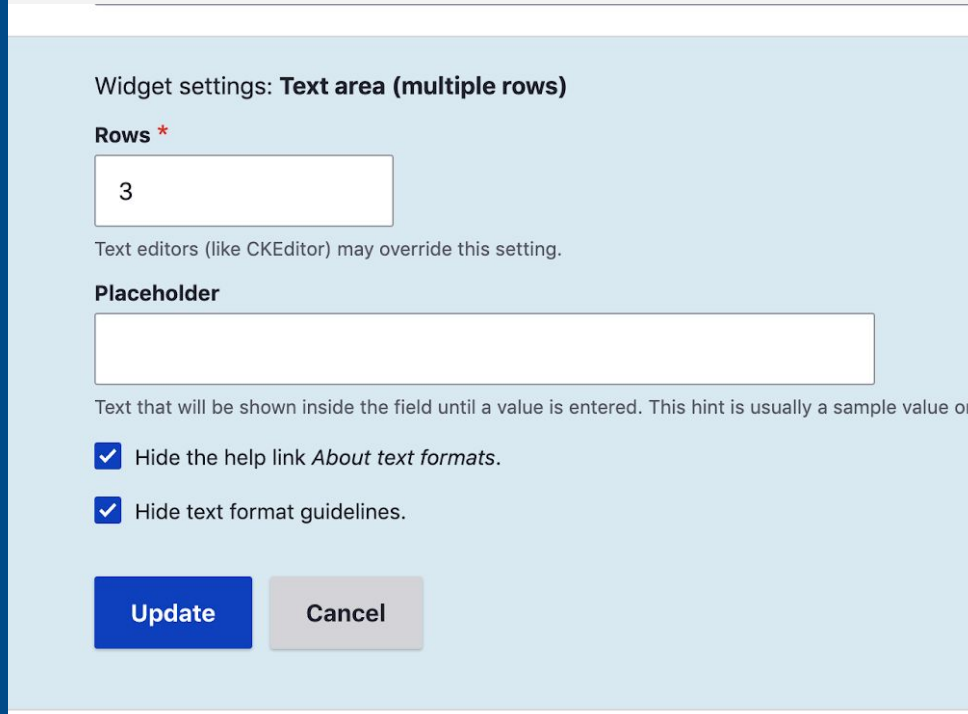
Limit the editors an admin has access to per field

https://www.drupal.org/project/allowed_formats



CKEDITOR HEIGHT

Force CKEditor to respect row value.

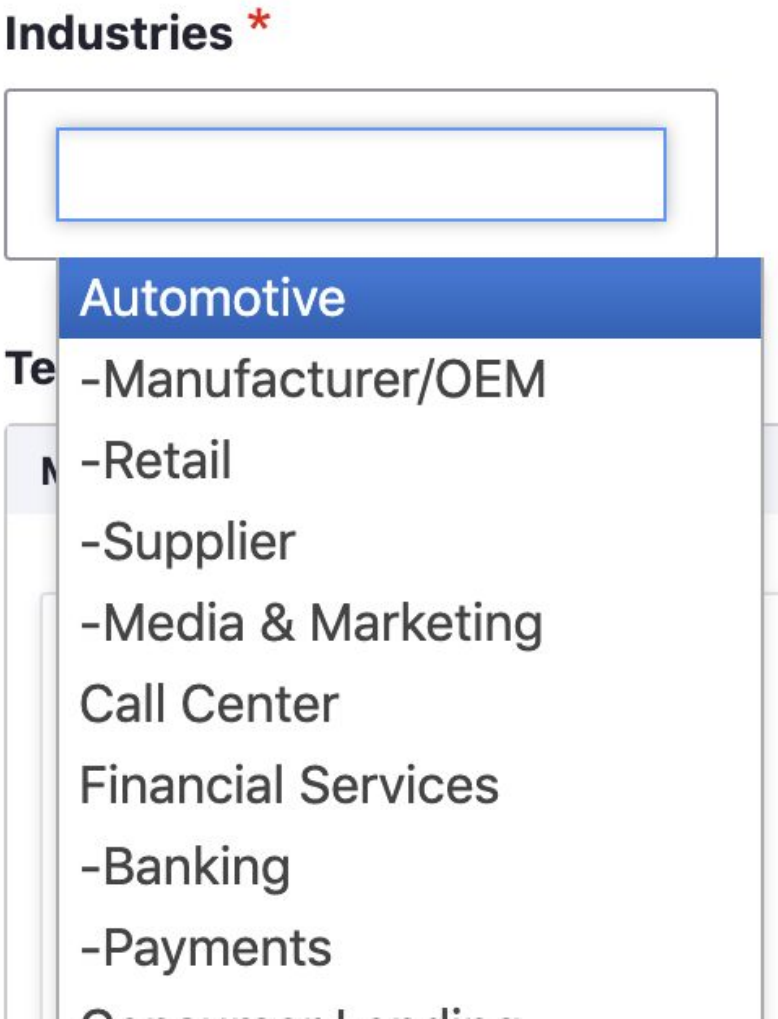


https://www.drupal.org/project/Ckeditorheight

CHOSEN

Improve select list that have long list of choices.

https://www.drupal.org/project/chosen

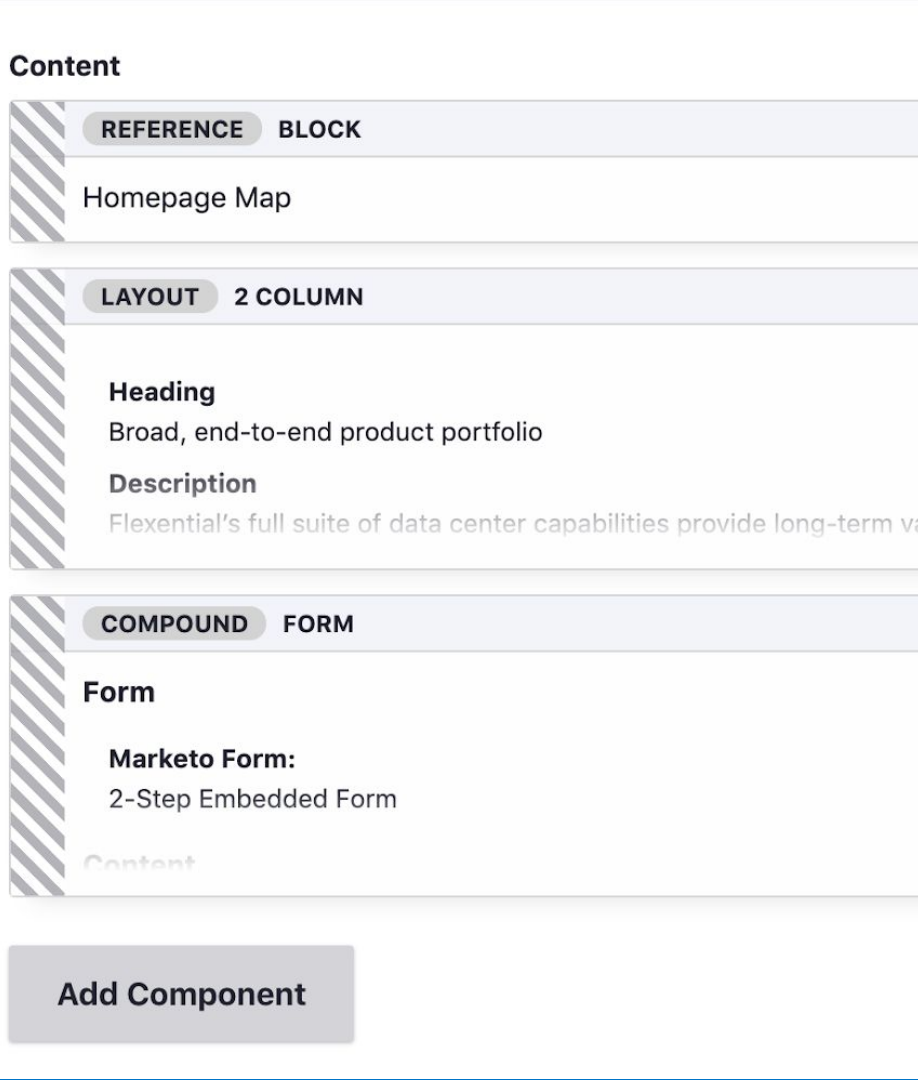


PERSONAL TOUCH.

Take the admin experience further with a few custom tweaks.

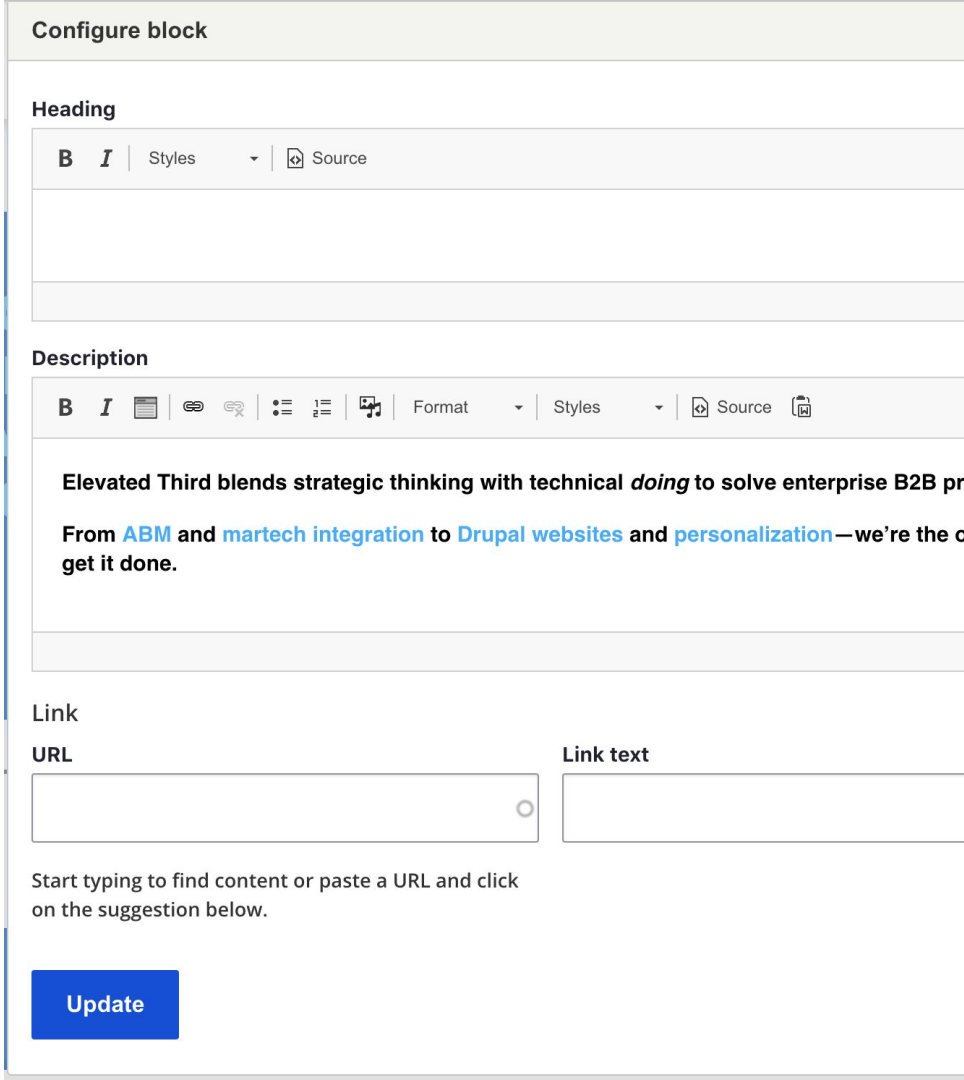
DRAGGABLE PARAGRAPHS

Added Dragula JS to paragraphs for easier re-ordering of content.



LAYOUT BUILDER MODAL THEME

Because layout builder and modal use the active theme – moved/copied appropriate CSS / JS / templates to active theme for better, more consistent experience

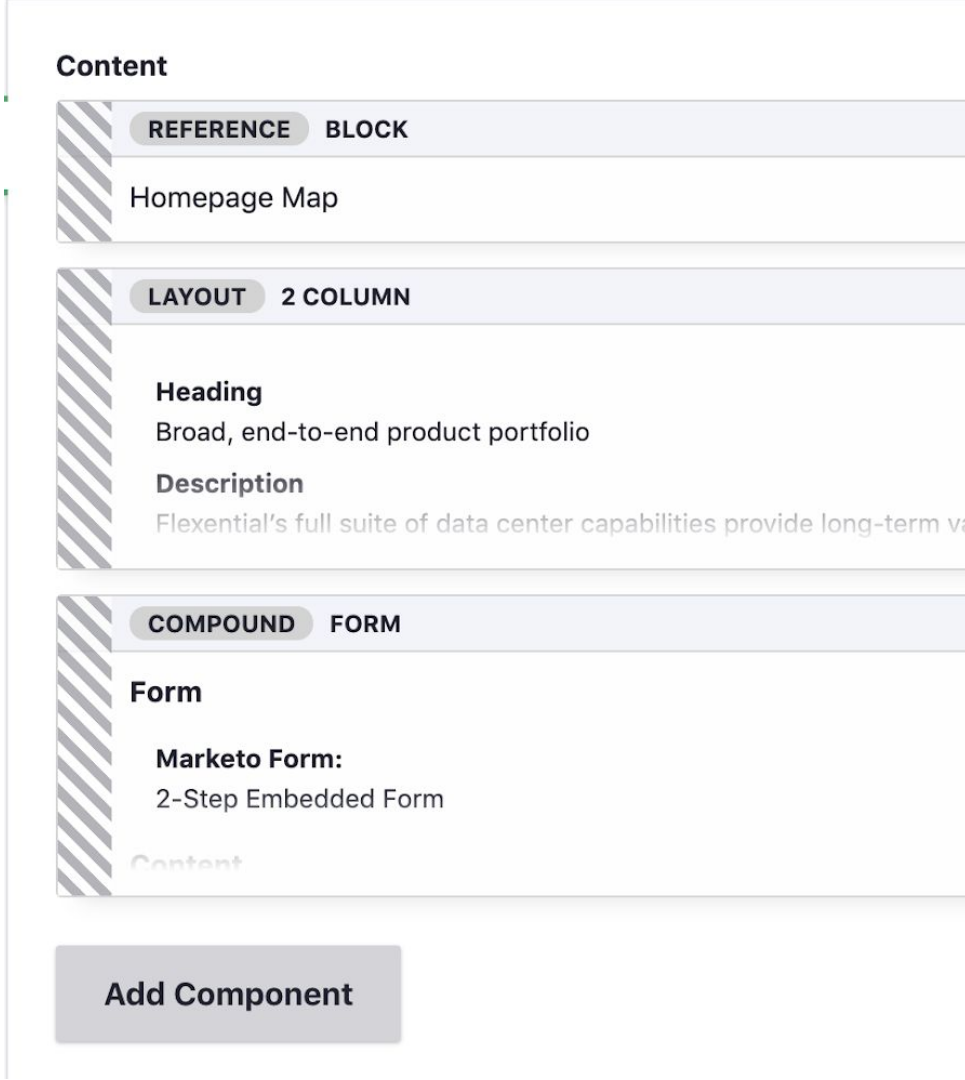


PARAGRAPH BUTTON STYLES

Turn buttons into icons to take up less vertical screen space

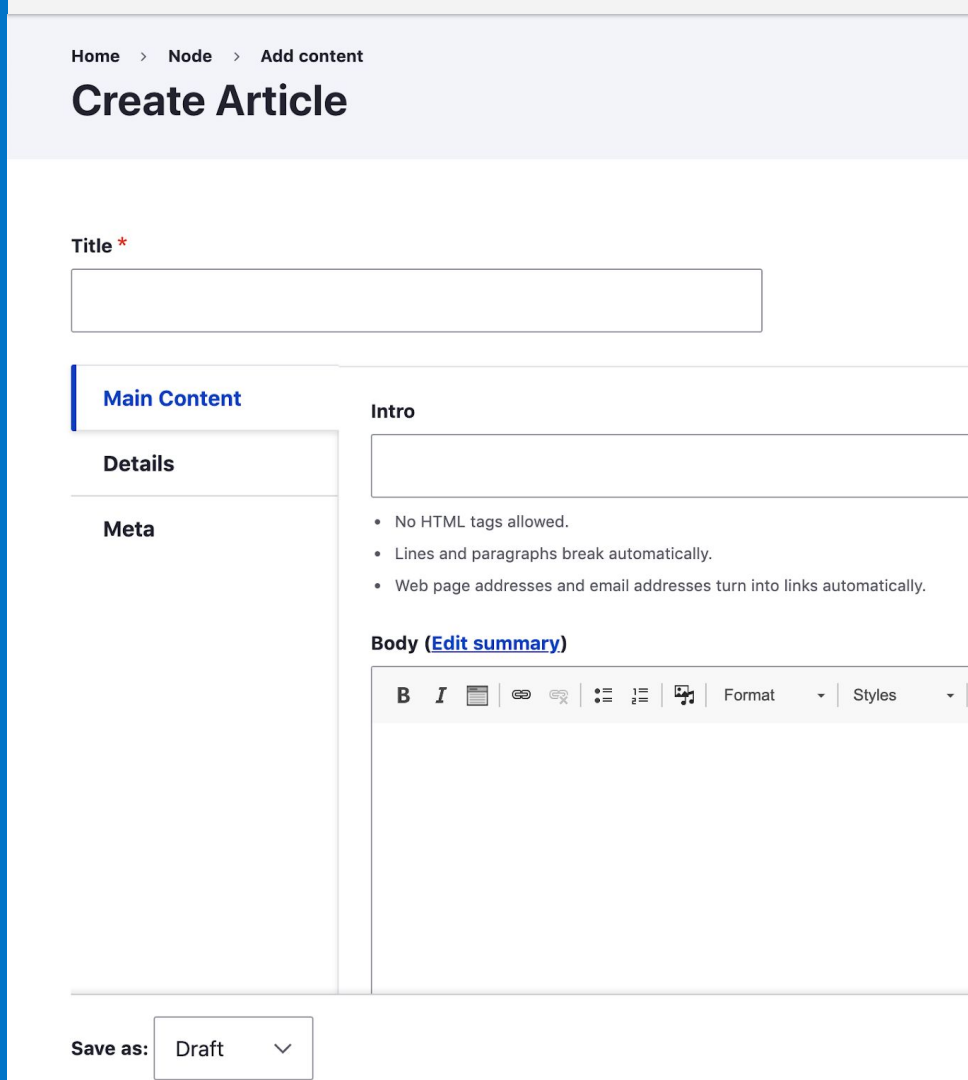
COLLAPSIBLE PARAGRAPHS

Show only a preview of a paragraph and allow the admin to expand to see more. Creates less vertical space and allows admin to see more content.



NODE PAGE THEMING

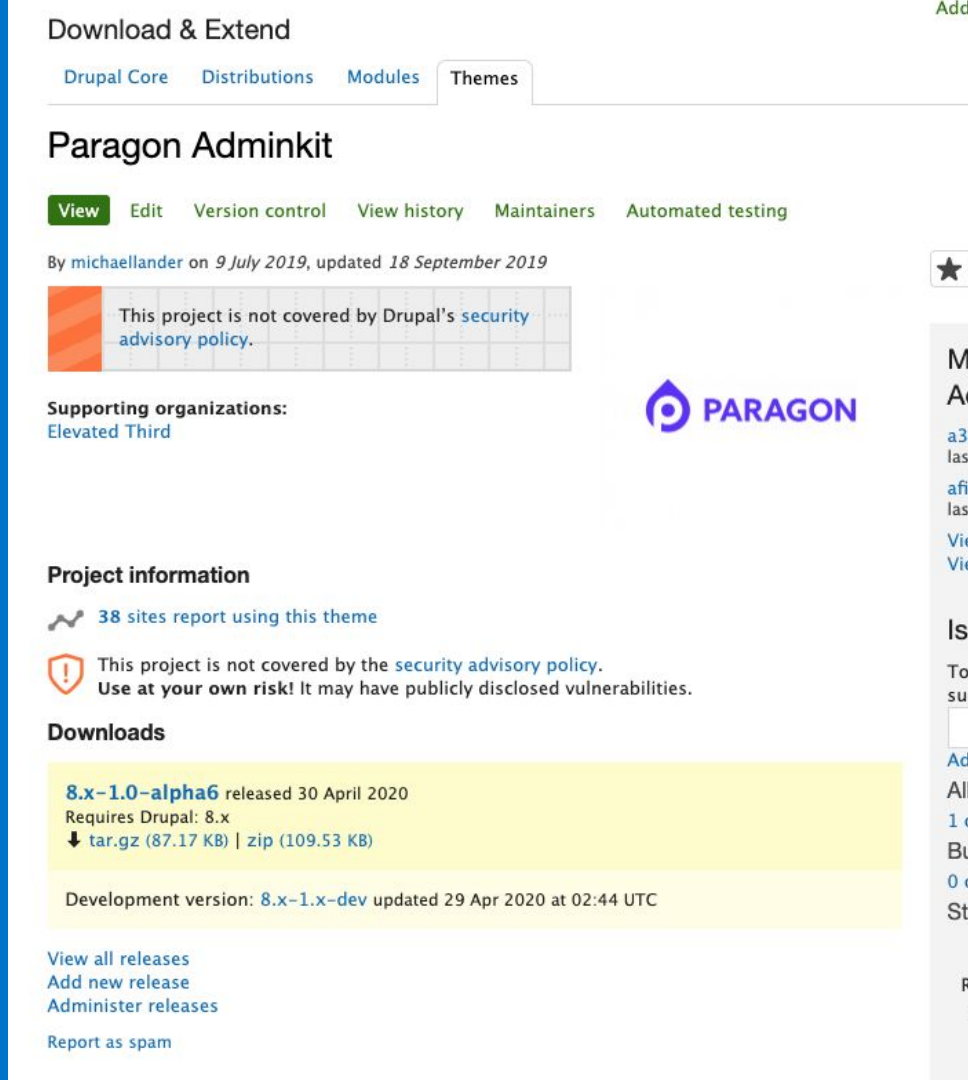
Changed save / preview button to be sticky for easy access on long content pages.



ADMINKIT

Elevated Third's admin theme that is based on Claro includes the custom features we talked about.

https://www.drupal.org/project/paragon_adminkit



Now that you've built a fancy, well-architected admin UI. Take the time to actually test it!

QA & TESTING

TEST IT RIGHT

Log in as an actual user with the role.

Test common tasks for each role.

Consider a UAT plan.

ONGOING OPTIMIZATION

The admin UX is never over. Admins are likely the most active users in your site. Take the opportunity to consistently improve.

TEST
IMPROVE
REPEAT

Collect feedback from your users.

Apply updates based on that feedback.

Never stop improving!

THANKS.

elevated third

Let us know what you think:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCGlobal20SessionEval?title=AdminUX&id=30921

Stop by our booth:

#Event/expo/51475