



Using Panels to make Smarter Nodes

Sean Lange
webthingee
BADCamp 2010.

Who's Here, What you want

- New to Drupal?
- Created a Content Type with CCK?
- Created a view?
- Created a view with an argument?
- Worked in the template layer?
- Created a Panel?

About Me

- Sean Lange, owner webthingee.com
- Began 'dabbling' in Drupal 3 years ago, started [webthingee](http://webthingee.com) 2 years ago, now full-time freelancer
- Before that, Parks & Recreation/weekend coder
- Several Corporate Clients with editors/managers/blogs
- Several Social Website Owners: community sites
- Several Mangled Development/Sandboxes

Session Overview

- GOAL: Achieve a basic comfort level with node panel so you can begin using them right away.
- Webpage: node vs. page vs. panel (node panel)
- Basic Node Panel
- Variants of a Node Panel
- More Criteria, More Context, More Arguments
- Super Smart Panel Node
- Questions

Drupal Page

- What you see on the screen
- Drupal Page
 - Header, Primary Links
 - Main Content
 - Sidebars
 - Footer
 - = Sum of which is a page.
- The “heart” of the page is typically the Main Content, which typically contains the node.

Drupal 'Node'

- The Node: Story, Blog, Article, etc.
- CCK Content Type -> not a view, module page, etc...
- node is node/NUMBER or node/123
- common displayed in url with clean url, pathauto, with path alias allows these to be:
- blog/about-a-blog
- Point: Drupal sees node/%node even tho you see blog/about-a-blog
- Tip: hover over edit

Drupal Node Panel

- Expand the information (taxonomy, nid, user, etc...), contained in the NODE and make it available to different areas of what is now a Node Panel.
- More NODE area, more AREA for the node.
- Point: Node panel takes node/%node all allows the panels, within the panel layout, to act as a theme-override, pockets of information aware of the node, etc...
- Tip: context , panels and ctools



Node Panel Basics

Want to do something 'fun' with comments.

Node Panel Basics Demo

- Goto a blog post... take a look around
- Enable node/%node (panel node override)
- Return to Blog...
- ... to the demo ...

Node Panel Basics Demo

- Nothing Happened
- Back to Page (panels) node_view
- Create a variant (like you would do if you were creating a view).
- Move panes into panels
- Look at your new looking Blog Node.



Node Panel Basics

The Blog looks fine, but what happened
to my Heroes node!

Node Panel Basics Demo

- return to node/%node
- selection rules – add ‘node type’ = blog for the blog
- update and save.
- ... to the demo ...

Node Panel Basics

Basics of Node Panel

Placing Panes (node fields)

Variants



Node Panel Arguments/Views

Your blog node looks fine, Your Hero node looks fine... but you want more

Node Panel Arguments/Views

- Wouldn't it be very cool to have the TEAM logo on the Hero Node, dynamically, for each hero
- The HERO is a node.
- It's node_referenced to a 'Team Node'
- A 'Team Node' contains a team_logo
- I already have a view that shows Hero's and additional information related to them
- How to get there...

Node Panel Arguments/Views

- goto the pre-created have a view called hero teams
- uses node-reference to link the TEAM node to the HERO node
- uses relationships to link the HERO node-ref field, that contains the TEAM
- to the node_view
- How to get there...

Node Panel Arguments/Views

- Show the view
 - Node-reference link to the team node, relationship between the nodes to get the image from the second (linked to node)
 - A 'views content pane' with an argument of the node->nid
 - Content Pane settings -> node ID
- return to node/%node
- create a 'variant' panel node
- selection rules - node type = hero
- place fields into the node panel
- ... to the demo ...

Node Panel Variants/Views

Selection Rules/Variants

View Pane

Node: nid as a view Argument

Anything in the panel, has access to what the
Node Knows (creating a context)



Node Panel – Using Path Type

Professor D's Special Blog, most people enjoy the comments more than the posts... need to feature it on only his blog...

Node Panel – Using Path Type

- node_view edit to edit the node panel
- new variant by clone blog (a starting point)
- add path criteria (selection rules)
- alter the layout and/or content
- Enjoy your results
- ... to the demo ...

Node Panel – Using Path Type

Selection Rules:



Node Panel getting 'Smart' and 'Fun'

Easy editable intro text, photo gallery, on screen
order changing, fast and flexible.

- Create a Page
 - Easy editing of intro text
- Create the variant of node_view panel
- Selection criteria -> use the node#
- Content:
 - Place the node content
 - Picture view
 - place the Picture re-order pane
 - Add visibility setting (admins)
- ... to the demo ...

Thank You !!!

Questions ???

Sean R. Lange
webthingee

email: sean@webthingee.com