TYPO3 Content Blocks
Deep Dive

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#cig-structuredcontent

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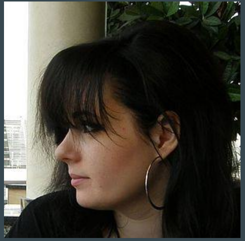

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TYPO3

Content Blocks - Deep Dive

Best Practices and technical edge cases while creating content elements with the content blocks approach.

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CLI Commands

Content Blocks comes with a few CLI commands

- kickstart command
- list command
- language generate command
- publish assets command

→ speed up setup process

→ reduce repetitive tasks

Skeleton for CLI Command

Predefined standards for creating a new Content Block

- pre-defined assets, templates and config
- for content elements, page types, record types
- except: language/labels.xlf and config.yaml
- use content-blocks.yaml for config.yaml default values

→ speed up setup process

→ reduce repetitive tasks, reduce bugs

Basics

Reduce redundant YAML code with Basics

- pre-defined Basics from Content Blocks
- custom Basics
- nested Basics
- e.g. header palette, link palette, appearance tab

→ shared code: take care when moving a Content Block

→ reduce complexity

Extending Field Types

You can add complete new field types to your system

- implements Content Blocks FieldTypeInterface
- it is just one single field, not a group of fields
- e.g. field type “Image” instead of type “File” with additional config
- e.g. type “SingleSelect” instead of renderType “selectSingle”

→ provide better fitting defaults

→ improve semantic

Extend TypoScript

Override Content Blocks boilerplate TypoScript

- global Content Blocks TypoScript overrides
- override TypoScript of a single Content Block to add specific definition
- e.g. to add Data processing, Shared Partials, layouts, settings

→ add global definitions or additional information

→ customize a Content Block

Shared partials

Reduce redundant code with shared partials

- use own partials from your site package, e.g. for header or image rendering
- for content elements via TypoScript
- for backend preview via page TSconfig

→ reduce redundant code

→ streamline rendering

Extend TCA

Override Content Blocks boilerplate TCA

- it works exactly like overriding core TCA
- find the correct identifier for the field you want to override
- remember collections creating a new custom table
- (RecordTypes creating a new custom table too)

→ typo3/cms-lowlevel is your friend (Configuration module)

→ extend the TCA in Configuration/TCA/Overrides/

Data Processing

Content Blocks is based on the new Record API in TYPO3 v13

- old way works only for new variables alongside `$processedData['data']`
- use RecordCreationEvent to modify the record object
- page data processing has to be added manually via TypoScript

→ you can use your own models and repositories

→ for low complexity or simple data collection, consider this approach instead of Extbase

Display conditions

Display conditions in Content Blocks is writing TCA in YAML

- it works exactly like in TCA
- you need the correct identifier and value
- fields used in a condition should have the column option “onChange” set to reload

→ typo3/cms-lowlevel is your friend (Configuration module)

→ please also take a look at the official documentation

TYPO3

Handle common fields in CE’s

Fields needed in nearly every content element like header, header_layout, background_color, background_image

- re-defining root fields in every content element (tt_content) can lead to table row size to large issue
- re-use existing fields in content elements
- consider to share common root fields

⟶ Attention: some columns aren’t meant to re-use!

⟶ Some properties aren’t meant to override, e.g. type

Nested Content Elements

It is possible to nest content elements within Content Blocks

- **this can not replace e.g. EXT:container**
- special setting in YAML file
- take care to prevent duplicate rendering in frontend & backend
- this solution does not provide drag and drop or creation of new child elements in the Page module

Link.editRecord ViewHelper

Improve UX in TYPO3 backend while using Content Blocks

- adds the return anchor on custom edit links - jumps back to the previous position on close element
- only in Page layout context
- also works for linking directly to collection items

Extbase Plugin

How to create Extbase plugins via Content Blocks

- faster and easier registration
- easier configuration and maintenance
- TODO: register controller actions manually
- TODO: add custom TypoScript

→ Attention: experimental feature!

Type Overrides

For field type “Collection” and “File”

- reorder fields of the child record
- remove fields from the child record
- add completely new fields to the child record
- override options like “label”, “description”, “renderType”, etc.

→ override the showitem string for specified type

→ can be used to re-define file definitions

File Types

Override file types globally

- re-define file types
- e.g. add new custom fields
- use carefully, since this changes the arrangement of fields globally

→ a Basic could be a better way to do so

→ consider using Type Overrides instead

Restrict Collection child types

Improved control over collection children

- e.g. restrict tt_content element types within a slider or an accordion
- easy configuration via YAML

→ improve user experience

→ avoid rendering issues

Content Blocks Documentation

Go ahead and find further information:
https://docs.typo3.org/p/friendsoftypo3/content-blocks/main/en-us/Index.html

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JSON Schema for IDEs

currently available via:
https://github.com/nhovratov/content-blocks-json-schema

These slides available here

Link to the slides:
https://github.com/krausandre/cb-demo-25

Coming soon:

Moving forward to migrate to TYPO3 core

Content Blocks GUI

EXT:content_blocks_styled_content

JSON Schema moving to public API

Try it out now!

friendsoftypo3/content-blocks

slack

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