

# Website Conception with Drupal 6

## **Views**

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# Views

The Views Module provides listings of data on the site: users, comments, nodes, etc. Any listing of data is called a view.

When you create a view, it pulls the information in a filtered way from your database.

- you don't have to code anything
- modules will tell Views about their fields
- the same view can be used in several places on the site (as a block, as calendar, as a whole page).
- Results can be split into multiple page listings...

Creating a basic view entails selecting the following options:

- a) **Fields:** the fields you would like displayed (node title, author name, images)
- b) **Filters:** how you would like this list to be filtered (only display "event" nodes).
- c) **Sort criteria:** how to sort the listing (newest stories on top).
- d) **Display:** what you would like to look like when displayed (a block showing a bulleted list of headlines).

- **Field:** Piece of data that needs to be displayed. Ex. node title, user's e-mail address, CCK field value, taxonomy term, any data.
- **Filter:** restricts the content list by various criteria. Some filters include showing only nodes that have their Published flag turned on, on only nodes of particular type, such as Events.
- **Arguments:** dynamic version of filters. Ex. if you want to make a listing of a content owned by a specific user; instead of making a specific view for every user, the views allos to create a single view and filter the results by user ID that is spcified through an argument.

Arguments usually come from the URL. [www.example.com/my\\_view/10](http://www.example.com/my_view/10) (directories after my\_view will be taken as arguments).

You can have as many arguments as you wish in your view.
- **Sort criteria:** once the results from the database are narrowed, you can use sort criteria to determine the order in which those results show up. Ex. sorting by date, author name, taxonomy terms.
- **Relationships:** lets you retrieve the object information that is related to the listed content. (user's info to content listing).

# Displays

- A display determines how a view will be presented to the user.
- A view can have multiple displays, and can even create several pages listing the same content in different ways. By default, there are 4 different types of displays:
  - a) **attachment** - supplementary display that can be attached above and/or below other types of displays.
  - b) **block** - creates a compact list display that can be positioned in sidebars or any region from the Blocks configuration page
  - c) **feed** - creates a customisable RSS feed to which users may subscribe using an RSS reader. Feeds can both receive their own URL and be attached to any block or page display.
  - d) **page** - makes a page with its own URL in which the view occupies the main content.
- The most important thing is to see what content needs to be displayed.
- If the Fields set isn't shown, it is because the "Row style" for the display needs to be set to Fields instead of Node.

# Steps to create a new page view

- Create a new view (add)
- Select “Page” and click “add display”
- Edit the “Page settings” (down second column)
  - Define a path for this page (events)
  - Menu: Normal menu entry + set the title “Events”
  - Add to “Primary links” from Menu (the view will appear automatically)
- Select fields to display from “Fields”
  - + to add fields, arrows to rearrange them
  - Click update to define display
- Filters: to exclude unwanted entries
  - + to add a filter (Node: Content type = Event)
  - Logical link (equals to)
  - If the item is exposed, users will be able to order the view.

# Steps to create a page view (2)

- Sort criteria: +to add sorting criteria (Content: Date), sort by ascending/descending
- Edit “Basic settings”:
  - Title (for the display)
  - Style (table, list, grid or unformatted) – how to view should look
  - Items to display – how many items should be displayed in the listing
  - Use pager – yes/no – for when there are many items on the list, whether they should be ordered into different pages or not.
- You can see the result on the same page: Live preview
- Save
- View “Page” (on top)
- The item can be added manually into “Primary links” with a path: events

# Hands-On: Creating a listing of events

1. Go to Administer->Site Building->Modules (admin/build/modules) and enable the following modules: Other package (**Advanced Help**), Views package (**Views and Views UI**).
2. Configure the module permissions at Administer->User Management->Permissions (admin/user/permissions). Only admin will be configuring the views module, therefore we enable the modules for them.
3. Administer->Site Building->Views (admin/build/views). Click on Add.
  1. View name: events
  2. View description: a list of events at the XXX organisation
  3. View tag: events
  4. View type: Node.
4. Click next to go to the main view-building interface.

## 5. Fill in the **basic settings** (and click save):

1. Title: Forthcoming events (Public events)
2. Style: *Table*
3. Use pager: yes Full pager
4. Empty text: There are currently no events available.

The indicated settings create a view that shows its information in a table, with a pager to move from one page of results to another. If no events are found, it displays a message to that effect.

## 6. Edit the “Page settings” (down second column)

- Define a path for this page (events)
- Menu: Normal menu entry + set the title “Events”
- Add to “Primary links” from Menu (the view will appear automatically)

## 7. Adding fields: click the + icon within the Fields area to start adding new fields:

- Content: price
- Content: user reference
- Node: post date
- Node: Title



## 9. Add a filter

- + to add a filter (Node: Type) (to filter by content type)
- Configure filter (Is one of ... Events)

## 10. Sort criteria

- + to add sorting criteria (Content: Date)
- Configure sort criteria: dscending or descending
- See the result: Live preview
- Save the page
- View “Page” (on top) to visualise the view
- Go to Administer->Menu->Primary links if you need to order the item in the menu.

# Steps to create a new block view

- Create a new view (add)
- Select “Block” and click Add display
- Add fields
- Sort to show most recent ones
- Refine basic settings
- Adding a block display to custom options (block settings: block admin description: Recent entries)
- Show the block: admin/build/block. Locate block “recent entries”. Place in a region and save.