

Site structuring and navigation in Drupal

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And anyone else who has
something to say

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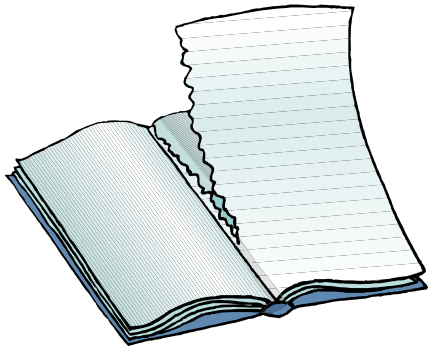
Structure

*Anything composed of **parts**, that are **arranged** together in some way.*



Parts

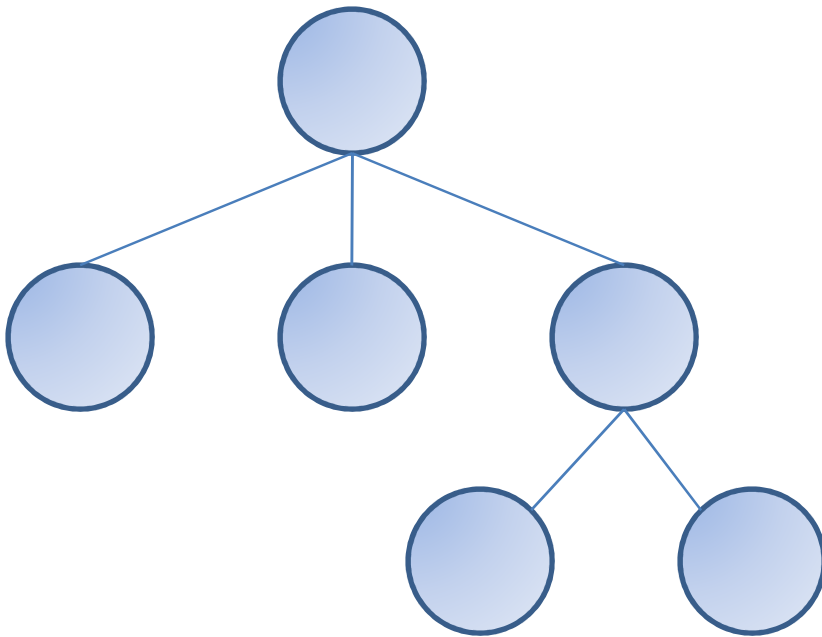
Pages



~~Menu callbacks?~~

Arranged

Hierarchy



- Related pages
- Directory / index
- Tag clouds
- Chronological

Navigation

*Finding one's way on, in,
or across.*

Where am I?

Navigational elements

Menu trees

URLs

Breadcrumbs



Tabs

Tools in core

- **Menu system**
 - the foundation of all page hierarchy in Drupal
- **Theming system**
 - Provides rendering system for common navigational elements
- **Book module**
 - common tool for hierarchical structuring, not built on menu system
- **Taxonomy module**
 - tagging pages, directory browsing, linking and grouping related pages
- **Path module**
 - Potentially allows for custom URLs that match a site's structure; but only a base

Tools in Contrib

- **Taxonomy context**
 - Breadcrumbs and menu trees based on taxonomy term hierarchies
- **Pathauto**
 - Automatic URL generation based on taxonomy / book / menu hierarchies
- **Category**
 - Brings together nodes, taxonomy / book hierarchies, menu trees, and navigational elements
- **Views**
 - Breadcrumbs, menu trees, and tabs based on results of querying the site's content
- **Many more**

Fitting them all together



Drupal's current navigation API

Menu trees

- Generated as blocks by menu module
- Editable through `admin/build/menu`
- Customizable through theming system
- Some modules bypass this, and build their own menu trees in blocks

Breadcrumbs

- Generated automatically, based on menu location
- Location of page is determined at `admin/build/menu`, or is inferred from the page's system path
- `drupal_set_breadcrumb()` and `menu_set_location()` – evil hacks, override user customization

Tabs

- Used for 'local tasks' (up to two levels)
- Users also generally consider primary and secondary links to be tabs
- Local tasks are fully themable, pri / sec links have some issues (e.g. active highlighting)
- Local tasks are inconsistent, not user customizable at all

URLs

- Path module allows any URL to be aliased with anything, which is great
- API is very basic, just saves aliases to DB

We can dream



Drupal's dream navigation API

All pages linked using a
unified relationship API

Every page able to have
its relationship customized

Every page able to have
its content customized

Possible route: *every* page as a node, and
module output embedded within node pages

All navigational elements
consistently reflecting the
same relationships



Live the dream!