

CarrotCakeCMS MVC: Developer's Guide



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CarrotCakeCMS MVC Overview/Installation

Initial Configuration

Either build the solution from source or decompress a binary distribution. These instructions will assume use of the binary distribution. Extract the ZIP archive and place the contents in the location where your website files will live.

Update the web.config section for `<mailSettings>` to reflect the network delivery settings appropriate for your ISP. You can leave the password field blank if you are not required to provide one or if your mail server has whitelisted your web server. This is important for password retrieval purposes. If this is not configured and you forget your password, you will have no way to get a new password sent to you.

Locate the `<CarrotCakeCMS.Web />` section in the root web.config of the provided files (found in the admin project if you are using the source files). Create the ID to identify your site. Run the SQL statement `select NEWID() as id` or you can use the Visual Studio "Create GUID" functionality, either is fine, it is just a matter of what is more convenient. A GUID is just a long hexadecimal string, so you can even edit the string and change some of the values around, just stay with the values A-F and 0-9.

Paste the GUID into the web.config to replace the GUID entry for `SiteID` in `<Config SiteID="" />`

```
<CarrotCakeCMS.Web>
  <Settings>
    <Config SiteID="3BD253EA-0000-3333-BBBB-BB097C2255AA" SiteSkin="Classic" />
  </Settings>
</CarrotCakeCMS.Web>
```

Alternately, remove the entry for `SiteID`, and open the file SiteMapping.config and add entries to map a set of domain names to different GUIDs. This will allow a single webroot to provide different content based on different domain names. This is similar to using different host headers or bindings in IIS for a single webroot has multiple domain names pointed at it. The entry for `SiteSkin` is used to designate the color scheme the admin tools will use. Valid values are: Classic, AmethystOrchid, Bluelzis, FrenchBlue, Mauve, MosaicBlue, Plum, QuetzalGreen, Rust, Sandstone, and SugarAlmond. If not specified, Classic will be used.

Note: if `www.example.com` and `example.com` need to provide the same site, you will have to add entries for both in SiteMapping.config, but they can point at the same GUID entry.

Configure the database

Go to your database server and create a new database, visit your hosting provider's database control panel, or ask your hosting provider to create a database. This should be SQL 2008 or later. This can be Express, Standard, or any higher tier version. Known and tested configurations are SQL 2008, SQL 2012R2, and SQL 2016.

Update the entry for the database connection in the web.config for `CarrotwareCMSConnectionString` to match your database credentials. See <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/jj653752.aspx> and <http://www.connectionstrings.com/sql-server-2008> for guidelines on editing the connection string.

If your SQL credentials used in the web.config have `dbo/database owner (RECOMENDED)` or higher rights, you can simply go to the logon page of the CMS and the tables will be created/updated for you. Before updating an existing site you should logout of the CMS administration. If you have no pre-existing users in the database, you will be prompted to create a new administrator. You can create whatever username/password you wish.

If you wish to manually deploy updates, or do not have sufficient rights from the credentials contained within the web.config execute the scripts found within the project **CMSDBUpdater** in the source code repository. The scripts provided were generated from SQL 2008 Express, they should also work on Standard 2008 or Standard 2008 R2 etc. and

later editions. They may also work on SQL 2005, but have not been tested. Application authentication is provided by Microsoft Owin Security / ASP.NET Identity framework.

- **CREATE01.sql** -- will create the application tables. Run this first. It also includes the security provider schema and creates the security roles. You can just run this script and then go to the CMS logon page and create a new user.
- **MIGRATE01.sql** -- migrate data from the Web Forms edition, this is one way only, so make a backup of the database (or use a restored copy) in case you wish to return to the older version of the CMS.

Some users may experience the error "System.Data.SqlClient.SqlException: Invalid object name 'information_schema.columns'" when initially running the CMS. This is a result of SQL Server being configured for Case Sensitivity rather than Case Insensitivity. CarrotCake requires case insensitivity as not all queries will always match the database's capitalization. See also <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175835.aspx>

To check if this is your issue, run this SQL:

```
SELECT name, collation_name
FROM sys.databases
WHERE name = 'CarrotCMS1' -- your database name here
```

If you see something like `_CS_` in the output (ex: `SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CS_AS`) you are running with case sensitivity. Your culture settings may vary.

To update the case sensitivity, run this SQL (change the CS to CI in the earlier returned culture):

```
ALTER DATABASE CarrotCMS1 -- your database name here
COLLATE SQL_Latin1_General_CP1_CI_AS
```

This may require elevated permissions, or at least DB Owner rights.

Configure the web server (IIS)

Go to your web server and create a new website, visit your hosting provider's control panel, or ask your hosting provider to create a new site. This new site should be on a Windows server (or workstation) that has the .NET framework 4.5 installed on it. The website should be configured within an app pool that is using the .NET framework version 4.0 but only shared amongst other .NET 4.5 applications. In general, this will require either Windows Server 2008 or Windows 7, or later.

These are some more detailed websites on general IIS configuration:

- <http://www.iisunderground.com/add-a-new-website-iis-7-5/>
- <http://www.iis.net/learn/manage/creating-websites>
- <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/323972>
- <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/308163>

Point the website's root folder at the location you extracted the files into. The folder that contains the `web.config` and `\bin\` directory is the root level of the website files.

This application must be the root level application in the website instance in which it runs. It cannot be run as a sub folder application at a deeper level within another website.

Run the website.

Initial Site Configuration

If, for security purposes, you want to use a different admin folder name than the default, you can, for example replace it with, say `"/management/"` as the new admin directory. You will need to place an entry in the `<CarrotCakeCMS.Web>` section in the `web.config`. This property should be blank unless being used for an override.

```
<CarrotCakeCMS.Web>
  <Settings>
    <Config SiteID="3BD253EA-0000-3333-BBBB-BB097C2255AA" AdminFolderPath="/management/" />
  </Settings>
</CarrotCakeCMS.Web>
```

Upload the files to your hosting account once you have finished updating your `web.config`. This CMS should be at the root level and not within a virtual folder of an existing website (though other code can co-exist with the CMS). This is an ASP.Net 4.5 web application so make sure that your IIS configuration is set up for this version of the framework. Visit your site, you will be greeted with an Under Construction page (if you have the correct configuration) and there is no content currently deployed, or if there are pending database updates (such as when coming from when an earlier version).

Initial Logon

Follow the management link or go directly to `<mysiteurl>/c3-admin/` (or `/management/` if using the admin override path from the earlier example) and logon using any other account you might have added to the system that is a member of the "CarrotCMS Administrators" or "CarrotCMS Editors" role.

If there are no users in the system, you will be prompted to create the first administrative user.

Editors may manage content, but only administrators may manage/create user accounts. "CarrotCMS Editors" can only access a site that an administrator has previously associated them with. "CarrotCMS Administrators" can access all sites which share the same database.

Upon logon you will be taken to the site profile. You must fill in the basic information. You will need to save this data before proceeding to add content pages. If you are going to use RSS feeds or Canonical link headers, you must enter the Site URL (such as `http://www.example.com`) for your primary domain name if you have multiple domain names pointed at the same site content.

Proceed to the admin menu "pages > index > add page" and fill in the information about your first page. The first page you create will be marked as the root/homepage (if you didn't check the box when performing initial site creation). You can change this by visiting the sitemap and re-ordering the pages and saving the new order.

Building out several pages and then visiting the "pages > sitemap" menu, sorting and saving will automatically number the topmost item as the homepage. You can relocate pages to be subpages of others both in the sitemap editor and by visiting the page and selecting the parent page(s) for the given page.

When you enter a new page's title, the page header and navigation text and file name will be auto generated based on the page title. You are free to go and edit the values yielded. The full filename path must be unique across a single site. Validation will happen once you leave the text box. Filenames should not include any file extensions, nor should they include a "." (period). Some characters will be escaped once you save to reduce browser incompatibilities - such as spaces being interpreted differently across different browsers ex space being either '+' or '%20'. Any invalid characters will be converted to a "-" (dash) upon save. You will be warned of duplicate file names and be unable to save until resolved.

Every content page and blog post must have a template assigned to it. The template defined in `~/Views/CmsContent/PlainPage/PlainPageView.cshtml` will be used if your template file does not exist. When pages or posts are created and there is a large number of other items of the same type (page or post) sharing the same template, the most frequently used template of the working type will be preselected for new items.

Blog posts are created in much the same fashion as a content page. Blog posts support two extra pieces of meta data: Categories and Tags, but do not support sub post/parent post concepts, while content pages can be created using a parent/top/child page hierarchy. You should designate a page as the site index / blog index and apply a template with the `PagedDataSummary` component to expose an index of your blog posts (if using the blog or search features).

Incorporate customization

The goal of CarrotCake CMS is to be as simple as possible (a piece of cake) to integrate your custom code: be they contact forms, registration forms, custom data presentation etc. You can use as much or as little of the CarrotCake framework as you want. CarrotCake believes it should be a piece of cake to incorporate your code and should not force your design in a way that does not best suit your needs.

No HTML/CSS file splitting is needed to make your own page design. Take any intact HTML/CSS design template and include requisite ASP.Net components such as the main base class (`@inherits CmsWebViewPage`) as well as adding content components. You can take the page, top to bottom, as a complete picture rather than splitting up headers, footers, and page bodies into separate files. You can also leverage the MVC Razor Layout concept to share common elements across several templates.

Custom components such as widgets for the front end (the publicly viewed portion of the site) lend themselves far better to be ignorant of the CMS APIs/Interfaces, and in some cases, simply creating the configuration entry that identifies the file location is sufficient for incorporation of your front-end widget modules.

At the simplest level: take a partial view, place the CSHTML file(s) somewhere in the site's folder structure and all required assemblies for the control in the site `/bin/` directory, create a grouping of controls in a subfolder of `~/Views` with a `Public.config`, open a page in advanced edit, and drop the widget on a page in a predetermined placeholder.

The interfaces/base classes for widgets and admin widgets are almost always required. They provide the required registration that MVC needs for routing so that views in the admin area and partial views for widgets can operate.

Build your own Template

To add your own templates, study the `~/Views/CmsContent/PlainPage/PlainPageView.cshtml` and/or the Citrus Island files `~/Views/Templates/citrus-island/*.cshtml`. Take any HTML+CSS template and begin swapping out html content with server components like top menu, latest updates, category/tag lists, and content areas for the server components as found in the plain template.

When creating any template or template sub component, place the code `@inherits CmsWebViewPage` as the first line of the View or Layout+View template file. This exposes the page data, site data, and numerous related navigation lists (parent, child, sibling etc.) to the view file so that it can be incorporated in the design.

When you are using a layout view page, it will usually have a null layout, and may use some common Viewbag properties:

```
@{
    Layout = null;

    ViewBag.Title = CmsPage.ThePage.TitleBar;
    ViewBag.SiteName = CmsPage.TheSite.SiteName;
}
```

The view that is using your layout will point at the layout using a relative path (your filename may be different):

```
@{
    Layout = "_mainlayout.cshtml";
}
```

When using a layout view, insert the `@RenderSection` method calls as needed in your views and place the corresponding `@section` blocks in the child views as needed.

Once the template file has been set to inherit `CmsWebViewPage` you can begin fleshing out the CMS components.

Note: If using the main layout + child view template model, some of these steps will apply to the layout view and some to the child view.

In the page head block, you should place the `@CarrotCakeHtml.MetaTags()` as early as possible, a script include for jquery, jquery ui, and unobtrusive ajax (or use the `jquerybasic` helper). The component `jquerybasic` provides the ability to only deliver the javascript and the ability to omit the css such that you can generate a theme and use your own color scheme. Place the property `@CmsPage.Titlebar` in the `<title />` tag. Place a call to `@CarrotCakeHtml.IncludeHead()` as the very last thing before the head tag closes, and put in a call to `@CarrotCakeHtml.IncludeFooter()` as the very last thing before the body tag closes. The inclusion of jQuery UI, and the header/footer include methods are not optional as the CMS requires jQuery UI when in advanced edit, as well as the ability to inject edit components to support editing (the edit menu, supporting scripts and css). The meta tag function provides the injection of the page's keyword and description tags on the rendered html, as well as providing the robot nocrawl should the block search engine checkbox be selected.

- Content areas are designated by the `@CarrotCakeHtml.RenderBody(CarrotCakeHtml.TextFieldZone.TextCenter)` method call, `TextRight` and `TextLeft` can also be specified. You may have one or all or none of the three content blocks in your template.
- The page heading should be taken from the `@CmsPage.Heading` property.
- Widget areas are designated by the `@CarrotCakeHtml.RenderWidget("phCenterBottom")` or `@CarrotCakeHtml.RenderWidget(CarrotCakeHtml.CommonWidgetZone.phCenterTop)` method. The names for these containers are passed in as a string or enum, "phCenterBottom" is just an example value, and must remain unique (not repeated) within the same template. If you don't use the same name for the same general location in every template in your site, your content may not appear when you change templates.
- It is recommended to place the `jquerybasic` server component (`@(new jquerybasic() { SelectedSkin = jquerybasic.jQueryTheme.Silver })`) as one of the first things in the page head tag so that editing in the advanced mode is least likely to have issues. You can specify jQuery versions (ex. `JQVersion = "1.9"` or `JQVersion = "1.11"`), versions 1.7 through 1.11 are available. You can disable the skin stylesheets (ex. `SelectedSkin = jquerybasic.jQueryTheme.NotUsed`) if you have generated your own theme from the jQuery UI website or do not need the jQuery UI themes that are embedded. There are several color schemes included so you can see if one of the out of the box ones works for you. Including jQuery UI in your template is not optional because of the advanced edit controls, though you may reference a CDN rather than the embedded component, or even download a full jQuery UI theme and include the JS files from that source. Note that Microsoft jQuery Unobtrusive Ajax is also included in this component and therefore should be manually included if not using the `jquerybasic` component.

By default, the system targets a three column layout, thus left, right, & center content areas are baked in, as are a top & bottom left, right, & center widget zones are assumed and are the suggested areas in example templates. Additional widget zones can also be created, but are not required. You should make your widget zone names consistent across your templates so that if you change templates you will still be able to see your widgets.

It is recommended that you hardcode the fully qualified paths to your template's asset folder within a template file. Templates are generally going to live within the ~/Views/ folder path and thus any content found there cannot be directly served to the web. Alternately, within the suggested ~/Assets/ folder you can create sub folders to contain all images, css, js etc. that your template depends on, pairing up on folder names will help organize resources. Ex . the folder ~/Assets/Carrot/ would be the assets used by the templates found in ~/Views/Templates/Carrot/ .

The CMS Skins/ Themes/ Templates can be placed in sub folders (one set per folder) in the folder named ~/Views/Templates/ . This is the default location and it can be overridden by a web.config entry (`<OverrideConfigFile TemplatePath = "~/Views/Templates/" />`). Any first level sub folder of this which has a Skin.config file can be picked up on demand and can be moved around (such as renaming the folder) and redetected, thus streamlining the upload process of the skin. Simply include a Skin.config file that enumerates the view files in the design set minus any folder information above the skin's folder level. A layout page should never be the entry in your skin file, only the resulting view files.

Example template directory:

```
~/Views/Templates/Meadow/  
  _layout.cshtml  
  Meadow1.cshtml  
  Meadow2.cshtml  
  Skin.config
```

Example asset directory:

```
~/Assets/Meadow/  
  /images/ <subfolder for images in the design set>  
  style.css
```

Skin.config contents:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>  
<tbl>  
  <pagenames>  
    <templatefile>Meadow1.cshtml</templatefile>  
    <filedesc>Meadow 1</filedesc>  
  </pagenames>  
  <pagenames>  
    <templatefile>Meadow2.cshtml</templatefile>  
    <filedesc>Meadow 2</filedesc>  
  </pagenames>  
</tbl>
```

Once you have edited your template, place it within the site's template folder. It is generally recommended that your template's assets reside in its own folder with all supporting CSS & Images contained therein. Images & CSS paths should use the absolute path so that no matter where in the site you are, the paths will resolve on the rendered page and not result in broken images or missing stylesheets.

Make sure that your file name and title are XML escaped (don't use a raw ampersand the & character - use & for example) Stick to alpha numeric if you are worried about non-safe characters or otherwise are unsure.

Using the Navigation Server Components

There is one two-level navigation server component `TwoLevelNavigation`. There are additional list components for listing top-most pages, child/sub pages, and sibling pages, but as they are simple lists with only a few CSS directives, they can be used intuitively. There are also extension lists available (`CmsPage.ChildNav`, `CmsPage.SiblingNav`, `CmsPage.GetSiteUpdates(10)` etc.) through the exposed properties when inheriting the CMS base page view

Within a template's view code such as the following can be used to display related data.

```
@if (CmsPage.ChildNav.Any()) {
    <h1>Child Pages</h1>
    <ul class="sidemenu">
        @foreach (var itm in CmsPage.ChildNav) {
            <li class="child-nav"><a href="@itm.FileName">@itm.NavigationText</a></li>
        }
    </ul>
}

@{
    var lstUpd = CmsPage.GetSiteUpdates(10);
    if (lstUpd.Any()) {
        <h1>Recent Updates</h1>
        <ul class="sidemenu">
            @foreach (var itm in lstUpd) {
                <li class="child-nav">
                    <a href="@itm.FileName">
                        @itm.NavigationText
                        @String.Format(" ({0:d})", itm.GoLiveDate)
                    </a>
                </li>
            }
        </ul>
    }
}

<ul class="nav">
    @foreach (var n in CmsPage.TopNav.OrderBy(x => x.NavOrder)) {
        string cssClassState = CmsPage.NavIsInCurrentTree(n) ? "current" : "not-current";
        <li>
            <a class="@cssClassState" href="@String.Format("{0}", n.FileName)">
                @n.NavigationText
            </a>
        </li>
    }
</ul>

@if (CmsPage.ThePage.ContentType == ContentType.PageType.BlogEntry) {
    var pagecat = CmsPage.GetPageCategories(25);
    var pagetag = CmsPage.GetPageTags(25);

    <div class="meta">
        @foreach (var itm in pagecat) {
            <span class="meta-item">@String.Format("meta-count{0}",
CmsPage.GetRoundedMetaPercentage(itm))><a href="@itm.Uri">@itm.Text</a></span>
        }
    </div>

    <div class="meta">
        @foreach (var itm in pagetag) {
            <span class="meta-item">@String.Format("meta-count{0}",
CmsPage.GetRoundedMetaPercentage(itm))><a href="@itm.Uri">@itm.Text</a></span>
        }
    </div>
}
```


The `TwoLevelNavigation` component will provide a simple UL/LI output with ability to specify colors and font size which generates a simple CSS based dropdown menu. This is a good choice if you need a quick navigation menu. The auto stylesheet generation can be turned off (`AutoStylingDisabled = true`) if you have already designed CSS markup to facilitate your menu. It also has many properties to specific the CSS names for various components like the CSS class for the selected state, sub menu UL CSS class etc. This should give you maximum control of re-styling the menu any way you want to.

```
TwoLevelNavigation nav = new TwoLevelNavigation() {
    AutoStylingDisabled = true,
    ElementId = "nav"
};

TwoLevelNavigation nav = new TwoLevelNavigation() {
    FontSize = new SizeUnit("10px"),
    ForeColor = System.Drawing.ColorTranslator.FromHtml("#FFFFFF"),
    BackColor = System.Drawing.ColorTranslator.FromHtml("#F4845A"),
    ElementId = "nav"
};
```

Regardless of how the `TwoLevelNavigation` object is configured, to output, either place an all encompassing output of `@nav` within the view's body. This will output all associated CSS (if any) and the HTML markup. You can also split up the output of the CSS and HTML portions so as to provide more ideal placement. Place

`@CarrotWeb.RenderTwoPartControlBodyCss(nav)` in the head in the desired ordered location and

`@CarrotWeb.RenderTwoPartControlBody(nav)` in the view's body. If the component is configured to not output CSS, the

`@CarrotWeb.RenderTwoPartControlBodyCss(nav)` extension will serve no useful purpose.

Site Index Page

If you opt to allow site searches or use the blog feature, you will need to designate a page within the site as the Site Index Page/ Blog Index. This is done from the Site Info page (and also the site bulk apply template page) the same place the website identity is configured (site name, slogan, URL etc). All search results and Tag/Category/Date links will direct at this page. In order to show the matching records the `PagedDataSummary` component must be on this page. You can determine the number of pages, turn off the pager, specific the type of data that will load by default. If being targeted by a search result, category, or tag link, it will auto flip to the right result type.

```
var pager = new PagedDataSummary();
pager.ContentType = PagedDataSummary.SummaryContentType.Blog;
pager.PageSize = 10;
pager.IgnoreSitePath = false;
pager.FetchData();
```

Styling and formatting can be applied to present customized appearances when printing out the pager's results, CSS styling tags have been applied so that the active page can be offset from the other pages. The pager supports a querystring pattern for paginating. There is also methodology to provide marking the current page of the result set using the `CarrotWeb.BeginWrappedItem` method.

```

@if (pager != null) {
    foreach (var item in pager.DataSource) {
        var usr = item.BylineUser;

        <div class="post">
            <h2 class="title"><a href="@item.FileName">@item.NavigationText</a></h2>
            <p class="meta">
                <span class="date">@String.Format("{0:MMM d, yyyy}", item.GoLiveDate)</span>
                <span class="posted">Posted by @usr.FullName_FirstLast</span>
            </p>
            <div class="entry">
                <p>@item.PageTextPlainSummary</p>
                <p class="links"><a href="@item.FileName">Read More</a> </p>
            </div>
        </div>
    }

    <div class="pagerfooterlinks">
        @foreach (var i in pager.PageNumbers) {
            using (CarrotWeb.BeginWrappedItem("div", i, pager.PageNumber, new { @class = "pagerlink
selectedwrap" }, new { @class = "pagerlink" })) {
                using (CarrotWeb.BeginWrappedItem("a", i, pager.PageNumber, new { @class =
"selected", @href = pager.GetUrl(i) }, new { @href = pager.GetUrl(i) })) {
                    @String.Format(" {0} ", i)
                }
            }
        }
    </div>
}
}

```

Using the Header Components

Each of these components should go in the page header `<head>` and `</head>` tags.

To provide a hint to search engines as to what your primary domain name is. It will use the Site URL from the site configuration. You can pass a parameter to it to force a redirect if the page that uses the template is viewed by a non-canonical URL.

```
@CarrotCakeHtml.GetSiteCanonicalURL()
```

If you want to publish an RSS feed for the site, put this component in the header. A parameter can be passed in to provide just the page or blog area to the feed.

```
@CarrotCakeHtml.Rss()
```

When the render modes specify a render as a link format, then, they can be placed in the body of the page rather than the page header. The `@CarrotCakeHtml.RssLink` method utilizes an optional parameter, `imagePath`, which will allow you to specify an icon to be shown in the link, if no value is provided, a 16px square RSS icon will be served.

```
@CarrotCakeHtml.RssLink(SiteData.RSSFeedInclude.PageOnly, null, "Page RSS", new { @class = "rssimage" })
@CarrotCakeHtml.RssLink(SiteData.RSSFeedInclude.BlogOnly, null, "Blog RSS", new { @class = "rssimage" })
```

If you are going to do some social media interaction with services that use the OpenGraph data, this control will expose some of the common page data that Open Graph often provides.

```
@CarrotCakeHtml.RenderOpenGraph()
```

Using the SiteMap Provider

Search providers such as Google allow you to provide a sitemap file to give the crawler a hint as to important urls. CarrotCake provides this functionality. Just provide (http|https)://<<domain name>>/sitemap.ashx as the url to your sitemap.

Build your own Widget

There are three main ways to deliver a widget as a controller's `PartialViewResult`, a specified view file with an optional model paired to it, and as a class which implements `IHtmlString`. There is a small bit of ground work to do when going the way of using controller view results, but it's fairly straightforward.

The project CMSInterfaces (or Carrotware.CMS.Interface.dll) should be referenced by any of your custom widgets if you want to them to have basic information injected or have communication to the CMS when being inserted in the page.

If you are only planning on building server components and not MVC views as widgets, you can just create an empty class library and optionally reference the interfaces project/assembly.

Classes for server components can also be utilized, prefixed with CLASS: and the class/assembly noted. Using this method requires implementation of the `System.Web.IHtmlString` interface from the .NET framework. Whatever text/HTML that is to be emitted from the control should be included in the `ToHtmlString()` method.

example configuration string : `CLASS:Carrotware.CMS.UI.Components.TwoLevelNavigation, Carrotware.CMS.UI.Components`

There is also a simple base class `WidgetBase` that you can use with any custom class-based widgets (the ones using `IHtmlString`) component that you opt to use the widget interface with.

If going the full view/controller route, create a new empty MVC (a .NET 4.5 and MVC5) project and reference the project CMSInterfaces (or Carrotware.CMS.Interface.dll), and at your option, the project WebComponents (or Carrotware.Web.UI.Components.dll) project as this contains a number of UI helpers within it.

When a page that uses a controller based widget or component which uses `ToHtmlString()` is initially loaded, the widget interfaces will pass in values as part of drawing the page. On partial postback, components are on their own and are working independently of the framework as far as runtime injection goes. It is recommended that if postbacks are made but values from the initial load are needed, persist them in some fashion such as hidden fields properties of the posted model. There are several variations as examples of this in the widget projects in the CMS solution.

When using MVC views for widgets, some use of specific base classes (or implementation of specific interfaces) are required. Any public facing widget's controller should inherit `BaseDataWidgetController` or `BaseWidgetController` and any admin area's controller from `BaseAdminWidgetController`.

The project's route registration (when using MVC views) should include the namespaces from the assembly as more than one widget may have controllers named Home or Admin etc. This code can be used with little or no modification.

```

public static void RegisterRoutes(RouteCollection routes) {
    routes.IgnoreRoute("{resource}.axd/{*pathInfo}");

    Assembly _assembly = Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly();

    List<string> _namespaces = _assembly.GetTypes().Select(t => t.Namespace)
        .Where(x => !String.IsNullOrEmpty(x))
        .Distinct().ToList();

    routes.MapRoute(
        name: "Default",
        url: "{controller}/{action}/{id}",
        defaults: new { controller = "Home", action = "Index", id = UrlParameter.Optional },
        namespaces: _namespaces.ToArray()
    );
}

```

You can simulate a particular SiteID being passed in to the widgets for testing purposes within a stand-alone project by wiring up the Global.asax similar to the following Application_Start() start function.

```

public class MvcApplication : System.Web.HttpApplication {
    protected void Application_Start() {
        AreaRegistration.RegisterAllAreas();
        RouteConfig.RegisterRoutes(RouteTable.Routes);

        ControllerBuilder.Current.SetControllerFactory(CmsTestControllerFactory.GetFactory());
    }
}

```

This does require use of a web.config <appSettings /> entry to specify the test SiteID value.

```
<add key="TestSiteID" value="3BD253EA-AC65-4EB6-A4E7-BB097C2255A0" />
```

So that one layout can be used in test from the local dev project and in deployment use the CMS provided one, an additional web.config keys can be specified as well as using some constants in the layout cshtml file.

In the web.config <appSettings /> these keys can be inserted, the paths reflect the local project's layout paths

```

<add key="LayoutMain" value="~/Views/Shared/_Layout.cshtml" />
<add key="LayoutPopup" value="~/Views/Shared/_LayoutPop.cshtml" />
<add key="LayoutPopupOpenFunction" value="window.open" />

```

In the layout files, specify which layout is being used:

```

@{
    Layout = Carrotware.CMS.Interface.CarrotLayout.Popup;
}
or
@{
    Layout = Carrotware.CMS.Interface.CarrotLayout.Main;
}

```

If you wish to leverage the popup window in the CMS you can specify the launch using an onclick assigned to the function call.

```
onclick="@CarrotLayout.WritePopupLink(Url.Action("UrlActionNameGoesHere"))"
```

Controller based widgets leverage the Area concept, so your project should include a class that inherits from BaseWidgetAreaReg. No code needs be written, just an empty class that inherits from this base class and placed somewhere within the MVC project's codebase.

```
public class MyWidgetRegistration : BaseWidgetAreaReg {

}
```

The norm with the MVC widgets is to create a partial view (the action method a ':' (colon) and then class a ',' (comma) and the assembly file name, minus the ".dll" extension.

example : ProductSearch:Northwind.Controllers.HomeController, Northwind

You can also leverage the `IWidget.PublicParmValues` property so that the properties that were set using the generic property editor (if enabling widget editing - see `IWidget.EnableEdit`) will also be passed in as a `Dictionary<string, string>`. It is recommended to use the `WidgetBase` (for class library widgets) or `WidgetActionSettingModel` (for controller widgets which are using `IWidgetDataObject.WidgetPayload` and need a base class for the settings object) base classes as some parsing routines are included and should simplify assigning the values that are sent in via the interface. This will provide values that the widget can then convert at its own discretion depending on what pieces the widget developer deigns to be important.

In cases where your control doesn't play well with the edit mode use the property from `IWidget.IsBeingEdited` and when this interface passes in the edit mode, simply hide/disable those features within your component.

If you opt to enable editing of the widget by way of `IWidget.EnableEdit` interface / param combo and want to provide a drop down list or checkbox list, simply tag the property with the widget attribute to map the property to the dictionary list that will provide the values.

For a multi-value property that will be presented as a checkbox list and use a `Dictionary` that will provide the available values. In this example, the property `GalleryIDs` will have the values provided from a `Dictionary` named `lstGalleryIDs`. Note that values saved will be mapped to the property key `[field][#]` (creating a unique key for each entry)- so in this example, key values might look like `GalleryIDs|0`, `GalleryIDs|1`, `GalleryIDs|2`, so keep this in mind when consuming the data. The `Description` attribute is completely optional, but can be used to provide additional information to the end user when editing properties.

```
[Description("Galleries to display")]
[Widget(WidgetAttribute.FieldMode.CheckBoxLayout, "lstGalleryIDs")]
public List<Guid> GalleryIDs { get; set; }
```

For a single-value property that will be presented as a drop down list and use a `Dictionary` that will provide the available values. In this example, the property `GalleryID` will have the values provided from a `Dictionary` named `lstGalleryID`.

```
[Description("Gallery to display")]
[Widget(WidgetAttribute.FieldMode.DropDownList, "lstGalleryID")]
public Guid GalleryID { get; set; }
```

When needing to pass in values to an MVC View/Controller widget, some additional work is needed. All settings and properties will be passed in to the widget from a settings object. The particular class will be specified as an attribute `WidgetActionSettingModel` on the partial view method which identifies the class for the settings object. The controller should either use a base class (ex. `BaseDataWidgetController`) which has included the `IWidgetDataObject.WidgetPayload` property or implement the relevant interfaces which include this property. Either a full Assembly Qualified Name string or a Type parameter can be specified for the `WidgetActionSettingModel`.

```

[HttpGet]
[WidgetActionSettingModel("Carrotware.CMS.Interface.WidgetActionSettingModel, Carrotware.CMS.Interface")]
public PartialViewResult ProductSearch() {
    WidgetActionSettingModel settings = new WidgetActionSettingModel();

    if (this.WidgetPayload is WidgetActionSettingModel) {
        settings = (WidgetActionSettingModel)this.WidgetPayload;
        settings.LoadData();
    }

    ProductSearch model = null;
    model = InitProductSearch(model);

    return PartialView();
}

[WidgetActionSettingModel(typeof(CalendarSimpleSettings))]
public ActionResult CalendarDateInfo(DateTime? calendardate) {
    DateTime theEventDate = calendardate ?? DateTime.Now.Date;

    CalendarSimpleSettings payload = new CalendarSimpleSettings();

    if (this.WidgetPayload is CalendarSimpleSettings) {
        payload = (CalendarSimpleSettings)this.WidgetPayload;
        payload.LoadData();
    }

    DateModel model = new DateModel(theEventDate, payload.SiteID);

    if (String.IsNullOrEmpty(payload.AlternateViewFile)) {
        return PartialView(model);
    } else {
        return PartialView(payload.AlternateViewFile, model);
    }
}

```

If the widget developer has decided to allow alternate views to be provided to the widget and has implemented `IWidgetView.AlternateViewFile` code can be written similar to this. The alternate view value is provided from the widget configuration string.

```

[HttpGet]
[WidgetActionSettingModel("Carrotware.CMS.Interface.WidgetActionSettingModel, Carrotware.CMS.Interface")]
public PartialViewResult ProductSearch() {
    WidgetActionSettingModel settings = new WidgetActionSettingModel();

    if (this.WidgetPayload is WidgetActionSettingModel) {
        settings = (WidgetActionSettingModel)this.WidgetPayload;
        settings.LoadData();
    }

    ProductSearch model = null;
    model = InitProductSearch(model);

    if (String.IsNullOrEmpty(settings.AlternateViewFile)) {
        return PartialView(model);
    } else {
        model.AltViewName = settings.AlternateViewFile;
        return PartialView(settings.AlternateViewFile, model);
    }
}

```

This widget configuration value is similar to the earlier controller action widget and follows the pattern Action : (colon) Class + Assembly as before, but with another : (colon) and the View Name. This can be specified in two ways: just the view name or a partially/fully qualified path including the extension `cshtml` or `vbhtml`. Specifying just the view name expects that the view file resides in the same directory as the original/default view for the corresponding action. The other way provides the ability to place the view in another location.

ex 1: `ProductSearchMulti:Northwind.Controllers.HomeController, Northwind:ProductSearchAlt2Multi`

ex 2: `ProductSearchMulti:Northwind.Controllers.HomeController, Northwind:/Home/ProductSearchAltMulti.cshtml`

```

[HttpGet]
[WidgetActionSettingModel("Carrotware.CMS.Interface.WidgetActionSettingModel, Carrotware.CMS.Interface")]
public PartialViewResult ProductSearch() {
    WidgetActionSettingModel settings = new WidgetActionSettingModel();

    if (this.WidgetPayload is WidgetActionSettingModel) {
        settings = (WidgetActionSettingModel)this.WidgetPayload;
        settings.LoadData();
    }

    ProductSearch model = null;
    model = InitProductSearch(model);

    if (String.IsNullOrEmpty(settings.AlternateViewFile)) {
        return PartialView(model);
    } else {
        model.AltViewName = settings.AlternateViewFile;
        return PartialView(settings.AlternateViewFile, model);
    }
}

```

The settings object used with the MVC controller is configured in the same way as one of the class library based widgets. This object is loaded up with data which the particular partial view can pick off values from. Because the controller is using the datatype of `Object` for the settings property `WidgetPayload` will need to be cast to whatever specific datatype was designated by the action. The use of the `Object` is deliberate as it can allow multiple actions in the same controller to each have data injected at run time rather than forcing only one action per controller.

For the class or settings object, all attributes that are desired to be shown in the generic property editor will need to have the `[Widget]` attribute set otherwise that property won't be shown in the generic property editor.

```

[Description("Display gallery heading")]
[Widget]
public bool ShowHeading { get; set; }

```

Two other methods of using a view as a widget involve either specifying a razor view file (cshtml or vbhtml) with or without a model being passed. These will be "|" (pipe) delimited if providing a model class. The model class, if used, should be created and implemented similarly to that of an class being used in the context of one of the controller resulting widgets. If passing just a view file, the view should not expect a model to be passed, if a model is being passed, the model type should match what the view is expecting.

ex 1: Home/Hello.cshtml

ex 2: Home/MultiProdList.cshtml|Northwind.MultiOptions, Northwind

Once you have built your widget, add it to the `Public.config` file within the widget's view folder. Entries must be well-formed XML. All widgets will live within the `~/Views/` path within a subdirectory named according to the assembly file which corresponds to the controller's namespace. As with Skins, do not include the path for folder configured widgets except as relative to the location of the config file. If the view is in the Home controller's view folder listing "Home/Index.cshtml" is valid, or simply referencing the action and assembly information, depending on the type of widget being created.

If building view-only widgets, the widget's folder name is not enforced the way it would be if there was an assembly involved. If you wish, you can even define logic/models and place them in the `App_Code` folder and pass these in. Note that these classes should have a namespace for scope not just a class name. These classes will only have a class name and no assembly path passed in as the model class string ex

`<filepath>FeedTest.cshtml|Carrotware.CMS.Mvc.UI.App_Code.FeedDataList</filepath>`. If a model is being defined for a view in this fashion, it can still use any of the widget interfaces.

Ex. the widget's project is set up to use `CarrotCake.CMS.Plugins.PhotoGallery` as the assembly name. So the widget's views should live within `~/Views/CarrotCake.CMS.Plugins.PhotoGallery/` with copies of the usual `~/Views/<<Controller`

Name>> from the widget's project. The Public.config and Admin.config files for the widget will live in the widget's root directory.

```
<ctrlfile>
  <filepath>widget path or class name</filepath>
  <ctrldesc>title to show in toolbar</ctrldesc>
</ctrlfile>
```

To add your widget to a page, login to the management backend. Once logged in, view the page you want to insert the component into. You should see some light green boxes in the margins and in the footer. Follow the advanced edit link when you are going to load your widgets into the site.

You will get a floating toolbar which lists your widgets. You can drag and drop these into any of the widget placeholders. Each placeholder's name will appear in a dark green bar, each of your content areas will appear in a light green bar.

Individual widget toolbars can be dragged & dropped to reorder within a container or from one container to another. Widgets that expose custom edit links or just provide info that they are editable will expose edit links. If you drop the widget in one container and need it to be placed elsewhere, you can simply drag it from one container into another.

The floating toolbar also provides the ability to modify some of the core page information, like navigation link caption, page heading, and page title attributes.

Changes will be in memory (serialized to the database) until the save button from the toolbar is clicked. If you abandon your edit session for more than 2 hours, your changes will be lost. Each time you add/remove or edit a widget, the clock will get reset.

When a page is being edited, there is a "heartbeat" which will update your claim on the page so as to block other users from editing the page and overwriting your changes. If you exit the edit mode of a page or otherwise lose connection with the website more than 2 minutes, another user may then edit the page.

If your widget does not appear in the toolbar, you can visit the management homepage (the page which has the site identity information) and click the "Refresh Configs" button.

Once your widget has an entry in a Public.config in a sub folder of ~/Views/, copy the view file(s) to the pre-determined location, and copy its DLL to the site's \bin\ folder.

Build your own Admin Module

The project CMSInterfaces should be referenced by any of your custom admin module controllers. Modules that will implement the interfaces need only reference the Carrotware.CMS.Interface.dll assembly.

There is also a base class `BaseAdminWidgetController` that you can use with any admin controller which will help with interaction and registration of the controller.

Admin views leverage the Area concept, so your project should include a class that inherits from `BaseWidgetAreaReg`. No code needs be written, just an empty class that inherits from this base class. If this is the admin area for a public facing widget, this has possibly been done already.

```
public class MyWidgetRegistration : BaseWidgetAreaReg {

}
```

Once you have built your module, add it to the Admin.config file for the widget's main folder. Again, entries must be well-formed XML. As with Skins, do not include the path for folder configured widgets.

Ex. the widget's admin project is set up to use `CarrotCake.CMS.Plugins.PhotoGallery` as the assembly name. So the admin widget's views should live within `~/Views/CarrotCake.CMS.Plugins.PhotoGallery/` with copies of the usual `~/Views/<<Controller Name>>` from the widget's project. The Public.config and Admin.config files for the widget will live in the widget's root directory.

The XML format has two tiers, one tier is the top level menu to group your widgets according to functionality. You can have multiple views within a family of modules. The `<area>` node corresponds to the assembly name/directory the admin widget is hosted in. This value should be the same for all widgets within a widget set.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<tbls>

  <pluginlist>
    <area>Northwind</area>
    <caption>Northwind Sampler</caption>
  </pluginlist>

  <plugincontrols>
    <area>Northwind</area>
    <menuorder>1</menuorder>
    <action>Products</action>
    <controller>Admin</controller>
    <pluginlabel>Product List</pluginlabel>
    <visible>true</visible>
  </plugincontrols>

  <plugincontrols>
    <area>Northwind</area>
    <menuorder>2</menuorder>
    <action>CreateProduct</action>
    <controller>Admin</controller>
    <pluginlabel>Add Product</pluginlabel>
    <visible>true</visible>
  </plugincontrols>

</tbls>
```

Once the entries for your controls have been saved to the config file, you can click the modules menu and a list of admin modules will appear. Expanding the menu will show the one or more components that make up a module.

While you do not have to implement any of the admin interfaces, you should so that the admin area is properly registered.

If your module does not appear in the list on the module page, you can visit the site info page (the page which has the site identity information) and click the "Refresh Configs" button.

Once your module has an entry in the Admin.config in a sub folder of `~/Views/`, copy the razor views (cshtml or vbhtml) files to the pre-determined location, and copy its DLL to the sites `\bin\` folder.

Build your own Text Widget

Sometimes it is necessary to escape or otherwise massage text content found in the content body of a page. To this end, there is an interface (`ITextBodyUpdate`) and a configuration file (by default `TextContentProcessors.config`). See the example class `Carrotware.CMS.UI.Components.EmailEscapeInBody` which escapes email addresses into their ASCII codes.

Create a class which implements the interface `ITextBodyUpdate`

Add an entry into the config file specifying the class and assembly location as in the example implementation

Build your DLL class and copy to the website \bin\ directory

Visit the text widget menu and turn on/off the areas you want to have the content evaluated

Using a Content Snippet

Sometimes you have some content that is fairly static and/or used in many places and would otherwise include in a hard coded fashion in your template. Rather than hard coding the content, you can use the content snippet component to create a sluggable piece of content that will be looked up at run time. This content is versioned and can either be hard coded in a content template file or dragged and dropped as a widget into individual page by page basis. To include in a template/razor view, place markup similar to the below. The `SnippetSlug = "first-snippet"` represents the corresponding block of content and will be taken from the corresponding snippet, this value is just an example.

```
@(new ContentSnippetText { SnippetSlug = "first-snippet" })
```

The markup for the snippet's tag may be placed in any view you have been using as part of a template family.

The snippet's slug is required to be unique (the admin UI will validate that this is so) but the name is not so constrained and is used as a hint only when trying to determine which snippet to select. They can be turned on or off, deleted, or time activated/deactivated.

Sitemap

The website can serve an XML sitemap <website>/sitemap.ashx ex: <http://www.carrotware.com/sitemap.ashx>

Titlebar Placeholders

Under Site > Site Info there is a field labeled "Site Titlebar Pattern". This can dynamically populate the page title in the browser titlebar.

[[CARROT_SITENAME]] – Site Name

[[CARROT_SITE_NAME]] – Site Name (alternate format)

[[CARROT_SITE_SLOGAN]] – Site Slogan

[[CARROT_PAGE_TITLEBAR]] – Webpage Title

[[CARROT_PAGE_PAGEHEAD]] – Webpage Heading

[[CARROT_PAGE_NAVMENUTEXT]] – Webpage Navigation Link Text

[[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_GOLIVE]] – Webpage Go Live Date, default format

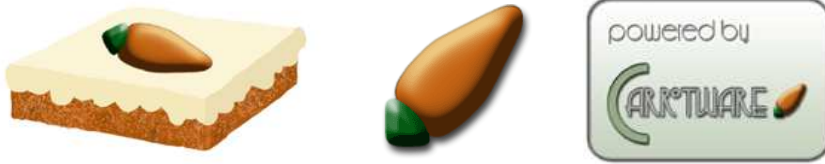
[[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_EDIT]] – Webpage Last Edited Date, default format

[[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_GOLIVE:X]] – Webpage Go Live Date, X is a string that would be appropriate for String.Format of a date/time object: ex [[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_GOLIVE:MMMM d, yyyy]]

[[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_EDIT:X]] – Webpage Last Edited Date, X is a string that would be appropriate for String.Format of a date/time object: ex [[CARROT_PAGE_DATE_EDIT:MMMM d, yyyy]]

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Components Utilized

Microsoft .NET framework version 4.5, Microsoft MVC 5, Razor 3, Web Pages 3, Microsoft jQuery Unobtrusive Ajax, Microsoft Owin, AspNet Identity, AspNet Web Optimization, Web Infrastructure, and Entity Framework 6

<http://www.asp.net/mvc/mvc5>

<http://www.asp.net/identity>

<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/data/ef>

Microsoft software license for the Microsoft .NET library:

http://www.microsoft.com/web/webpi/eula/net_library_eula_enu.htm

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Apache 2.0 license: <http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>

<https://github.com/ASP-NET-MVC/aspnetwebstack/blob/master/License.txt>

<https://aspnetwebstack.codeplex.com/license>

See also framework source:

<https://aspnetwebstack.codeplex.com/>

<https://github.com/ASP-NET-MVC/aspnetwebstack>

jQuery JavaScript Library

<http://jquery.com/>

Copyright 2011, John Resig

Dual licensed under the MIT or GPL Version 2 licenses.

<http://jquery.org/license>

Includes Sizzle.js
<http://sizzlejs.com/>
Copyright 2011, The Dojo Foundation
Released under the MIT, BSD, and GPL Licenses.

jQuery UI

<http://jqueryui.com/>

Copyright 2011 (<http://jqueryui.com/about>)
Dual licensed under the MIT or GPL Version 2 licenses.
<http://jquery.org/license>

<http://docs.jquery.com/UI>

Chosen

<http://harvesthq.github.io/chosen/>

Chosen, a Select Box Enhancer for jQuery and Prototype
by Patrick Filler for Harvest, <http://getharvest.com>
MIT License, <https://github.com/harvesthq/chosen/blob/master/LICENSE.md>

iCheck

Damir Sultanov, <http://fronteed.com/iCheck/>
iCheck plugin is released under the MIT License. Feel free to use it in personal and commercial projects.

jQuery Upload File Plugin

Copyright (c) 2013 Ravishanker Kusuma
<http://hayageek.com/>
MIT License, <https://github.com/hayageek/jquery-upload-file/blob/master/MIT-License.txt>

jQuery UI Nested Sortable - jQuery Plugin

Copyright (c) 2010-2012 Manuele J Sarfatti
<https://github.com/ilikenwf/nestedSortable>
Licensed under the MIT License

LinqToSqlExtensions

<https://terryaney.wordpress.com/2008/04/14/batch-updates-and-deletes-with-linq-to-sql/>
Copyright 2008, 2015 Terry Aney
Licensed under the MIT License <https://bitbucket.org/terryaney/linqtosqlextensions/>

Silk Icon Set

Mark James, <http://www.famfamfam.com/lab/icons/silk/>
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 License.
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/>

Json.NET

<http://www.newtonsoft.com/json>
MIT License (MIT), Copyright (c) 2007 James Newton-King
<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/JamesNK/Newtonsoft.Json/master/LICENSE.md>

Antlr

<https://github.com/antlr/antlrcs>

BSD License (3-clause), Copyright (c) 2011 Terence Parr

Conversion to C#: Copyright (c) 2011 Sam Harwell, Pixel Mine, Inc.

<http://www.antlr3.org/license.html>

OWIN

<https://github.com/owin-contrib/owin-hosting>

OWIN hosting components

Copyright 2012 Louis DeJardin

Copyright 2012 Chris Ross

Apache 2 <https://github.com/owin-contrib/owin-hosting/blob/master/LICENSE.txt>

Preloaders.net

AJAX Spinners. All animated GIF and APNG images are completely free to use in all projects (web and desktop applications, freeware and commercial projects).

<http://preloaders.net/>

ajaxload.info

Ajaxload - Ajax loading gif generator. Generated gifs are totally free for use.

<http://ajaxload.info/>

normalize.css

<https://github.com/necolas/normalize.css>

MIT License, Copyright (c) Nicolas Gallagher and Jonathan Neal

Base64 encode / decode

<https://github.com/client9/stringencoders/tree/master/javascript>

Copyright (c) 2010 Nick Galbreath

MIT License <https://github.com/client9/stringencoders/blob/master/javascript/base64.js>

Tooltipster

<http://iamceege.github.io/tooltipster/>

The MIT License (MIT) Copyright (c) 2015 Caleb Jacob

<https://github.com/iamceege/tooltipster>

jQuery MiniColors: A tiny color picker built on jQuery

Licensed under the MIT license - Developed by Cory LaViska for A Beautiful Site, LLC

<https://github.com/claviska/jquery-minicolors>

jQuery blockUI - jQuery Plugin

Examples at: <http://malsup.com/jquery/block/>

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<http://opensource.org/licenses/MIT>

<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>

jQuery Form Plugin

Copyright (c) 2014 M. Alsup, <http://malsup.com/jquery/form/>

Dual licensed under the MIT and GPL licenses. <https://github.com/malsup/form#copyright-and-license>

SimpleModal - jQuery Plugin

<http://www.ericmmartin.com/projects/simplemodal/>

Copyright (c) 2010 Eric Martin

Dual licensed under the MIT and GPL licenses

jQuery UI Timepicker (By François Gélinas)

This is a jQuery UI time picker plugin build to match with other official jQuery UI widgets.

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<http://fgelinas.com/code/timepicker/>

TinyMCE

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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