



Navigation within the Ensemble CMS

Presented: October 30, 2009

Objectives

- Navigation's importance
- How navigation works in Ensemble
- Exercises
- Gotchas

Navigation's importance

- “Navigation is the uncelebrated workhorse of web design, but it deserves a little more attention than it usually gets.”

-- “Where Am I?” by Derek Powazek, A List Apart, Aug. 8, 2006

- Good navigation should show:
 - Where the user is
 - Where the user can go
 - Where the user has been

Architecture and navigation

- How content is organized often determines site navigation
- Can organize a site around:
 - Topics
 - Tasks
 - Distinct sections of your site
- Navigation should be consistent
- A good content plan will lead to good navigation

Navigation in Ensemble

The screenshot shows the Virginia Tech University Relations website. The header features the Virginia Tech logo and tagline 'Invent the Future', a 'University Relations' navigation box, and search options for 'People' and 'Pages'. A 'QUICKLINKS' menu is on the left, listing various services. The main content area includes a banner image of microphones, a 'University Relations' title, and several text blocks: 'The Office of University Relations...', 'For University Communicators', 'For the Media', 'Get the latest', and 'Video: Virginia Tech - Invent the Future'. A 'Tech the Future' logo is in the bottom right.

Header navigation

Menu navigation – Nav Base

Site images

- Secondary
- Tertiary

5

Navigation in Ensemble

The screenshot displays the Virginia Tech Ensemble CMS interface. At the top, the Virginia Tech logo and 'University Relations' are visible. A search bar and navigation links for 'People' and 'Pages' are also present. A sidebar on the left contains a 'QUICKLINKS' menu with items like 'Ensemble CMS', 'Benefits', 'Migration Guide', 'User Manual', 'Publishing Schedules', 'Full Site Publishing', 'Incremental Site Publishing', 'User Group', and 'Sample Content'. The main content area features a header for 'Incremental Site Publishing' and a table with two columns: 'Schedule' and 'Site'. The table lists various daily publishing times and their corresponding website URLs. To the right of the table, there is a section titled 'Incremental Site Editions' with a brief explanation and a list of site image types: 'Secondary' and 'Tertiary'. The Virginia Tech logo and 'Invent the Future' tagline are at the bottom right.

Header navigation

Menu navigation – Nav Branch for inside pages

Schedule	Site
Daily at 07:00 AM and 01:00 PM	www.vt.edu
Daily at 07:01 AM and 01:01 PM	www.remembrance.vt.edu
Daily at 07:02 AM and 01:02 PM	www.unirel.vt.edu
Daily at 07:03 AM and 01:03 PM	www.ensemble.cms.vt.edu
Daily at 07:04 AM and 01:04 PM	www.eng.vt.edu
Daily at 07:05 AM and 01:05 PM	www.artsinitiative.vt.edu
Daily at 07:06 AM and 01:06 PM	www.universityawards.vt.edu
Daily at 07:07 AM and 01:07 PM	www.president.vt.edu
Daily at 07:08 AM and 01:08 PM	www.bov.vt.edu
Daily at 07:09 AM and 01:09 PM	www.is.vt.edu
Daily at 07:10 AM and 01:10 PM	www.policies.vt.edu
Daily at 07:11 AM and 01:11 PM	www.governance.vt.edu
Daily at 07:12 AM and 01:12 PM	www.oei.vt.edu
Daily at 07:13 AM and 01:13 PM	www.science.vt.edu

Incremental Site Editions

An "incremental publish" of a site only effects those pages that have updated since the last publishing run.

- Secondary
- Tertiary

Site images

6

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Invent the Future

Navigation in Ensemble

- Header
 - The title or series of links at the top of the page
- Footer
 - The horizontal row of links that appear at the bottom of the page
- NavBase
 - The “trunk” of the navigation tree. The global navigation for your site. ***Each site has only one NavBase***
- NavBranch
 - Links that are included in the NavBase. A NavBranch may have several NavBranches of its own.

Navigation – Nav Base

- Each site should have only **one** Nav Base
- Nav Base can determine secondary template and tertiary template images, along with the site index page
- It's possible to use just the Nav Base for navigation on your site

Sub-menu navigation

- For sites with multiple folders that contain additional directories, create a Nav Branch for sub-menu navigation
- In Active Table Assembly editor:
 - Assign a landing page for the directory;
 - Link additional pages in the submenu slot
- Attach Nav Branch to Nav Submenu slot in Nav Base

Let's login

- Visit: <https://ensemble.vt.edu/>
- Login with PID/password
- Choose CMS_Sandbox community
- Navigate to training-fall09/oct30-navigation

Exercise

- Visit filebox site
 - Download either:
 - navigation1_785.jpg
 - navigation2_785.jpg
 - Create non-standard image content type in your folder
- In your folder, create:
 - A general content item called “index” with your initials
 - Choose “Standard Secondary” template
 - Add a few lines of content
 - Save. Choose file. Right-click >> Preview >> Full page

Exercise (cont'd.)

- In the same folder, create a Nav Base
 - Choose New Item >> Nav Base
 - Filename: navBase-Your Initials
 - Page title should be name of the site (Last name CMS Training)
 - Save >> Close

Active Table Assembly Editor

- Very important in navigation. Slots allow you to:
 - Assign landing (index) page
 - Choose template images
 - Place header and footer files and choose the order for left-rail navigation.
 - Slots are similar for a NavBase and NavBranch
- Every NavBase or NavBranch must have a Nav Landing Page

Slots exercise

- Choose your NavBase file, right-click >> Edit
- Click “Edit All” in Related Content field
- Click:
 - NavLandingPage. Insert your index page
 - Nav Secondary Image. Insert your Image – Non Standard content type
- Save. Preview content item

Making a header

- Choose New Item >> Brief
- Filename: --navheader--
 - The name and dashes trigger certain behavior when used
- Brief title should be last name CMS Training
- Add last name to keywords
- Add site title to Body field
- Save

Slots exercise (cont'd.)

- For the header
 - Click on Nav Submenu slot
 - Choose Brief No Title in results
- For the footer
 - Click on Nav Submenu slot
 - Choose --navfooterlinks-- Brief No Title
- Close, save Nav Base
- Preview content item

Creating a NavBranch

- Can link to URL or title link of general content item
- Create a folder within your folder called News
 - Create a general content item
 - Create a NavBranch
- Using Active Assembly Table Editor, link:
 - General content item to NavBranch
 - Save >> Preview item
 - Link NavBranch to NavBase

Navigation gotchas

- To view navigation correctly, all elements must be in the same state
- Navigation changes/updates are made on the full site publish cycle (nightly)
- Make sure images have been moved to public state