

# Creating a Joomla Template

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Joomla! Day UK - July 30th

Barrie North

Compass design

[www.compassdesigns.net](http://www.compassdesigns.net)

# Who am I?

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- ❑ Tutorials [www.compassdesigns.net](http://www.compassdesigns.net)
- ❑ Templates at [www.joomlashack.com](http://www.joomlashack.com)
  
- ❑ In 2005 found Joomla, not looked back since.....

# What is Joomla

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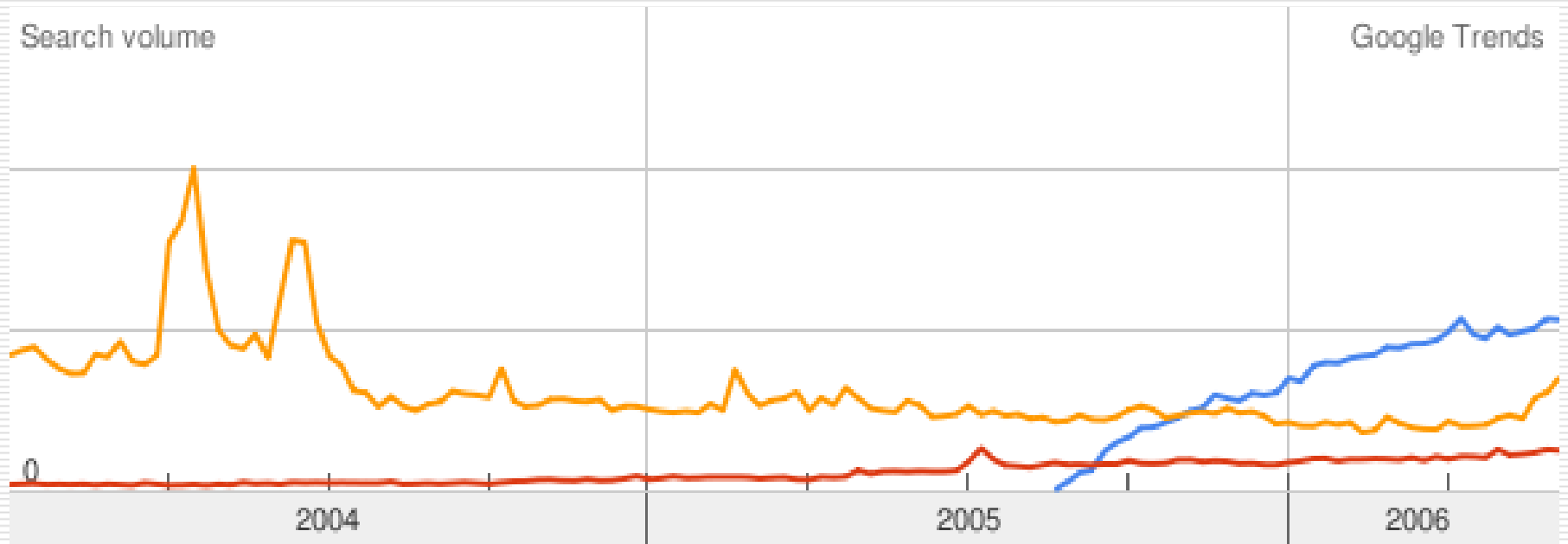
- ❑ Content Management System (CMS)
- ❑ Its Open Source (free)
- ❑ Its powerful
- ❑ Its easy to use

Joomla! is one of the most powerful Open Source Content Management Systems on the planet. It is used all over the world for everything from simple websites to complex corporate applications. Joomla! is easy to install, simple to manage, and reliable. [Open Source, GPL].

Source: [www.joomla.org](http://www.joomla.org)

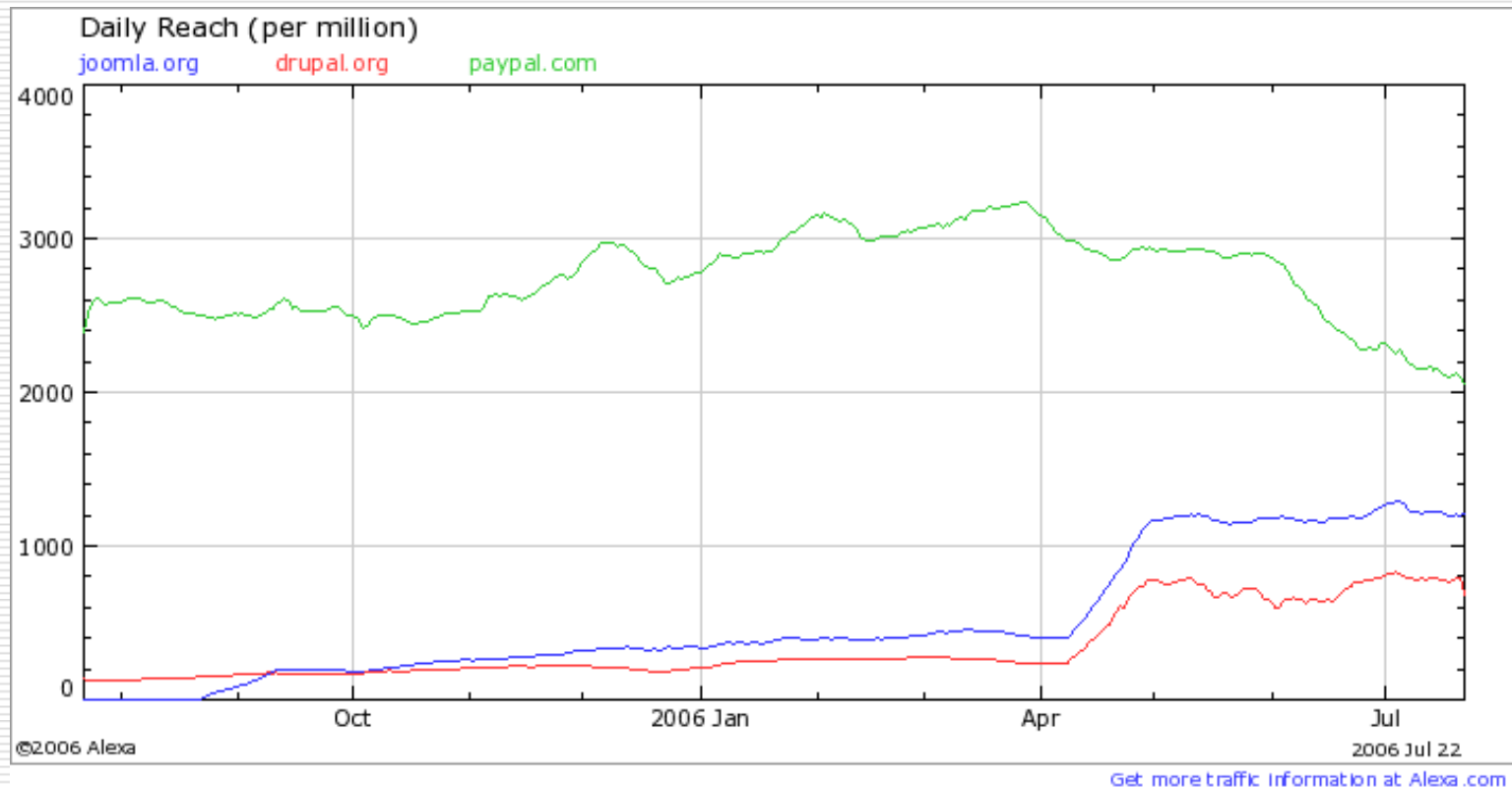
# Who is Looking for Joomla

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Blue: Joomla  
Red: Drupal  
Orange: David Beckham

# Who is Visiting www.joomla.org



- ❑ Alexa measures how much traffic at a domain.
- ❑ [www.joomla.org](http://www.joomla.org) has an Alexa ranking of 512

# What is a CMS?

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- ❑ Old sites were designed with PRESENTATION embedded in the CONTENT.

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD
XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD
/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>

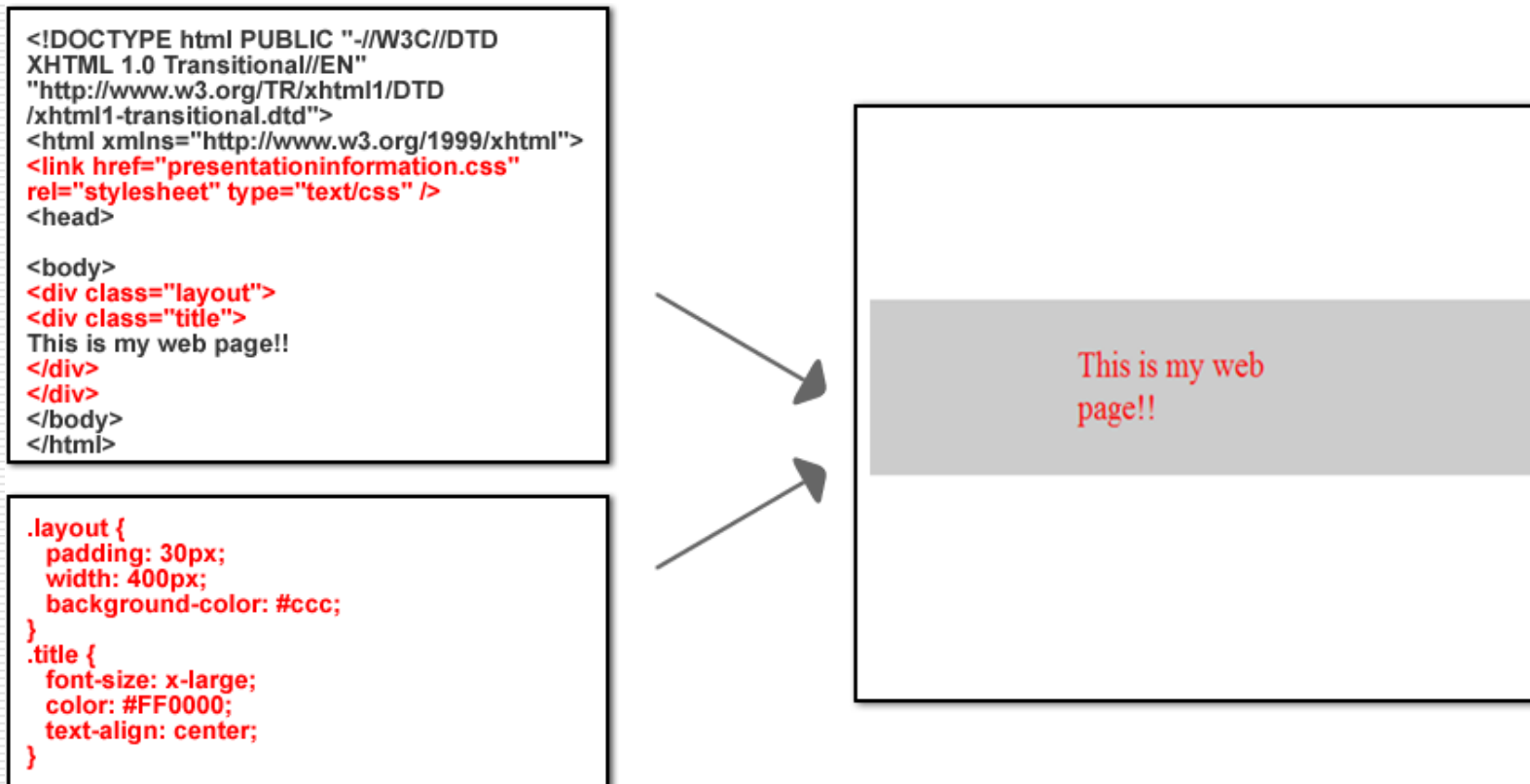
<body>
<table border="0" cellpadding="30"
cellspacing="0" bordercolor="#000000"
bgcolor="#CCCCCC">
  <tr>
    <td width="25%">&nbsp;</td>
    <td width="50%">
<font color="#FF0000" size="+2">
This is my web page!!
</font>
</td>
    <td width="25%">&nbsp;</td>
  </tr>
</table>
</body>
</html>
```



# What is a CMS?

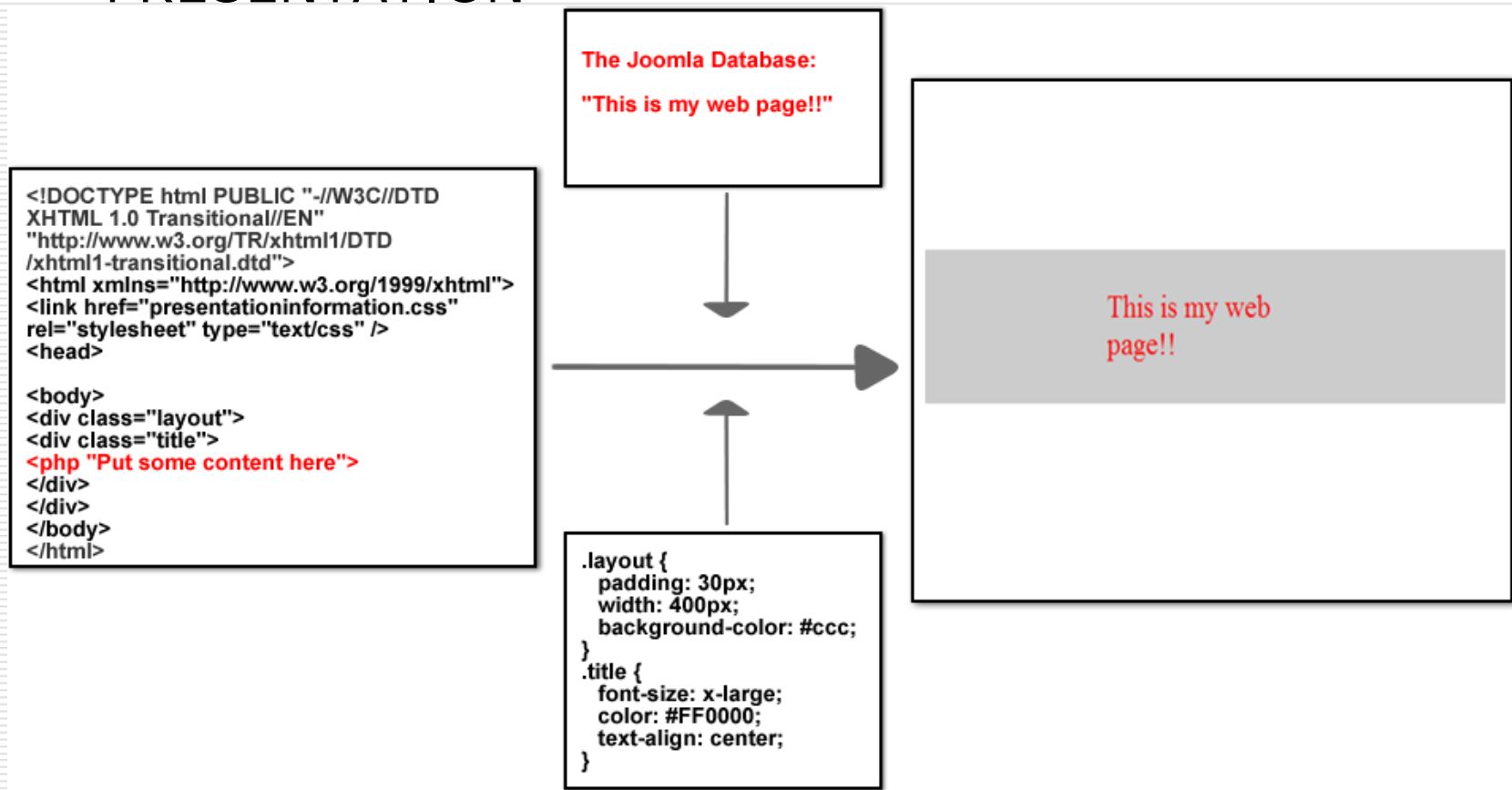
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- More modern sites SEPARATE presentation from content with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)



# What is a CMS?

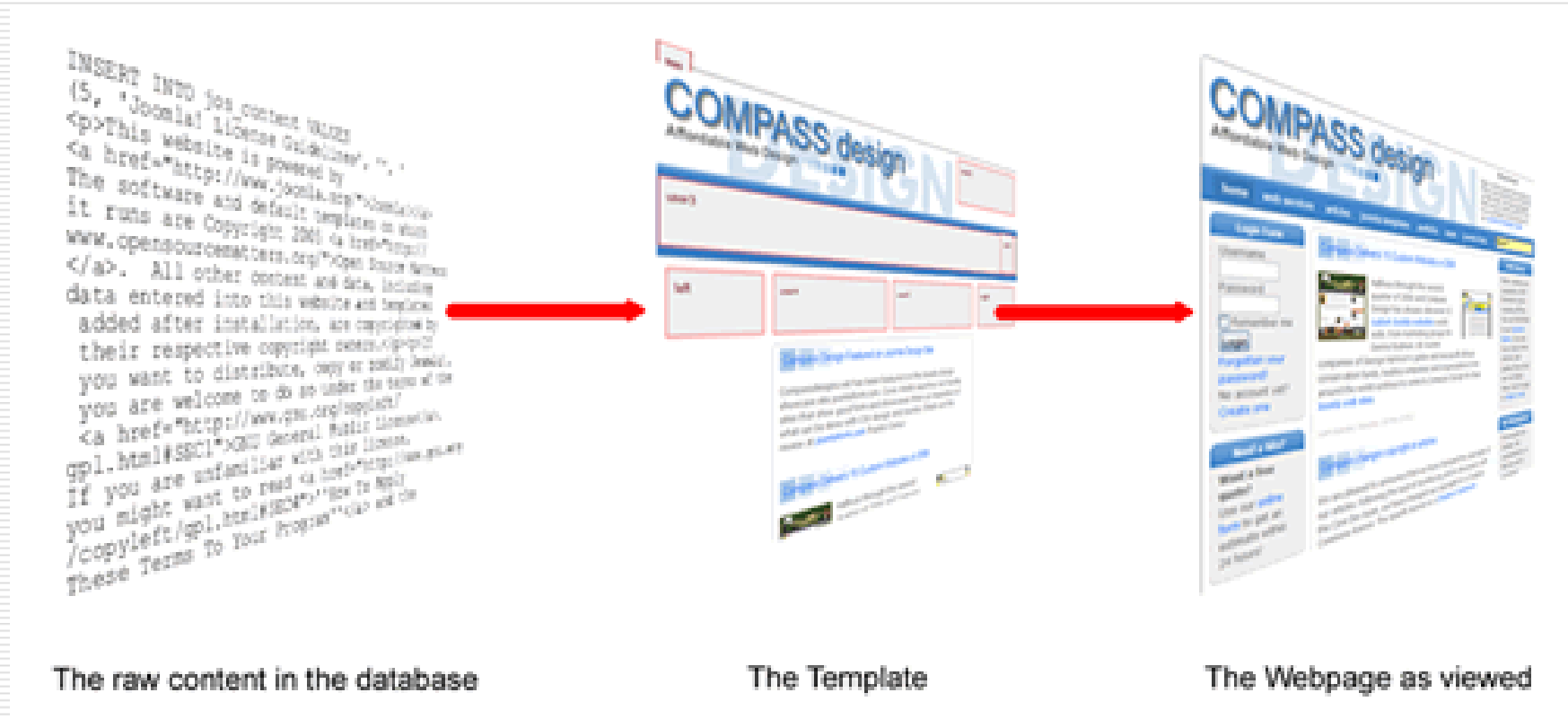
- A CMS does for CONTENT what CSS does for PRESENTATION





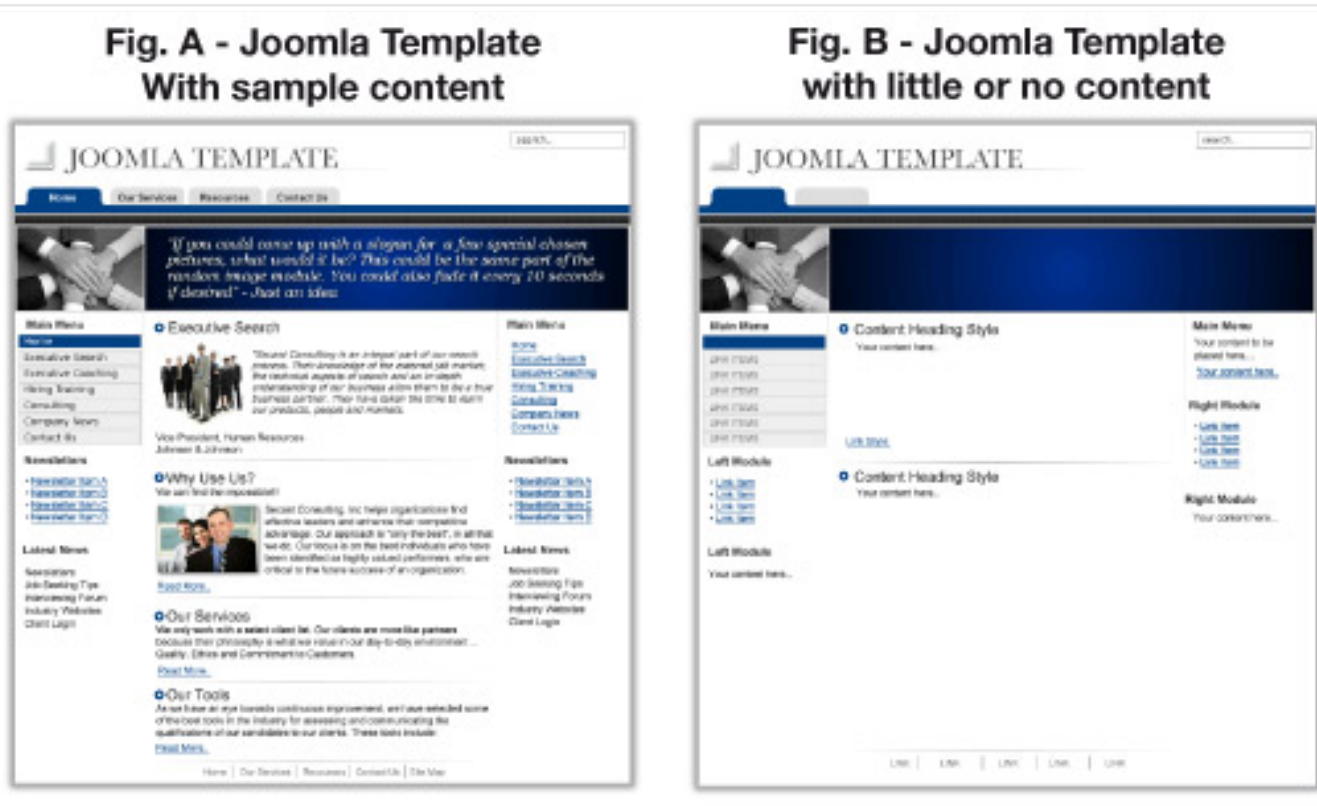
# What is a Template?

- The template is simply a set of rules about presentation. It contains no content.



# What is a Template?

□ No content you say?



# Designing Differently

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- ❑ WYSIWYG HTML editors make it easy to create web pages.
- ❑ But, Joomla generates pages dynamically.
- ❑ You have to have a host:
  - Localhost, e.g. XAMPP  
[www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp.html](http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp.html)
  - Webserver
- ❑ Other free stuff, Nuvo  
[www.nvu.com](http://www.nvu.com)

# Design in a Circle

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1. Make edits with HTML editor, save changes
2. Have localhost server running in background to "run" Joomla.
3. View edits in a web browser
4. Go to 1.

# Easy CSS Styling

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- ❑ One useful technique to make the design process more efficient is to serve a web page that you are designing and then copy and paste the source into an editor.
- ❑ For example, once your layout CSS is set up, you can use one of these localhost servers to serve a page, then View\_Source.
- ❑ You then copy and paste that into your editor. You can now easily style the page using CSS.

# Elements of a Template

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- ❑ [www.yoursite.com/templates/voodoo](http://www.yoursite.com/templates/voodoo)
- ❑ voodoo/
  - templateDetails.xml
  - index.php
- ❑ **templateDetails.xml**  
(note the uppercase "D") An [XML format](#) metadata file that tells Joomla! what other files are needed when loading a web page that uses this template. It also details the author, copyright and what files make up the template (including any images used). The last use of this file is for installing a template when using the admin backend.
- ❑ **index.php**  
This file is the most important. It lays out the site and tells Joomla where to put the different components and modules. It is a combination of PHP and (X)HTML.

# templateDetails.xml

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```
<mosinstall type="template" version="1.0.x">
  <name>YourTemplate</name>
  <creationDate>July 06</creationDate>
  <author>Barrie North</author>
  <copyright>GNU/GPL</copyright>
  <authorEmail> compassdesigns@gmail.com</authorEmail>
  <authorUrl>www.compassdesigns.net</authorUrl>
  <version>1.0</version>
  <description>An example template </description>
  <files>
    <filename>index.php</filename>
    <filename>js/ie.js</filename>
    <filename>template_thumbnail.png</filename>
  </files>
  <images>
    <filename>images/header.png</filename>
    <filename>images/background.png</filename>
    <filename>template_thumbnail.png</filename>
  </images>
  <css> <filename>css/template_css.css</filename>
</css>
</mosinstall>
```

# index.php

---

```
?php defined( '_VALID_MOS' ) or die( 'Direct Access to this location is not allowed.' ); ?>
XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" lang="<?php echo _LANGUAGE; ?>"
    xml:lang="<?php echo _LANGUAGE; ?>"
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; <?php echo _ISO; ?>" />
<?php
if ($my->id) { initEditor(); } ?>
<?php mosShowHead(); ?>
<link href="<?php echo $mosConfig_live_site;?>/templates/<?php echo $cur_template;
    ?>/css/template_css.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="screen" />
</head>
<body>
<?php echo $mosConfig_sitename;?>
<?php mospathway()?>
<?php mosLoadModules('top');?>
<?php mosLoadModules('left');?>
<?php mosMainBody();?>
<?php mosLoadModules('right');?>
<?php include_once( $mosConfig_absolute_path .'/includes/footer.php' );?>
</body>
</html>
```



# No Style Yet

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## OrangeCoat

- ♦ [Home](#)
- ♦ [Joomla! License](#)
  - ◊ [Wrapper](#)
  - ◊ [FAQs](#)
    - [Search](#)
    - [Contact Us](#)
  - ◊ [News Feeds](#)
- ♦ [News](#)
- ♦ [Blog](#)
- ♦ [Links](#)

Menu supporting text can go in here

	<b>FLASH JPG ROTATOR MODULE V.2</b> SUPPORTS WMODE TRANSPARENCY NOW USES  FLASHOBJECT  Joomla!SHACK
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[Welcome to Joomla!](#)



Written by Web Master

Saturday, 12 June 2004

If you've read anything at all about Content Management Systems (CMS), you'll probably know at least three things: CMS are the most exciting way to do business, CMS can be really, I mean *really*, complicated and lastly Portals are absolutely, outrageously, often *unaffordably* expensive.

Joomla! is set to change all that ... Joomla! is different from the normal models for portal software. For a start, it's not complicated. Joomla! has been developed for the

# Doctype

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## DOCTYPE

At the top of the index.php file

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0  
Transitional//EN"  
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-  
transitional.dtd">
```

A web page DOCTYPE is part of the fundamental components of how a web page is shown by a browser, specifically, how that browser interprets CSS. To give you a sense, an observation from alistapart.com says:

[information on W3C's site about doctypes is] "written by geeks for geeks. And when I say geeks, I don't mean ordinary web professionals like you and me. I mean geeks who make the rest of us look like Grandma on the first day She's Got Mail.™"

# The Layout

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Or “Why tables for layout is stupid”

<http://www.hotdesign.com/seibold/everything.html>

- ❑ make your pages load *faster*
- ❑ *lower* your hosting costs
- ❑ make your redesigns *more efficient and less expensive*
- ❑ help you *maintain visual consistency* throughout your sites
- ❑ get you *better search engine results*
- ❑ make your sites *more accessible* to all viewers and user agents

# I like tables!

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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.	Sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper.
Suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.	Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit</li><li>• Praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi.</li></ul>
Qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi.	Diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Epsum factorial non deposit quid pro quo hic escorol.</li><li>• Olypian quantels et gomilla congolium sic ad nauseum. Souvlaki ignitus carborundum e pluribus unum. Defacto lingo est igpay atinlay.</li></ul>

# What's Under the Hood?

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<p>This could really be done much more simply.</p>	<p>Guess how much markup there is in this little table? 13.7k. There are 17 rows and 9 columns in this thing. And did I mention all of the spacer GIFs?</p>		
<p>There are way too many table cells and spacers in here.</p>	<p>And all of the dotted borders are done with a <code>background</code> attribute on table cells, which won't validate.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nested table? What for?</li></ul></td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To make a bulleted list? You're kidding, right?</li></ul></td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nested table? What for?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To make a bulleted list? You're kidding, right?</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nested table? What for?</li></ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To make a bulleted list? You're kidding, right?</li></ul>			
<p>This could all be done with 8 table cells and 4 CSS rules.</p>	<p>Seriously. 8 cells and 4 css rules, that's all it takes.</p> <table border="1"><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oh no, another table masquerading as a bulleted list.</li></ul></td></tr><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just mark up your bulleted lists as bulleted lists and let CSS do the rest.</li></ul></td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oh no, another table masquerading as a bulleted list.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just mark up your bulleted lists as bulleted lists and let CSS do the rest.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oh no, another table masquerading as a bulleted list.</li></ul>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just mark up your bulleted lists as bulleted lists and let CSS do the rest.</li></ul>			



# Still not Convinced?

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Three words....

Google

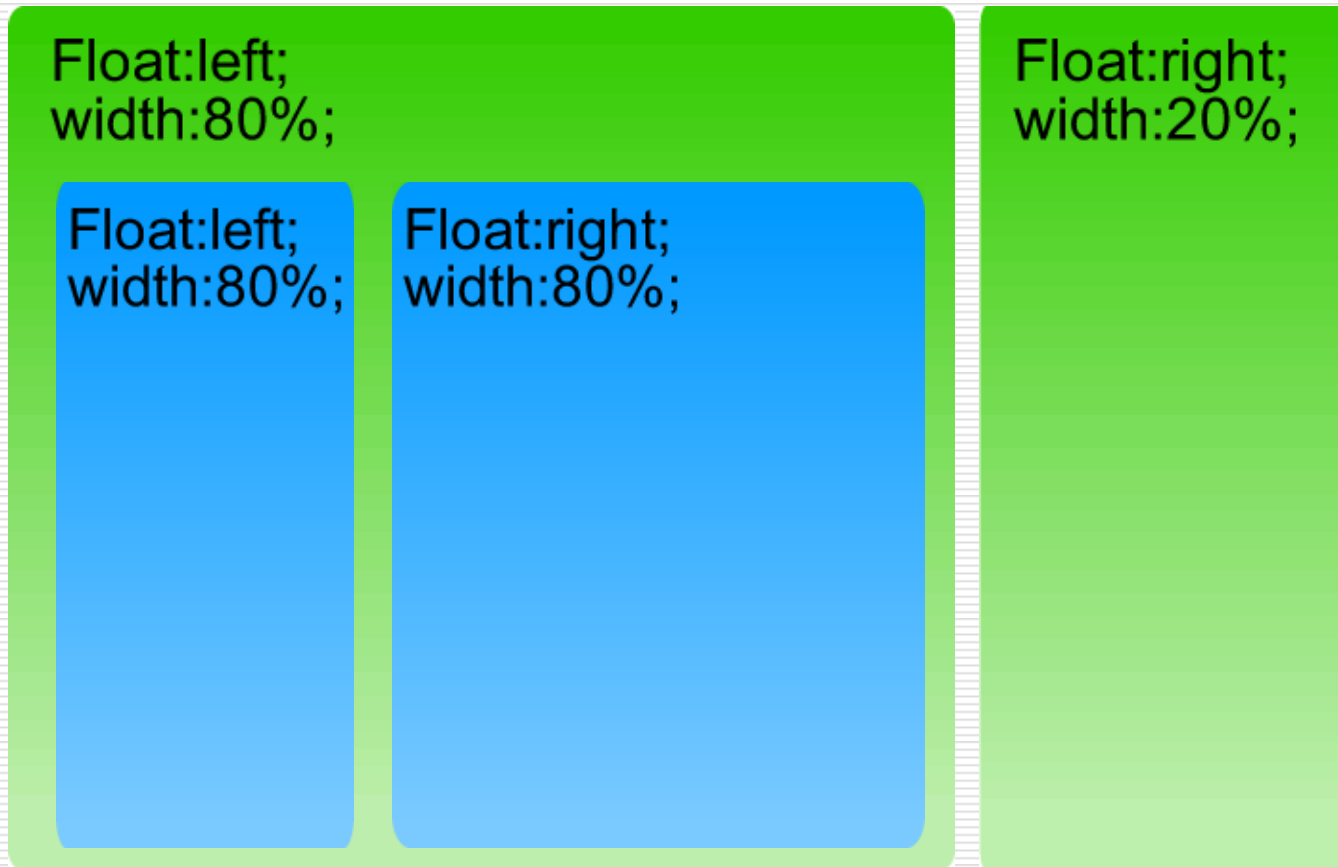
is

Blind

# CSS Layouts

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## The Nested Float





# Random Fact

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## ❑ Fluid Pages:

Although the percentage is dropping, about 20% of surfers are using an 800x600 resolution. The majority, 76%, are using 1024x768 and higher (source: [www.upsdell.com](http://www.upsdell.com)). Making a fluid layout means that your valuable web page won't be a narrow column in the 1024 resolution, and will all be visible on smaller monitors.

## ❑ Min/Max Width difficult

IE and Firefox issues

# Other CSS Layouts

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- ❑ <http://www.compassdesigns.net/tutorials/joomla-tutorials/making-a-3-column-joomla-theme-for-your-joomla-website.html>
- ❑ [http://www.positioniseverything.net/articles/pie-maker/pagemaker\\_form.php](http://www.positioniseverything.net/articles/pie-maker/pagemaker_form.php)
- ❑ <http://www.csscreator.com/>

# Downsides with CSS

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- Complex
- Can break with extensions

# Hiding Columns

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- Have columns be dynamic... PHP

```
<?php if ( mosCountModules( 'right' ) <= 0 ) { ?>  
  <style type="text/css" media="screen">  
    #main-body {width:100%;}  
    #content{width:75%;}  
    #sidebar{width:25%;}  
    #sidebar-2:display:none;}  
  </style>  
  <?php } ?>
```

# Modules

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- ❑ `mosLoadModules('$position_name'[, $style] )`
- ❑ Example:  
`<?php mosLoadModules('left',-2);?>`
- ❑ The `$style` is optional and can be 0, 1, -1, -2 or -3.

# Module Suffixes

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- 0  
(default display) Modules are displayed in a column.
- 1  
Modules are displayed horizontally.
- -1  
Modules are displayed as raw output and without titles.
- -2  
Modules are displayed in CSS format enclosed by a `<div>`
- -3  
Modules are displayed in a format that allows, for example, stretchable rounded corners. **If this \$style is used the name of the `<div>` changes from `moduletable` to `module`**

# Other Stuff

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Note that we cannot put these module styles on any of the following as they are not modules.

- ❑ `<?php echo $mosConfig_sitename; ?>`
- ❑ `<?php mospathway() ?>`
- ❑ `<?php mosMainBody(); ?>`
- ❑ `<?php include_once( $mosConfig_absolute_path  
.' /includes/footer.php' ); ?>`

# Menus

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- Use flat/bulleted Lists (CSS)

- Use Listamatic:

<http://css.maxdesign.com.au/listamatic/index.htm>

Process described more in tutorial

- DON'T use Javascript



# Other Neat Stuff

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- <http://www.compassdesigns.net/tutorials/joomla-tutorials/joomla-template-tutorial.html>
  
- Variable Page Widths
- Rounded Corners
- Text Resizers
- Drop Down Menus
  
- Get a JoomlaShack Template!  
50% off for 24 hours!  
"joomladayuk"
- [www.joomlashack.com](http://www.joomlashack.com)