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## Featured Drupal Module: Nodes In Block

By [Tyme](#)

The Drupal Module "[Nodes In Block](#)" enables a user to...you guessed it, publish a *node* into a *block*. The module offers handy on-the-fly customization, without needing to use Views or to install a more complex Panels. Moreover, the module makes it easy for content creators to manipulate content by bypassing [administration](#) -- a concept that can intimidate users.

Best of all, this thoughtful and clever module is well supported; and the [developer](#), Kristof De Jae have a Drupal 7 version available when Drupal 7 launches!

Now, that I've piqued your interest, let me give you some ideas about how you might use it and how to go about using it.

Remember, *block* flexibility on your site will depend on your *theme*, as the *theme* specifies the *region* layout. A typical 3-column *theme* (such as Drupal core themes) offers two sidebars and a middle there is a *region*, you can place a *block*.

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In the screenshot above, you see 3 top content-area *regions*. For the sake of the following use ex *regions* "Top block 2 left column" and "Top block 2 right column". If you understand about *blocks* point you do, you know that if nothing is published in a particular *region*, the *region* space is not

## Case Example

For this use case, here is a screenshot of the home page before Nodes In Block customization is u

The example site has a regular page for obituaries; but on occasion, the [publisher](#) might wish to

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- [Desktop Computers](#)
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- [Promote Your Website](#)
- [PDA Phones & Cases](#)
- [Dedicated Servers](#)
- [prepaid calling card](#)

easily achieved by assigning the particular obituary *story* to one of the top *blocks* noted. There al place these two features side by side, as shown below.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Overseas Press Club of America (OPC) as of Sunday, September 12, 2010. The header features the OPC logo and the tagline "Serving the interests of international journalists since 1939". A navigation menu includes links for Home, About the OPC, News, Press Freedom, Awards, Foundation, Events, Blog, FAQ, and OPC M. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- People Remembered: Andrew Jaffe**: A notice by Al Platt dated Tuesday, 8 March 2010. It describes Andrew Jaffe as a former Newsweek foreign correspondent who died in February 2010 after a 10-year battle with cancer. A small portrait of Andrew Jaffe is included. Below the text is an "Add new comment" link.
- Memorial Service for Andrew Jaffe**: Details for a memorial service on 1 March 2010 from 3:00pm to 5:30pm at St. Peter's Cathedral in Manhattan. It mentions that the service is in keeping with his last wishes. A "Read more..." link is provided.
- An Easier Era, Digitally Speaking, to Be a Journalist**: A news article by Anne Wills dated Friday, 3 September 2010. The article discusses a special session for OPC members at the New York Microsoft office, focusing on digital tools like OneNote 2010 and the Capture digital pen and notebook. A small image of the digital pen is shown. Below the text is an "Add new comment" link.
- SOCIAL NETWORKS**: A section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Text encourages visitors to follow the site on these platforms.
- MEMBER** and **LATEST NEWS** sections on the right sidebar, featuring brief news items like "Getz Moves to Thursday, 22 Sep" and "Zakaria Moves Monday, 22 Aug".

## How to Configure

First, the site [admin](#) must configure the module. From the configuration option, you first specify what you want to be associated with these *blocks*.

## Nodes in block

The configuration options have been saved.

Configuration

Queue

### General settings

Select number of blocks to create and associate content types which nodes can be used to insert [block configuration](#) page so the block settings are updated in the database. When at least one content type is selected, click the submit button where you can change general settings and associate content types per block.

#### Total number of blocks:

3 ▾

#### Content types:

- Announcement
- Awards
- Blog entry
- Book page
- Event
- FAQ
- Forum topic
- Member Profile
- Newsletter issue
- Page
- Poll
- Press Freedom Letter
- Slideshow News Item
- Story
- image

#### Creating and modifying blocks:

- Use the referring page as the default value for *visibility* at the content node form
- Show an edit button near each block

#### Texts for edit button:

(edit)

After this information has been saved, your Nodes In Block *blocks* will be created for you to further content creators will see. Then, select the default setting for *visibility* -- show on [certain](#) pages or use here.

Settings per block

Note: if you set the visibility setting for the block as "Show on every page except the listed pages", block visibility works. You'll be better off choosing the default option.

**User friendly name for block 1:**  
  
Only use alphanumeric characters.

**Visibility settings for block 1:**  
 ▾

**User friendly name for block 2:**  
  
Only use alphanumeric characters.

**Visibility settings for block 2:**  
 ▾

**User friendly name for block 3:**  
  
Only use alphanumeric characters.

**Visibility settings for block 3:**  
 ▾

And, lastly, specify settings for the various *blocks* based on *content type*. Here, you can:

- ▶ Specify which *blocks* are available to each of your selected *content types*
- ▶ Specify a section name for the Nodes In Block configuration on the *node edit form*
- ▶ Choose whether that form section can be collapsed and/or the state to which it should def
- ▶ Specify how this *block*, for this *content type*, should render: Teaser with link, Teaser witho

What?! Are you kidding me with this flexibility?! Sweet.

Settings per content type

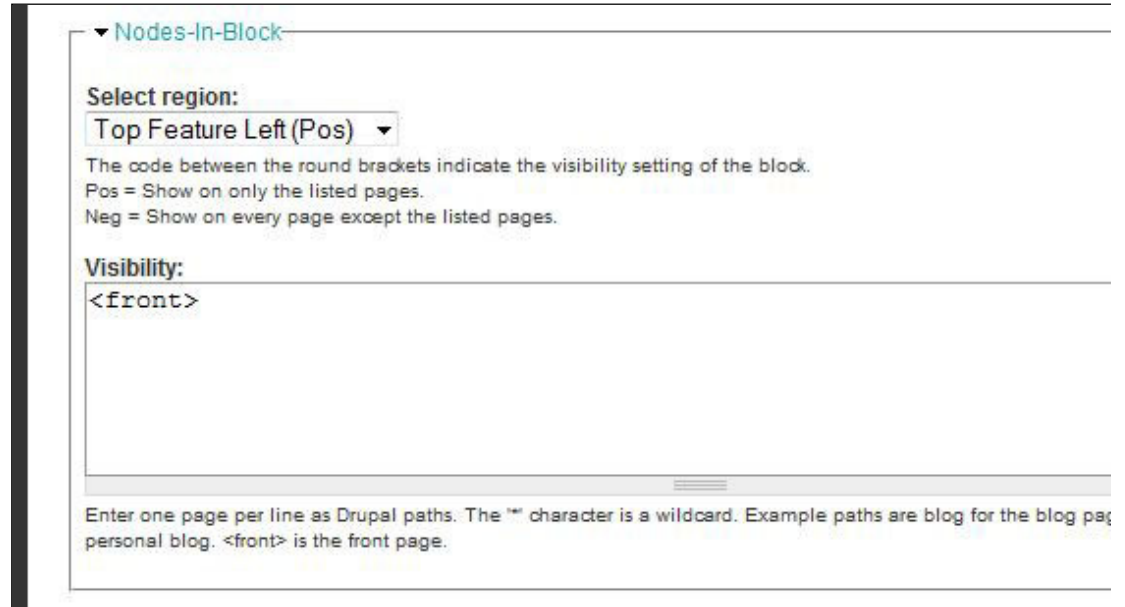
Define per content type which blocks are available. On the content node form, a select box will be displayed. You can also choose the label of the fieldset and if it is collapsible and/or collapsed by choose one, the select box on the node form will be hidden.

Configure awards	Configure blog	Configure book	Co
<b>Blocks:</b>	<b>Blocks:</b>	<b>Blocks:</b>	<b>Bl</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Top Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Top Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Top Feature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Left	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Left	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Left	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Right	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Right	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top Feature Right	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fieldset label:</b>	<b>Fieldset label:</b>	<b>Fieldset label:</b>	<b>Fiel</b>
<input type="text" value="Nodes-In-Block"/>	<input type="text" value="Nodes-In-Block"/>	<input type="text" value="Nodes-In-Block"/>	<b>Ne</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsed fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsed fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsed fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsible fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsible fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collapsible fieldset	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Render mode:</b>	<b>Render mode:</b>	<b>Render mode:</b>	<b>Re</b>
<input type="text" value="Teaser with links"/> ▾	<input type="text" value="Teaser without links"/> ▾	<input type="text" value="Page with links"/> ▾	<b>Pa</b>

The site admin will need to use the *Block Administration* to assign those new Nodes In Block *blocks* to have a different look. (Hey, there is even flexibility for manipulating the Nodes In Block to the content creators.

## How Content Creator Deploys

Assigning a *node* to a Nodes In Block *block* is handled on the *node edit form*.



The content creator simply selects the target *block*, and then specifies which page(s) the node should be excluded for certain pages, the user would be specifying the exclusions. (The visibility will likely be clear, and the user must know how to obtain the page *path*.)

Once the content creator has enabled a *block* and saved the form, a new tab will appear on the front page for the Nodes assigned for that particular Nodes In Block *block*, and the page on which each is set to display. The order of the content items by moving them using the "handles" (cross symbol).



Title	Node status	Visibility
⊕ People Remembered: Andrew Jaffe	published	<front>
⊕ OPC Book Night With Scott Peterson	published	news

A site admin, or publisher (if permissions allow), can use the Queue tab under Nodes In Block and For convenience, the page even has links to create new content.

## Nodes in block

Configuration Queue

[Create new awards](#)
[Create new blog](#)
[Create new book](#)
[Create new event](#)
[Create new](#)

Title	Node status
+ People Remembered: Andrew Jaffe	published
+ OPC Book Night With Scott Peterson	published

Save

### Other Uses

Nodes In Block can be used to place a *node* within a *node*, where you might want to display the content important for the *theme* to include an actual "content" area -- some themes do not. Remember, it offers flexibility with Nodes In Block placements. The module also adds an extra property to the node object to make it easier.

But, overall, Nodes In Block expands the functionality of a core *block* by letting the user impose content (etc.) on the *block* content.

### Summary

Nodes In Block is a sleeper module, in my opinion. It has great functionality and flexibility, and it did mention that the module is well supported. It has few unresolved issues, and if you post features also is a different module called "NodeBlocks".)

*Tyme is a freelance writer and multimedia specialist of many years. She likes walks in the park, c*

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By [PixelCrayons](#) September 13 2010 3:34 AMPDT

Many thanks to share this post. Much Informative!


[Reply to this comment](#)

[Reply by Tyme](#) September 13 2010 11:11 AMPDT

Thank you! Glad that you enjoyed it.

[By Fagor](#) September 15 2010 8:11 AMPDT

Nodes in a block is a great module, thanks for providing this tutorial.

 [Reply to this comment](#)

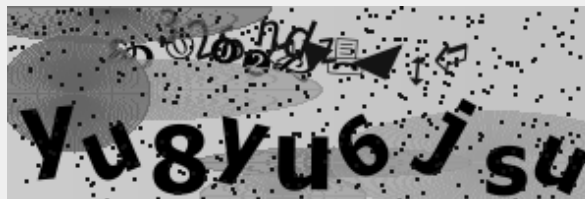
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