Introduction to Views
Course # U17D14

Level: Prerequisite: Drupal Basics, Beginner-level Intro to Drupal 7, Getting Started with Your Foundations Theme or intermediate skills.

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Course Site:
https://drupaltraining2.unt.edu/views-outline
Views Outline

1. What are Views?
2. Parts of views
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   B. Title
   C. Format
      i. Show
         a. Content
         b. Fields
      ii. Format Type
         a. Unformatted list
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   H. Pager
   I. Contextual Filters
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What Are Views?

1. Database query builder
2. Displays repeating lists of fields
3. Loops through content type and displays selected fields of each piece of content
4. Provides framework and styling options for displaying content
5. Can be displayed as a page or block
6. Primarily used for nodes, but can display other data such as Users, Taxonomy Terms, or Content Revisions
Parts of Views

1. Displays
2. Title
3. Format
4. Filter Criteria
5. Sort Criteria
6. Header and Footer
7. Pager
8. Contextual Filters
9. Relationships
10. No Results Behavior

Displays

Master - Time saver display used to set up default settings for other displays. Other displays are a clone of the master until they are updated specifically.
Page - Display used to set up individual pages.
Block - Display used to set up blocks which can be displayed in various layout regions on pages across the site.
Attachment - Display used to create sections displayed either before or after another view as part of the page. In this way, displays can be combined together on a page.
Feed - Display used to create RSS feeds.

Format

1. Format Type
   A. Unformatted list - Basic list with no special markup which can be styled for many use cases.
   B. HTML List - Creates an ordered or unordered HTML list.
   C. Table - Provides a table of the view data. Settings include making the table headers click-sortable and the option to display several view fields in the same column.
   D. Grid - Provides a grid with a configurable number of columns, with one view result per grid square. Grid settings include if the results should be ordered horizontally or vertically.

1. Show
   A. Content - Displays content in original layout as defined by content type. Any display set up in content type can be displayed such as Full Content or Teasers.
   B. Fields - Allows content to be displayed using individual fields from the content type that can be displayed in any order defined by the view.
Filter Criteria

Filter criteria allow you to set up criteria that should be met in order to display content. Some of the most common filters are selecting a Content Type, whether the content is published, and whether it is set to be sticky. May other filters are available including filtering by field values, taxonomy terms, etc.

Filters can also be exposed to users, allowing them to narrow down or expand results in a view.

Sort Criteria

Sort criteria allows you to dictate the order that content will be displayed in by selecting fields or conditions to sort by. Content can be sorted alphabetically or numerically according to a field or other criteria such as statistics, created or updated date, etc.

Header and Footer

Header and Footer allow you to create a custom content area before or after the view display. There are several types of displays including:

Entity: Rendered entity - Displays a single entity such as a node or user.

Global: Result summary - Displays a summary of the results displayed such as a count, page number, starting and ending number, etc.

Global: Text area - Displays markup text such as an introductory paragraph, custom heading, or static message.

Global: View area - Displays another view before the view being edited.

Pager

Using a pager allows a view to be broken up across more than one page with controls for navigating between the pages. You can decide whether to use a Full Pager which allows users to select a page number as well as navigating forward and back or a mini pager which only allows next and previous links.

Pagers also give you control over how many items to place on each page and the ability to change text for navigation links displayed below content. Options can also be exposed to users, to allow them to narrow down selections.
Contextual Filters

Contextual filters are similar to Filter Criteria, but you don't set the value of the criteria when building the view. This criteria is pulled from a different source such as the URL or a User ID. This allows more programmatic options such as creating a view of articles by a logged in user, or separating a view into different pages based on a taxonomy term or other field applied to the content.

Relationships

When you create a View and set a Content Type, you are essentially selecting a base table for the database query the view is performing. Relationships allow you to join this base table to a separate table in the database.

No Results Behavior

Defines what a view should display if no content meets the parameters set for display.

Can be set to display a global message, a summary of results (displaying 0 of 0), a static text area, or a different view.