



Content Distribution Framework, a CMS Extension

Version 0.90

© 2014 CrownPeak Technology, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from CrownPeak Technology.

Document History

Author/Editor	Date	Reason for Change	Version
Fahd Shaaban	8/28/2014	Draft	0.90

Table of Contents

Content Distribution Framework, a CMS Extension	1
Document History.....	2
Content Distribution Framework CMS Extension Overview	4
Background of the Content Distribution Framework.....	4
Content Sharing vs Content Distribution	5
Benefits of the Content Distribution Framework.....	6
Business Process guides the configuration of the Content Distribution Framework.....	7
Configuring the Content Distribution Framework	8
Setup and Installation	8
Using the Content Distribution Framework	8
Notes and Additional Information	8
Implementation Guidelines.....	8
Playbook Notes	8

Content Distribution Framework CMS Extension Overview

Content Sharing between websites managed in the CrownPeak CMS is one of the many benefits the CMS offers out of the box. Content from CMS assets can easily be embedded or consumed for re-use within other assets. This is the basic functionality of widgets and configuration assets.

Customers commonly request this capability since it minimizes the effort required for content authoring, review, and approvals, while maximizing the potential use (or re-use) of the content within the CMS.

The basic setup is simple: Define a Global or Universal folder as the repository of all shared content, and configure all CMS templates and corresponding sites to access shared content from this folder. However, this approach has some limitations:

- All shared content is accessible by all users. This may not be acceptable to all customers. For example, if an asset is assigned to some, but not all sites, exposing this asset to other site owners may raise some regulatory concerns.
- All shared content changes and deployments are reflected across all sites that use the content. Site owners have no control of when their “version” of the shared content is modified, and when it is deployed.

The Content Distribution Framework CMS Extension addresses the above limitations by allowing the appropriate parts of the Global Content to be replicated locally for each site the content is assigned to. This preserves the main capability of centralized management of shared content, while only exposing the appropriate content to each, and providing full control to site owners over their localized content.

CrownPeak subscribers should consider leveraging this CMS extension to take advantage of the following capabilities:

- Define a Universal Repository of Content for re-use purposes
- Streamline the authoring, review, and approval processes of shared content
- Distribute the Universal Content to one or more destination sites
- Keep site owners empowered with full control of their distributed content

Background of the Content Distribution Framework

The Content Distribution Framework, or CDF, is a CMS Extension built on top of the Translation Model Framework foundation. The CDF borrows much of its core capabilities from the TMF, but introduces a number of substantial changes that qualify it to be a separate and unique extension.

Reminder: The TMF extends the native content authoring and editing capabilities of the CMS by allowing authors/editors to derive content from a designated Source or Master Site to Destination or Locale Sites. The TMF then notifies locale content owners of any content changes to the original Master content for their consideration, however, it doesn't impose the changes. The TMF makes it easy for locale content owners to analyze the changes and update the localized content as they see fit.

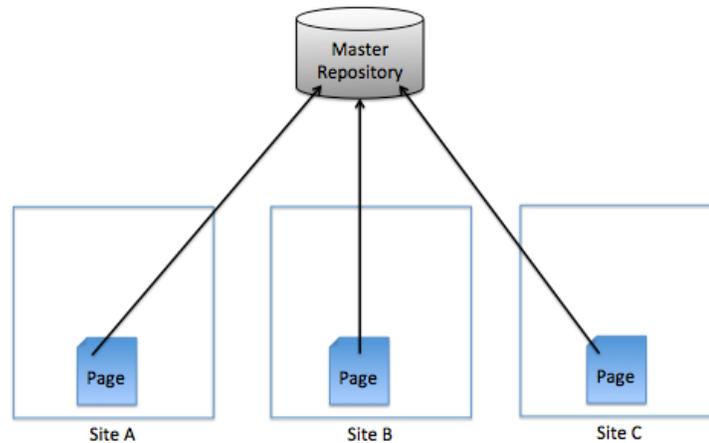
Like the TMF, the CDF operates on the concept of a Master or Universal content repository, where Universal content is replicated or “distributed” to destination repositories, while preserving a permanent relationship between Universal content and Distributed content.

However, unlike the TMF, the CDF ensures that all changes to the Universal Content are always imposed on the Distributed repositories. This ensures that changes to Universal Content are reflected immediately within the distributed sites.

This automation provides content auditors and reviewers comfort and confidence that content updates only need to be reviewed and approved once, and that the CMS will manage the distribution of the approved content to all the configured destinations.

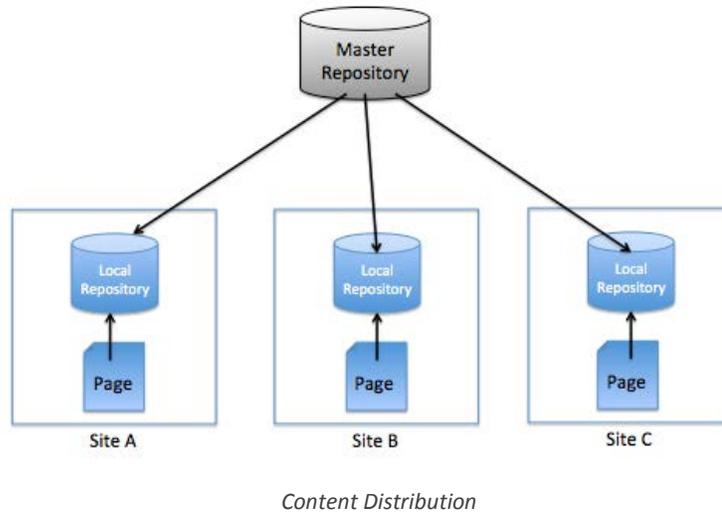
Content Sharing vs Content Distribution

Content sharing is different from content distribution. Sharing assets is accomplished by having various Sites or Site Templates point to the same asset they need to share. Changes to the Shared assets are reflected immediately since there is only one version of the shared asset.



Content Sharing

Distribution is accomplished by cloning the desired asset to be shared and distributing a replica of the asset to all sites that need it. This replication process creates a new version of the asset for each site, allowing each site to customize and fully manage their version, independently from other sites.



Benefits of the Content Distribution Framework

The CDF extends the native content sharing capabilities of the CrownPeak CMS with the following:

- Ability to define any content as universal or global content by placing it in the Universal Repository, which may include
 - Binary assets such as images, videos, Word documents, PDF's, etc
 - Site assets such as CSS, JS, Web Config, 404 pages, etc
 - Site Content assets such as articles, products, press releases, blog posts, etc
 - Site Configuration assets such as navigation menus, header/footer links, etc
- Asset distribution can be accomplished
 - Automatically by hardcoding the destination sites. Any Universal asset would automatically be distributed to all configured destination sites
 - Manually, similar to TMF, by selecting the destination sites
 - Automatically by tagging individual Universal Assets, and relating the tags to all available destination sites
- Default CDF behavior forces all content changes to be automatically re-distributed.
- Custom or advanced CDF configurations can be made based on customer business requirements, which may include any of the following
 - Auto-branching of assets when changes are distributed
 - Universal content changes can be skipped if the content has been changed locally. This may imply that sites have decided to take full control of their site, and they may choose to refuse content updates. This setting is explained in greater detail later in this document

Business Process guides the configuration of the Content Distribution Framework

The CDF extension can be configured to support many business processes. Before starting the configuration, it is beneficial to solidify the scope of the configuration. Use this list to determine how the customer is going to use CDF in their instance.

- Does the customer want to share content between sites managed in the same CrownPeak CMS instance? CDF doesn't work when sites are managed in separate CMS instances.
- Should Site Owners' access be limited to specific assets in the Shared Repository?
- Should Site Owners retain control over their site assets, including Shared assets? This includes changes as well as deployments of these assets.
- Should changes to the localized versions of the assets be allowed? If changes are allowed, should Universal changes be allowed to override them? Should these capabilities be optional?

Configuring the Content Distribution Framework

Once the Business Process is understood, configuring CDF is done as follows:

Setup and Installation

CDF, like other CMS Extensions, is a collection of best practices, library methods, templates, models, assets with a dedicated Workflow configuration that together provide the overall framework necessary to enable the management of Shared Content in the CMS.

The framework is typically setup and installed by CrownPeak Support and Expert Services.

Once the necessary underlying framework is setup and configured, the next step is configuring CDF for each site requiring its capabilities.

Using the Content Distribution Framework

CDF adheres to CrownPeak authoring and content management best practices. Defining and creating a new Shared Content is accomplished by using the asset models.

Notes and Additional Information

More information can be found in

<https://connect.crownpeak.com/blogs/developers/product-update-connectors>

Implementation Guidelines

In general, the default installation of CDF can be completed in about 16 hours.

The effort required for further customization of CDF will depend on the business requirements.

Playbook Notes

<https://connect.crownpeak.com>