Site Builder CMS Extension

Version 0.90

Document History

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Site Builder CMS Extension Overview

The CrownPeak CMS offers robust tools and capabilities for Admins and Developers to implement complex and rich web experiences leveraging the CMS C# API and its flexible templating technology.

Over the years, CrownPeak has defined best practices and guidelines to help and guide admins, developers and CrownPeak Partners on how to best setup websites in the CMS. This includes site folder structure setup, template development, and model configuration.

However, it is not uncommon for admins/developers to make changes or deviate from the recommended guidelines in the hope of expediting the development process, improving it, or by not fully understanding the recommendations. Unfortunately, these changes don't always prove to be beneficial, and often result in configurations that do not adhere to CrownPeak best practices, and as such are difficult to maintain and support.

The Site Builder CMS Extension was designed as a CMS utility to be used by CMS admins and developers to quickly and rapidly create and configure sites in the CMS that adhere to CrownPeak best practices. These sites are configured with all the necessary foundational templates, models, and assets to hit the ground running.

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

- Quickly define and create Site foundations in the CMS
- Provide a tool to configure sites with, including:
    - A standard folder structure
    - Foundational assets, models, and templates supporting various technology stacks (.NET, MVC, PHP, Java)
    - Multi-Lingual Support
    - Mobile Support
    - CMS Extensions
- Release Management
- Metadata Management
- Blog

Benefits of the Site Builder

The Site Builder extends the native templating and site setup capabilities of the CrownPeak CMS with the following:

- Create Single or Collection of Sites
- Create Sites with multi-lingual support using the Translation Model Framework
- Choice of technology: .NET (aspx), .NET (mvc), PHP, JSP
- Choice of additional outputs to support dedicated mobile experiences

Ability to add one or more of the available CrownPeak Extensions including:

- Release Management: the ability to bundle assets by workflow state, folder, or manually for batch deployments
- Blog: a complete blogging solution in the CMS
- Metadata Management: ability to tag content and use the tags to relate content

All sites will include the following:

- Content Wrapper and Site Configuration Files
- Common Templates for homepage, landing page, content pages, etc
- Assets folder for images, css, and javascript files
- Common site files based on technology selection: header/footer includes vs Masterpage

Business Process guides the configuration of the Site Builder

The Site Builder 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.

What technology does the customer prefer? .NET, PHP, JSP, etc

Will this be for one site or a collection of sites? Collection of sites results in sites with independent templates, models, and assets.

If a collection of sites, are they localized versions of each other with multi-lingual or multi-regional content requirements? If so, the TMF should be selected in the configuration.

Are there any mobile requirements?

- Will the site leverage a Responsive Design?
- Or will the site require dual outputs for desktop and mobile site experiences?
- Will the content be shared between desktop and mobile sites?

If yes, then dual outputs are the right selection.

If no, then these two sites should be treated like a site collection, with separate and dedicated templates.

Are there capabilities from the following CMS extensions that might be beneficial to the customer?

- Release Management
- Blogs
- Metadata Management

Configuring the Site Builder

Once the Business Process is understood, you can configure the Site Builder.

Configuring a new Site

Create a new site by selecting it from the New menu: New > Site

The Input template will prompt for:

> Site Name
> Site Folder Location within the CMS
> Technology Stack (.NET, MVC, PHP, Java)
> Site Type Selection
> - o Single
> - o Collection
>   - ▪ Site Name
> - o Collection with TMF (Multi-Lingual Content)
>   - ▪ Locale Name
>   - ▪ Locale Definition: Country and Language

- Dual Output Support for Dedicated Mobile Experience
- Checkboxes to select modules: Blog, Release Management, Metadata Management

The Output template will display:

> Site Name
> Site Folder Location within the CMS (linkable once configuration is built)
> Technology Stack Selection (.NET, MVC, PHP, Java)
> Folder Tree of Site and all Language/Country sites
> Mobile Selection: Dual Output
> Template Folder (linkable once configuration is built)
> Model Folder (linkable once configuration is built)
> Library Folder (linkable once configuration is built)

The Site Builder will take advantage of a dedicated Workflow configuration allowing Site Admins to review and approve a site Configuration prior to building the site. The Workflow will trigger the process of building the site upon approval via a dedicated Workflow Script.

Site Builder Workflow

The Site Builder workflow includes the following states:

Draft
- o Actions: Submit for Approval, Build Site

Pending
- o Actions: Build Site, Reject

Site Built
- o Actions: Archive
- o Scripts: Upon approving a Site Configuration, a workflow script will process the request and build the site.

Site Builder Configuration Assets

- Assets will be created in a draft state, in a configuration folder.
- Upon approval, the configuration asset will be used to build a site based on the configuration.
- Assets can be branched, cloned, and used to create new sites.
- Configuration assets will use a special icon to indicate they are an OOTB extension instead of custom templates

Building the Site

Once the Site configuration is reviewed and approved, the Site Builder Workflow will automatically build the configured Site with the following:

Site Structure
An assets folder for images, JS, CSS files
Site assets (masterpage, web config, etc)
Homepage and sample content assets
Templates and Models behind the scenes that are for customization based on customer requirements

Notes and Additional Information

More information can be found on Connect:

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

Playbook Notes

https://connect.crownpeak.com