

# Drupal 6 Theming

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# Designing for Drupal

- ▶ Overview of the Drupal Theming Layer
- ▶ Implementation Details
  - ▶ Templates
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  - ▶ Base Themes
- ▶ Where to go for help

## Herron School of Art and Design

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### User login

Username: \*

Password: \*

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

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Joe Thompson '08, Wooden Crane and Silent  
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Local
- IUPUI Duke Energy Center, Columbus, IN  
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### National stories

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Lifejackets, Eric Nordgulen (sculpture faculty), permanent  
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National
- Piedmont Park, Atlanta  
Lifejackets, Eric Nordgulen (sculpture faculty), permanent  
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National

# Theming Example

**HERRON SCHOOL of ART and DESIGN**

**International story #1** Clifford the Big Red Dog (children's television series.) Norman Bridwell '64... more

**National story #1** Lifejackets, Eric Nordgulen (sculpture faculty), permanent... more

**Local story #1** Joe Thompson '08, Wooden Crane and Silent... more

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**IUPUI Duke Energy Center, Columbus, IN** Joe Thompson '08, Wooden Crane and Silent... more

**BBC, London** Clifford the Big Red Dog (children's television series.) Norman Bridwell '64... more

**Piedmont Park, Atlanta** Lifejackets, Eric Nordgulen (sculpture faculty), permanent... more

[Site index](#) [Site credits](#) [Ceramics, 2007](#)

The page last modified on November 14, 2007  
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# Theming Example



More Zen Examples

**Q: Should a news organization be able to charge a copyright license fee for a quotation that is in the public domain?**

**"The public domain is sold every day. That is precisely the nature of the public domain: anyone can use it for whatever they want, including selling it."**

— Professor Randy Picker

**"All they are selling is a license, ... a promise not to sue for infringement. A license is only valuable if the licensor held a copyright in the first place."**

— Tim Lee



**Feature: Schill Appointed 14th Dean of the Law School**



AUTOPLAY PREV NEXT

< 1 >

**September 8, 2009:** Michael H. Schill, dean of the UCLA School of Law and a nationally known scholar of property law, will begin his appointment January 1, 2010.

**SLIDESHOWS >>**



**RECENTLY ADDED VIDEO**

Bernard Harcourt, "Neoliberal Penalty: A Genealogy of Excess"

M. Todd Henderson, "The Nanny Corporation"

Albar Ganj, "Solutions to the Problem of Gender Discrimination in Islam"

James G. Whitman, "The Venetian of Battle"

Shakespeare and the Law: Scenes

**RECENTLY ADDED AUDIO**

Douglas Baird, "Eero Saarinen's Law School"

Alison Siegler and Students, "Clinics in Action: The Federal Criminal Justice Project"

M. Todd Henderson, "The Nanny Corporation"

Richard Epstein, "On the Record about Off-Label Drug Uses"

M. Gregg Bloche, "Doctors and Interrogators: Implications of the CIA Torture Memos"

**NEWS**

More >>

**09.23.09:** Richard Posner, "How I Became a Keynesian"

**09.17.09:** Chicago Lawyer Magazine Highlights Mendel Clinic

**09.22.09:** Epstein on Health Care Reform and H.R. 3200

**09.15.09:** Epstein Criticizes Sunstein's Critic

**EVENTS**

More >>

**09.29.2009:** Autumn Quarter Classes Begin

**10.02.2009:** Student Organizations Activity Fair and Welcome BBQ

**10.13.2009:** CBI: Omri Ben-Shahar, "One-Way Contracts"

**09.30.2009:** CBI: M. Todd Henderson, "Unsafe Harbors and Other Regulatory Oddities"

**10.05.2009:** First Monday Lecture: Chicago

**11.03.2009:** CBI: Saul Levmore, Title TBA

**DID YOU KNOW?**

On October 22, 1964, the Today Show featured the Law School. [More >>](#)



More Zen Examples

HOME ABOUT WATCH IT GET INVOLVED MEDIA PARTNERS



"Tickell knows how to grab an audience..."  
- John Anderson  
VARIETY



BLUE WATER ENTERTAINMENT AND OPEN PICTURES PRESENT FIELDS OF FUEL A JOSH TICKELL FILM

# FIELDS OF FUEL

CHANGE YOUR FUEL CHANGE THE WORLD

# More Zen Examples

# Drupal Design





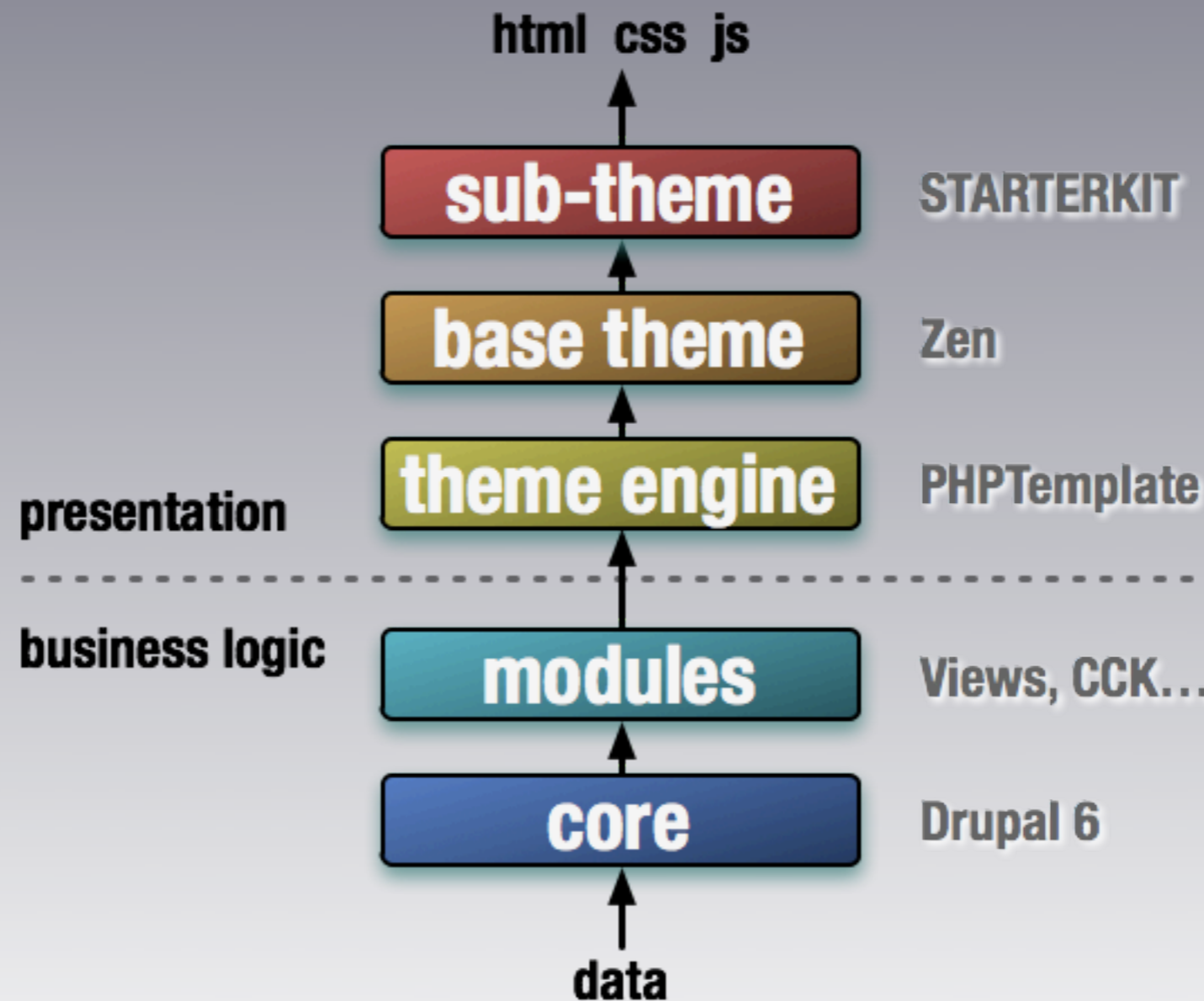
HTML

<?php print "with some PHP" ?>

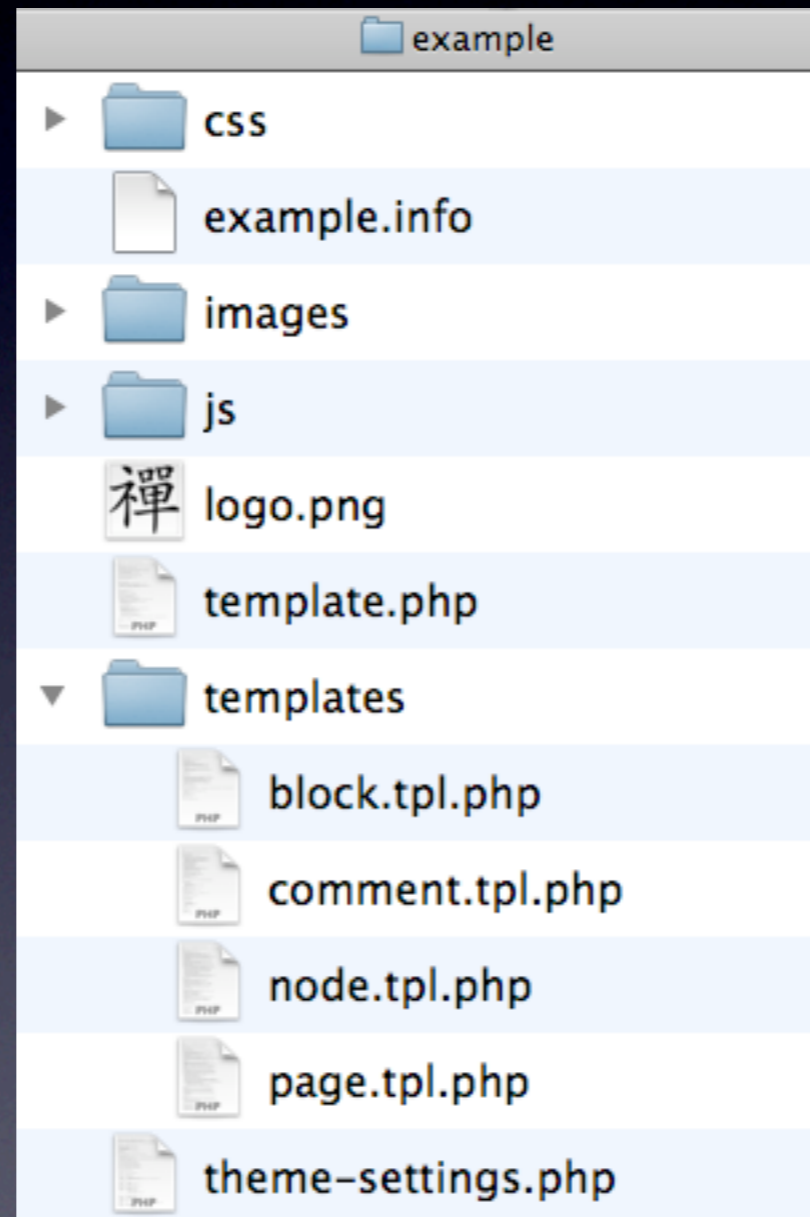
CSS

# Drupal's Theme Layer

(the big picture)



# Example Theme



# Structure of page.tpl.php

The screenshot shows a Drupal 6 page with the following structure:

- Header:** Drupal logo and navigation links: `$primary_links` (download, Support, Forum, Contribute, Contact), `$search_box` (Search).
- Breadcrumbs:** Home » Theming Guide » Drupal 6 theme guide » Overriding themable output
- Left Sidebar (Theming Guide):** `$left` containing a tree of links: About theming, Drupal 6 theme guide (Anatomy of a Drupal 6 theme, Specifying theme components and settings, Working with CSS, Overriding themable output (Beginners guide to overriding themable output, About overriding themable output, Setting up variables for use in a template (preprocess functions))).
- Main Content Area:** `$title` (Architectural of theming) with tabs (View, Edit, Outline, Revisions). Below is a text block `$content` with two paragraphs. The first paragraph is partially obscured by the `$content` label. The second paragraph discusses the abstraction in Drupal achieved through the `theme` function.
- Right Sidebar (JohnAlbin):** `$right` containing a tree of links: Issues, My account, My projects, Create content, Recent posts, Feed aggregator, Administer, Log out.
- Contributor links:** Community initiatives, Queues (My issues, 448 Pending bugs (D7), 414 Critical issues (D7), 1743 Patch queue (D7), 255 Patches to review (D7), Performance issues (D7), Usability issues (D7), Fields in Core).

# Structure of page.tpl.php

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="<?php print $language->language; ?>"
lang="<?php print $language->language; ?>" dir="<?php print $language->dir; ?>">

<head>
  <title><?php print $head_title; ?></title>
  <?php print $head; ?>
  <?php print $styles; ?>
  <?php print $scripts; ?>
</head>
<body class="<?php print $body_classes; ?>">

  <div id="page"><div id="page-inner">

    <?php if ($search_box): ?>
      <div id="search-box"><?php print $search_box; ?></div>
    <?php endif; ?>

    <?php print $breadcrumb; ?>
    <?php if ($title): ?>
      <h1 class="title"><?php print $title; ?></h1>
    <?php endif; ?>
    <?php print $messages; ?>
    <?php if ($tabs): ?>
      <div class="tabs"><?php print $tabs; ?></div>
    <?php endif; ?>
    <?php print $help; ?>

    <div id="content-area">
      <?php print $content; ?>
    </div>
```

← CSS style sheets

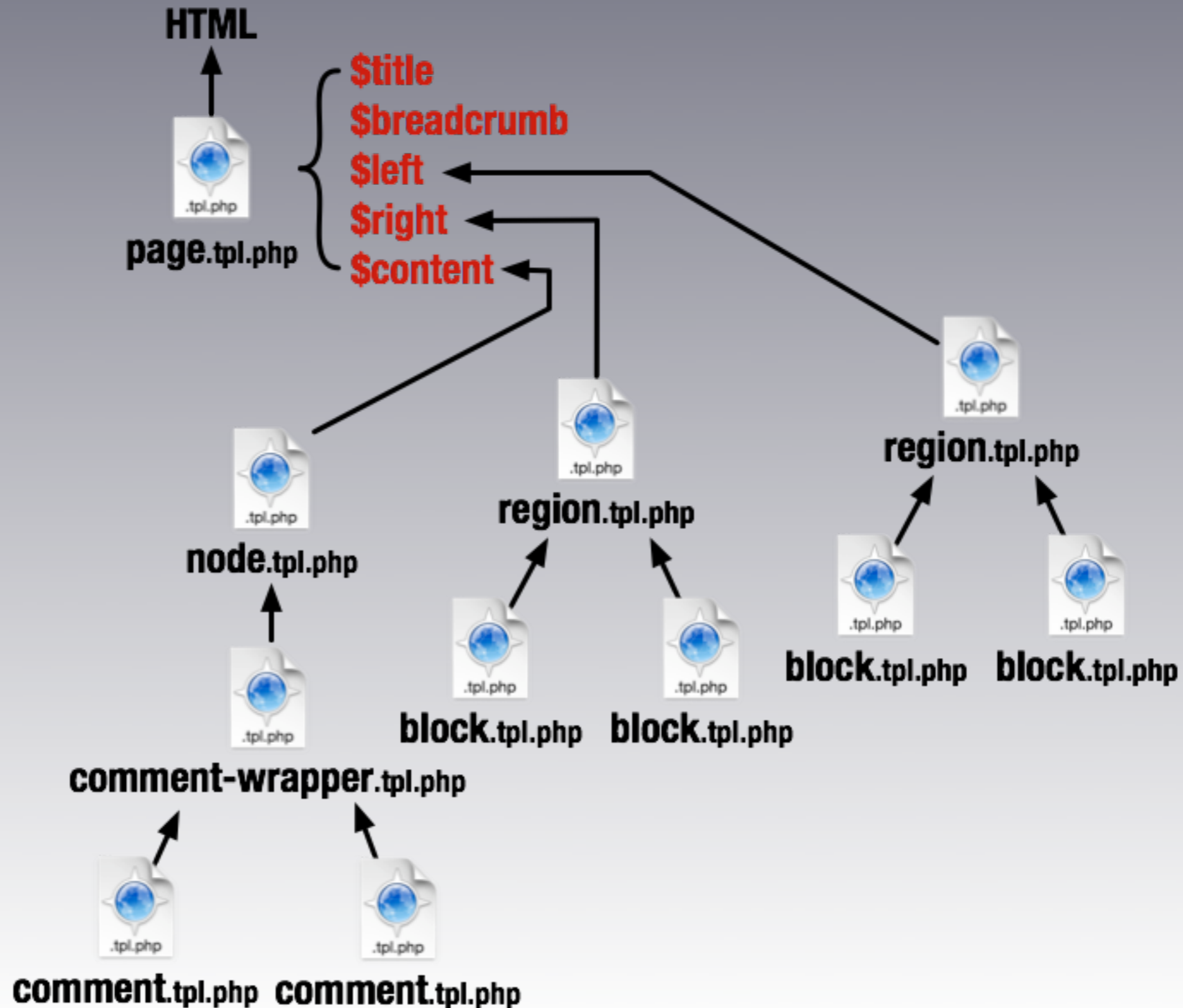
← Search box

← Title

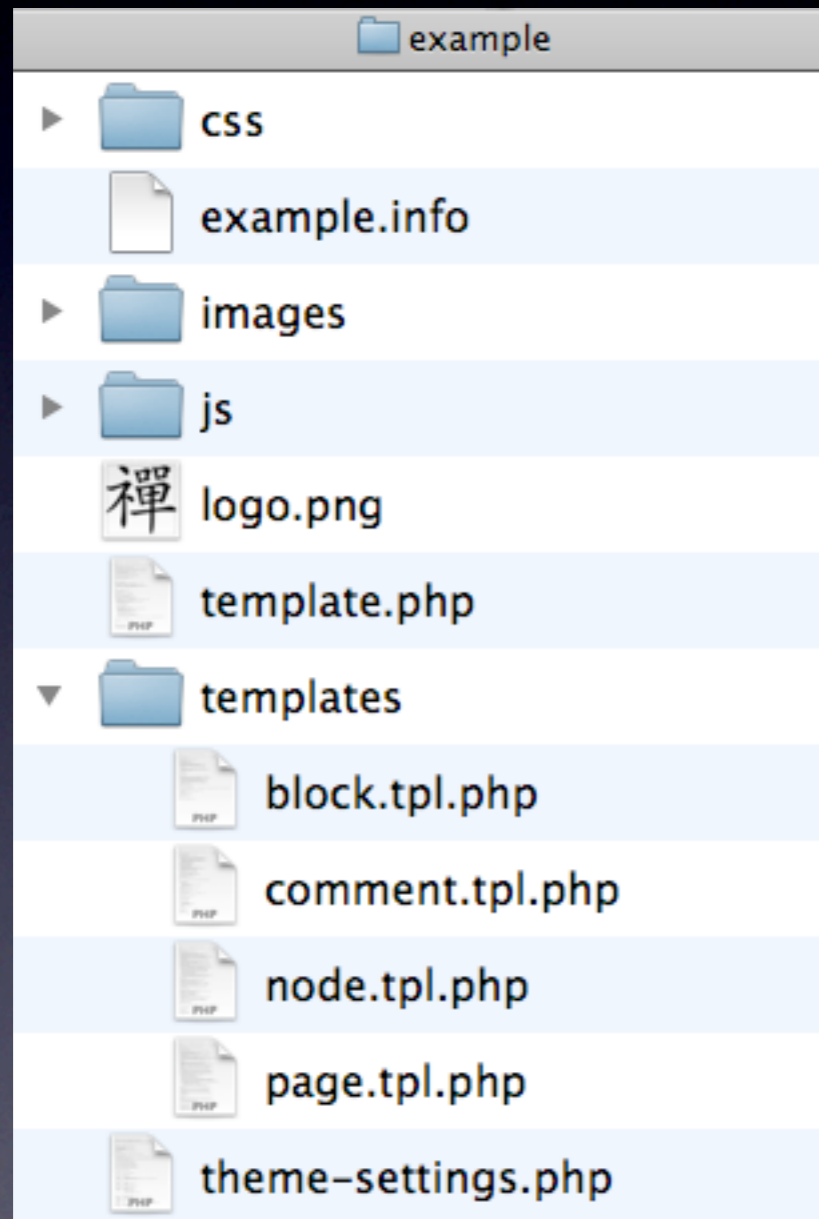
← Conditional

← content

# Where do page.tpl.php variables come from?

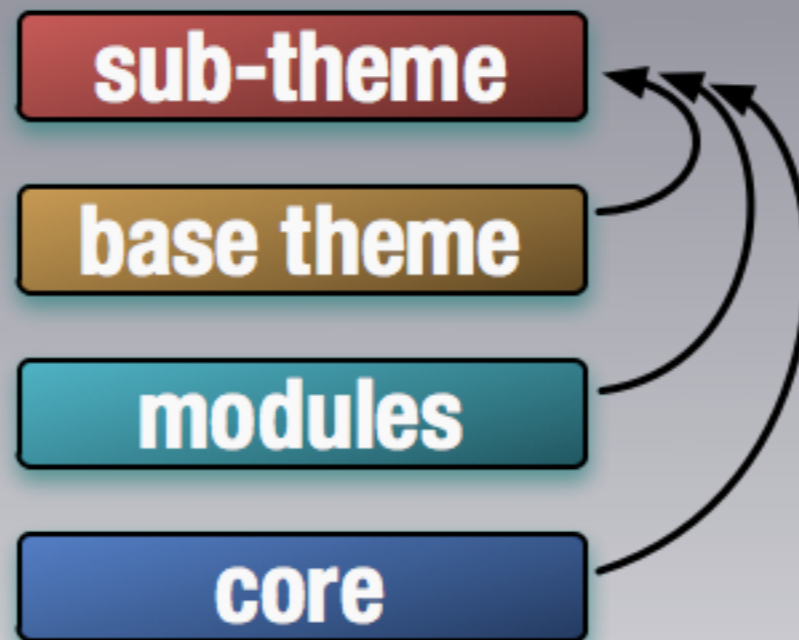


# What do you need to know?



- Your theme doesn't need all the templates
- You don't need to learn all the variables
- Let Drupal's architecture build parts of your theme

# Copy, Override, Modify

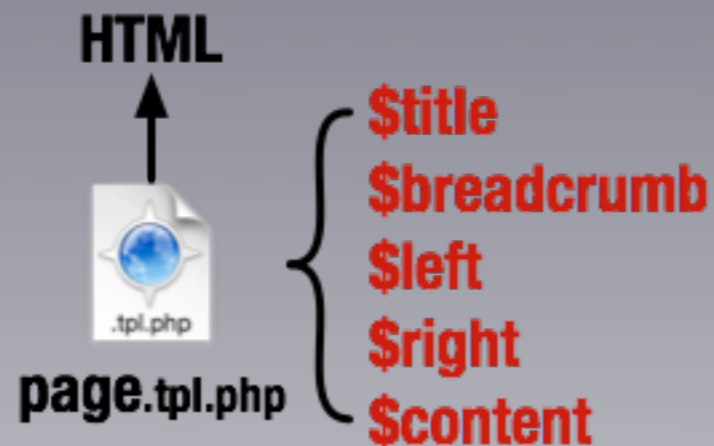


Templates and CSS are pulled from lower layers.

Unless they are overridden in your theme.



# Preprocess Functions



modify variables using a function:  
`[theme name]_preprocess_[hook]`

e.g. `example_preprocess_page`

# Preprocess Functions

```
/**
 * Override or insert PHPTemplate variables into the page templates.
 *
 * @param $vars
 *   A sequential array of variables to pass to the theme template.
 * @param $hook
 *   The name of the theme function being called ("page" in this case.)
 */
function STARTERKIT_preprocess_page(&$vars, $hook) {
  $vars['title'] .= ', eh?'; // Canadian translation.
}

/**
 * Override or insert PHPTemplate variables into the node templates.
 *
 * @param $vars
 *   A sequential array of variables to pass to the theme template.
 * @param $hook
 *   The name of the theme function being called ("node" in this case.)
 */
function STARTERKIT_preprocess_node(&$vars, $hook) {
  $vars['new_variable'] = t('Lorem ipsum.');
```

← Page Variable modifications

← Node Variable Additions

Put preprocess functions in your theme's template.php

What was the part in  
the middle?

<http://drupal.org/theme-guide>

# Base Themes

Powerful Frameworks for  
Beginners and Power Users



# Benefits of Base Themes

- **You don't have to build everything yourself.** Copy, override, and modify only what you need to.
- **Bug fixes.**  
Others can fix any bugs in the base theme.
- **New features.**  
For contrib Themes, there will occasionally be new features.
- **Support.**  
If you have modified an existing theme, sometimes the only answer you will get to your support question is “Well, it works fine in the original theme.”
- **Rapid Theme Development.**  
Many things are built for you.

# 禪 zen

extend and design



<http://drupal.org/project/zen>

# Why use Zen?

- Designed for beginners and Theming ninjas.
- Extensive on-line documentation.
- Step-by-step instructions on building your own sub-theme.
- Extensive in-line comments in its PHP and CSS files.

# Why use Zen?

- Designe
- Extensi
- Step-by
- Extensi

```
.block h2.title /* Block title */
{
}

.block .content /* Block's content wrapper */
{
}

#block-aggregator-category-1 /* Block for the latest news items in the
first category */
{
}

#block-aggregator-feed-1 /* Block for the latest news items in the first
feed */
{
}

#block-block-1 /* First administrator-defined block */
{
}

#block-blog-0 /* "Recent blog posts" block */
{
}

#block-book-0 /* "Book navigation" block for the current book's table of
contents */
{
}

#block-comments-0 /* "Recent comments" block */
{
}
```

me.

```
}
#BLOCK-COMMENTS-0 /* "RECENT COMMENTS" BLOCK */
```



# Why use Zen?

- Designed for beginners and Theming ninjas.
- Extensive on-line documentation.
- Step-by-step instructions on building your own sub-theme.
- Extensive in-line comments in its PHP and CSS files.
- It's also got a laundry list of features. (which are exciting to use, but boring to list.)
- A fantastically flexible CSS Layout method (that even works with IE5.5.)
- The developer lives in Taiwan.

# Brief overview of Zen's Layout method

- Source-ordered HTML: The importance of the pieces of content determines the order in HTML, and not the graphic design.
- Flexible layout options:
  - Fluid (100% width) or fixed-width layout
  - Optional horizontal navbar
  - 1-3 columns built-in. More columns are possible without mind-bending contortions.
- Zen's default Layout Method is completely pluggable. If you don't like it, just replace the layout.css file with your own layout method: YUI, YAML, Jello Mold, Holy Grail, etc.

# Brief overview of Zen's Layout method

- Source code determines the layout
- Flexible layout
  - Fluid layout
  - Optional sidebar
  - 1-3 columns
  - Minimum 320px wide
- Zen's layout is simple and easy to use. If you don't like it, you can use your own method.

```
#page (container)
  #header
  #main (container)
    #content
    #navbar
    #sidebar-first
    #sidebar-second
  #footer
```

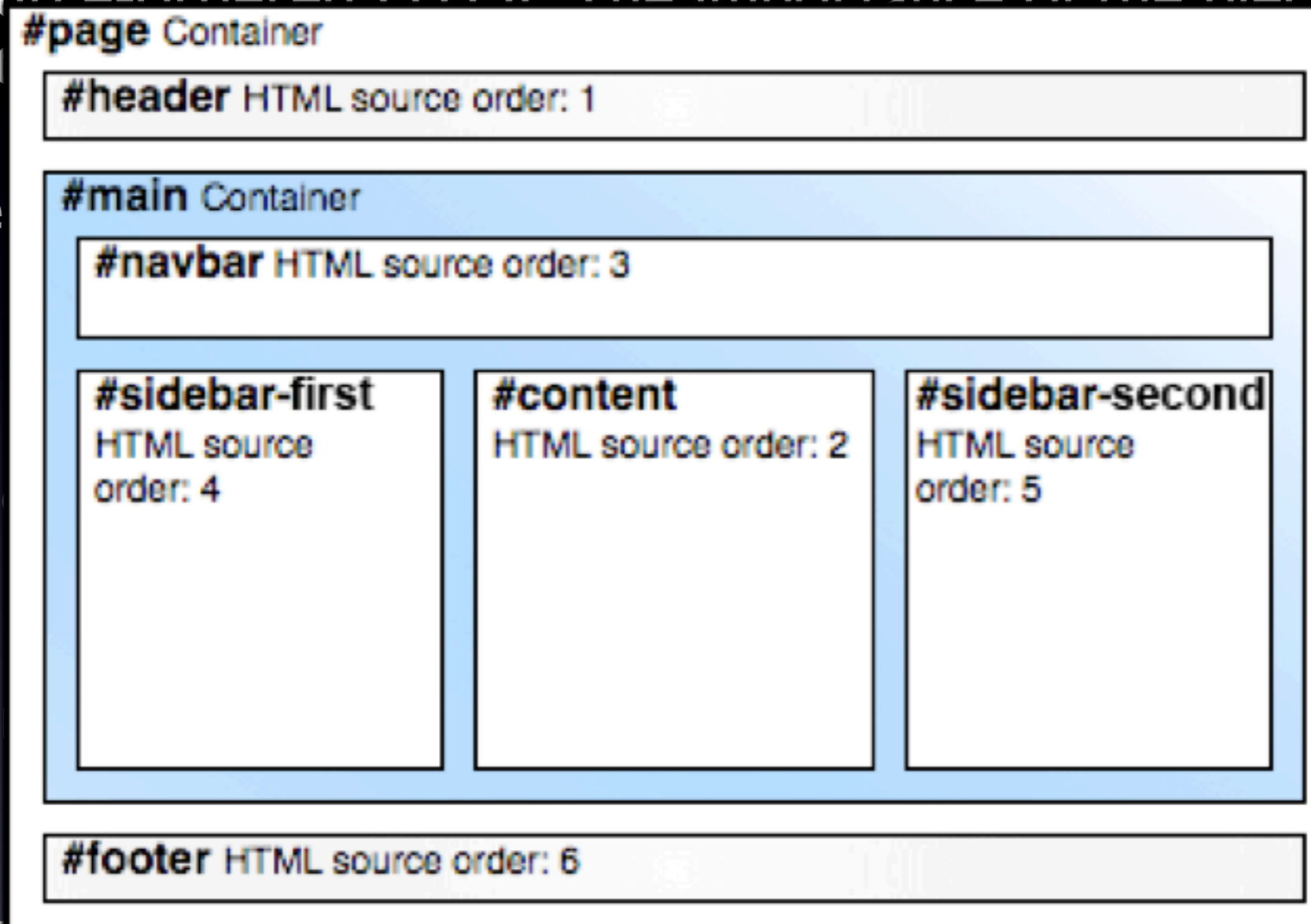
pieces of content  
graphic design.

able without

able. If you don't  
own layout

# Brief overview of Zen's Layout method

- Source-ordered HTML • The importance of the pieces of content design.



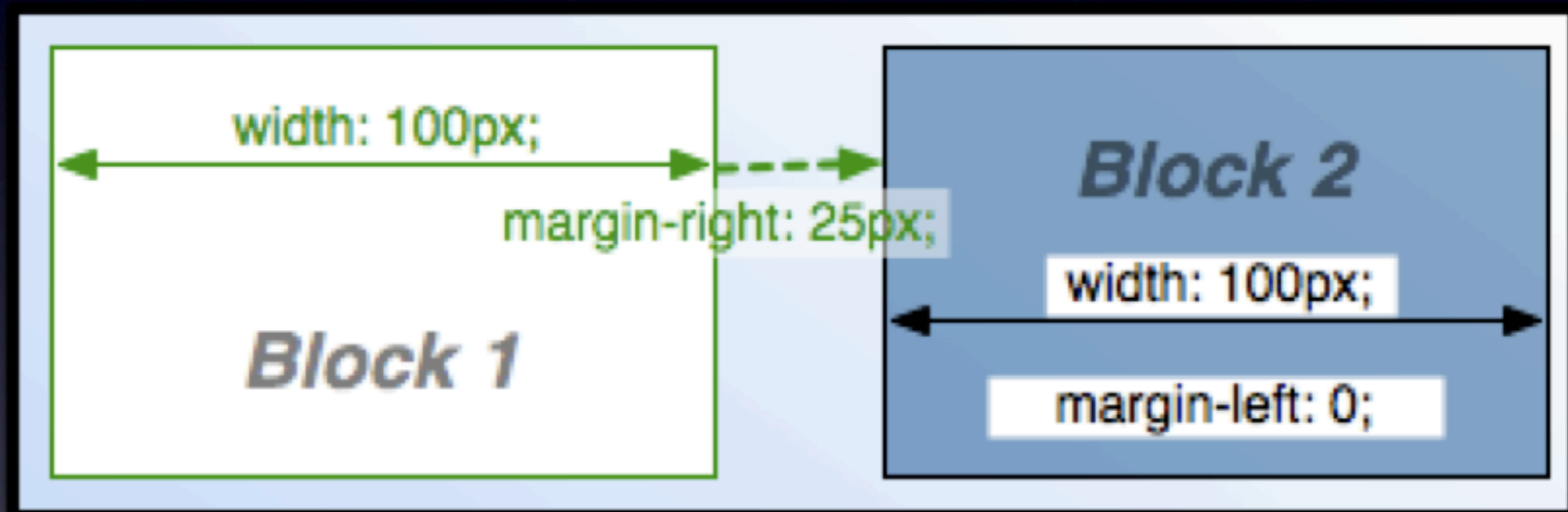
- Flex

without

- Zen like it, just replace the layout.css file with your own layout method: YUI, YAML, Jello Mold, Holy Grail, etc. . If you don't

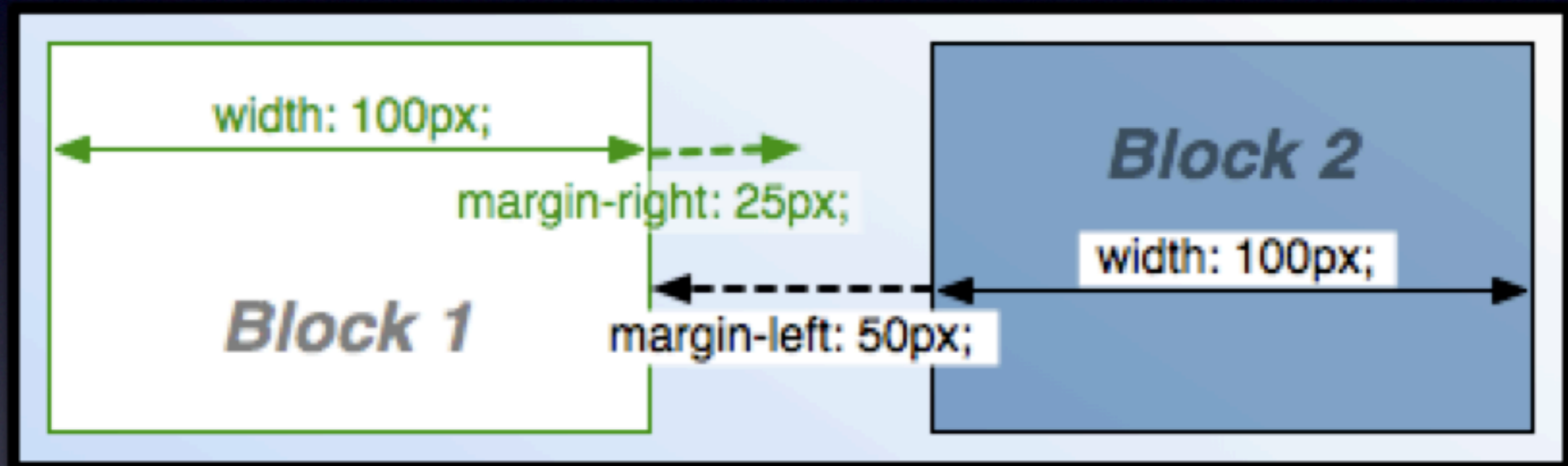
# Negative Margins

(and positive results)



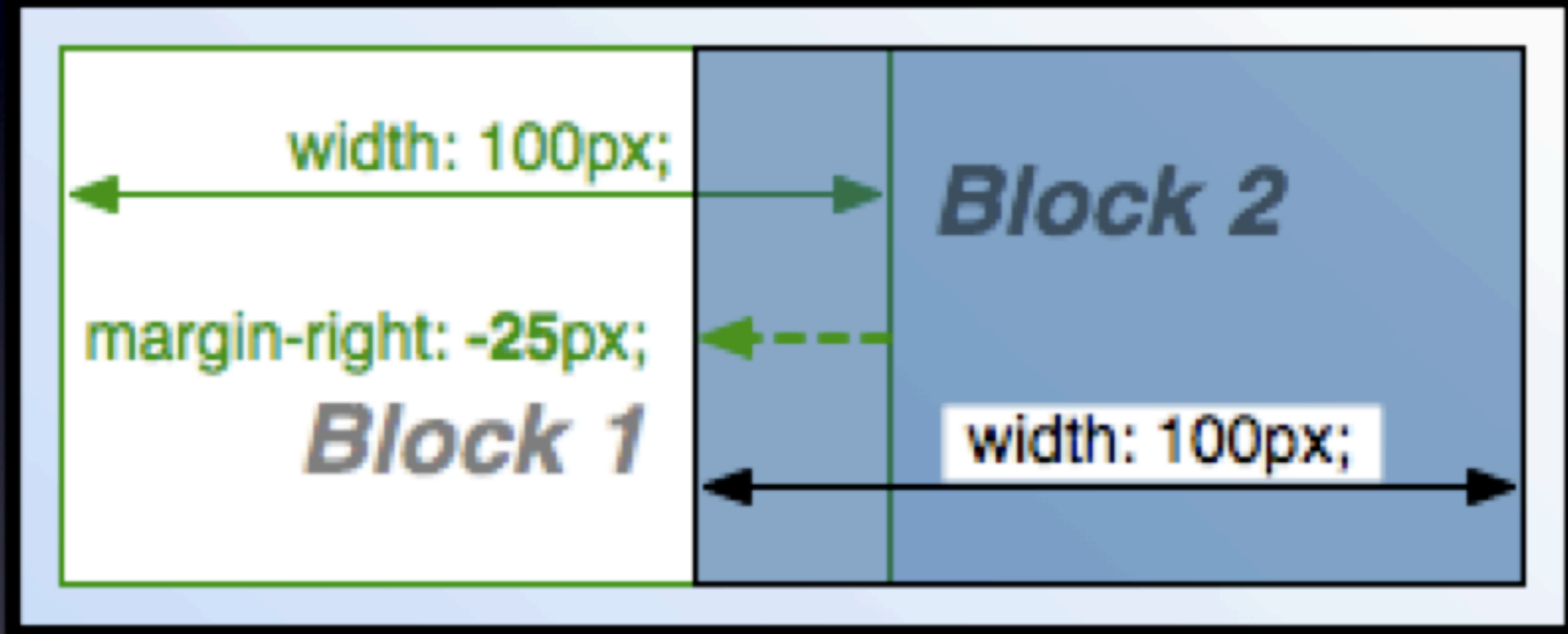
( These blocks have *float: left;* )

# Negative Margins (and positive results)



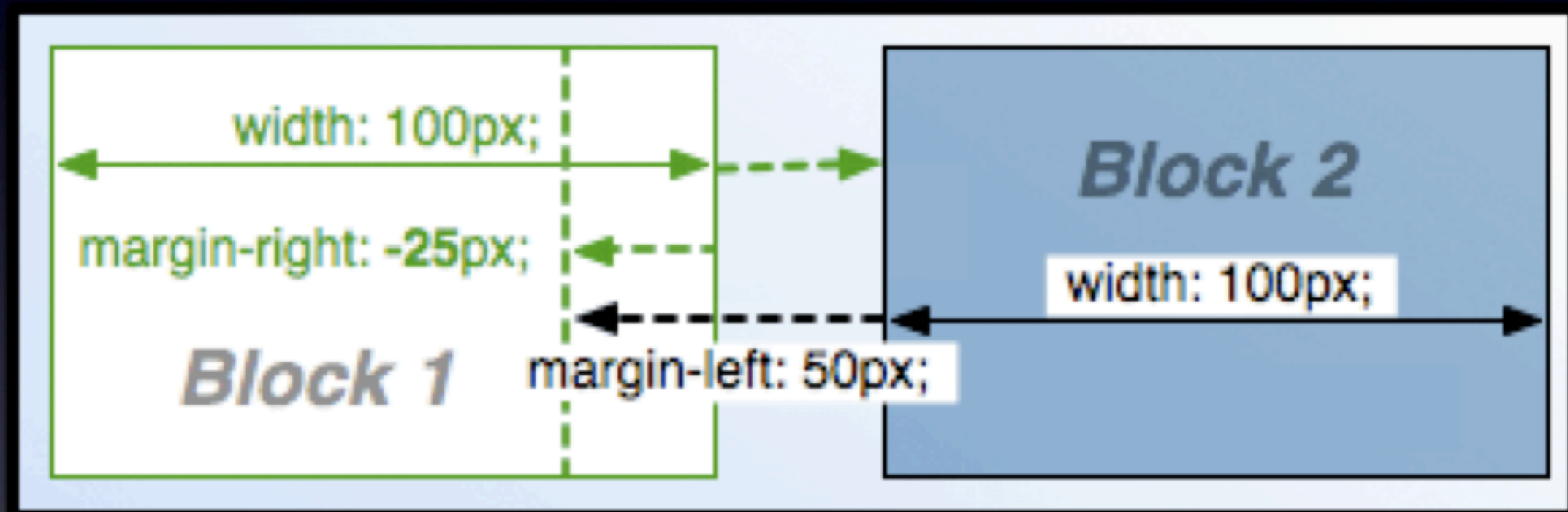
( These blocks have `float: left;` )

# Negative Margins (and positive results)



( These blocks have *float: left;* )

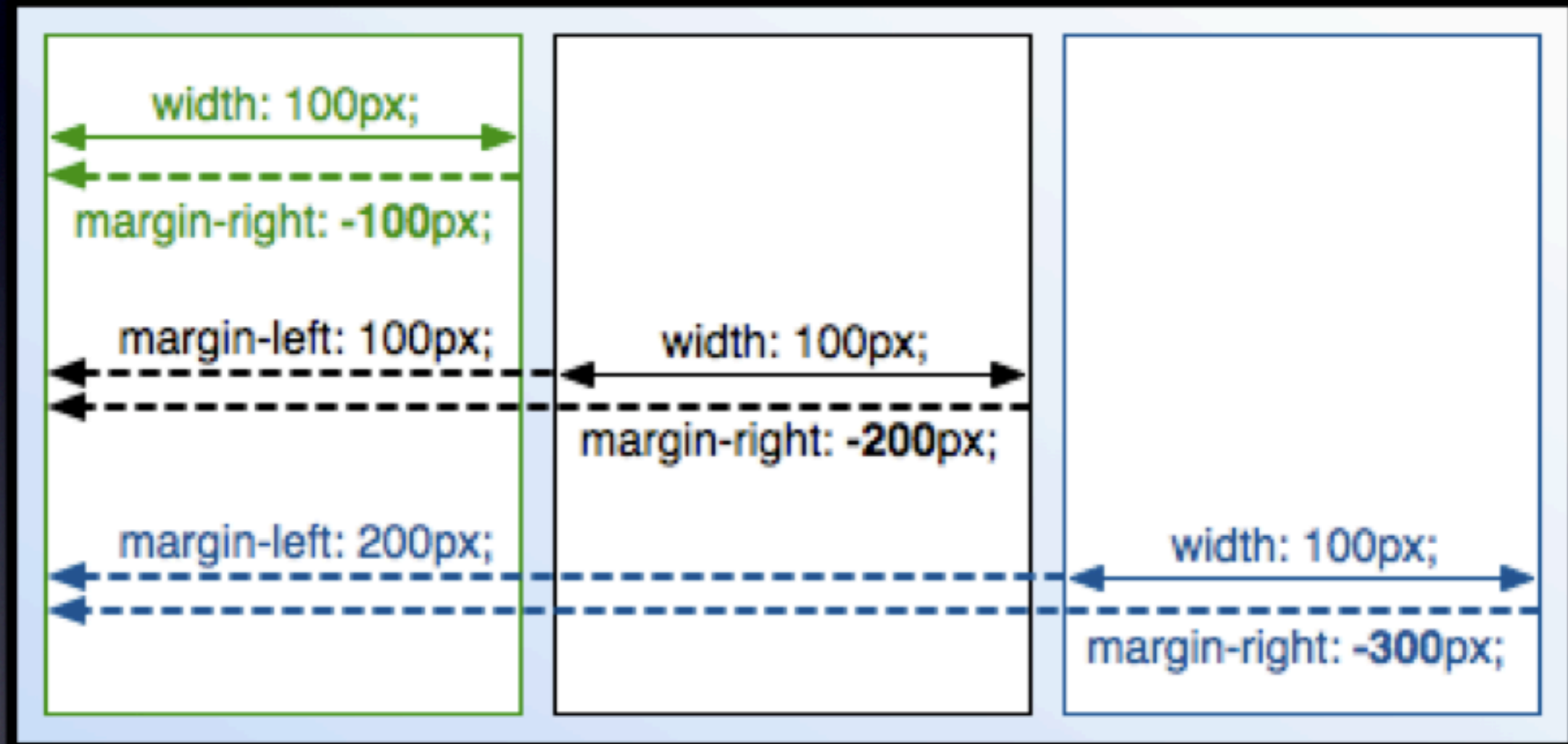
# Negative Margins (and positive results)



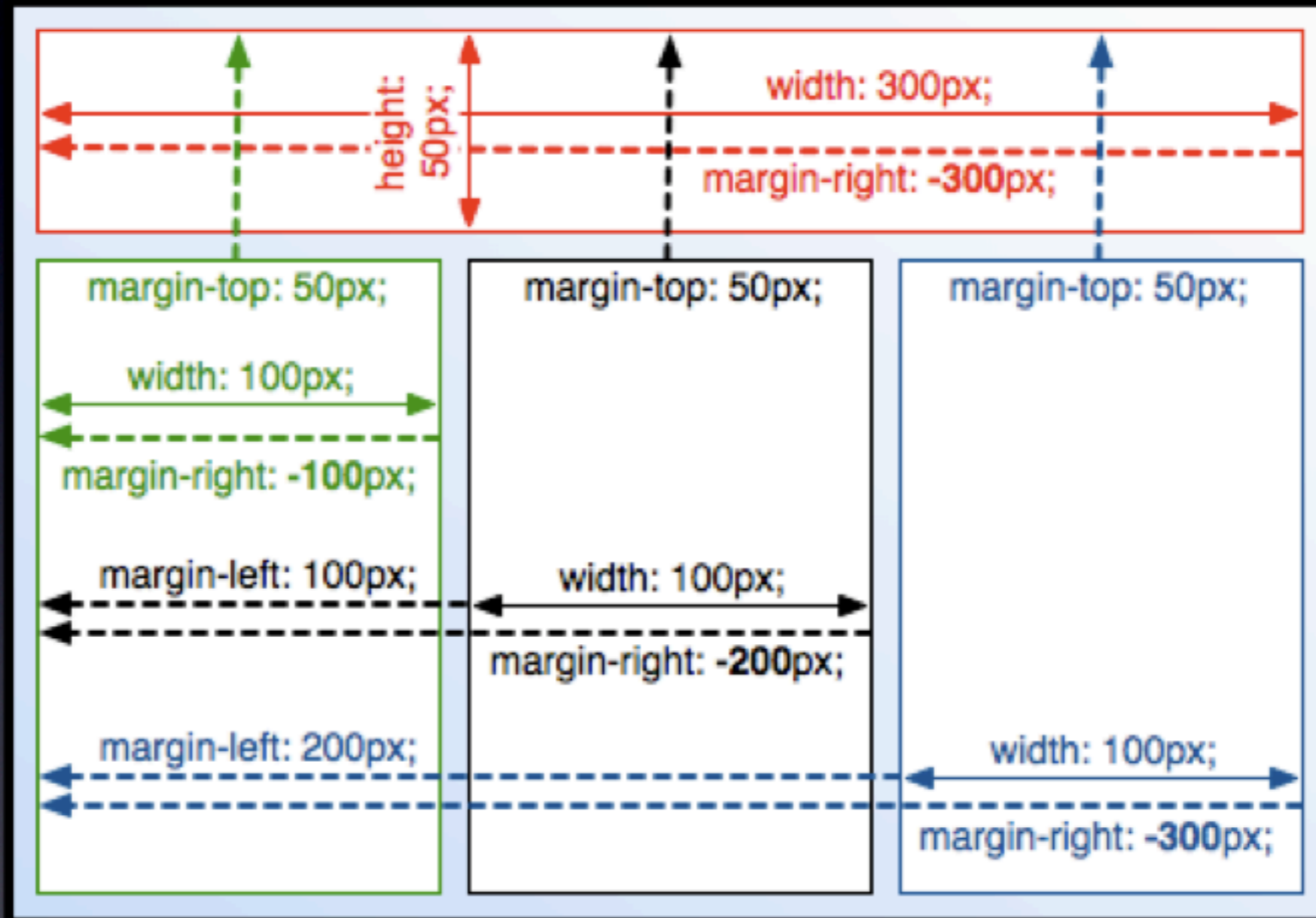
(These blocks have `float: left;` )



# Negative Margins (and positive results)



# Negative Margins (and positive results)



# Getting Help

- 🔗 <http://drupal.org/theme-guide>
- 🔗 <http://drupal.org/project/zen>
- 🔗 <http://drupal.org/irc>
  - 🔗 #drupal-themes
  - 🔗 #drupal-support
  - 🔗 #drupal
- 🔗 Ask Questions!

