Drupal Camp Chicago - Dec 12 & 13, 2009

new adventures in drupal theming

.info

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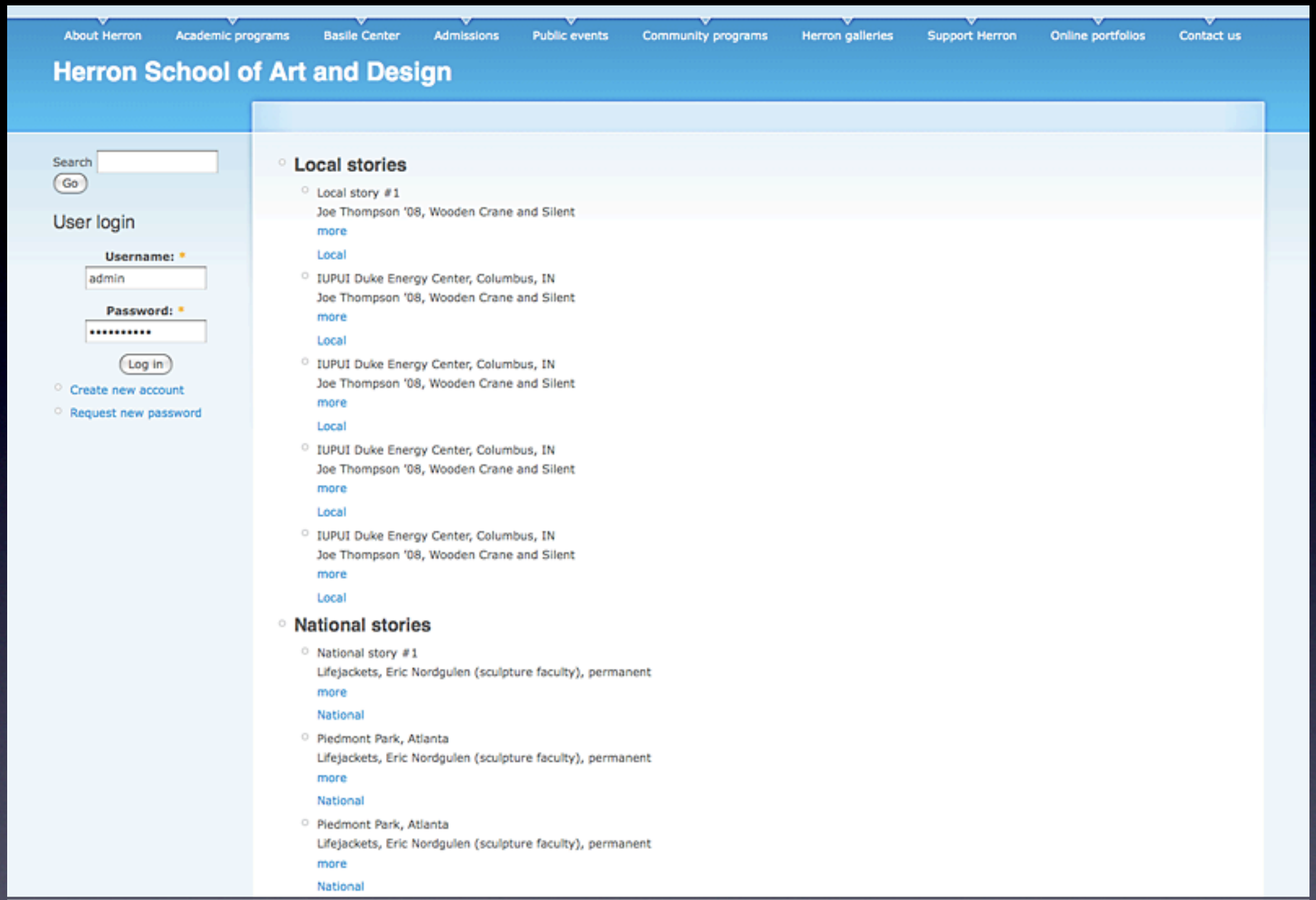
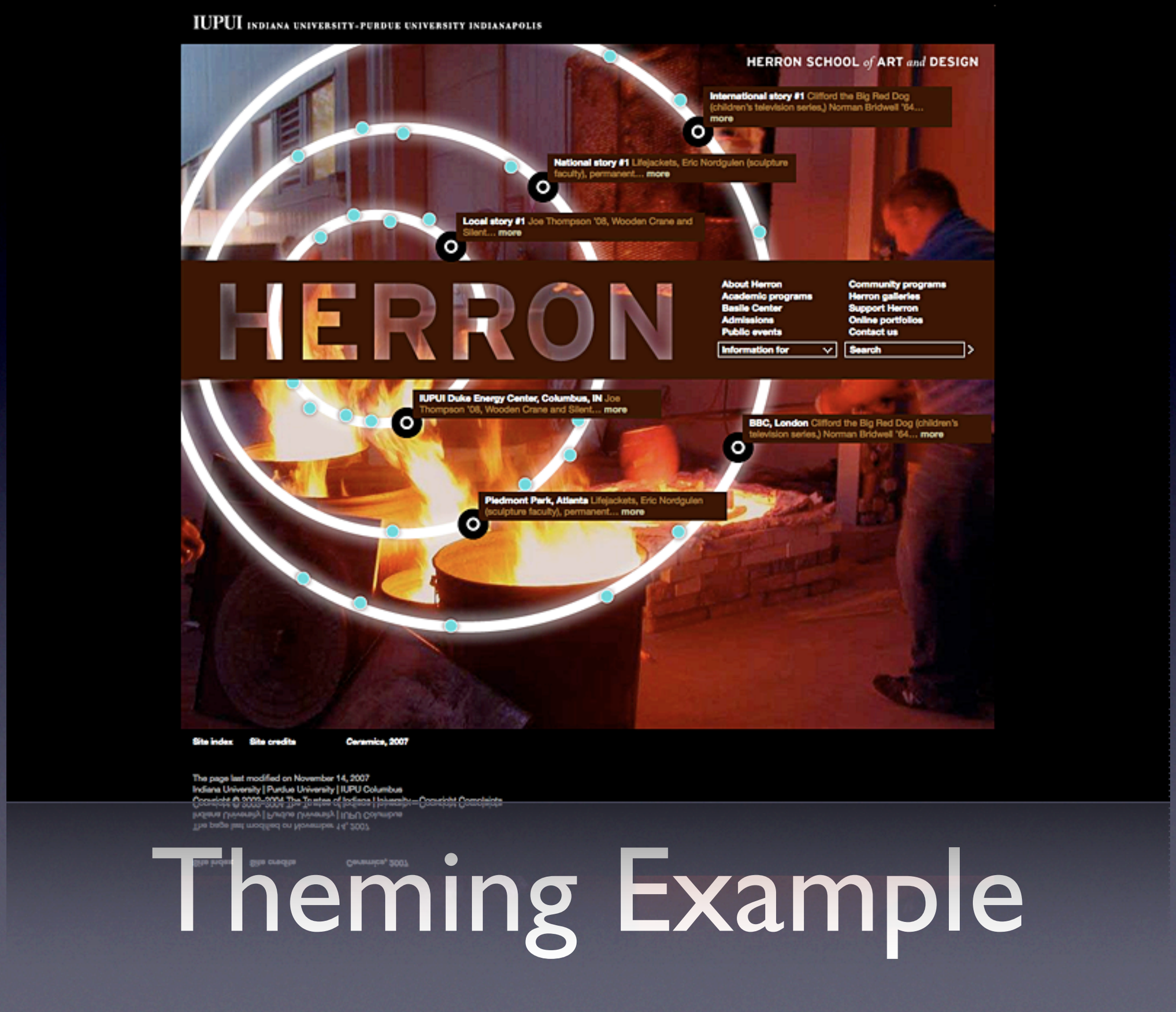
Designing for Drupal

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

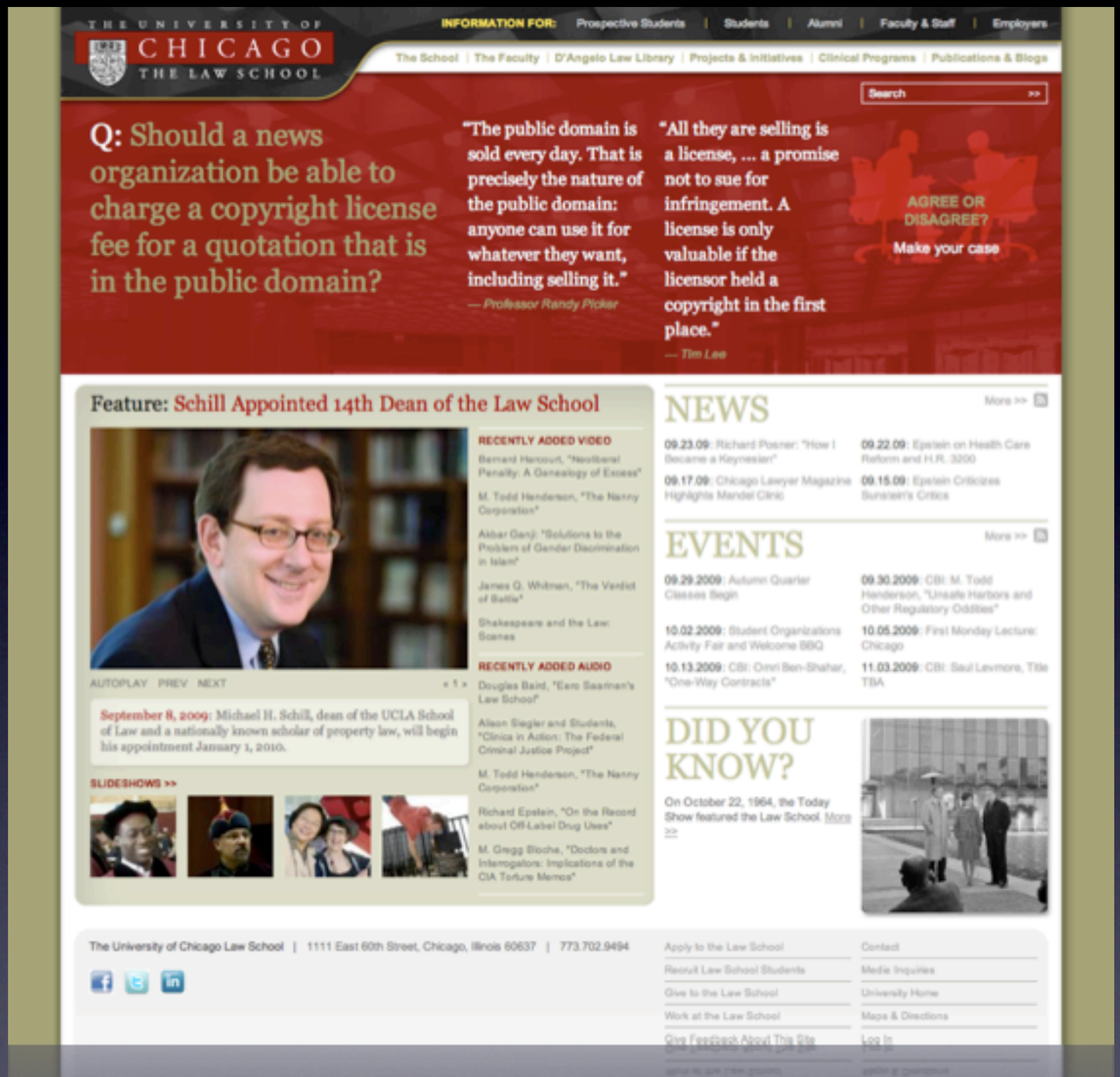


Theming Example



Theming Example

More Zen Examples



More Zen Examples

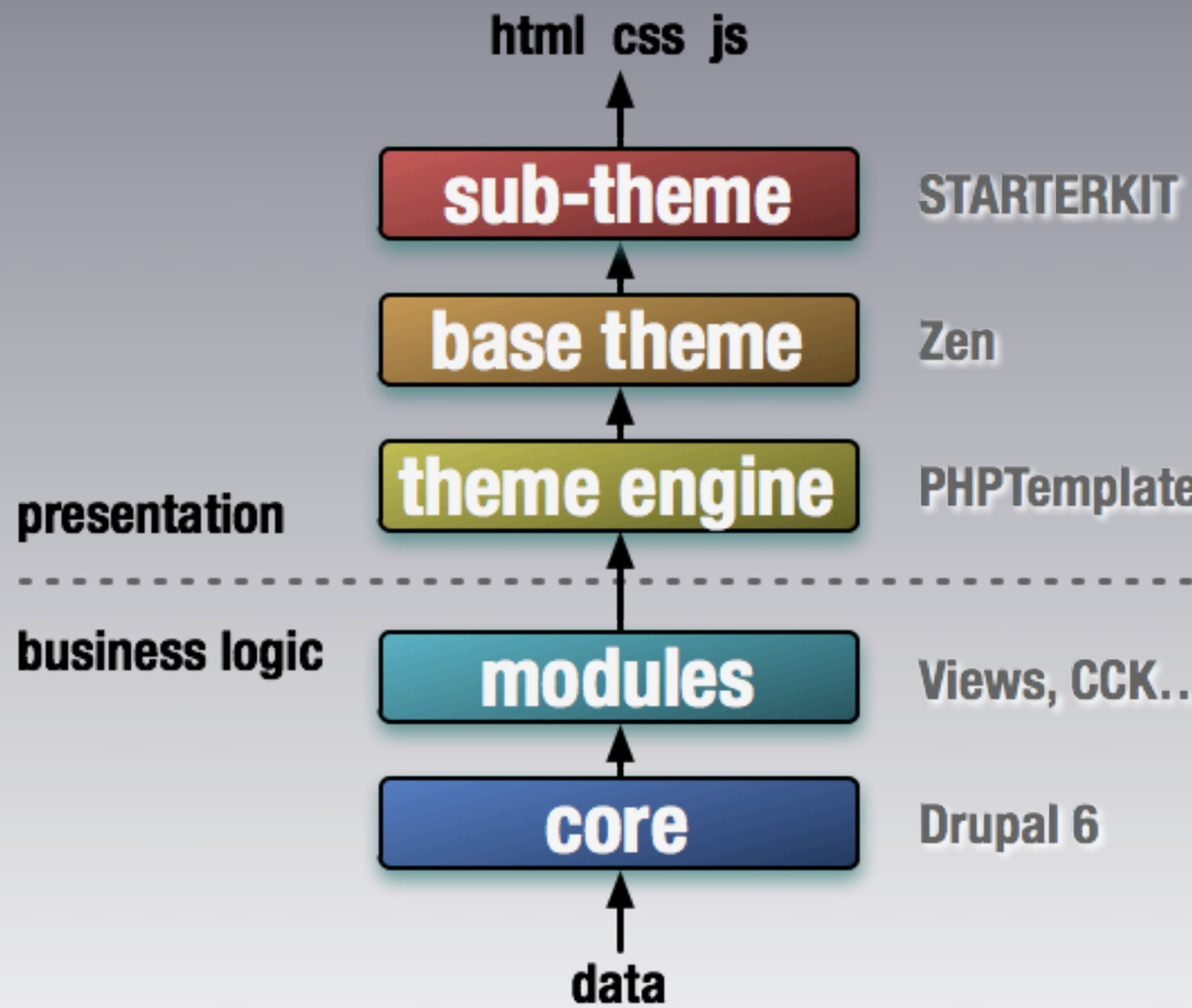
More Zen Examples

Drupal Design

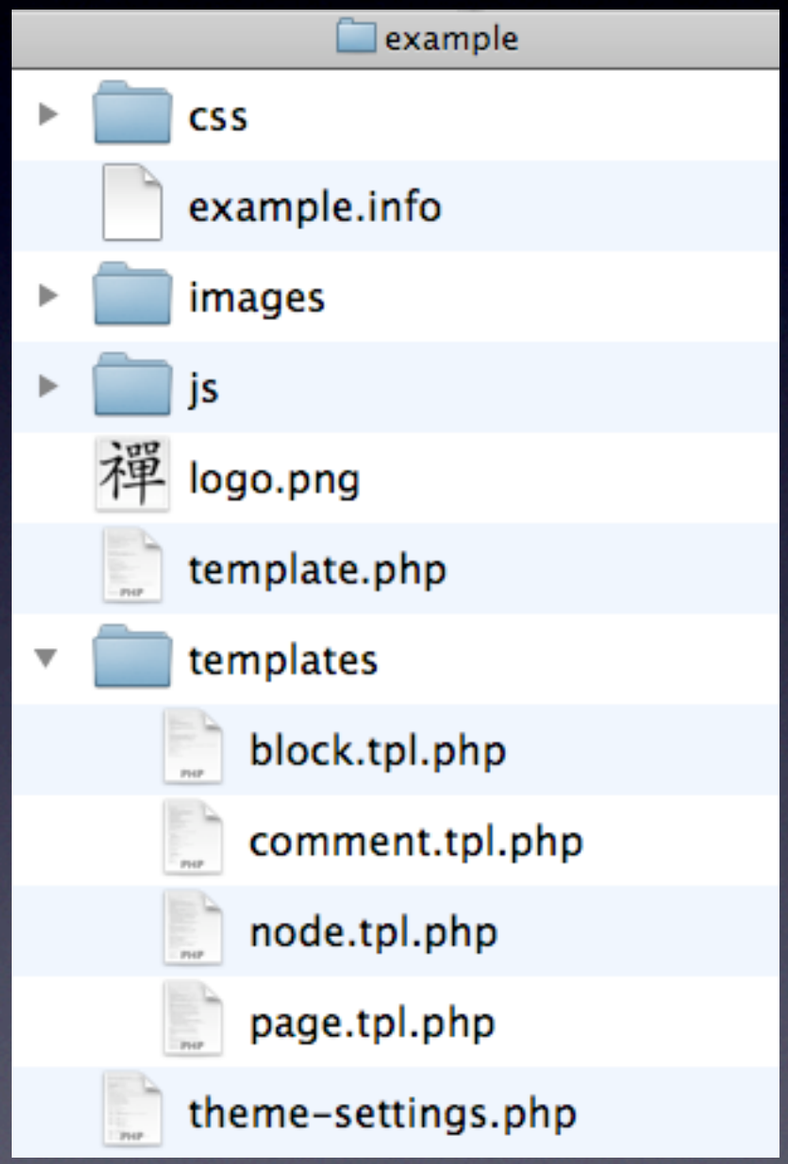
HTML
<?php print "with some PHP" ?>
CSS

Drupal's Theme Layer

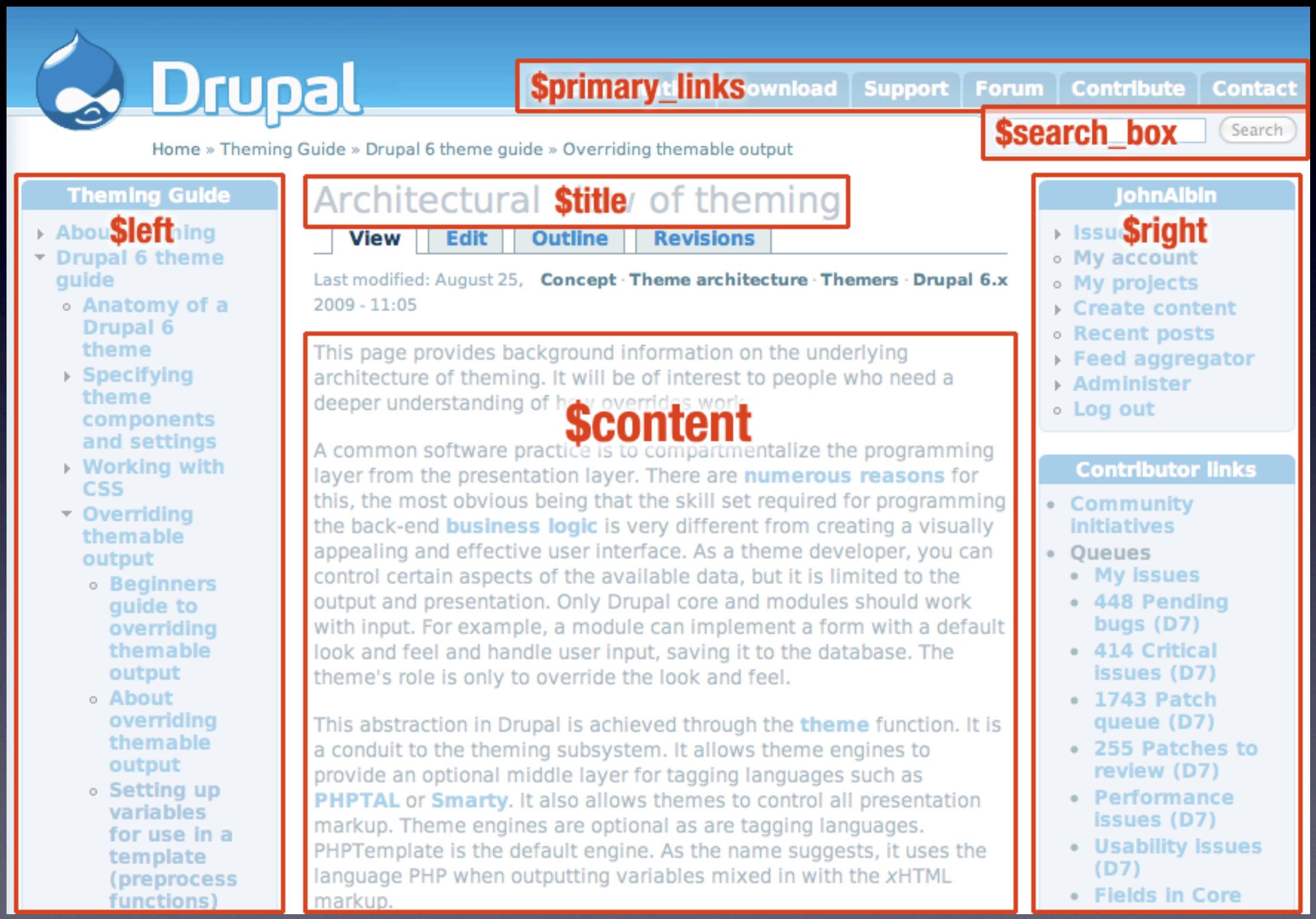
(the big picture)



Example Theme



Structure of page.tpl.php



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

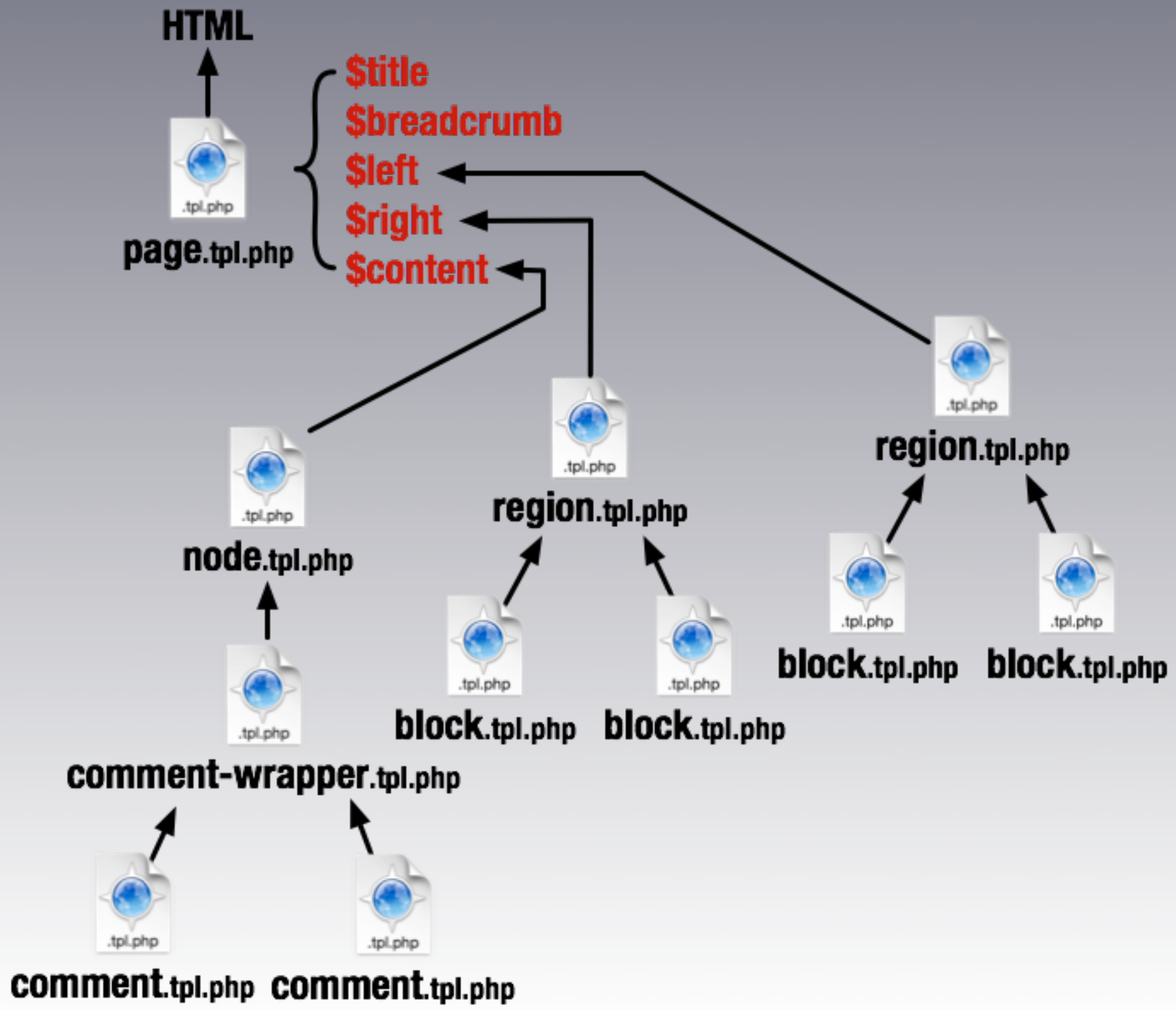
Search box

Title

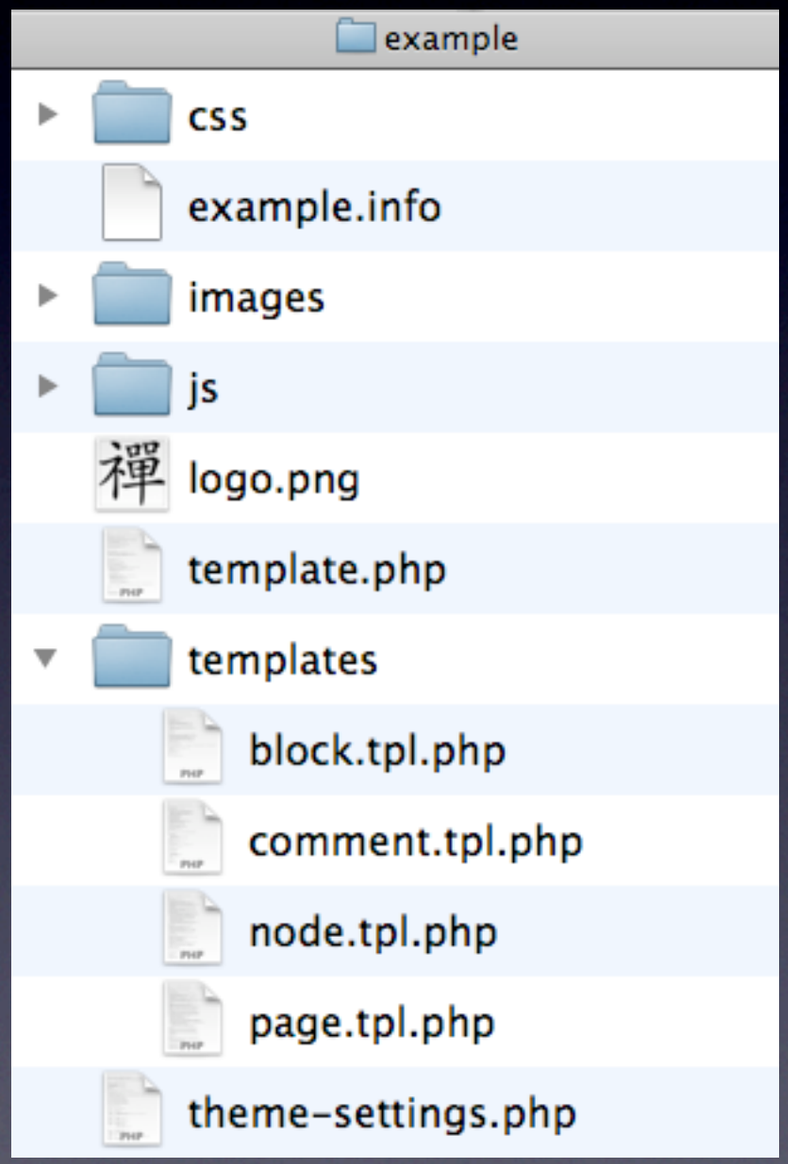
Conditional

content

Where do page.tpl.php variables come from?

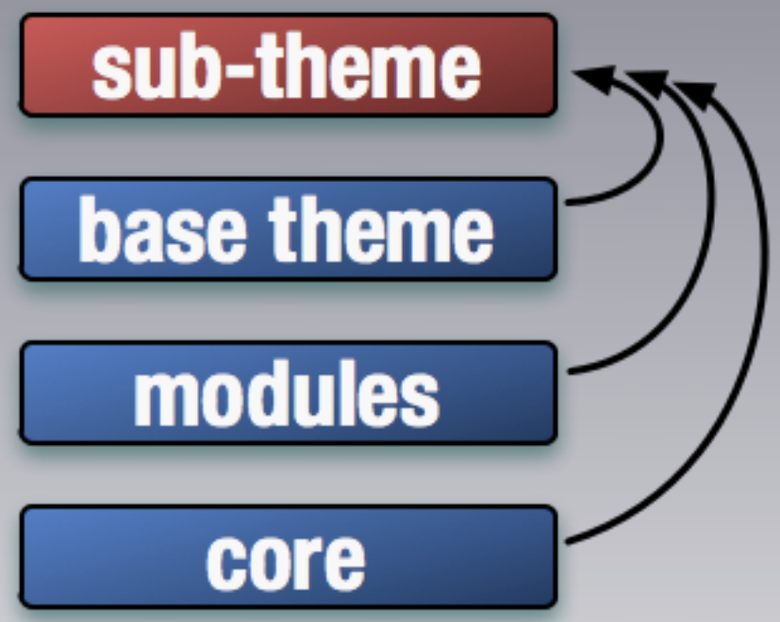


What do you need to know?



- 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

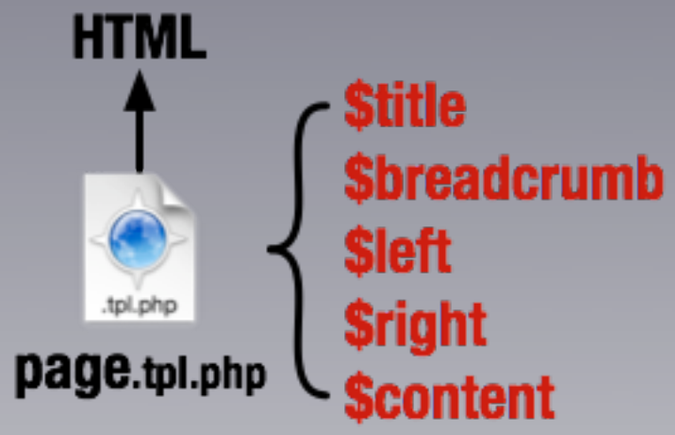
Copy, Override, Modify



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

```php
/**
 * 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

palantir.net

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.
- 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.)
- You just met the developer.

Why use Zen?

- Designe
- Extensi
- Step-by me.
- 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 */
{
}
```

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
- Flexibl
  - Flui
  - Opt
  - 1-3
- Zen's

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

Brief overview of Zen's Layout method

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  - without
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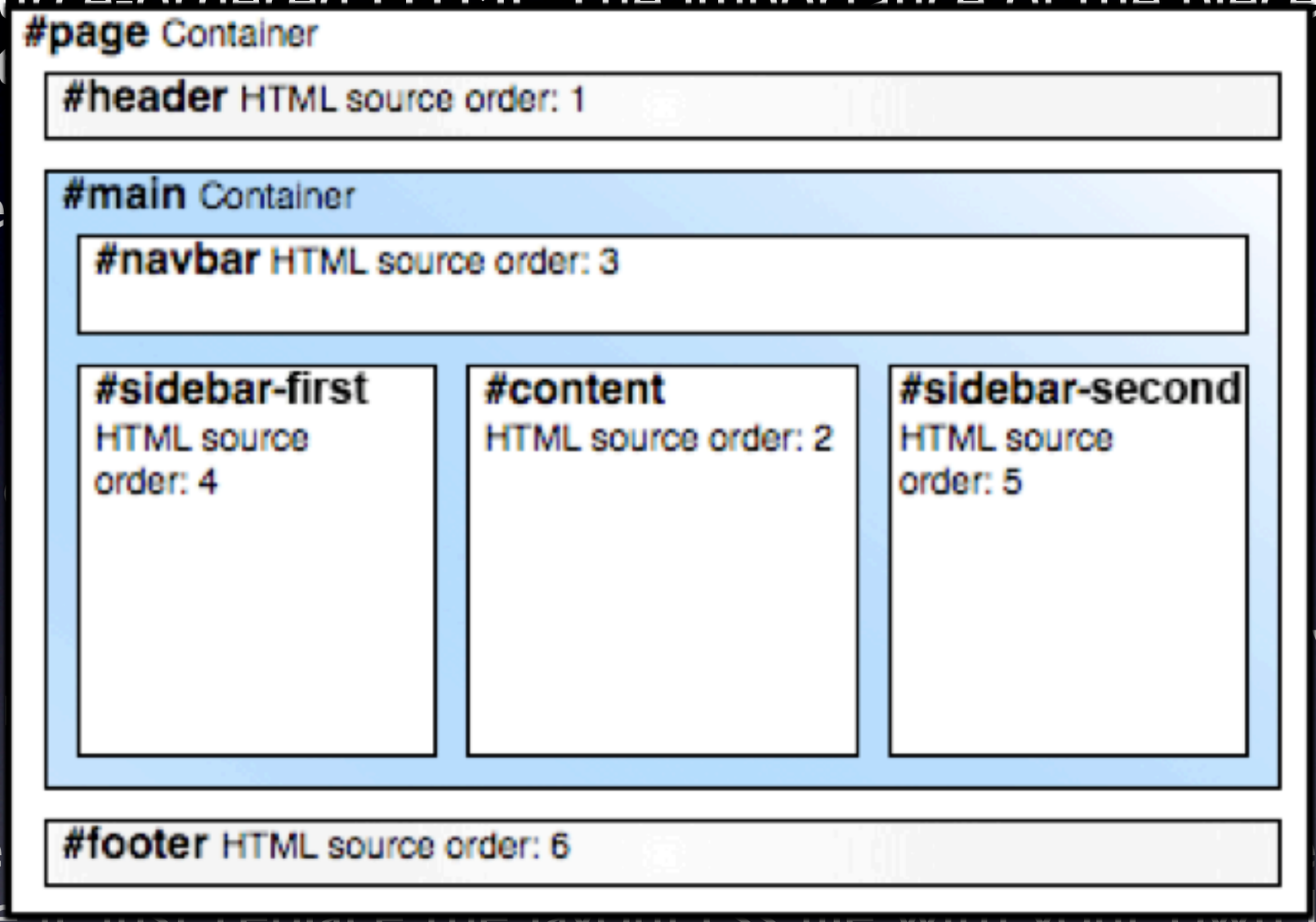
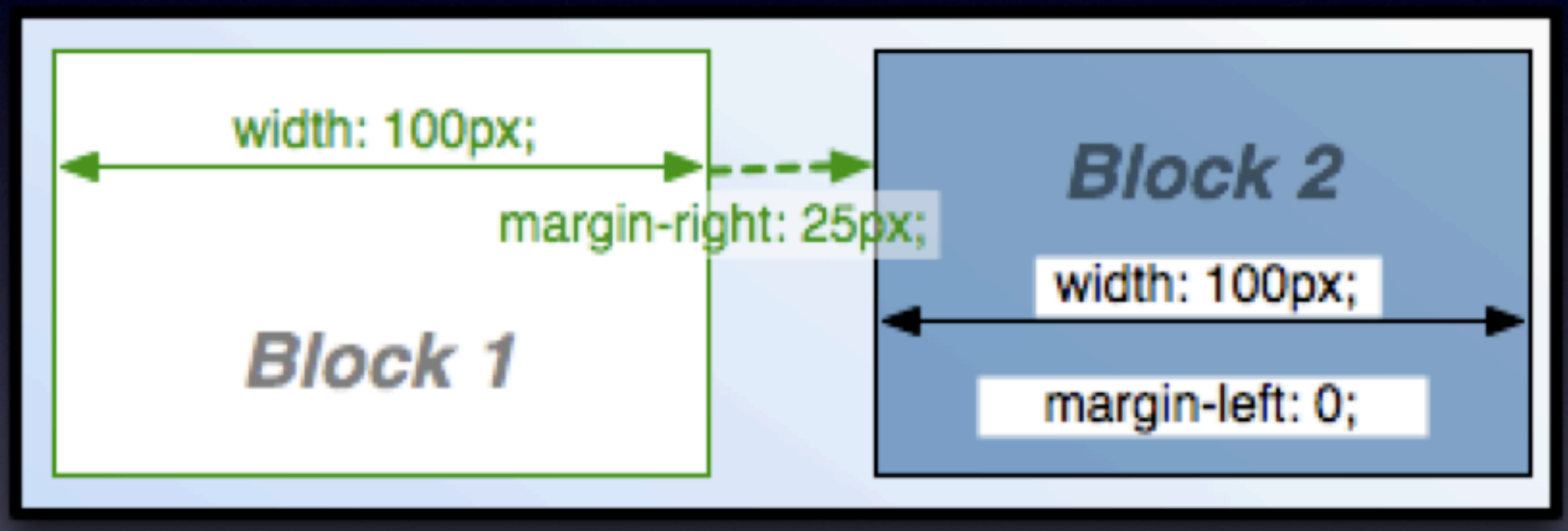


Negative Margins
(and positive results)



(These blocks have *float: left;*)

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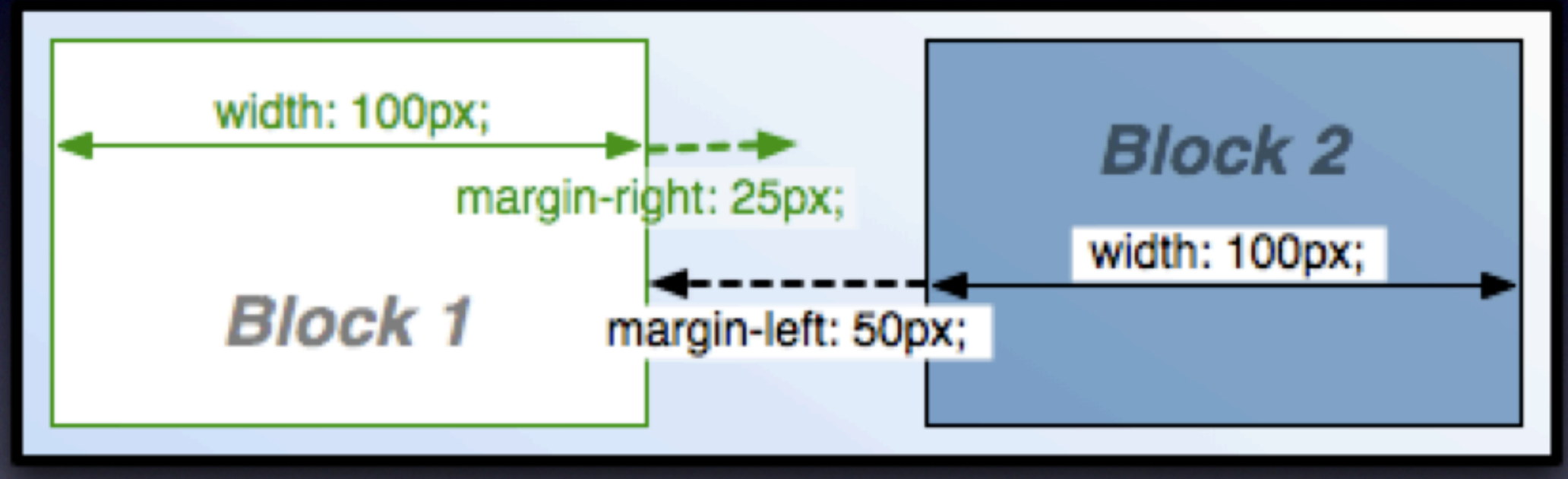

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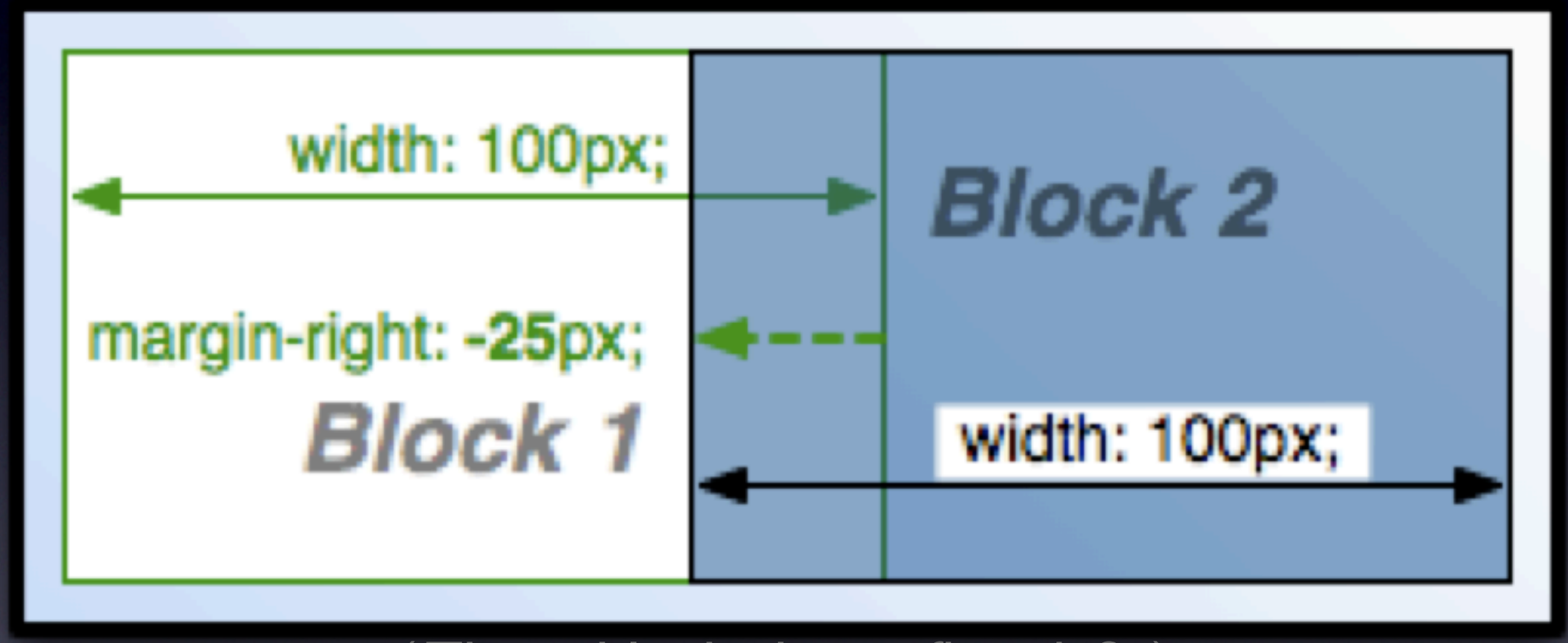

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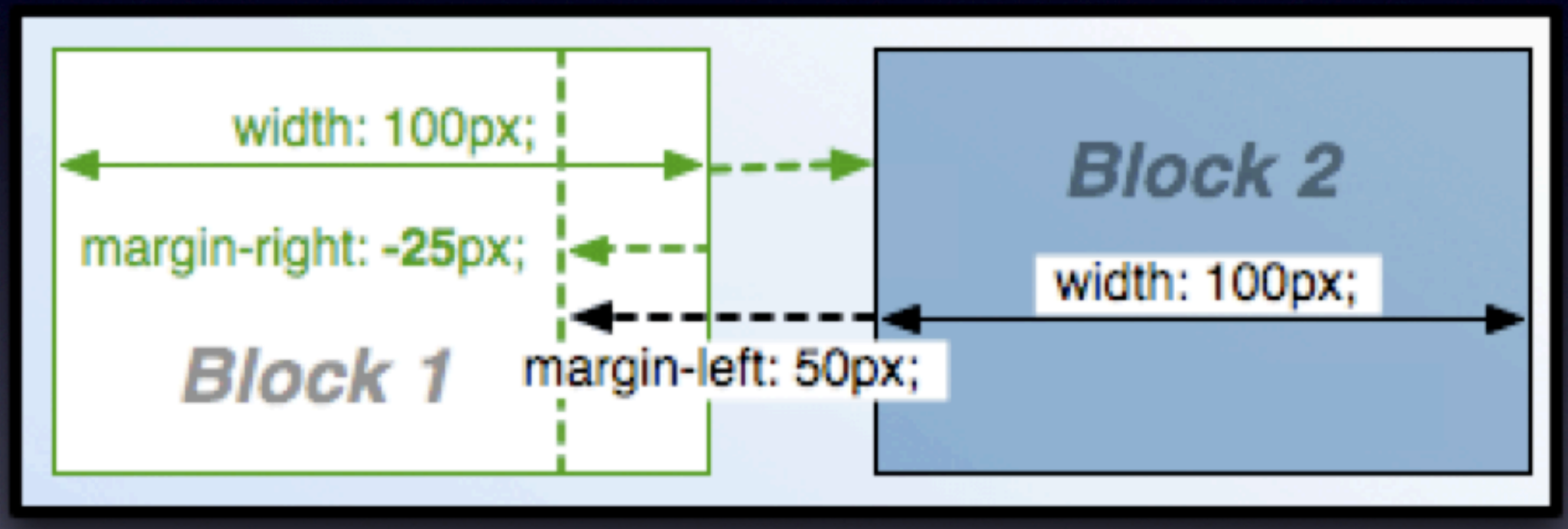

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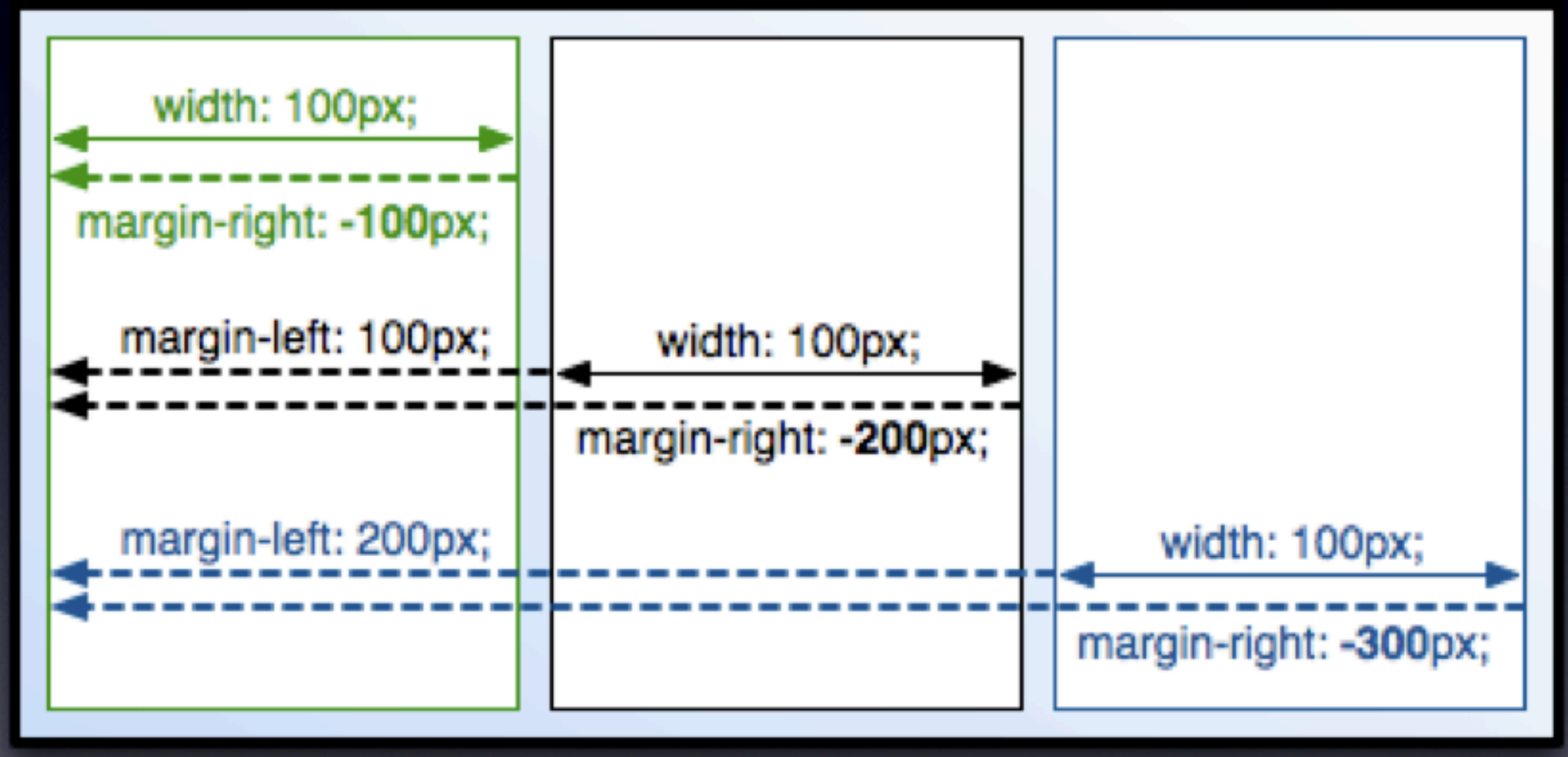

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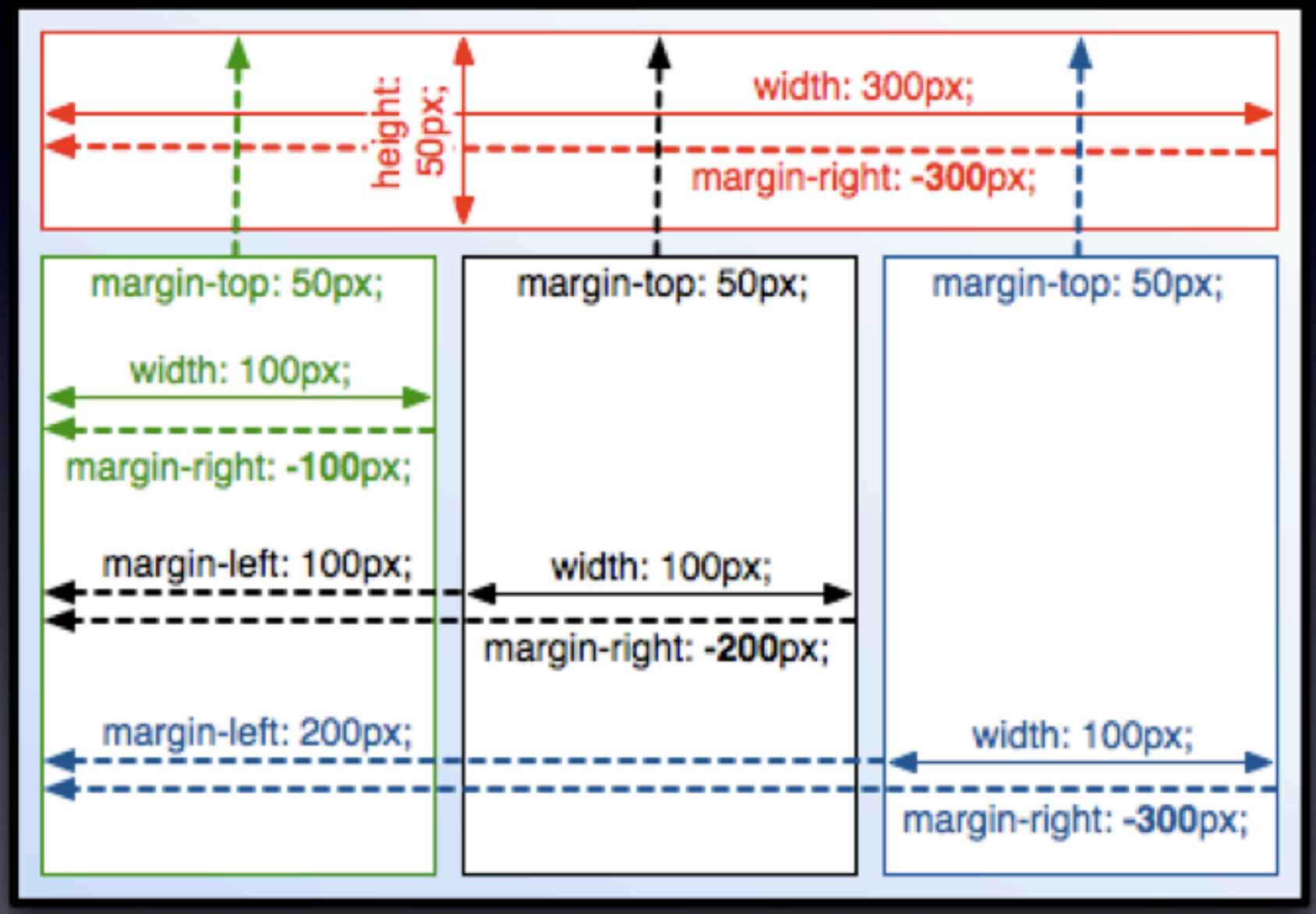

Getting Help

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