

ZEN

THE ULTIMATE STARTING THEME FOR DRUPAL

WHO IS THIS JOHNALBIN GUY ANYWAY?

- I WAS BORN A POOR BLACK CHILD IN MISSISSIPPI.

- DRUPAL NICK: JOHNALBIN
REAL NAME: JOHN ALBIN WILKINS



- ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN. (CS DEGREE, MAY 1996)

- MARC ANDREESEN DEVELOPED THE MOSAIC WEB
BROWSER. RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 1993.

- MEH.

- I'VE BEEN WRITING HTML SINCE 1994.

MORE STUFF ABOUT JOHNALBIN

THAT'S NOT EVEN SLIGHTLY RELATED TO DRUPAL, THEMING, ZEN, AND THE NUMBER 42.

- (IE 1.0 WAS RELEASED IN 1995.)
- BATMAN FOREVER!!!
 - SPACER GIFS FOREVER!!!
- JOINED TANDEM COMPUTERS IN 1996.
 - BIZ CARD SAID: "JOHN WILKINS, TAG MONKEY"
- TECHNICALLY CSS 1.0 WAS RELEASED IN DEC 1996

EVEN MORE STUFF ABOUT JOHNALBIN

K. CAN WE GOT ON WITH IT, ALREADY?

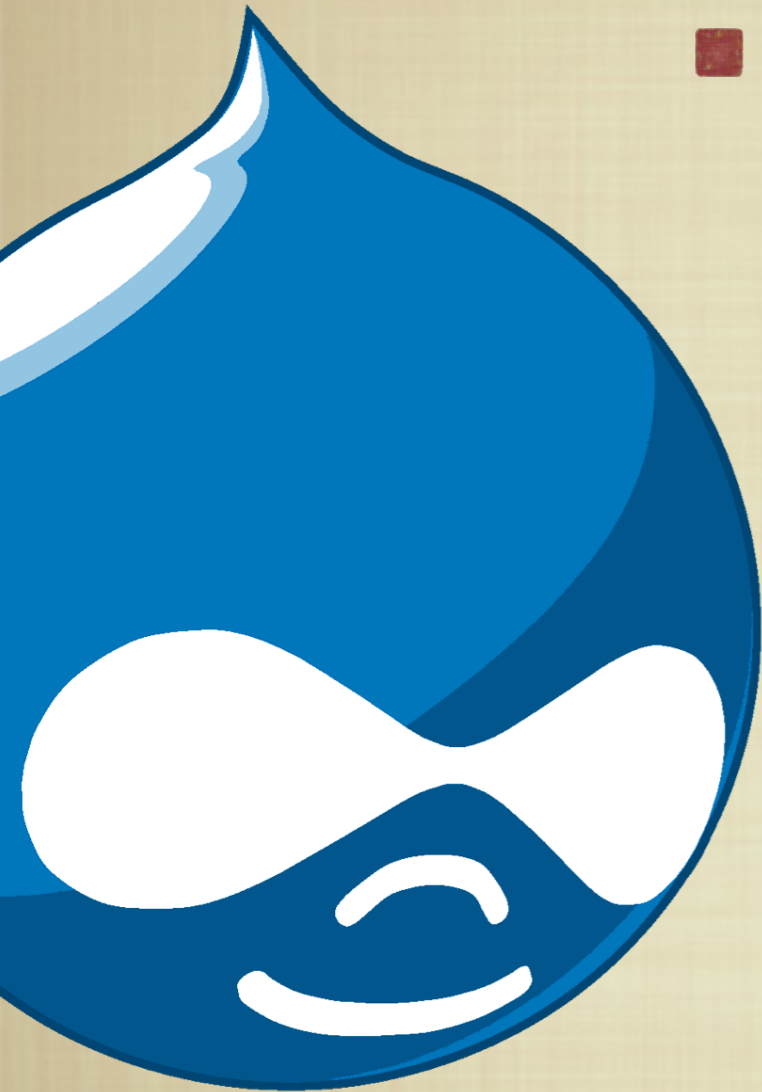
- FEB 2001. ALA: A LIST APART ISSUE #99.
“TO HELL WITH BAD BROWSERS” BY JEFFREY ZELDMAN
- (JULY 3, 2001. MOVED TO AHWATUKEE. 107°.)
- JAN 2002. CSS-D: CSS-DISCUSS MAILING LIST.
ERIC MEYER, “BIG JOHN” GALLANT, HOLLY BERGEVIN, OWEN BRIGGS.
- BOX MODEL HACK. STAR HTML HACK.
- APR 2002. HEAD:FIRST-CHILD+BODY /* OWEN HACK */
- EARLY 2005. RUDIMENTARY ZEN LAYOUT METHOD.

5 SLIDES IN AND
WE'RE JUST NOW
TALKING ABOUT THE
ZEN THEME? WTF!?



SORRY, NO. ONE MORE SLIDE ABOUT ME.

HOW TO JOIN THE DRUPAL COMMUNITY



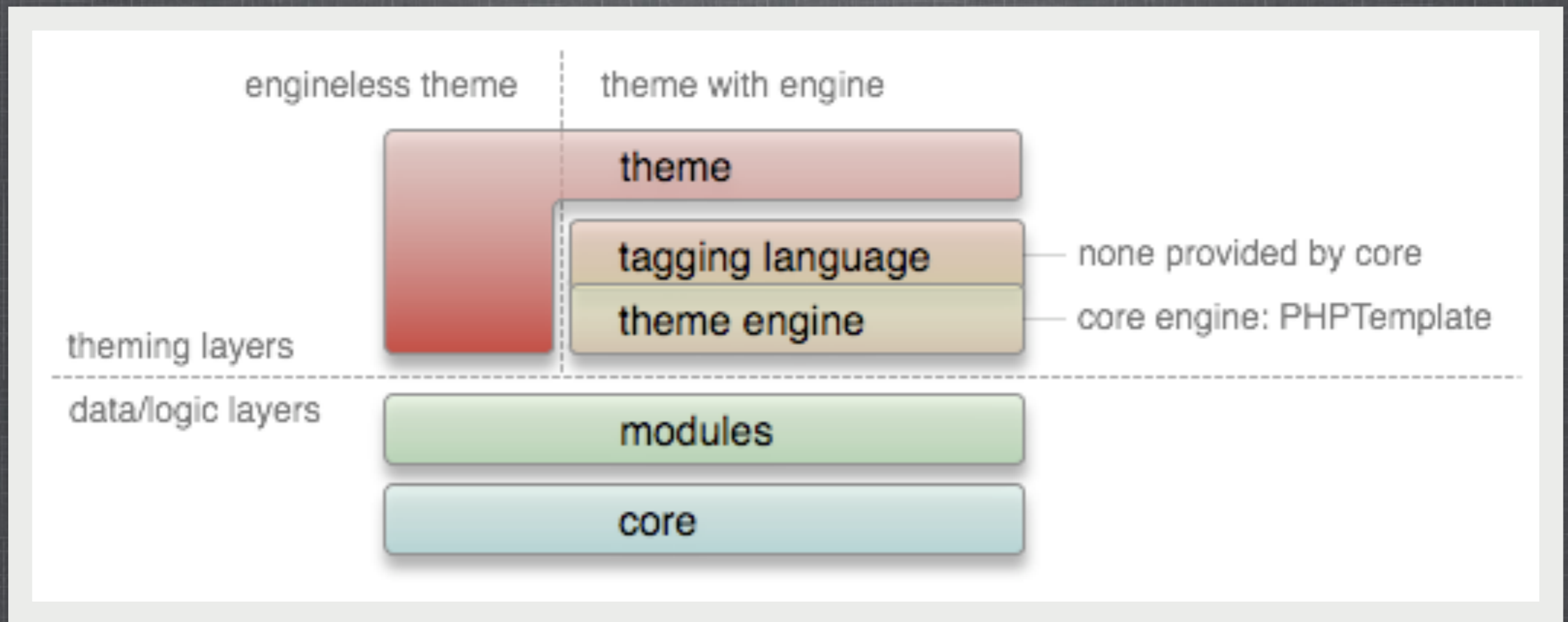
- **SEP 2005. USER 32095.**
[HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/USER/REGISTER](http://drupal.org/user/register)
- **FIND A BUG. SUBMIT AN ISSUE.**
ROLL A PATCH. DO A LITTLE DANCE.
GET DOWN. TONIGHT.
- **MAR-JUL 2007. THEME SETTINGS API.**
- **MAY 2007. JJEFF ASKS FOR HELP**
DEVELOPING THE ZEN THEME.
- **OCT 2007. ZEN 5.x-0.7**

DRUPAL THEMING

WHY DRUPAL 5 ISN'T BAD.
AND WHY DRUPAL 6 ROCKS!

THE DRUPAL THEMING LAYER

(The big picture.)



TEMPLATE VARIABLES

```
<div class="node <?php print $node_classes; ?>"
id="node-<?php print $node->nid; ?>"><div class="node-inner">

  <?php if ($page == 0): ?>
    <h2 class="title">
      <a href="<?php print $node_url; ?>"><?php print $title; ?></a>
    </h2>
  <?php endif; ?>

  <?php if ($unpublished): ?>
    <div class="unpublished"><?php print t('Unpublished'); ?></div>
  <?php endif; ?>

  <?php if ($picture) print $picture; ?>

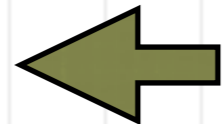
  <?php if ($submitted): ?>
    <div class="submitted">
      <?php print $submitted; ?>
    </div>
  <?php endif; ?>

  <?php if (count($taxonomy)): ?>
    <div class="taxonomy"><?php print t(' in ') . $terms; ?></div>
  <?php endif; ?>

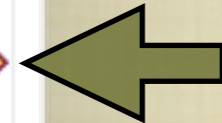
  <div class="content">
    <?php print $content; ?>
  </div>

  <?php if ($links): ?>
    <div class="links">
      <?php print $links; ?>
    </div>
  <?php endif; ?>

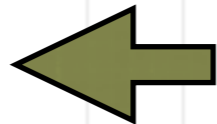
</div></div> <!-- /node-inner, /node -->
```



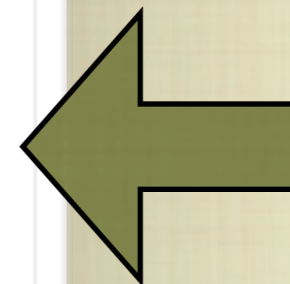
CONDITIONAL



TITLE



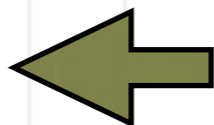
AUTHOR INFO



NODE
TEMPLATE



CONTENT



"READ MORE", ETC.

MODIFYING VARIABLES

■ IN DRUPAL 5:

■ `_PHPTEMPLATE_VARIABLES()`

■ ONE FUNCTION FOR ALL
TEMPLATES

■ IN DRUPAL 6:

■ `THEME_PREPROCESS_HOOK()`
`MYTHEME_PREPROCESS_PAGE()`,
`MYTHEME_PREPROCESS_NODE()`

■ ONE FUNCTION FOR EACH
TEMPLATE



DRUPAL 5'S

_PHPTEMPLATE_VARIABLE()

```
/**  
 * Intercept template variables  
 *  
 * @param $hook  
 *   The name of the theme function being called (name of the .tpl.php file.)  
 * @param $vars  
 *   A copy of the array containing the variables for the hook.  
 * @return  
 *   The array containing additional variables to merge with $vars.  
 */
```

```
function _phptemplate_variables($hook, $vars = array()) {
```



```
}
```

DRUPAL 6'S 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.
}
```

← PAGE VARIABLE
MODIFICATIONS

```
/**
 * 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.');
```

← NODE VARIABLE
ADDITIONS

CREATING
YOUR OWN THEME
AND HOW TO DO IT RIGHT IN D5 AND D6

CREATING A THEME

■ THE STANDARD DRUPAL 5 METHOD:

- FIND A THEME YOU LIKE
- HACK AWAY!!!
(I.E. FORK IT.)

■ THE STANDARD DRUPAL 6 METHOD:

- FIND A THEME YOU LIKE
- USE IT AS A BASE THEME
- OVERRIDE AND MODIFY
ONLY WHAT YOU NEED TO

BENEFITS OF BASE THEMES

- **BUG FIXES.**

IF YOU HAVE MODIFIED ANY OF ZEN'S CORE FILES, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO INCORPORATE ANY OF THOSE BUG FIXES INTO YOUR MODIFIED VERSION OF ZEN.

- **NEW FEATURES.**

OCCASIONALLY THERE WILL BE NEW FEATURES (LIKE THE BLOCK EDITING LINKS.)

- **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.

- **JOHNALBIN WON'T GLARE AT YOU IN IRC OR IN THE QUEUE.**

SOME HISTORY (YET AGAIN)

- DURING DRUPAL 5'S DEVELOPMENT, PEOPLE WERE DEBATING... WE NEED A NEW THEME; WHAT SHOULD IT BE?
 - BEAUTIFUL...
 - OR EASY TO MODIFY
- **ZEN VS. GARLAND**
 - ZEN 5.X-0.6 BECAME A CONTRIB THEME.
 - I DIDN'T START MODIFYING ZEN UNTIL AFTER DRUPAL 6'S "CODE FREEZE" IN JULY 2007.

ZEN'S ONLINE DOCS

- [HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/PROJECT/ZEN](http://drupal.org/project/zen)
- [HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/NODE/193318](http://drupal.org/node/193318)

ZEN'S ONLINE DOCS

■ [HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/PROJECT/ZEN](http://drupal.org/project/zen)



The screenshot shows the Drupal.org website interface for the Zen theme. At the top is the Drupal logo and navigation links for Documentation, Download, Support, and Forum. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: Home » Download » Themes. The main heading is "Zen", followed by tabs for View, Edit, Revisions, and CVS access. The post is by JohnAlbin, dated October 10, 2006, at 17:24. The text describes Zen as the ultimate starting theme for Drupal, highlighting its standards-compliance and documentation. A testimonial from Greg is included, praising the theme for saving time. The page also features a diagram titled "Zen: Just add CSS" showing three overlapping wireframe boxes with colored headers (green, blue, red) to illustrate how the theme's structure is modified via CSS. The bottom of the page mentions that the idea is to have a flexible, standards-compliant theme that can be modified through CSS and Drupal's enhanced version.

Drupal

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Home » Download » Themes

Zen

View Edit Revisions CVS access

JohnAlbin - October 10, 2006 - 17:24 Themes

Zen is the ultimate starting theme for Drupal. If you are building your own standards-compliant theme, you will find it much easier to start with Zen than to start with Garland or Bluemarine. This theme has **fantastic online documentation** and tons of code comments for both the PHP (template.php) and HTML (page.tpl.php, node.tpl.php).

*"This theme saved me at 2am. Three hours of messing with 1000+ lines of nasty Garland-adapted code later, I abandoned it and recoded the site as a Zen sub-theme in under an hour. Thank you, thank you, thank you."
- Greg*

You can [see more testimonials](#) in the online documentation.

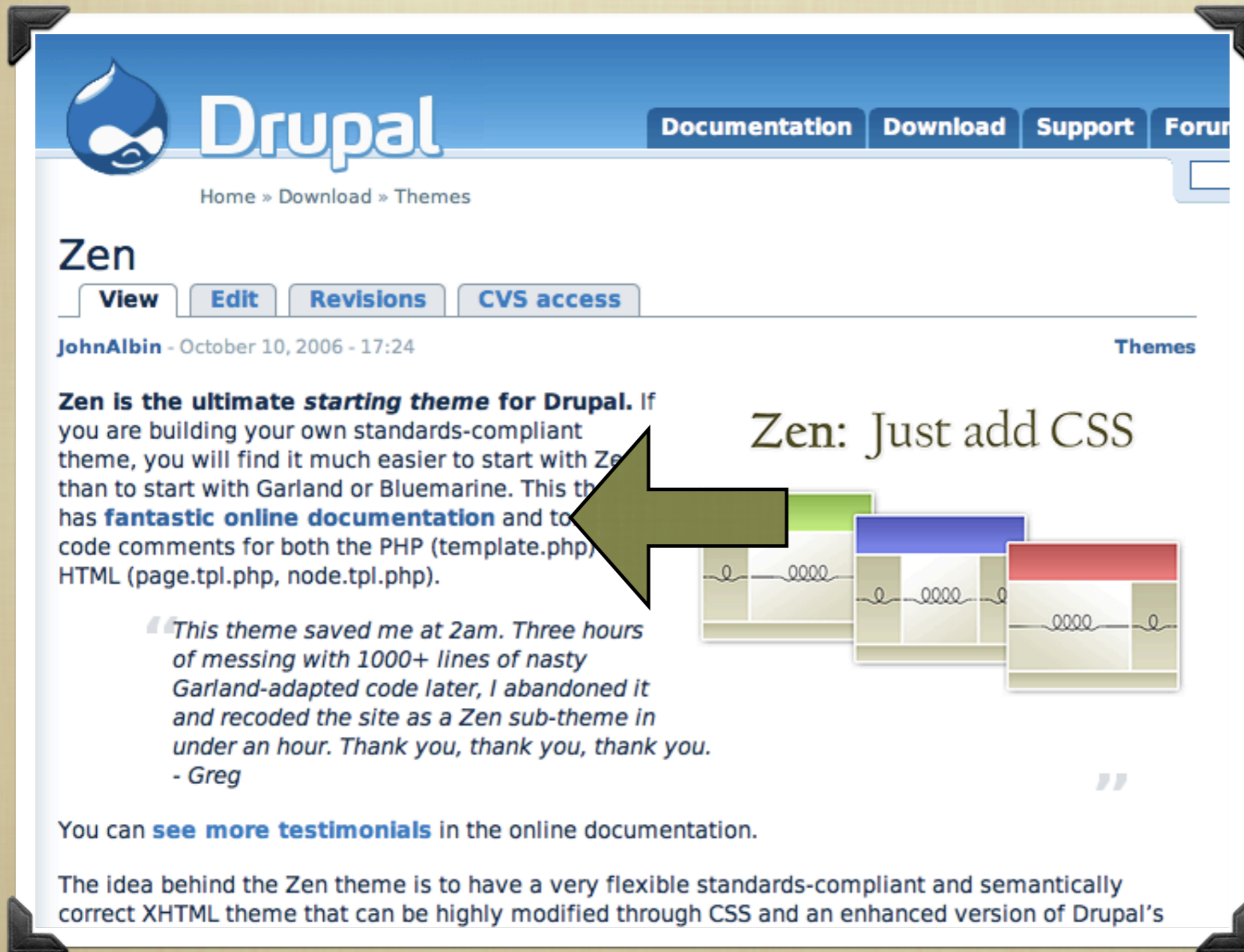
The idea behind the Zen theme is to have a very flexible standards-compliant and semantically correct XHTML theme that can be highly modified through CSS and an enhanced version of Drupal's

Zen: Just add CSS



ZEN'S ONLINE DOCS

■ [HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/PROJECT/ZEN](http://drupal.org/project/zen)



The screenshot shows the Drupal.org website interface for the Zen theme. At the top is the Drupal logo and navigation links for Documentation, Download, Support, and Forums. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: Home » Download » Themes. The main heading is "Zen", with sub-links for View, Edit, Revisions, and CVS access. The post is by JohnAlbin, dated October 10, 2006, 17:24. The main text describes Zen as the ultimate starting theme for Drupal, highlighting its standards-compliance, ease of use compared to Garland or Bluemarine, and its fantastic online documentation. A large green arrow points from the text "Zen: Just add CSS" to the main text. To the right of the text are three small images showing different Zen theme color schemes (green, blue, and red). A testimonial quote from Greg is included, along with a link to more testimonials. The footer explains the idea behind the Zen theme: a flexible, standards-compliant, and semantically correct XHTML theme that can be modified through CSS and an enhanced version of Drupal's

Drupal

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Home » Download » Themes

Zen

View Edit Revisions CVS access

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- Greg*

You can [see more testimonials](#) in the online documentation.

The idea behind the Zen theme is to have a very flexible standards-compliant and semantically correct XHTML theme that can be highly modified through CSS and an enhanced version of Drupal's

Zen: Just add CSS

ZEN'S ONLINE DOCS

■ [HTTP://DRUPAL.ORG/PROJECT/ZEN](http://drupal.org/project/zen)

The image shows a screenshot of the Zen theme documentation page on Drupal.org. The page is displayed in a browser window with a blue header. The header contains the Drupal logo and the word "Drupal" in a large font. Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for "Documentation", "Download", "Support", and "Forum". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a sidebar with a "Beyond the basics" section, which lists various resources such as "Tutorials", "HowTos", "Comparisons of contributed modules", "Contributed modules", and "Contributed themes". The right column contains the main content, which starts with the title "Zen" and a "View" button. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text describing the Zen theme as the ultimate starting theme for Drupal. The text mentions that Zen is designed for building standards-compliant themes and includes fantastic online documentation and code comments for both PHP and HTML. A quote from Greg is included, stating that Zen saved him from having to mess with 1000+ lines of code. The page also includes a list of links for more information, such as "Feature list (5.x)", "Getting started (5.x)", "Getting started (6.x)", and "How to build your own sub-theme (5.x)".

Drupal
Home » Download » Themes

Zen

[View](#) [Edit](#) [Revisions](#) [CVS ac](#)

JohnAlbin - October 10, 2006 - 17:24

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correct XHTML theme that can be highly modified through CSS and an enhanced version of Drupal's

Drupal
Home » Beyond the basics » Contributed themes

Zen

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About the Zen theme

Zen is the *ultimate starting theme for Drupal*. If you are building your own standards-compliant theme, you will find it much easier to start with Zen than to start with Garland or Bluemarine. This theme has LOTS of documentation in the form of code comments for both the PHP (template.php) and HTML (page.tpl.php, node.tpl.php).

Why should you use Zen? And why should you create your theme as a Zen sub-theme as opposed to just modifying an existing theme? **Lots of reasons.** You can also **read several themer's testimonials**.

More information can be found on the **Zen project homepage**.

- [Feature list \(5.x\)](#)
- [Getting started \(5.x\)](#)
- [Getting started \(6.x\)](#)
- [How to build your own sub-theme \(5.x\)](#)

CREATING A ZEN SUB-THEME

1. COPY THE STARTERKIT FOLDER...
2. ...AND RENAME IT TO BE YOUR NEW SUB-THEME.
IMPORTANT: ONLY LOWERCASE LETTERS AND UNDERSCORES SHOULD BE USED.

FOR EXAMPLE, COPY THE ZEN/STARTERKIT FOLDER AND RENAME IT AS ZEN/FOO.
3. COPY LAYOUT-LIQUID.CSS OR LAYOUT-FIXED.CSS. COPY PRINT.CSS. COPY ZEN.CSS.
4. DON'T MODIFY ANY OF THE "CORE" ZEN FILES. INSTEAD, MAKE A COPY, MOVE IT TO YOUR SUB-THEME, AND THEN MODIFY.

WHY ELSE WOULD I WANT TO USE ZEN?

- BESIDES THE ADVANTAGES OF BASE THEMES?
- BESIDES THE EXTENSIVE ON-LINE DOCUMENTATION?
- IT'S ALSO GOT A LAUNDRY LIST OF FEATURES. (WHICH ARE EXCITING TO USE, BUT BORING TO LIST.)
- EXTENSIVE IN-LINE COMMENTS IN PHP AND CSS FILES.

WHY ELSE WOULD I WANT TO

USE Z

■ BESIDES

■ BESIDES

■ IT'S ALSO
EXCITING

■ EXTENSIVE

```
.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 */
{
}
```

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

?
CH ARE
ILES.

WHY ELSE WOULD I WANT TO USE ZEN?

- BESIDES THE ADVANTAGES OF BASE THEMES?
- BESIDES THE EXTENSIVE ON-LINE DOCUMENTATION?
- IT'S ALSO GOT A LAUNDRY LIST OF FEATURES. (WHICH ARE EXCITING TO USE, BUT BORING TO LIST.)
- EXTENSIVE IN-LINE COMMENTS IN PHP AND CSS FILES.
- A FANTASTICALLY FLEXIBLE CSS LAYOUT METHOD.
 - WHICH I'VE RUN OUT OF TIME TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL. :-)
 - BUT I WILL WRITE ABOUT IT ON PLANET DRUPAL.

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-ORDERED HTML • THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PIECES OF CONTENT AND NOT THE ORDER OF THEM

- FLEX

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- 1-

- ZEN

- PLUG

- LAYOUT.CSS FILE WITH YOUR OWN LAYOUT METHOD: YUI, YAML, JELLO MOLD, HOLY GRAIL, ETC.

`#page (container)`

`#header`

`#main (container)`

`#content`

`#navbar`

`#sidebar-left`

`#sidebar-right`

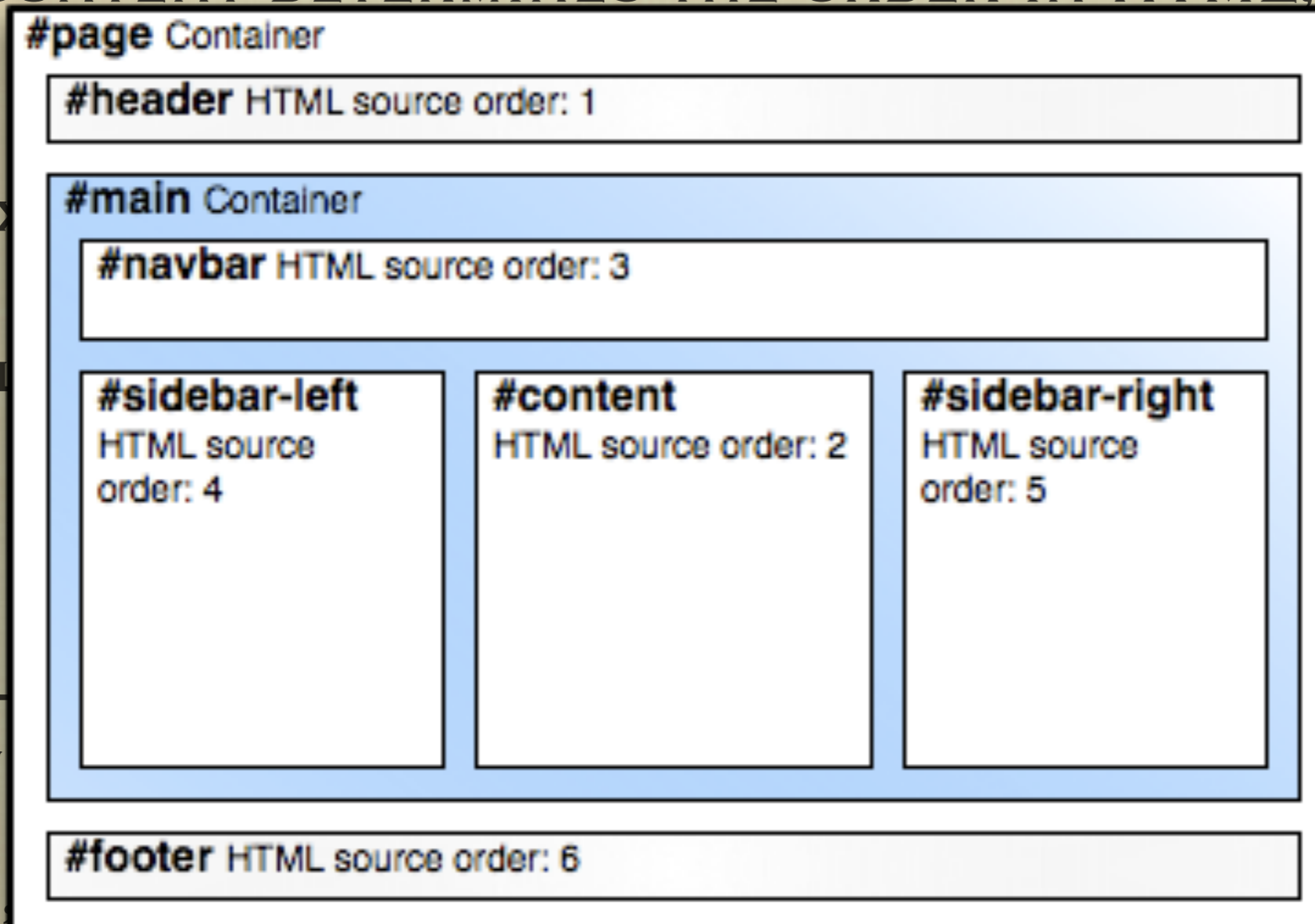
`#footer`

POSSIBLE

E THE

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



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POSSIBLE

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WHAT DOES ZEN LOOK LIKE?

- RECENT IRC CHAT ON #DRUPAL-THEMES:
- MIKEY_P: WHAT EXACTLY DOES ZEN LOOK LIKE? ISN'T ZEN JUST SEMANTIC STRUCTURE?
- JOHNALBIN: MY HOPE IS THAT NO ZEN SUB-THEME LOOKS LIKE ZEN.
- JOHNALBIN: ZEN IS PLAIN. BY DESIGN.
- NIKLP: ZEN LOOKS LIKE NOTHING - AND EVERYTHING.

WHAT DOES ZEN LOOK LIKE?

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Drupal Community Plumbing

[Home](#)

Donec felis eros, blandit non

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Tue, 11/27/2007 - 20:36 — [admin](#)

Morbi id lacus. Etiam malesuada diam ut libero. Sed blandit, justo nec euismod laoreet, nunc nulla iaculis elit, vitae. Donec dolor. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Vivamus vestibulum felis [nec libero](#). [Duis lobortis](#). Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Nunc venenatis pretium magna. Donec dictum ultrices massa. Donec vestibulum porttitor purus. Mauris nibh ligula, porta non, porttitor sed, fermentum id, dolor. Donec eu lectus et elit porttitor rutrum. Aenean justo. Phasellus augue tortor, mattis nonummy, aliquam euismod, cursus eget, ipsum. Sed ultricies bibendum ante. Maecenas rhoncus tincidunt eros.

[Add new comment](#)

Poll

What's up?:

- Nothing.
- Wouldn't you like to know?
- Whatever.
- A little of this. A little of that.
- Baking cookies.

[Vote](#)

tags in drucubahudru

[phuspuw](#) [nowaph](#)[shacloprac](#) [theheswiwris](#)[lofraweslisw](#)[vebawestigu](#) [kitheb](#) [breslihish](#)[pra](#) [bibis](#) [slatruh](#)[clifresliph](#)[more tags](#) [Search](#)

tags in vofropho

[nos ludo](#) [tuwrucle](#)[drotauij](#) [hoc](#) [wrutadavani](#)[rasecobru](#)[tomodriclan](#) [spislocotuc](#)[more tags](#)

admin

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WHAT DOES ZEN LOOK LIKE?



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Syndicate



Who's new

- [stom](#)
- [chiswa](#)
- [chiprihases](#)
- [gabruchos](#)
- [uehosh](#)

[Home](#) > Donec felis eros, blandit non

Donec felis eros, blandit non

[View](#) [Edit](#) [Outline](#)

Submitted by [admin](#) on Tue, 11/27/2007 - 20:36.

Morbi id lacus. Etiam malesuada diam ut libero. Sed blandit, justo nec euismod laoreet, nunc nulla iaculis elit, vitae. Donec dolor. Class aptent taciti sociosqu ad litora torquent per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos. Vivamus vestibulum felis [nec libero](#). [Duis lobortis](#). Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Nunc venenatis pretium magna. Donec dictum ultrices massa. Donec vestibulum porttitor purus. Mauris nibh ligula, porta non, porttitor sed, fermentum id, dolor. Donec eu lectus et elit porttitor rutrum. Aenean justo. Phasellus augue tortor, mattis nonummy, aliquam euismod, cursus eget, ipsum. Sed ultricies bibendum ante. Maecenas rhoncus tincidunt eros.

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tags in vofropho

[hoc](#) [ludo](#) [rasecobru](#) [wrutadavani](#) [spisloclocut](#) [tuwrucle](#) [drotaiij](#)
[tomodriclan](#) [nos](#)

Poll

What's up?:

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- Wouldn't you like to know?
- Whatever.
- A little of this. A little of that.
- Baking cookies.

[Vote](#)

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[lofraweslisw](#)
[bibis](#) [phuspuw](#)
[clifreslinh](#)

Curt Smith



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Facebook
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go!

curt smith - the official website

news

curt on the 2 gs

Posted on May 22nd, 2008 at 4:16pm
in [football](#) [manchester united](#) [radio](#)

If you missed Curt's guest stint on Champions Soccer Radio Network's "The 2 G's" pre-game show on May 21, you can listen online at

[2 comments](#) [Read more](#)

blogcritics.org sings "halfway, pleased" praises

Posted on May 22nd, 2008 at 12:08am
in [halfway pleased](#) [reviews](#)

Rebecca Wright writes: "Melodic... sensual... Smith has delivered a lush, deeply personal album that contains some very touching music."

[1 comment](#) [Read more](#)

christian science monitor hails "halfway, pleased"

Posted on May 21st, 2008 at 7:57pm
in [halfway pleased](#) [review](#)

The *Monitor* raves about the album's "stockpile of potential singles" and opines that it "stands to become a viral success."

[2 comments](#) [Read more](#)

curt smith featured on engadget's "switched"

Posted on May 20th, 2008 at 12:08pm
in [interview](#) [technology](#)

AOL's Engadget asked Curt to complete its "Switched Questionnaire."

[5 comments](#) [Read more](#)

new release

halfway, pleased



Curt Smith's "Halfway, pleased," is an inspirational semi-autobiographical album that delves into his relationships with his children, parents and friends.

Buy CD from Amazon

Buy CD from CD baby

Download from Amazon MP3

Download from iTunes

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23 May [united did indeed score!](#)

19 May [united scores...](#)

12 May [yet another quickie...](#)

10 May [calling all kooks...](#)

featured event

curt smith to be in-studio guest on champion soccer radio network

in [football](#) [interview](#)
CSRN Radio
21 May 2008 - 9:00am

Curt will be a special guest on the "2G's" CSRN Radio show on Wednesday, May 21st, 9-11am PST, just before the big Champions League final

free download

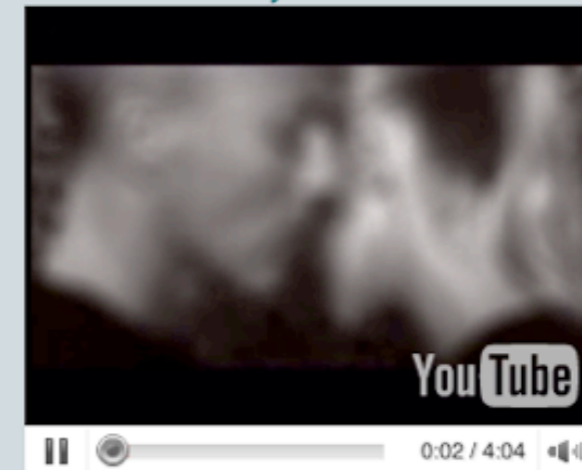
greatest divide



Login/Register to download the track "Greatest Divide" from "Halfway, pleased" for free!

featured video

seven of sundays



Music video for "Seven of Sundays"

[9 comments](#)

featured photoset



tv taping candid

Candid photos of me, Charlton Pettus and Doug Petty taken May 13 as we prepared to tape a TV show which will air later this year.



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



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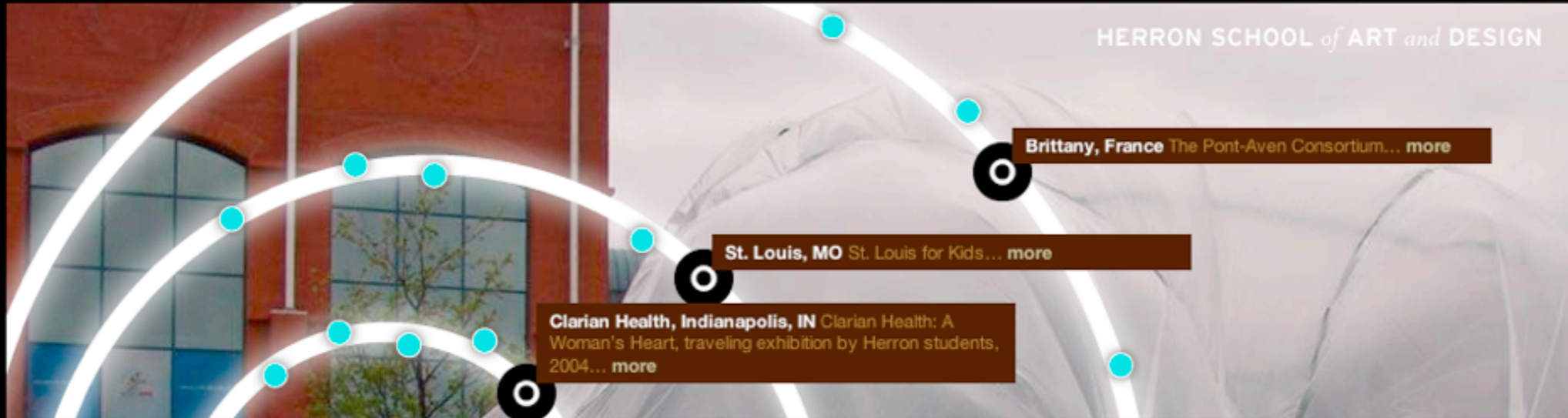
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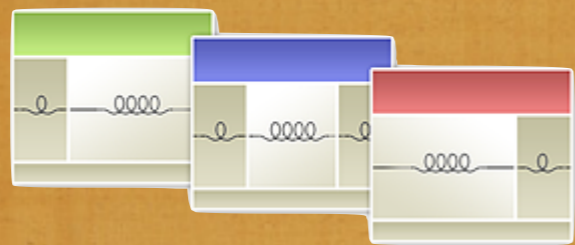
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