

Core Conversation: Help Needs Help!

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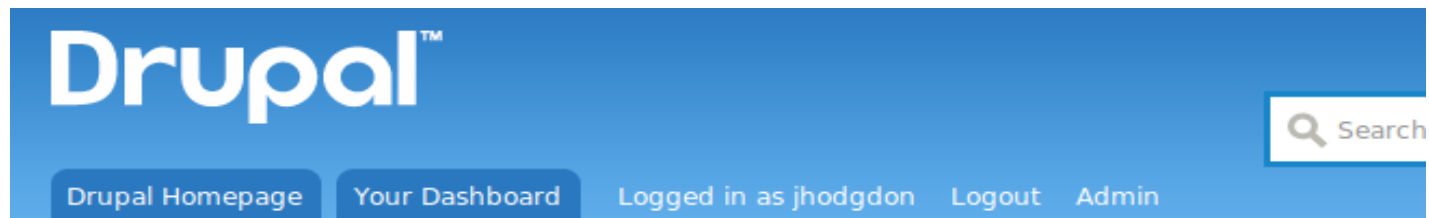
Problem: hook_help() - Documentation is in PHP

(Doc writers cannot edit/format easily)

```
function block_help($path, $arg) {
  switch ($path) {
    case 'admin/help#block':
      $output = '';
      $output .= '<h3>' . t('About') . '</h3>';
      $output .= '<p>' . t('The Block module allows you to create boxes of content, wh
      $output .= '<h3>' . t('Uses') . '</h3>';
      $output .= '<dl>';
      $output .= '<dt>' . t('Positioning content') . '</dt>';
      $output .= '<dd>' . t('When working with blocks, remember that all themes do <em>
      $output .= '<dt>' . t('Controlling visibility') . '</dt>';
      $output .= '<dd>' . t('Blocks can be configured to be visible only on certain pa
      $output .= '<dt>' . t('Creating custom blocks') . '</dt>';
      $output .= '<dd>' . t('Users with the <em>Administer blocks</em> permission can
      $output .= '</dl>';
      return $output;
    case 'admin/structure/block/add':
      return '<p>' . t('Use this page to create a new custom block.') . '</p>';
  }
  if ($arg[0] == 'admin' && $arg[1] == 'structure' && $arg[2] == 'block' && (empty($
    $demo_theme = !empty($arg[4]) ? $arg[4] : variable_get('theme_default', 'bartik');
    $themes = list_themes();
    $output = '<p>' . t('This page provides a drag-and-drop interface for assigning a
    $output .= '<p>' . l(t('Demonstrate block regions (@theme)', array('@theme' => $th
    return $output;
}
```

Problem: Duplicate Content

(between in-line help and Drupal.org on-line docs)



Documentation

[Docs Home](#) [API](#) [Recently Updated](#)

Working with blocks (content in regions)

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

Drupal version: [Drupal 5.x](#), [Drupal 6.x](#), [Drupal 7.x](#)

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Blocks are the boxes of content (such as "User Login" or "Who's online") that can be displayed in **regions** (such as footer or sidebar) on your page.

Blocks are made available to your site most commonly by enabling **modules**. Once created, a Block can be modified to adjust its appearance, shape, size and position - or which Website pages it appears on. For example, enabling the core Poll module makes the "Most Recent Polls" block available for you to place in a region. Also note that some modules provide multiple blocks when enabled, others may not define new blocks.

Blocks are placed in regions via the **Block Admin page** *Administer > Site building > Blocks* (Drupal 6), *Dashboard > Structure > Blocks* (Drupal 7).


Your site's theme defines the regions available. Therefore, block placement in regions is done per theme on the Block Admin page. If you have more than one theme enabled on your site blocks **can be placed differently for each theme**.



Problem: hook_help()

Generally only one page per module (really only useful for an overview)

[Home](#) » [Administer](#) » [Help](#)

Block 

About

Blocks are boxes of content rendered into an area, or region, of one or more pages of a website. The default theme Seven, for example, implements the regions "Content", "Help", "Dashboard main", and "Dashboard sidebar", and a block may appear in any one of these areas. The [blocks administration page](#) provides a drag-and-drop interface for assigning a block to a region, and for controlling the order of blocks within regions. For more information, see the online handbook entry for [Block module](#).

Uses

Positioning content

When working with blocks, remember that all themes do *not* implement the same regions, or display regions in the same way. Blocks are positioned on a per-theme basis. Disabled blocks, which have not been placed in a region, are never shown.

Controlling visibility

Blocks can be configured to be visible only on certain pages, only to users of certain roles, or only on pages displaying certain [content types](#). When allowed by an administrator, specific blocks may be enabled or disabled on a per-user basis using the *My account* page. Some dynamic blocks, such as those generated by modules, will be displayed only on certain pages.

Block administration pages



Problem: Core help vs. Advanced help (vs. no help)

- **Inconsistent** type of "help" is not user friendly
- Core standard requires **link to d.o docs**
- Core help restricts **built-in help** to a **single page**
- Core help is overly restrictive for contrib because of **string freeze**
- Some **contrib** projects have **non-existent** documentation or help text



Proposal: Maintain built-in help as nodes/entities on help.drupal.org

- People can **edit/format through a UI**
- **Translation:** localize.drupal.org teams via help.d.o
- Use **conditional text** for different versions of core/contrib
- Help module: **navigation, searching, cross-linking, contextual help links**
- **Help import:** pull docs into a Drupal site
- Docs import into Drupal.org?



More Information

Angie's rationale for this as a topic: <http://groups.drupal.org/node/118474#comment-382709>

Jennifer's **issue** filed against **D8**:
<http://drupal.org/node/1031972>

Post about the **D7 help hook** standardization: <http://affinitybridge.com/blog/story-drupal-7-core-help-update>



What did you think?

Locate this session on the DCC website:

<http://chicago2011.drupal.org/sessions>

Click the “Take the Survey” link.

Thanks!