Reading paths for CMS developers

For CMS developers, reading orders through this section and the related books by goal and available time. They cover a first day, a first week, coming from another CMS, building a first site, going headless, and going…

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This page is for developers who want to know what to read in which order. Pick the path that matches your goal; each says what you can do at the end. All pages of this section are listed in CMS developers: start here.

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The first day

About four hours.

1. Exponential for CMS developers: the system in overview.
2. Development environment: an installation running on your machine.
3. The content model and Objects, nodes and locations.
4. Templates and overrides for CMS developers.
5. Caching for CMS developers, sections 1 and 7.

At the end you can explain the model, find the template behind a page, and know which cache to clear.

The first week

One topic a day, with your development installation open.

Day	Read	Do
1	the first day above	install, click through the demo site and the administration
2	Content classes and attributes, Choosing datatypes, Creating a content class	create a class with a full view template

Day	Read	Do
3	View modes, Fetching content in templates, Relations and embeds	a list page with line views and paging
4	Sections, roles and policies, Users and registration, Siteaccesses and multisite	a members-only section tested with a test account
5	Layouts for CMS developers, Settings and INI for CMS developers, Extensions you will write	a landing page in the layouts editor; your settings in your extension

At the end you can build the parts of a typical site and know where each belongs.

Coming from another CMS

Read the comparison first, then the model, then the migration guide if you are moving a site:

From	Read
WordPress	Coming from WordPress, then WordPress and Exponential
Drupal	Coming from Drupal, then Drupal and Exponential
TYPO3	Coming from TYPO3, then Other applications and databases
eZ Platform or Ibexa	Coming from eZ Platform or Ibexa, then chapter 16
Anything else	Mapping content to Exponential, then Importing content

Building a first site

In project order:

1. Designing a content model and the Content model review checklist.
2. Creating a content class, Rich text, Images and image aliases.
3. Templates and overrides, View modes, Layouts for CMS developers.
4. Translations and languages, Siteaccesses and multisite, URL aliases and routing.
5. Forms and information collection, Search, Workflows and triggers, Cronjobs.
6. Importing content, Site packages and installers.
7. Performance, Security checklist, Accessibility, SEO basics.
8. Deploying a site and the Project launch checklist.

Going headless

Headless delivery, The REST API, Content from PHP, then the application creators' pages (Application creators: start here).

Going deep: the extension development book

When the site needs code of its own, continue in Extension development. Its own Reading paths has a builder path (settings, templates, overrides, no PHP) and a PHP developer path; both start where this section ends. Designers on your team start at Designers: start here, and the

template language has its own reference (The template language).

Learning in a course

The trainers' Developers course teaches the same ground in thirteen modules with exercises and quizzes; Exponential Layouts and Migrating to Exponential are courses of their own.

Related pages

- CMS developers: start here
- CMS developer FAQ
- Glossary for CMS developers
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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