View modes

For CMS developers, how one piece of content is shown in many contexts. It covers the full, line, embed and other shipped view modes, how a mode is chosen, a template per class and mode, your own view modes for cards...

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This page is for developers who need the same article to look like a page, a list item, a card and an embedded box. Exponential separates **what** is shown (the object) from **how** (the view mode): every context asks for a view mode, and each class can have its own template per mode. Templates that list content never need to know which classes they list.

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The idea

```
article "Opening of the new hall"
  full   -> the article page                (node/view/full.tpl -> full/article.tpl)
  line   -> one row in the news list         (node/view/line.tpl -> line/article.tpl)
  card   -> a card on the front page         (node/view/card.tpl -> card/article.tpl)
  embed  -> a box inside another article      (content/view/embed.tpl -> embed/article.tpl)
```

A list template draws each child with `node_view_gui` and a mode name; the right template per class is found by override rules. Adding a class later needs templates for that class, not changes to every list.

The shipped view modes

Mode	Used for
`full`	the page of the content itself
`line`	an item in a list
`embed`	content embedded as a block in rich text
`embed-inline`	content embedded inside a line of text

Mode	Used for
`text_linked`, `text`, `tiny`, `plain`	short forms in lists, relations and the administration
`listitem`, `thumb`, `sitemap`, `print`, `pdf`	other shipped modes

Templates: View modes, Full view, Line view, Embed view.

How a mode is chosen

Context	How
A URL	`/content/view/<mode>/<node id>`; a URL alias opens `full`
A template	`{node_view_gui content_node=$child view='line'}`, `{content_view_gui content_object=$object view='embed'}`
Rich text	the editor picks embed or another mode allowed by `content.ini [embed] AvailableViewModes[]`
A Layouts block	the block's view type and the item view type chosen in the editor

A template per class and mode

`node/view/<mode>.tpl` is the default for every class. A rule gives one class its own template for a mode:

INI

```ini
[exp_mysite_line_event]
Source=node/view/line.tpl
MatchFile=line/exp_event.tpl
Subdir=templates
Match[class_identifier]=exp_event
```

Template

```
{* extension/exp_mysite/design/exp_mysite/override/templates/line/exp_event.tpl *}
<article class="exp-line exp-line--event">
    <h3><a href={$node.url_alias|ezurl}>{$node.name|wash()}</a></h3>
    <p>{$node.data_map.start_date.content.timestamp|l10n( 'shortdate' )}</p>
</article>
```

Rules and their order: Templates and overrides for CMS developers.

Your own view modes

A mode is just a name for which templates exist. To add `card`:

1. Create the default `design/exp_mysite/templates/node/view/card.tpl` for every class; a mode without a default template anywhere in the design chain fails.
2. Add rules and templates for the classes that need their own card.
3. Use it: `{node_view_gui content_node=$child view='card'}`.
4. Clear the template override cache (`php bin/php/ezcache.php --clear-id=template-override --allow-root-user`).

Avoid the names the kernel already uses. Prefix your own when they could clash with a theme you build on (`exp_card`). The designers' recipe: Custom view modes.

View modes in embeds and layouts

Editors choose among the embed view modes that `content.ini [embed] AvailableViewModes[]` lists; add your own there, in your extension's `content.ini.append.php`, with a template per class (For editors' embeds). Exponential Layouts draws the items of a block in a view type of the block definition; block templates can draw items with your view modes too (Add a view type, Block view templates).

Caching

`site.ini [ContentSettings] CachedViewModes=full;sitemap;pdf`: these modes, opened as pages, are stored in the view cache. Modes drawn inside another template (`line`, `card`, `embed`) are cached as part of the page that draws them, so a change to an article reaches a front page card when that page's cache is cleared (Caching for CMS developers).

Planning the modes of a site

Write a table per class: which modes it needs, with a sketch of each. A typical site needs `full`, `line`, one card or teaser mode and `embed` for the classes editors embed. Fewer modes, used everywhere, are easier to keep consistent than one mode per page (Planning the view modes of a design).

Related pages

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