SimpleSite 2.0 Basics

Unanswered questions or problems? Contact the DCN Web Team: msmosaic@dcn.org.

Getting a SimpleSite

If you've been allocated a SimpleSite by the DCN Resource Allocation Committee (formerly IPC), then just e-mail the web team. If not, see http://www2.dcn.org/dcn/rac/ .

Web Addresses:

Your SimpleSite will probably be located at http://groups.dcn.org/yourorgname where 'yourorgname' is a short name for your organization. The edit interface will be at http://groups.dcn.org/yourorgname/edit .

How do I edit my site?

Visit the edit interface address for your site. Use the site web address and add "/edit" on the end. Then, enter your login ID and password.

What If I forget my password?

As long as you remember your user name, you may recover your password via a link on the login page. If you've misplaced the user name, contact the web team.

Where do I find documentation?

Visit http://groups.dcn.org/mpdocs

How should I get started?

One good way is to work through the tutorial at http://groups.dcn.org/mpdocs/tutorial/getting_started

Try opening up two browser windows or tabs: one displaying the tutorial and one displaying your site. Then, read through the tutorial, trying each step on your own site.

I have a question

First, check the *Frequently Asked Questions* list at http://groups.dcn.org/mpdocs/faq and the *How To* list at http://groups.dcn.org/mpdocs/how-to . If you can't find the answer there, drop a note to the DCN web team msmosaic@dcn.org.

Can I get telephone support?

No. The DCN web team is a volunteer group and is only able to provide support via e-mail, classes and drop-in hours.

What are the differences between SimpleSites 2.0 and the earlier SimpleSites?

- Availability of folders to organize larger sites;
- A What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) editor for page texts. Forget about StructuredText (unless you liked it; it's still available);
- Automatic site indexing and search;
- Improved aesthetics and accessibility;
- Integration with DCN's Community Calendar;

Can I switch from SimplesSites 1 to SimpleSites 2.0?

Yes, but there's no automated conversion of your old content.

If you already have a DCN SimpleSite 1, just ask the web team, and we'll create a SimpleSite 2.0 for you. You'll need to copy the content from the old to the new site yourself. When the new site is ready to go, let us know and we'll make the old address point to the new site.

How do I re-order the contents of the site?

Navigate to the folder containing the items you wish to re-order (this may be the site home). Select the "Contents" tab from the green shaded actions. In this view, you may drag and drop to reorder items in a folder. Alternatively, look for the up and down position buttons on the right of each item. Use these to move your item around.

How do I hide a page I might re-use later?

Login and navigate to the page. Look for the "State" drop-down menu in the green-shaded actions. Click on the drop-down and select "Private." When you want to make the page visible again, choose the "Public" state.

How do I get my site listed by search engines?

When it's ready, tell the DCN web team. We'll add it to our web directory of Davis resources. That alone will probably get your site into the major search engines within a month. If you're listed in YoloLINK, contact the library and update your record to include your new web site. Also, start using it in all your organization's communications.

Can we use our own domain name?

Yes. If your organization has registered a domain name of your own (e.g., "davisgroup.org") we can connect it to your SimpleSite. Contact the web team for details. If you haven't yet gotten a domain name, make sure that you use a registrar that includes name service with the registration. Most, but not all, registrars provide this service for free. (Note: many Internet name registrars will attempt to sell you many extra services when you register a name. Don't buy them unless you're sure you need them.)

How may I incorporate the DCN web calendar into my site?

Ask the DCN web team to enable it. When this is set up, the "Upcoming Events" portlet and "Events" tab will be filled by your DCN event calendar. You should then avoid use of the "event" content type, as it will no longer be useful.

Is the SimpleSites software open source?

Yes, the DCN web team has released it under the GPL. See http://plone.org/products/ploneminiportals/ .

What's under the hood?

SimpleSites 2.0 is built on the open-source Plone content management system. Plone runs on the Zope application server, which is a Python-language application.

What is DCN?

The Davis Community Network is a Davis, California, nonprofit education and community service organization, founded in 1993. DCN is dedicated to helping local people take advantage of and benefit from the new information and communication technologies and services associated with the Internet and media convergence.