

ActiveBlock™ Technology

Blackboard Web Community Manager

Blackboard®

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This guide covers all available features and functionality. Features included in your contract may vary.

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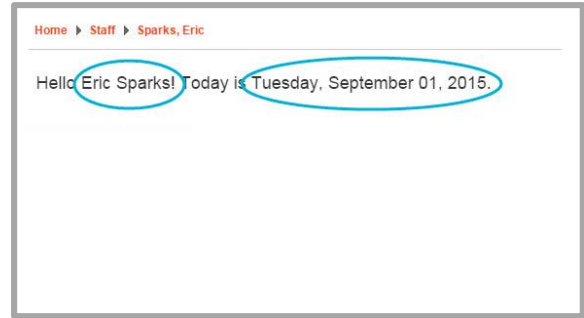
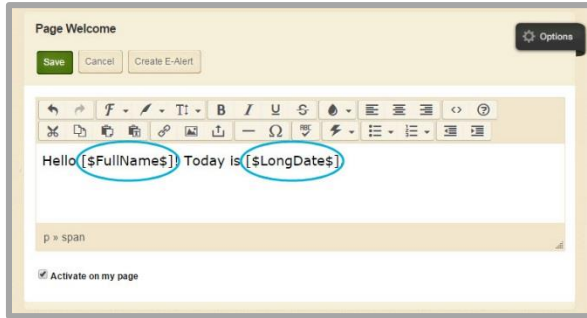
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Introduction

ActiveBlock Technology allows you to customize your website with dynamic information. Think of an ActiveBlock as a generic representation of a specific piece of information. When an app or a template containing an ActiveBlock is rendered at end user, Blackboard Web Community Manager locates the actual information and substitutes it in place of the ActiveBlock.



You can use ActiveBlocks to apply conditions to content. In the example below, the ActiveBlock (If Logged In) allows you to display different content depending upon whether or not a visitor is signed into the website.

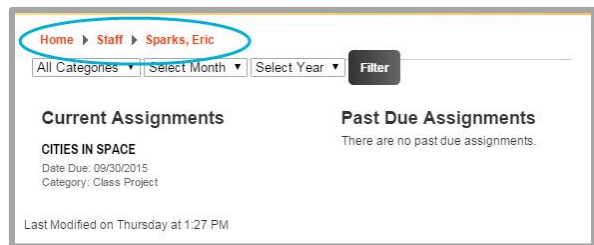


The visitor on the left is signed in to the website. The visitor on the right is not.



You also use ActiveBlocks to place template elements.

[\$Breadcrumb props="MaxLevels:3"\$] specified in your template places a breadcrumb on your website. When navigating, breadcrumbs indicate your current website location. Click on a segment of the breadcrumb to navigate to that location. Note that you can set this ActiveBlock using the General Option Show Breadcrumbs for most templates using Site Advanced Settings.

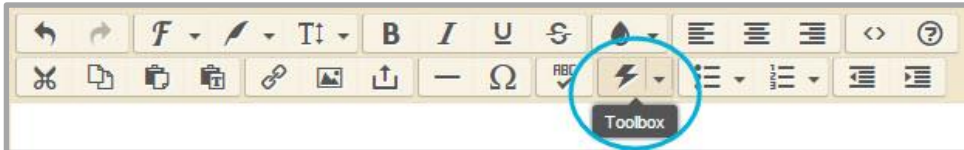


ActiveBlocks used within app editors are referred to as Standard ActiveBlocks. Those used within a template are referred to as Template ActiveBlocks.

Standard ActiveBlocks

Here's how you insert a Standard *ActiveBlock* into your editor.

1. In *Site Manager*, navigate to the page containing the app in which you wish to insert an *ActiveBlock*.
2. Edit the app and navigate to the editor.
3. Position the cursor where you wish to insert an *ActiveBlock*.
4. Click the **Toolbox** icon. A window displays with a list of *ActiveBlocks*.



5. Click an *ActiveBlock* in the list.



6. Click **Save**.

Alternatively, if you know the code for an *ActiveBlock* (e.g., `[$FullName$]`), you can key it into the editor.

The **Toolbox** icon is available in the editor of these apps.

- Announcements
- Article Library
- Assignment
- Blog
- Calendar
- Content
- Flex Editor
- Headlines & Features,
- Maps & Directions

Here are the standard *ActiveBlocks*.

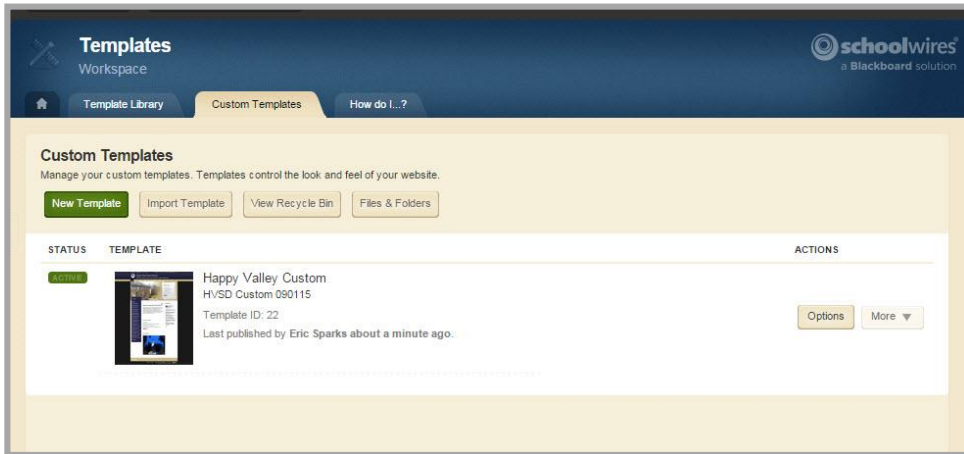
Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
Channel Name	[\$ChannelName\$]	Displays the current channel name.
Section Name	[\$SectionName\$]	Displays the current section name.
Current User's Email Address	[\$EmailAddress\$]	Displays the current user's email address from their user account record.
Current User's First Name	[\$FirstName\$]	Displays the current user's first name from their user account record.
Current User's Full Name	[\$FullName\$]	Displays the current user's first and last names from their user account record.
Current User's Last Name	[\$LastName\$]	Displays the current user's last name from their user account record.
Current User's Zip Code	[\$ZipCode\$]	Displays the current user's zip code from their user account record.
Long Date (Monday, July 25, 2005)	[\$LongDate\$]	Displays the current date, long format.
Long Time (12:00:00 AM)	[\$LongTime\$]	Displays the current time, long format.
Short Date (7/25/2005)	[\$ShortDate\$]	Displays the current date, short format.
Short Time (12:00)	[\$ShortTime\$]	Displays the current time, short format.

Template ActiveBlocks

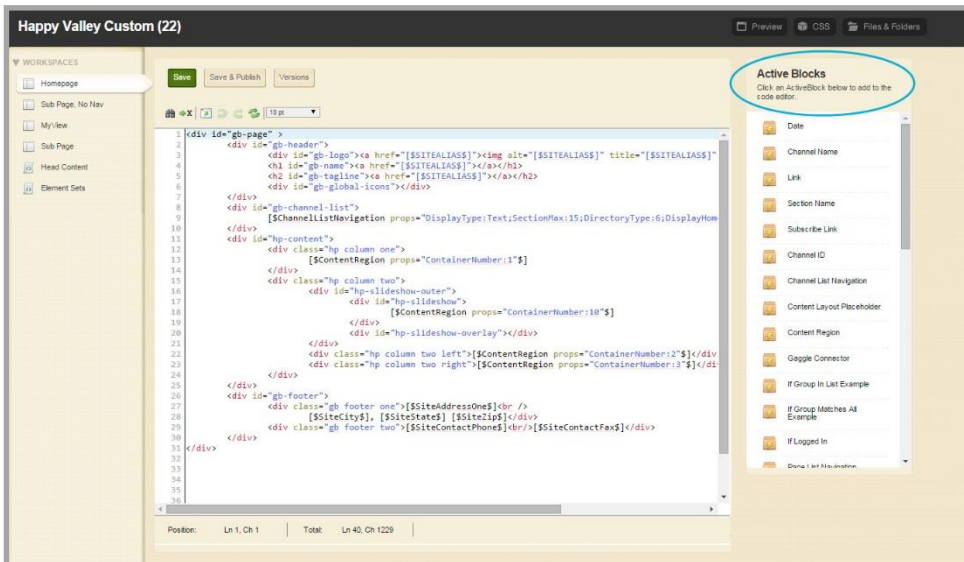
When editing a custom template, you can insert *ActiveBlocks*.

Here's how you insert a template *ActiveBlock* into a custom template.

1. In *Site Manager*, navigate to the Templates Workspace
2. Click the **Custom Templates** tab.
3. Click the name of the template that you wish to edit. The template opens at the Homepage Workspace editor.



4. Select a workspace and position the cursor where you wish to insert an *ActiveBlock*.
5. Click on an *ActiveBlock* in the Active Blocks list. The *ActiveBlock* code is inserted into the editor.



Alternatively, if you know the code for the *ActiveBlock*, you can key it into the editor.

6. Click **Save & Publish** to save modifications and prepare the template for use.

Here are the Template *ActiveBlocks*.

Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
Channel ID	[\$ChannelID\$]	Displays the internal identifier of the current channel.
Channel List Navigation	<p>Use the ChannelListNavigation Properties dialog to modify code.</p> <p>You may set the following variables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DisplayType (<i>Text, Image</i> – Text is the default) • SectionMax (Default is 15) • DirectoryType (<i>One Column, One Column with Alphabetical Grouping, Two Column, Two Column with Alphabetical Grouping, Three Column, Three Columns with Alphabetical Grouping, - Three Columns with Alphabetical Grouping</i> is the default) • DisplayHomeButton (<i>Yes, No</i> - Yes is the default) • DisplayCalendarButton (<i>Yes, No</i> - Yes is the default) • HideSingleSetionDD (<i>Yes, No</i> - Yes is the default) <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$ChannelListNavigation props="DisplayType:Text;SectionMax:15;DirectoryType:6;DisplayHomeButton:Yes;DisplayCalendarButton:Yes"\$]</pre>	<p>Displays the <i>Channel</i>, which consists of the channels you have assigned to your site.</p> <p>For a channel to display it must either contain one section which is not hidden in channel navigation or the channel homepage option must be activated.</p>
Channel Name	[\$ChannelName\$]	Displays the current channel name.
Content Layout Placeholder	[\$ContentLayoutPlaceholder\$]	<p>Used to insert a display region for content. If not inserted, no app content displays.</p> <p>This is most commonly used in the Subpage and Subpage No Nav workspaces.</p>

Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
Content Region	Use the ContentRegion Properties dialog to modify code. Set the ContainerNumber (Default is 1).	Used to insert containers or regions into your template. Regions are automatically labeled A, B, C, D, etc.). This is most commonly used in the Homepage workspace.
Date	Use the DateInfo Properties dialog to modify code. Set the format (<i>Long Date, Short Date, Long Time, Short Time</i> – Long Date is the default). Code similar to that below is inserted into the template. [<code>{\$DateInfo props="Format:LongDate;"}\$</code>]	Displays the date (or time).
Gaggle Connector	[<code>{\$GaggleConnector}\$</code>]	Displays a link to Gaggle.
If Group In List Example	[<code>IF GROUP IN '1,2,5,6'\$]Success[ELSE IF GROUP\$]Fail[END IF GROUP\$]</code>]	Displays content if the current user is logged in to your website and is a member of <u>all</u> of the groups specified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the 1, 2, 5, 6 in the code with actual Group ID numbers. • Replace the string <i>Success</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are met. • Replace the string <i>Fail</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are not met.
If Group Matches All Example	[<code>IF GROUP IS '1,2,5,6'\$]Success[ELSE IF GROUP\$]Fail[END IF GROUP\$]</code>]	Displays content if the current user is logged into your website and is a member of <u>any</u> of the groups specified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the 1, 2, 5, 6 in the code with actual Group ID numbers. • Replace the string <i>Success</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are met. • Replace the string <i>Fail</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are not met.

Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
If Logged In	<code>[\$IF LOGGED IN\$]Success[\$ELSE IF LOGGED\$]Fail[\$END IF LOGGED IN\$]</code>	<p>Displays content if the current user is logged into your website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the string <i>Success</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are met. • Replace the string <i>Fail</i> with text you wish to display when conditions are not met.
Link	<p>Use the LinkProperties dialog to modify code.</p> <p>You may set the following variables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type (<i>SignIn, Register, Site Manager and My Account</i> – <i>SignIn</i> is the default) • Text – Enter text here to change the name of the link • Image – Click the Browse button to insert an image for the link • Target – Select <i>self</i> for the link to open in the current window or <i>Blank</i> to open in a new window <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$Link props="Type:SignIn;Text:Staff Login;Image:SignIn.jpg;Target:blank;"\$]</pre>	<p>Displays links like those normally found in the <i>MyStart</i> bar for <i>SignIn, Register, Site Manager</i> and <i>My Account</i>.</p>
Page List Navigation	<p>Use the PageListNavigation Properties dialog to modify code.</p> <p>Sets the DisplayHeading (<i>Yes, No</i> – <i>No</i> is the default).</p> <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$PageListNavigation props="DisplayHeading:No;"\$]</pre>	<p>Displays the names of the pages within a section.</p> <p>This is most commonly used in the Subpage and Subpage No Nav workspaces.</p>
Parent Name	<code>[\$PN\$]</code>	<p>Displays the name of the parent site. Generally, this is the main (i.e., district) site name.</p>

<i>Active Block Name</i>	<i>Active Block Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
Random Content	<code>[\$RANDOM\$]Content[\$RANDOM NEXT\$]Content[\$END RANDOM\$]</code>	<p>Displays different content for each user visit. Both text and images can be included in the random content code string.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the string <i>Content</i> with text or an image. Add additional content by inserting <code>[\$RANDOM NEXT\$]</code> after the last content string specified. Use <code>[\$END RANDOM\$]</code> to end the <i>ActiveBlock</i>. Click Upload Image within the editor to insert an image.
Remote Link	<code>[\$RemoteLink props="URL;;Text;;Image;;Target:self"\$]</code>	Inserts an <i>ActiveBlock</i> you use to link to a remote object. You need to complete the props portion of this <i>ActiveBlock</i> .
Section ID	<code>[\$SectionID\$]</code>	Displays the internal identifier of the current section.
Section List Navigation	<p>Use the SectionListNavigation Properties dialog to modify the code.</p> <p>Sets the DisplayHeading (<i>Yes, No</i> – <i>No</i> is the default).</p> <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$SectionListNavigation\$]</pre>	<p>Displays the names of the sections within a channel.</p> <p>This is most commonly used in the Subpage and Subpage No Nav workspaces.</p>
Section Name	<code>[\$SectionName\$]</code>	Displays the name of the current section.
SignIn Bar	<p>Use the SignInBar Properties dialog to modify the code.</p> <p>You may set the following variables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DisplayRegisterButton (<i>Yes, No</i> - <i>Yes</i> is the default) DisplayMyAccountButton (<i>Yes, No</i> - <i>Yes</i> is the default) DisplaySiteManagerButton (<i>Yes, No</i> - <i>No</i> is the default) <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$SignInBar props="Display RegisterButton:Yes;Display MyAccountButton:Yes;Display SiteManagerButton:Yes"\$]</pre>	Displays links for <i>Sign In, Register, My Account</i> and <i>Site Manager</i> . This could be used in place of the <i>MyStart</i> bar.

Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
Site Address One	[\$SiteAddressOne\$]	Displays the first line of the site street address entered for the site in Site Settings.
Site Alias	[\$SiteAlias\$]	Displays the Friendly Web Address of the current site.
Site Calendar Link	[\$SiteCalendarLink\$]	Displays a link to the site homepage calendar.
Site City	[\$SiteCity\$]	Displays the city entered for the site in Site Settings.
Site Contact Email	[\$SiteContactEmail\$]	Displays the Email address of the site contact entered in Site Settings.
Site Contact Fax	[\$SiteContactFax\$]	Displays the fax number of the site contact entered in Site Settings.
Site Contact Phone	[\$SiteContactPhone\$]	Displays the phone number of the site contact entered in Site Settings.
Site ID	[\$SiteID\$]	Displays the numeric identifier of the current site.
Site List Navigation	Use the SiteListNavigation Properties dialog to modify code. Sets the DisplayTopSite (Yes, No – No is the default). Code similar to that below is inserted into the template. [\$SiteListNavigation props = "DisplayTopSite:No; "\$]	Displays the <i>Select a School</i> drop-down.
Site Map	[\$SiteMapLink\$]	Displays a link to view a map of the website.
Site Search	[\$Search\$]	Displays a site search box and button. Search results are delivered using the search engine specified in system settings.
Site State	[\$SiteState\$]	Displays the state entered for the site in Site Settings.
Site Zip	[\$SiteZip\$]	Displays the zip code entered for the site in Site Settings.
SiteName	[\$SiteName\$]	Displays the name entered for the site in Site Settings.
Skip Nav	<swctrl controlname="SkipNav" props="" />	Creates a hidden link to move to page content, bypassing navigation.
Subscribe Link	[\$SubscribeLink\$]	Displays a Subscribe button used for Content E-Alerts.

Active Block Name	Active Block Code	Description
User	<p>Use the UserInfo Properties dialog to modify code.</p> <p>Sets the FSort (<i>Greeting; LastName, FirstName; FirstName LastName; FirstName; LastName; EmailAddress</i> – Greeting (<i>Hi User</i>) is the default).</p> <p>Code similar to that below is inserted into the template.</p> <pre>[\$UserInfo props="Format:FirstName;"]</pre>	Displays select user information when a user logs in.