



# Sitecore CMS 6.0 or later

# Glossary

*Terms and Definitions for CMS Administrators, Architects, and Developers*

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This document provides a list of definitions for terms used throughout the Sitecore user interface and documentation.

The terms are listed alphabetically.

Each definition contains the following information:

- Term – shown in bold
- Category – a classification of terms
- Definition – a brief definition of the term

## 1.1 Glossary

\* **Right** [*Access Right*]: controls all access rights at once.

**\_\_OnSave** [*Predefined Workflow Command*]: a special command which is automatically invoked when an item is saved. The command does not move an item to a new state. Instead, developers may add actions to the command which will then automatically be invoked when an item is saved. Intended for use with the Auto Submit Action to implement default workflow behavior for Page Editor users who do not have access to workflow commands.

**Access Right** [*Security Construct*]: the permission to act upon an item in a certain way.

**Account** [*Security Construct*]: a general term that refers to either a user or a role.

**Administer Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can configure access rights on an item. The administer access right requires the read and write access rights.

**Administrator** [*user*]: a special user that has full access to all content and functionality regardless of any defined access rights.

**Alias** [*Concept*]: provides an alternative URL for a content item.

**Allow** [*Access Right Setting*]: permits the associated access right for the selected account.

**Assembly** [*ASP.NET Component*]: contains compiled .NET code in a .dll file.

**Auto Submit Action** [*Predefined Workflow Action*]: an action which moves an item to a new state when the action is invoked by a user who has a specific role assigned. Intended for use with the \_\_OnSave workflow command to implement default workflow behavior for Page Editor users who do not have access to workflow commands.

**Base Template** [*Template Component*]: a data template that contributes fields and sections to another data template.

**Branch Template** [*Template Type*]: a group of items and sub-items that content management users can create by selecting a single insert option in the appropriate content management applications.

**Client Security Roles** [*Security Construct*]: control which features the system exposes to each CMS user.

**Command Template** [*Template Type*]: a method on a specific class called when a content management user selects a corresponding insert option in a content management application. The intention is for the method to automate the process of creating appropriate items, perhaps as the result of questions asked of the user through dialog boxes or a wizard.

**Content Item** [*Item Category*]: an item which contains information which will appear on the published Web site.

**Context Item** [*Presentation Concept*]: the item specified by the requested URL.

**Control** [*Presentation Component*]: a general term that includes sublayouts, XSLT renderings, Web Controls, and other rendering types.

**Core Database** [*Concept*]: a standard database that contains the items which define the Sitecore CMS user interfaces.

**Create Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can create child items. The create access right requires the read access right.

**Data Template** [*Template Type*]: defines the fields and sections associated with a type of item.

**Data Template Field** [*Template Component*]: a sub-unit of content contained within an item.

**Data Template Field Type** [*Template Component*]: influences the editing control used for the field in the content management applications and the XML storage element used to store the field contents.

**Data Template Inheritance** [*Concept*]: data templates are most often based on, and therefore inherit fields and sections, other base templates. Data templates support both sequential and multiple inheritance.

**Data Template Section** [*Template Component*]: a construct used to group related fields in the Content Editor to improve usability.

**Database** [*Concept*]: a collection of items organized into an XML hierarchy.

**Definition Item** [*Item Category*]: an item that contains meta-data describing some aspect of the Web site configuration or implementation.

**Delete Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can delete an item. The delete access right requires the read access right.

**Deny** [*Access Right Setting*]: revokes the associated access right for the selected account.

**Device** [*Presentation Component*]: a logical construct that allows the layout engine to apply different layout details to a content item depending on the properties of the incoming HTTP request.

**Display Name** [*Item Property*]: the label to display for the item in the content tree. If provided, the display name overrides the default display of the item's name.

**Domain** [*Security Construct*]: contains accounts, including profile information, administered as a unit.

**Dynamic Binding** [*Declaration*]: the practice of defining a placeholder in a layout or sublayout and associating different controls to the placeholder for different items.

**Effective Access Rights** [*Security Construct*]: the set of access rights assigned to the user after considering settings for the user and all assigned roles, security inheritance, workflow state security, locking, protection, and other factors that dynamically affect access rights.

**Email Workflow Action** [*Predefined Workflow Action*]: sends an e-mail notification.

**Everyone** [*role*]: a virtual role that includes all users as members. Sitecore includes a global everyone role as well as a domain specific everyone role for all defined domains.

**Field Header** [*User Interface Component*]: the area above a field in the Content Editor that provides contextual information and controls for editing the field.

**Field Read Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can read a specific field on an item.

**Field Security** [*Security Construct*]: access right settings associated with data template fields.

**Field Write Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can update a specific field on an item.

**FieldRenderer Web Control** [*Presentation Component*]: outputs the value of a field and provides inline editing features wherever they are appropriate.

**Final Workflow State** [*Workflow State Attribute*]: a state that makes items publishable. Items in non-final workflow states are not publishable.

**Folder** [*Item Category*]: an item which has no fields (other than those inherited from the standard template) and acts a container for other items.

**GUID** [*Item Property*]: a Globally Unique Identifier. Sitecore assigns every item a GUID.

**Hidden** [*Item Property*]: controls whether Sitecore displays an item in the content tree.

**Home Item** [*Item*]: the item within a logical Web site that represents the home page.

**Icon** [*User Interface Component*]: are small graphics that can be used to visually distinguish items, types of items, and data template sections.

**Inherit** [*Access Right Setting*]: neither permits nor revokes an access right. The status of the access right for a given user is determined based on a number of factors, including the complete collection of explicit access rights set on the user and assigned roles for the item in question and items higher up in the content tree.

**Initial Workflow** [*Item Property*]: references the workflow that an item should initiate when it is created.

**Initial Workflow State** [*Workflow Construct*]: the state that an item is placed in when created. Also the state that the new version of an item is placed in when a user edits an item that is currently in a final workflow state.

**Insert Options** [*Item Property*]: defines which template types and insert rules Sitecore should use when populating the Insert menu in content management applications when a specific item is selected.

**Insert Options Pipeline** [*Server Process*]: contains global logic used to control the insert options.

**Insert Rule** [*Customization Method*]: a method on a specific class called when a user selects an item in a content management application as Sitecore prepares the list of templates to display in the Insert menu. The intention is for the method to add or remove templates to the Insert menu based on business requirements.

**Item** [*Concept*]: an addressable unit of content made up of fields that contain information.

**Item Editor** [*User Interface Component*]: provides a user interface tab for editing an item in the Content Editor.

**Language** [*Concept*]: represents a human language supported by the site.

**Language Read Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can read a specific language version of items.

**Language Write Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can update a specific language version of items.

**Layout** [*Presentation Component*]: the combination of a definition item and .aspx file that defines the layout of a page or response to an HTTP request.

**Layout Details** [*Item Property*]: the layout and dynamic controls Sitecore is configured to use when generating a page for a specific item for each device supported by the site.

**Layout Preset** [*User Interface Component*]: allows users to apply predefined layout details to an item.

**Link** [*Field Type*]: a field which contains the ID of another item.

**Local Administrator** [*role*]: a user with access rights to allow management of accounts in one or more locally managed domains.

**Locally Managed Domain** [*Security Construct*]: a domain which only shows information about accounts defined within the domain itself to users defined in the domain.

**Lock** [*Item Property*]: prevents multiple users from updating a single item simultaneously. A lock does not prevent publication, but locking a version of an item that is associated with a final workflow state creates a new version of the item and places it in the initial workflow state of the workflow associated with that item.

**Logical Web Site** [*Concept*]: a Web site managed by Sitecore. Each Sitecore installation can host any number of logical Web sites. By default, Sitecore manages multiple logical Web sites, including the target Web site and the Sitecore browser-based clients.

**Master Database** [*Concept*]: a standard database that contains every version of every item, including unpublished versions. The master database contains both the history of the Web site and the work in progress.

**Media Item** [*Item Category*]: an item which contains a binary media resource and, in some cases, information about the file on disk which contains the media.

**Method Rendering** [*Presentation Component*]: renders a string returned by a .NET method. Refers to the combination of a definition item and a method in an assembly.

**Next State** [*Workflow Command Attribute*]: the destination state for an item when a user clicks on a workflow command.

**Originator** [*Item Property*]: specifies the item in a branch template that was used to create an item.

**Path** [*Item Property*]: a unique path identifying the location of an item relative to other items.

**Placeholder** [*Presentation Component*]: a control that defines a region of a layout or sublayout to which other controls bind according to layout details.

**Placeholder Settings** [*User Interface Component*]: configures the appearance of the placeholder in the Page Editor Design Pane and may limit which users will see the placeholder and which controls may be assigned to the placeholder.

**Protected** [*Item Property*]: controls whether Sitecore allows modifications to an item using the Content Editor and other applications. Protected is not a security setting, which means that even Administrator users cannot modify a protected item except to turn off the protected status of the item. Also, because protected is not a security setting, protected items do not restrict .NET code from modifying an item.

**Proxy** [*Concept*]: causes an item or branch to appear in multiple places in the content tree.

**Publish** [*Process*]: an operation which copies publishable items from a master database to one or more publishing target databases.

**Publishing Restrictions** [*Standard Item Property*]: properties set on an item which limit whether or not an item is considered publishable, and if so, during which dates the item is considered publishable, which versions of the item are considered publishable, and which publishing targets the item should be copied to.

**Publishing Target** [*Concept*]: a database to which Sitecore can publish content. Publishing targets are also known as publishing target databases and database targets. The default publishing target, Internet, refers to the Web database.

**Read Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can see an item in the content tree and/or on the published web site.

**Rename Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can change the name of an item. The rename access right requires the read access right.

**Rendering** [*Concept*]: a general term that includes Web control renderings, XSL renderings, URL renderings, method renderings, Web part renderings, and some uses of sublayouts.

**Rendering Data Source** [*Item*]: an item specified in the rendering dialog box that is passed as a parameter to an XSLT rendering or other control. If no item is specified, the default value is the context item.

**Rich Text Editor Profile** [*User Interface Component*]: a set of configuration items defined in the Sitecore Core database that control the features available in the application used edit Rich Text fields.

**Role** [*Security Construct*]: a name that may be assigned access rights and that can be assigned to users and other roles.

**Roles in Roles** [*Concept*]: refers to the ability to configure a role as a member of another role in the same way that a user may be a member of a role.

**Security Inheritance** [*Security Construct*]: if security inheritance is disabled, the effective access rights granted to a user is based on settings specified for the user and roles assigned to the user. If security inheritance is enabled, the effective access rights granted to a user is also based on settings specified for items higher in the content tree.

**Security Preset** [*User Interface Component*]: allows users to apply a predefined group of access rights to an item.

**Security Provider** [*Security Construct*]: an entity which serves account information for a Sitecore installation or specific Web site.

**Site Enter Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can access a specific site.

**Sort Order** [*Item Property*]: overrides the subitem sorting that is associated with the parent item, explicitly controlling the sorting of an item relative to its siblings.

**Staging** [*Optional Module*]: the separation of a content management Sitecore installation from one or more content delivery Sitecore installations. This configuration commonly employs the Sitecore Staging module to manage content delivery caches and optionally replicate file based assets across file systems.

**Standard Template** [*Template Component*]: the base template that defines fields and sections required by all items.

**Static Binding** [*Concept*]: the practice of hard-coding a reference to a control in a layout or sublayout.

**Subitem Sorting** [*Item Property*]: controls the sorting logic for child items. The system sorts children alphabetically if the item does not specify a subitem sorting rule.

**Sublayout** [*Presentation Component*]: the combination of a definition item and .ascx file that defines the layout of a portion of a page.

**System Item** [*Item Category*]: a definition item that contains system configuration information, such as a language definition.

**Template Type** [*Concept*]: content management users create items using one of three template types: data templates, branch templates, and command templates.

**Tree Node Style** [*User Interface Component*]: controls the visual attributes of an item in the content tree.

**URL Rendering** [*Presentation Component*]: invokes a URL, strips away the body tag and other outer tags, and writes the remainder of the response to the output stream. Refers to the combination of a definition item and the `Sitecore.Web.UI.WebControls.WebPage` Web control.

**User** [*Security Construct*]: a person accessing the Sitecore content management clients or visiting a published web site. A visitor who is not authenticated appears as the “anonymous” user.



**Validation Workflow Action** [*Workflow Action*]: invokes validation rules. If the data does not meet the validation requirements, Sitecore prevents the item from moving to the configured next workflow state.

**Version** [*Concept*]: represents a copy of an item with a distinct set of field values. Items can contain any number of versions for each of the languages supported by the site.

**Web Control** [*Presentation Component*]: a Sitecore specific extension of the standard ASP.NET Web control. Generally used to generate some part of a Web page or response to an HTTP request. Refers to the combination of a definition item and Web control class.

**Web Database** [*Concept*]: a standard database that contains items available on the published Web site. The web database contains the latest publishable version of every item that has been published in every language that has been published.

**Workflow** [*Workflow Construct*]: a collection of states and commands that an item must move through before becoming publishable.

**Workflow Action** [*Workflow Construct*]: a .NET method invoked as a side effect when an item enters a state or when a user activates a specific command.

**Workflow Command** [*Workflow Construct*]: a command shown to content management users that moves an item from one workflow state to another.

**Workflow Command Execute Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user is shown specific workflow commands.

**Workflow State** [*Workflow Construct*]: represents a step in the workflow process.

**Workflow State Delete Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can delete items which are currently associated with a specific workflow state.

**Workflow State Write Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can update items which are currently associated with a specific workflow state.

**Write Access Right** [*Access Right*]: controls whether a user can update field values. The write access right requires the read access right and field read and field write access rights for individual fields (field read and field write are allowed by default).

**XML Layout, XML Control, XML Dialog, and XML Form** [*Presentation Components*]: define CMS user interface components.

**XSLT Rendering** [*Presentation Component*]: the combination of a definition item and XSLT code file that transforms content from Sitecore's XML representation to an appropriate markup language, such as HTML.