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WIKIX: DYNAMIC CONTENT IN DYNAMIC CONTENT



As announced earlier we released a beta of WikiX - a Wiki for EPiServer last friday. In the next couple of days some posts will follow on the various technical aspects of it.

During the development of WikiX we came across a couple of new ways of doing things. One idea was to make the navigational menu very flexible by basing it on Dynamic Content elements - and even Dynamic Content that contained other Dynamic Content.

One such example is the LinkBox. It is a Dynamic Content Element (DCE) that can be placed anywhere in the left-hand menu. But the contents of the LinkBox should also be flexible - so what's more natural than to add an XHTML property to it and allow editors to add other DCE's to that property?

```
PropertyXhtmlString px = new PropertyXhtmlString();
px.EditorToolOptions = EditorToolOption.DynamicContent;
px.Name = "Contents";
```

```
Properties.Add(px);
```

To display it using the Property WebControl we simply do this:

```
public override void SetProperties(PropertyDataCollection pdc)
{
    Property p = new Property(pdc["Contents"]);
    contents.Controls.Add(p);
}
```

It turns out that it's quite possible - and easy to make a DCE contain other DCE's. However it seems like there is a bug in edit-mode that makes it impossible to edit a DCE once the state string reaches a certain length - that means that in order to change something in a linkbox with a lot of items, you have to delete it and add a new one.

Building your own DCE's for WikiX

WikiX includes a base class that makes it easy to create your own DCE for the left-menu. The base class is called "WikiElement" and it's based on the UserControlBase and at the same time it implements IDynamicContent. See it [here](#).

WikiElement handles several different things for you, like managing state, rendering the user control you have created, and it also adds a Property of the WikiX-specific type PropertyAccessLevel which allows the editor to set a minimum access level requirement for the DCE to be shown at all. That way you can enforce that only "Logged In" users can see a given link, or only users with Edit-rights can upload pictures to a given page.

So this is how you add a DCE:

1) Create a new EPiServer User Control.

2) Change the base class to be WikiElement

3) Implement the method "GetAscxUrl" and have it return a string with a relative url to your ascx file like this:

```
protected override string GetAscxUrl()
{
    return "~/EPiServer.Research.Wiki/Units/CreatedArticle.ascx";
}
```

4) If you want to add custom properties to your DCE, override the method "CreateProperties" and in there add them to the "properties" collection.

```
protected override void CreateProperties()
{
    PropertyNumber pal = new PropertyNumber(5);
    pal.Name = "Max links to show";
    properties.Add(pal);
}
```

5) When you want to use the properties that has been set make sure to use them from an override of the method "SetProperties":

```
public override void SetProperties(PropertyDataCollection pdc)
{
    ArticleList.DataSource = WikiManager.Instance.RecentlyCreatedArticles(CurrentPage.PageLink
    ArticleList.MaxCount = Convert.ToInt32(Properties["Max links to show"].Value);
    ArticleList.DataBind();
}
```

And you are ready to go!

