



Umbraco User's Guide

Nik Wahlberg, Paul Sterling

UMBRACO USER'S GUIDE

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Paul Sterling



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*To my wife, Amy. You are the backbone of our family
and I thank you with sincerity for your patience and
undying support through my ventures.*

*To my kids, Olivia and Lukas. You are the light of
my life and the force that encourages me to grow and
continue the pursuit of a fulfilling life.*

*To my parents, Sture and Carola. It's because of
your tireless patience and efforts that I have made
something of my life and have reached the successes
that I only dreamed of as a child. Thank you!*

—NIK WAHLBERG

*To Kristin and Tate who showed more patience than I
thought possible.*

—PAUL STERLING

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INTRODUCTION

IT'S NOT ENOUGH these days to have a website. As a business or individual in today's technology landscape, you must be able to adapt and change with new emerging technologies that seemingly pop up every day. There are thousands of solutions and implementation to consider, but only a select few are worth your precious time. Over the years, I've discovered that building custom, one-off content management system (CMS) solutions for clients isn't time well spent for me and, in most cases, not money well spent for the client; by the time the project is complete, it's obsolete.

I've spent considerable time working with licensed CMSs as well as a handful of other open source products. Umbraco is the best fit for me and my clients, bar none. The flexibility and extensibility of the product allows us to implement custom applications with Umbraco as a foundation. In addition, we're never out of date with the undying support of the Umbraco community and the core team constantly working to improve and extend the product.

So, for my part, I wanted to write this book as a contribution to the Umbraco project and, of course, to help you become proficient and effective when working with Umbraco for your CMS needs. Welcome aboard.

WHO THIS BOOK IS FOR

You are a professional who is just starting to work with Umbraco and need someone to show you the ropes. This book takes you from installation all the way through more advanced concepts like working with Microsoft .NET user controls so you can add dynamic functionality to your site. In addition, it also describes, in detail, how to plan the content for your site and how you work with it once it's in Umbraco.

You should be familiar with technologies such as Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) to work with Umbraco's cached content, the concepts of relational databases, and how to work with HTML and CSS. Finally, you should have a general understanding of CMS concepts.

WHAT THIS BOOK COVERS

This book primarily focuses on Umbraco 4.5.2 and 4.6. However, XSLT code snippets are also provided for the previous version of the Umbraco XML schema in version 4.0.x. The .NET code samples and Umbraco installations will all require .NET Framework 4.0. You should also have access to IIS6 or IIS7 for installing your copy of Umbraco.

HOW THIS BOOK IS STRUCTURED

The content structure of this book is very linear in terms how you should approach working with Umbraco. It starts by providing you with various options for installing Umbraco for the first time, and then, how to build your content structure, how to implement your content, extending your Umbraco installation using advanced output methods and adding functionality for your website users. Finally, you will get a chance to see all of the concepts implemented in a sample application to tie it all together. Additionally, you will find plenty of references and how-to's in the appendices.

WHAT YOU NEED TO USE THIS BOOK

The installation and deployment of Umbraco as discussed in this book will require you to have access to the following:

- Microsoft Windows XP/Vista/7/2003/2008 (Windows 7 is used in the examples)
- IIS 6 or IIS 7 (IIS 7 is used in the examples)
- SQL Server Express 2005/2008 or SQL Server Standard 2005/2008
- Visual Studio 2010 (Optional. To take full advantage of sample projects.)

CONVENTIONS

To help you get the most from the text and keep track of what's happening, we've used a number of conventions throughout the book.



Boxes with a warning icon like this one hold important, not-to-be forgotten information that is directly relevant to the surrounding text.



The pencil icon indicates notes, tips, hints, tricks, and asides to the current discussion.

As for styles in the text:

- We *italicize* new terms and important words when we introduce them.
- We show keyboard strokes like this: Ctrl+A.
- We show file names, URLs, and code within the text like so: `persistence.properties`.
- We present code in two different ways:

We use a monofont type with no highlighting for most code examples.
We use bold to emphasize code that's particularly important in the present context.

SOURCE CODE

As you work through the examples in this book, you may choose either to type in all the code manually or to use the source code files that accompany the book. All of the source code used in this book is available for download at www.wrox.com. You will find the code snippets from the source code are accompanied by a download icon and note indicating the name of the program so you know it's available for download and can easily locate it in the download file. Once at the site, simply locate the book's title (either by using the Search box or by using one of the title lists) and click the Download Code link on the book's detail page to obtain all the source code for the book.



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3. Complete the required information to join as well as any optional information you wish to provide and click Submit.
4. You will receive an e-mail with information describing how to verify your account and complete the joining process.



You can read messages in the forums without joining P2P but in order to post your own messages, you must join.

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For more information about how to use the Wrox P2P, be sure to read the P2P FAQs for answers to questions about how the forum software works as well as many common questions specific to P2P and Wrox books. To read the FAQs, click the FAQ link on any P2P page.

PART I

Creating Your First Site with Umbraco

- ▶ **CHAPTER 1:** Installing for the First Time
- ▶ **CHAPTER 2:** The Umbraco Approach
- ▶ **CHAPTER 3:** Document Types
- ▶ **CHAPTER 4:** Templates, Markup, and Master Pages
- ▶ **CHAPTER 5:** Using Macros
- ▶ **CHAPTER 6:** Languages and Dictionaries
- ▶ **CHAPTER 7:** Multiple Sites, Hostnames, and Localization

1

Installing for the First Time

- What are the steps for installing Umbraco?
- How do you upgrade your current site?
- Which Umbraco starter kit should you use and how do you install it?
- How do you apply and manipulate Umbraco skins?
- How do you find and install Umbraco modules?

Users have installed Umbraco literally hundreds of thousands of times in a variety of environments — everywhere from an entry-level Windows XP machine, to multiserver load-balanced sites, and even to Microsoft Windows Azure. In the vast majority of these cases the installations complete successfully and take no more than a few minutes. The first section of this chapter contains the Umbraco quick start instructions for facilitating a successful install. Read it, install Umbraco, and then continue reading for additional considerations.

You can always find the latest released version of Umbraco on the Umbraco CodePlex home at <http://umbraco.codeplex.com/> from the Downloads tab. The latest version of Umbraco is also available via Microsoft's Web Platform Installer and Web Application Gallery (<http://www.microsoft.com/web/gallery/umbraco/>). This chapter offers a detailed overview for installing Umbraco with both the Microsoft Web Platform Installer and directly from the Umbraco installation file downloaded from the Umbraco CodePlex home.

INSTALLING UMBRACO

The text in this chapter, as well as the rest of the book, assumes that you have a PC running Windows Vista or Windows 7 and have user permissions sufficient enough to allow for administrative actions. If this is not the case, or if you are installing to a different environment (such as to a shared-hosting account) skip this section for now and refer to Chapter 14, which has troubleshooting tips. One important item to note is that Umbraco is best installed as a website root rather than as a virtual directory under a web root, so plan on running Umbraco from

a web root. All current versions of Internet Information Server (IIS) support multiple web roots so running from a web root is not an issue unless you are using IIS5 on Windows XP. See Chapter 14 if this is the case.

Installing Umbraco using the Microsoft Web Platform Installer

The best way to begin your Umbraco installation is by using the Microsoft Web Platform Installer (a free installation tool developed and supported by Microsoft). Some advantages to using the Microsoft Web Platform Installer (shown in Figure 1-1) are that the tool can:

- Automatically detect and install required dependencies.
- Create a Microsoft SQL database or Microsoft SQL CE database prior to installing Umbraco.
- Create and configure new websites in IIS.

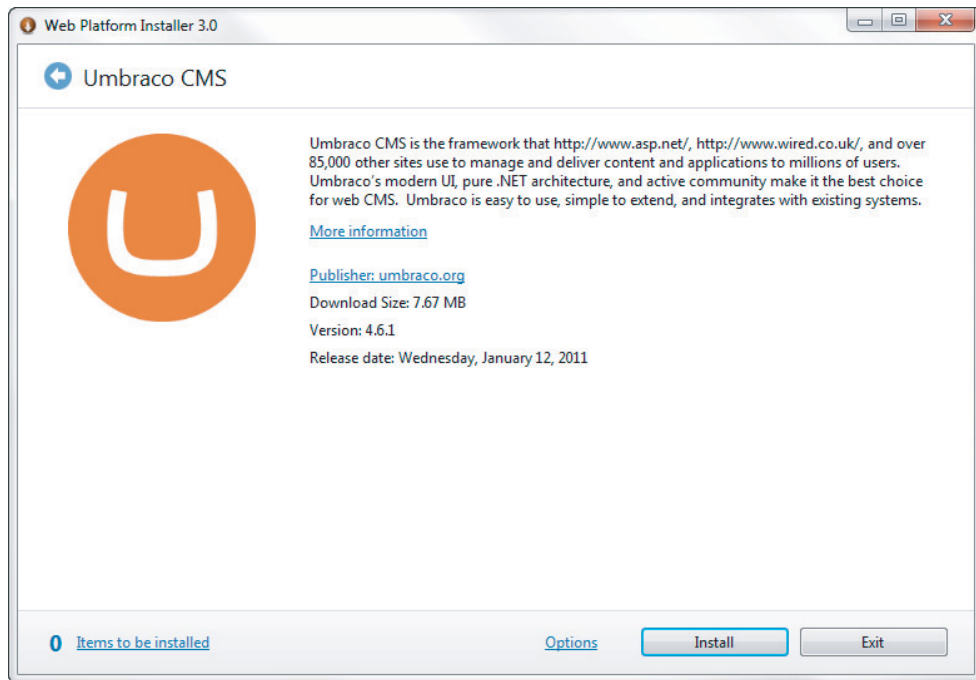


FIGURE 1-1

You can find the Microsoft Web Platform Installer at www.microsoft.com/web/ along with the latest versions of Umbraco and other web applications as well as any required dependencies. In addition, the Microsoft Web Platform Installer is available as an IIS extension at www.iis.net/extensions/WebPI/ and is integrated into web hosting control panels such as cPanel and DotNetPanel. Using a web host's control panel to install Umbraco in a shared hosting environment can greatly simplify the installation process.