



# Umbraco Whitepapers

umbraco 4



# UMBRACO 4 – GET EXCITED

The latest revision of your favorite cms will revolutionize the way you work.

- Faster than ever
- Easier to get started
- Support for MySQL, MSSQL, VistaDB, and other databases
- Tighter package integration
- Enhanced user interface
- Superior .NET support

All this, and it's still free.

*This document is a draft based on a pre-release version of umbraco 4 and is subject to change. Final release of umbraco 4 is expected by end of 2008.*



# SUPERIOR .NET SUPPORT

Umbraco already had industry-leading and award-winning support for .NET and now the bar has been raised, again

## Support for ASP.NET Master Pages and standard navigation controls

Umbraco's templating system has been upgraded to use ASP.NET Master Pages, with complete backwards-compatibility and automated conversion of existing templates to the new Master Page format. Umbraco no longer stores template code in a database table, but instead creates standard ASP.NET ".master" files that can be edited in Visual Studio with full design-time support. Place your templates under source code control, use your favorite text editor, or edit within umbraco's integrated web-based template editor if you prefer.

Complementing Master Page support is an integrated Site Map Provider that offers support for standard .NET navigation controls. Simply drag-n-drop controls from within Visual Studio into your templates, whether provided by Microsoft or by third-parties such as Telerik and ComponentArt.

The support for ASP.NET Master Pages and navigation controls makes it easier than ever for .NET developers to get started with umbraco and quickly add advanced features to their websites.

## Support for ASP.NET Membership and Role Providers

Umbraco 4 now supports ASP.NET Membership and Role providers for handling visitor identity management (called Members in umbraco). Integrate with third-party products or legacy identity databases by setting a single configuration entry. Of course it's completely backward compatible.

Whether you're using the built-in members in umbraco, a third-party system, Active Directory or LDAP, umbraco will provide a convenient user interface for password-protecting customizing pages and areas of your website.

By using integrating membership and role providers,.NET Developers can use all the standard .NET and third-party controls for handling website visitor registration, login authentication, recovering passwords, and other activities.



# ENHANCED USER INTERFACE

In a world where gaining weight is the new black, umbraco went on a diet

## Beautiful and standards-compliant

The simple look-and-feel of umbraco has long been praised by our users and in reviews. With the latest version we made the user interface even better. We removed drop shadows, added new, polished icons that follow the latest UI patterns, and gave attention to myriad details.

The new, lighter and standards-compliant markup means umbraco support every modern browser on every platform. So whether you're on a PC, Mac or Linux and whether your browser flavor is Microsoft Internet Explorer, Firefox or Safari, umbraco just works.

## Faster and more responsive

This attention to detail and perfection in the user interface is indicative of the umbraco core team. We didn't settle for just delivering a pretty face; we streamlined the code, reduced the size and number of files needed for the user interface, and slimmed things down by more than 60%. Umbraco 4 is blisteringly fast and performs with the responsiveness of a desktop application. You and your users will be even more productive.



# BOOST YOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Create new standards-compliant websites in minutes by choosing the pieces you need from best of breed “nitros”, which are constantly updated by the umbraco community

## Boost – a website scaffold with the push of a button

Version 4 makes it easier than ever to get started with umbraco. All you need to do is push a button during the improved installation process and you have a no-nonsense website. With Boost installed, you’ll get a basic home page and text pages with clean markup ready to be customized. No disturbing graphics, no limited choices between layout columns. Just the pieces you need to get started, with standardized conventions to build upon.

## Nitros – so fast you might consider it cheating

Once you’ve got the Boost website scaffolding, you’re ready to add some functionality such as navigation, sitemaps, various kinds of lists, and forms.

Many systems offer this through “modules”. But we think that modules are really just marketing lingo for randomly coupled extensions that almost—but not quite—work, and often introduces licensing issues. That’s why we swore never to add modules to umbraco until we found a solution. With umbraco 4 we have the solution. Say hello to modules like they should be. Say hello to umbraco Nitros.

Nitros encapsulate specific pieces of advanced functionality that are easily added to your website. Nitros are open source and easy to customize if you want to modify the behavior for your specific needs. Because Nitros are provided under the MIT license you are free to use and modify them any way you want, with no strings attached.

Nitros are installed—or uninstalled—with the click of a button in the umbraco UI. And the collection of available Nitros is constantly expanding with the latest, best of breed work from the fabulous umbraco community. With Nitros, your umbraco installation simply gets better as more people use umbraco.



# ONE CMS, ANY DATABASE

Umbraco 4 now has built-in support for MySQL, MSSQL and VistaDB, as well as any other data source by using our provider model

## Robust and flexible architecture

The new data layer in umbraco 4 is implemented using a provider-based model that makes it possible to use any SQL-enabled data source with umbraco. If the built-in support for Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL or VistaDB doesn't meet your needs, you can implement your own without modifying the umbraco core source. Simply inherit from an abstract class with all the base methods, modify it for your data source, drop the assembly (.dll) in the bin folder and change one line of configuration. Presto, umbraco can now work with Oracle, Access, DB2 or whatever you prefer.

## Beautiful code, setting the standard

The new data layer is only one of the signs of the great new coding conventions that are being implemented in the umbraco business logic. Prepared for unit testing, following best practices from design patterns, and utilizing IDesign coding conventions, you get the benefit of the increasing code quality that is coming with umbraco 4.



# TIGHTER PACKAGE INTEGRATION

We made it easy to install, update, remove, and create packages, as well as providing custom package repositories for your projects

## A whole section of Packages

With umbraco 4, packages are no longer hidden away in a popup context menu. We're so proud of the way packages have evolved that they now move into the limelight with their own area in the Developer section. From here you can browse the official umbraco Package Repository directly in the tree view. Beyond simply browsing available packages, you also see an overview of installed packages, checking for upgrades and safely removing installed packages you no longer need.

## Create your own Package and share it

The new package area also features a Packager that makes package creation a quick point and click process. Simply check the components from your umbraco installation and the Packager will generate the complete package file for you. Once created, you can share it with the entire umbraco community or your colleagues by pressing the Submit to repository button.

## Support for internal Package Repositories

In addition to the official umbraco package repository, you can create your own package repositories. These are useful for sharing frequently used packages internally in agencies or among your clients. These custom repositories are activated by adding a single line of configuration information with a unique identifier and can be kept secret via login credentials for your employees or customers. You can even rebrand your custom repositories via CSS. Custom repositories are a hosted service and use the same package server as the official repository, brought to you by umbraco I/S.



# WE LISTENED

We promised to fix the five biggest frustrations that slowed down your work with our “Fight the Frustrations” campaign. We fixed ten.

## The technical fixes:

- **Customize logging.** The logging built-in to umbraco can be completely customized. Log only the types of data you want, to prevent unnecessary information or log entries that are handled by third-party software packages.
- **Tab sorting on document types.** With umbraco 4, you can sort the Tabs from the UI just as easily as you can the sort order of the properties.
- **Direct editing of CSS files.** Prior to umbraco 4, CSS files were stored in the database, and then published as files. That meant that any edits you made directly to the files eventually be lost. With umbraco 4, you can use your preferred text editor for modifying the CSS files directly (and add them to source control), as well as editing the stylesheets from within the built-in umbraco editor.
- **Copy document types.** Need a Document Type that’s almost identical to an existing one? Simply copy it with the click of a mouse and modify the pieces you need.
- **Multi-lingual 404 errors.** For sites running in multiple languages, it’s now possible to provide a friendly “page not found” error message (HTTP 404) based on culture. You can display different errors for each of the localized sites, optimized for the content and tone of the country.

## UI Improvements:

- **Enhanced search with auto suggest.** A new ajax-based search field at the top of the umbraco UI lets you find any page quickly. Simply start typing and umbraco will show results that match. The field supports searching for document names, full text searching in all properties, or document id. This makes it fast and easy to find the documents you wish to edit, which is especially convenient for sites with deep hierarchies and large amounts of content.
- **Full Firefox support.** We’ve updated all parts of the UI to make sure that it works seamlessly with any modern browser. This includes FULL support for Firefox. Umbraco 4 supports any modern browser on any platform.
- **Simplified rollbacks with visual difference tracking.** The new and improved rollback dialog makes it easy to quickly see any differences between content versions by visually marking additions in green and removed content with a red strike through.
- **Default user section.** For users (editors) with limited access in to the various sections of the umbraco UI, version 4 improves the user experience, even removing the section list in the lower left corner if only one section is available to the user.
- **Dictionary overview.** Umbraco users with multi-lingual sites will enjoy a new and improved dictionary overview that shows a grid of all dictionary items and their various culture-specific settings. This makes it much easier to track and edit the translated values for each language.