

#LEX Advanced: Level Up with User-Friendly Brightspace HTML Templates

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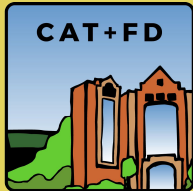
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Dr. Cary Caro, Faculty-in-Residence



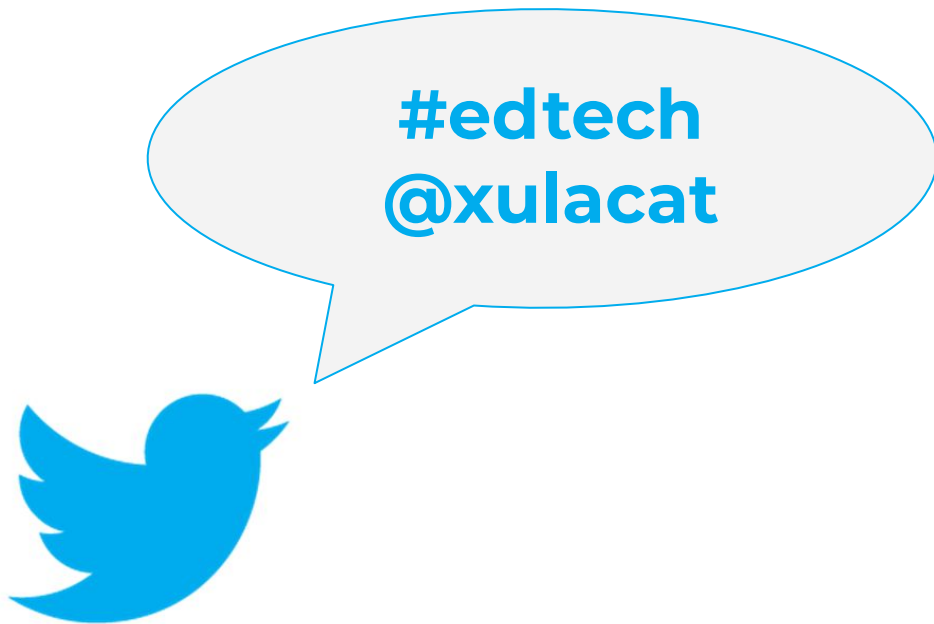
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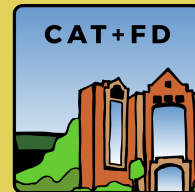


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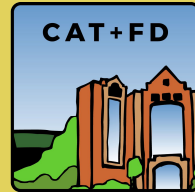


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[Source: https://elearningforpublics.com/the-rise-of-mobile-learning-informal-ble/](https://elearningforpublics.com/the-rise-of-mobile-learning-informal-ble/)

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Mobile Devices



Janice Florent @jmflorent · Aug 3

67% of online #HigherEd students prefer to use a mobile device, calling for more mobile-friendly #EdTech solutions tech.mg/XwBlaQ via @EdTech_HigherEd



More Students Rely On Mobile Devices to Complete Online Classes

New academic uses for smartphones emphasize the need for a robust mobile network on campus.

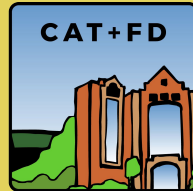
edtechmagazine.com



#edtech
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Source: <https://twitter.com/jmflorent/status/1074505856087076657>

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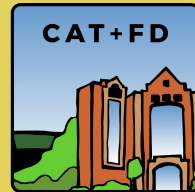
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What are HTML Templates?

Sample [page layouts](#) that have some details in place to make it easier for you to create [accessible](#), [responsive](#), [interactive](#), and [visually appealing](#) HTML content pages.



Image Credit: [Image](#) by MTZD from [Pixabay](#)



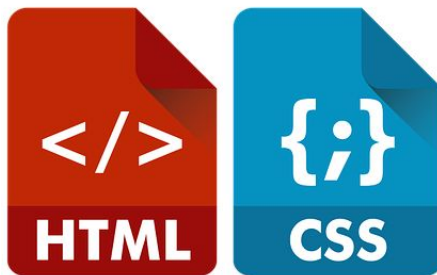
Why Use HTML Templates?

- Helps to meet QM standards through the use of sample pages and placeholder text
- Improves accessibility and usability
- Improves responsiveness across devices
- Searchable in Brightspace



Why Use HTML Templates?

- Maintain a consistent visual look
 - Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) make for quick and easy font, color, and heading changes

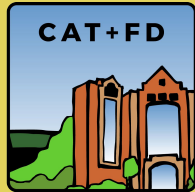


HTML Templates in Action



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HTML Templates Wiki Resource

- Includes links to:
 - HTML Templates
 - Step-by-step instructions
 - Free image sites
 - Free photo and image editing tools
 - Creative Commons (CC) Resources
 - Accessibility Resources

https://catwiki.xula.edu/Brightspace_HTML_Templates_Resource

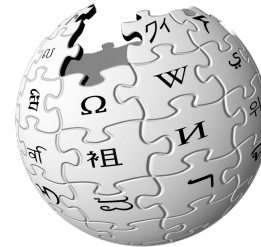
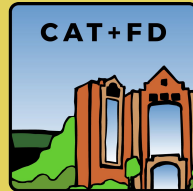


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HTML Templates in 4 Steps

Step 1: Choose a Theme and download the HTML Templates to your computer

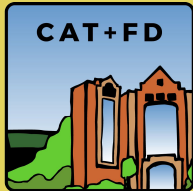
Step 2: Upload the HTML Templates to your course

Step 3: Enable HTML Templates in your course

Step 4: Apply an HTML Template to a HTML (web) page



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HTML Templates

- HTML Templates are available when you **Create a File** in Content
- HTML Templates are **NOT** available in descriptions



Ask Yourself

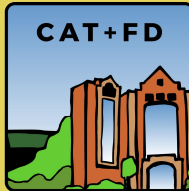
- Would information be better suited as a web (HTML) page or would it be better in some other format (Word, Google Doc, pdf, etc.)
 - Perhaps providing as web (HTML) page **and** in alternate format works best for you



Image Credit: [Image](#) by Peggy_Marco from [Pixabay](#)

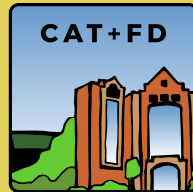
Effective Practice #1

- Set the HTML template path (for shared files) in the course
 - This saves time from repeatedly browsing to the same path (folder) to choose a template



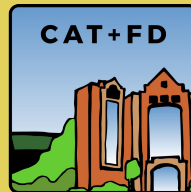
Effective Practice #2

- For banner images, use an image that is at least 1200 pixels in width and 400 pixels in height



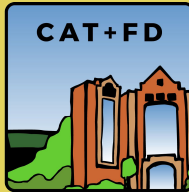
Effective Practice #3

- Add images using “**Insert Image**” or “**Insert Stuff**” buttons in the HTML Editor
 - Makes it easier to add Alternative Text (Alt Text)



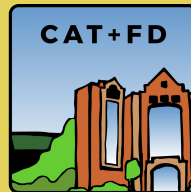
Effective Practice #4

- Type your content in a document, such as Word or Google Docs, first
 - Allows you to spot spelling and grammar errors early on



Effective Practice #5

- Paste text without formatting (when pasting text from Word, Google Docs, etc.)
 - Use Ctrl+Shift+V (Cmd+Shift+V on Mac) to paste copied text as unformatted text



Effective Practice #6

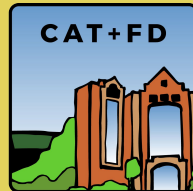
- Use proper formatting styles
 - Clear and consistent heading structure
 - Use proper list structure
 - Data tables should have column headers
 - Images should have ALT text
 - Use descriptive link text

Effective Practice #7

- When copying elements:
 - You **must** be in edit mode to copy elements
 - Copy everything between the “**start copy**” and “**end copy**” for the specific Element, then paste into the HTML Editor

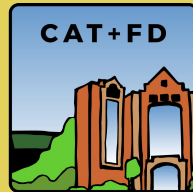


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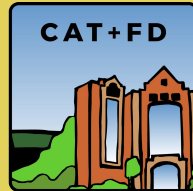
Effective Practice #8

- Keep the elements page (HTML template) open in its own tab or window so you can copy and paste any element onto the page you're creating



Effective Practice #9

- Run the Brightspace Accessibility Checker on each page



Potential Pitfall #1

- Applying a template to an existing page will overwrite the content **and you will lose your work**
 - Save any edits in a different file prior to changing templates

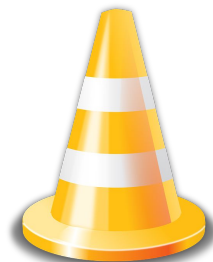
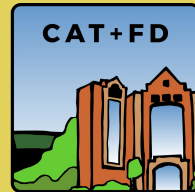
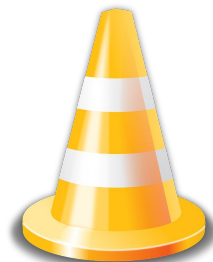


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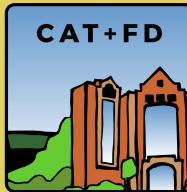
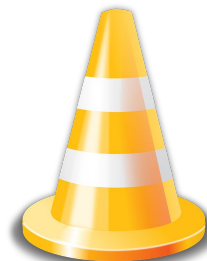
Potential Pitfall #2

- The HTML templates path may need to be reselected, after copying from a course where you changed from the default path



Potential Pitfall #3

- HTML Templates are not recommended for material that is intended for printing and saving outside of Brightspace
 - Provide material in alternate format suitable for printing if needed





CAT FooD

(for thought)

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ABOUT THIS BLOG

Brightspace Tip #180: September Continuous Delivery Updates



D2L (the company that owns Brightspace) uses Continuous Delivery to update our Brightspace system. The Continuous Delivery model gives us regular monthly updates allowing for incremental and easily integrated changes with no downtime required for our Brightspace system.

Our Continuous Delivery update occurs on the 4th Thursday of each month. D2L provides [release notes](#) to help users stay up-to-date with the changes.

BRIGHTSPACE

BRIGHTSPACE DOCUMENTS

- Guide to Taking Tests in Brightspace
- Record, Upload, and Share Video on YouTube

BRIGHTSPACE FAQ

- Respondus LockDown Browser FAQ
- Respondus Monitor FAQ
- VoiceThread FAQ
- ePortfolios FAQ

PODCAST

Teaching, Learning, and Everything Else

Conversation #98: Lisa Schulte on Resilience

September 22, 2020

20 minutes

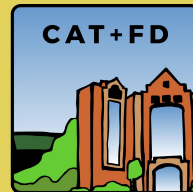
Conversation #97: Brannon Andersen on Earth Education

August 25, 2020



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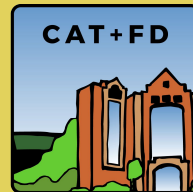
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Any Questions

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