



Fragments and Snippets

What are they?

Apart from normal templates, microcyte uses smaller sub-templates called fragments or snippets. Snippets are small chunks of HTML that have placeholders which the microcyte can replace with dynamic content. These snippets are used around the system for various tasks which we will cover in this chapter.

How do you build them?

All snippets are built in basically the same way. There are some differences in which snippets can have which placeholders, and also where the different snippets live in the microcyte folder structure.

Snippet files

Snippets are basically text files with .tmp extensions. These text files should contain chunks of repeatable HTML, but should not contain HTML tags like body or head. The placeholders should be interspersed within the HTML in logical places. The following is an example of a snippet:

```
<div class="newsitem">
  <div><h3>#navtext#</h3></div>
  <div><p>#description#</p></div>
  <div><a href="#link#">Read More</a></div>
  <div class="clr" style="border-top: 1px solid #ededed;"></div>
</div>
```

Here you can see the placeholders are denoted by hash symbols, e.g. #navtext#.

Snippet types

There are essentially two types of snippets, user snippets and system snippets. User snippets are added into a web page directly by the end user, they are a way of adding some extra layout to a web page in a dynamic way. System snippets are used by the system to format and display dynamic content.

The following table shows a list of the different snippets and the placeholder you can add to those snippet types:

| Snippet type | Description | Placeholders |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Landing page snippet | A snippet you specify when creating a landing page template. | #navtext# (page title in navigation) #description# (page description) #link# (link to the page) #calendardate# (page calendar date) |
| User snippet | A snippet the user can add | #datetime# (the current date and time) |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| | into the content of the page | #random# (a random number) |
| File upload snippet | A system snippet that is used when a new file is uploaded to the site | #link# (where the link to the file goes) #caption# (the user defined caption) |
| Discussion snippet | A snippet used by the system when building comments for a page where comments are enabled. | #title# (the comment title) #name# (the name of the poster) #datetime# (the date and time of posting) #content# (the content of the post) #id# (the unique id the post) |

How to use system snippets

System snippets can be used within templates by specifying the template name when using the microcyte navigation or discussion API. This subject is covered in more detail in the navigation chapter.

Where do they live?

User snippets should always live in the /fragments/snippets directory from the root of the site. System snippets such as landing page, file upload and discussion comment snippets should always live in the /fragments/private directory from the root of the site. When you specify the use of a snippet in a page template you should not specify the whole path, just use the filename of the snippet and the system will work out where it should be found.