

# Layout Overrides – Introduction

1. Make a copy of your Template  
(Copy the template not the style)
  - Go to Template Manager
  - Select Beez\_20
  - Enter new name – lower left.
  - Name it: Beez\_20\_Copy
2. Make it the default Template
3. View the site ????? What happened????

# Layout Overrides

8. Change the Template Style Settings
  - Logo – choose ‘joomla\_black.gif’
  - Position of Navigation – ‘Before Content’
  - Template Color to ‘Personal’
9. View the site – Much Better!
10. On to our layout changes.....

# Layout Overrides

- As an example lets change the look of the Latest Articles article.
- First we want to make it more accessible. By default it is on the menu at:
  - About Joomla Menu
    - Using Joomla Menu
      - Using Extensions
        - » Modules
          - Content Modules

# Layout Overrides

- To make it more accessible we will move it to the Top menu.

**Details**

Menu Item Type *	Single Article	Select
Menu Title *	Latest Articles	
Alias	latest-articles	
Note		
Link	index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27	
Status	Published	▼
Access	Public	▼
Menu Location *	Top	▼ ←
Parent Item	Menu Item Root	▼
Ordering	Latest Articles	▼

# Layout Overrides

- Lets look at the content of the Latest Article article:
- Go to the Article Manager and use the search function – look for ‘latest’.
- Select the Latest Article article.
- Look at the content of the article.
- It has a Joomla command to include a module into the article.

# Layout Overrides

- The Latest Article article:

Article Text

**B** *I* U ABC | [List Icons] | Styles Paragraph

[Rich Text Icons] HTML

This module shows a list of the most recently published and current Articles. Some that are shown may have expired even though they are the most recent. [Help](#)

```
{loadmodule articles_latest, Latest News}
```

Path: p

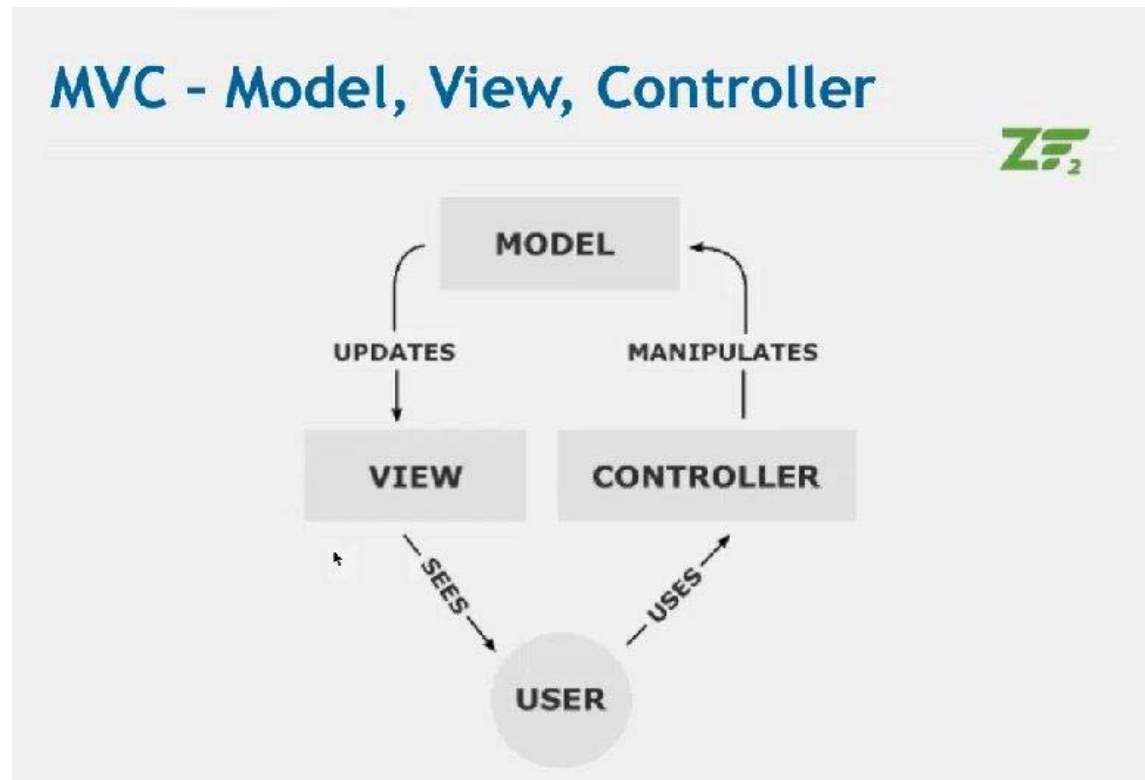
- It includes the Latest News Module

# Layout Overrides

- So to make changes to this we need to modify the Latest News Module's display.
- Joomla uses the MVC (Model, View, Controller) design pattern that defines a folder structure.
- This is how Joomla knows where to get all the pieces it needs to display information on the site pages.

# Layout Overrides

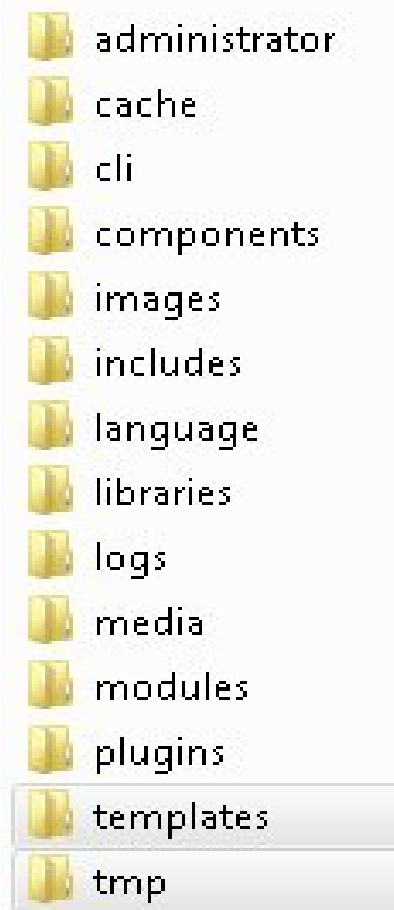
- MVC Information





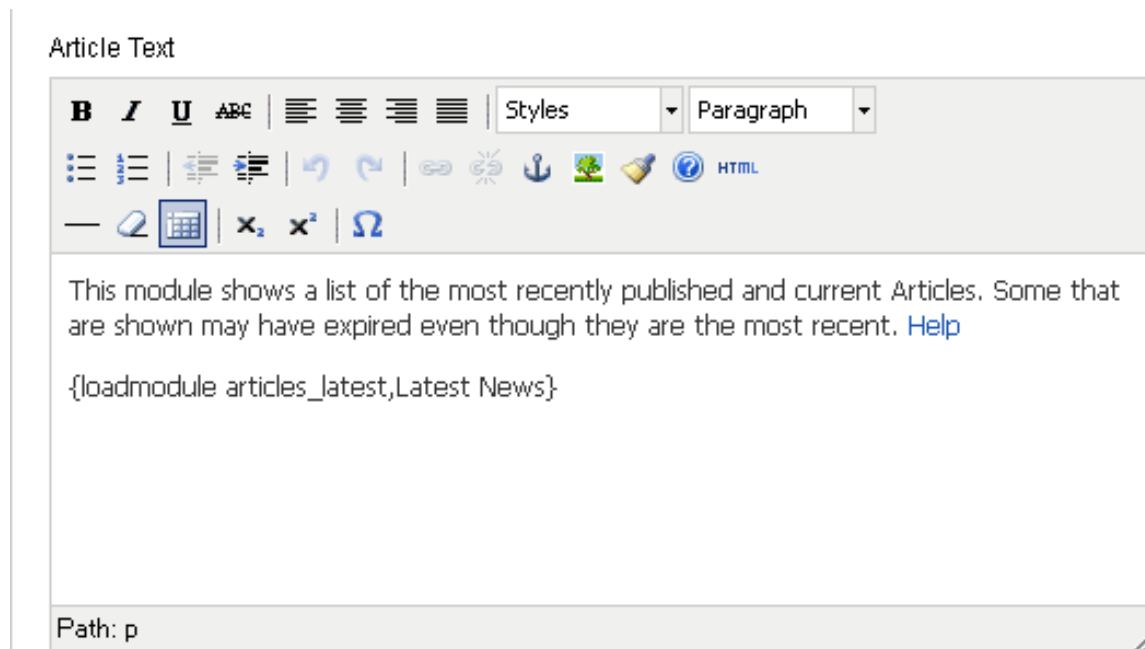
# Layout Overrides

- Joomla has a well defined folder structure



# Layout Overrides

- The original Latest Article article:



- The 'loadmodule' directive loads the latest news module into the article.

# Layout Overrides

- Now we begin our overrides....
- Joomla has a sub-folder for each module type.
- Navigate to the Modules folder under your joomla root folder:
  - ../modules/mod\_articles\_latest folder.
  - The MVC architecture used defines that the default layout file is in the tmpl subfolder.

Lets look there...

../modules/mod\_articles\_latest /tmpl folder.

# Layout Overrides

- Modules can have several layout files but this one has a single layout file named default.php
- We don't want to change this file so where do we put our override file?
- Every template has a folder named html. This is where Joomla will look to see if an override exists just prior to displaying the output. If a file is found here it will use this layout file instead of the original layout file.

# Layout Overrides

- Let's go to the html folder of our copied template
  - Templates/beez\_20\_copy/html

We need to create a new folder – mod\_articles\_latest to hold our override layout code file.

**NOW -**

Copy the index.htm and the default.php files from the original module folder into this new folder.

We always want the index.html file in every folder we create. It's for security reasons.

# Layout Overrides

- The original layout file contents:
- `defined('_JEXEC') or die;?>`
- `<ul class="latestnews<?php echo $moduleclass_sfx;?>">`
- `<?php foreach ($list as $item) : ?>`
- `<li>`
- `<a href="<?php echo $item->link; ?>">`  
`<?php echo $item->title; ?></a>`
- `</li>`
- `<?php endforeach; ?>`
- `</ul>`

# Layout Overrides

- Our changed file contents:
- `defined('_JEXEC') or die;?>`
- `<h1>My First Override</h1>` ←
- `<ul class="latestnews<?php echo $moduleclass_sfx;?>">`
- `<?php foreach ($list as $item) : ?>`
- `<li>`
- `<a href="<?php echo $item->link; ?>">`
- `<?php echo $item->title; ?></a>`
- `</li>`
- `<?php endforeach; ?>`
- `</ul>`

# Layout Overrides

- View the site and if all worked as it should you will see:



- IT WORKS!



# Layout Overrides

- Extended Functionality
  - Lets show the intro text for each article in our new layout.
  - Modify the default.php code (add the 'var\_dump' line) to see the variables in the \$item class:
- `<?php foreach ($list as $item) : ?>`
- `<li>`
- `<a href="<?php echo $item->link; ?>">`
- `<?php echo $item->title; ?></a>`
- `<?php echo var_dump($item);?>`
- `</li>`
- `<?php endforeach; ?>`

# Layout Overrides

- Show just the first 50 characters of the intro text:
- `<?php foreach ($list as $item) : ?>`
- `<li>`
- `<a href="<?php echo $item->link; ?>">`
- `<?php echo $item->title; ?></a>`
- `<?php echo substr($item->introtxt, 0, 50) . '...'; ?>`
- `</li>`
- `<?php endforeach; ?>`

# Layout Overrides

- What is wrong?
- The code is displaying part of the 'img' tag that is embedded in the intro text of the Getting Help article.
- See the article – Getting Help.
- We can remove it by using the `strip_tags` function in our default php code block.

# Layout Overrides

- Now our default.php code block looks like this:
- `<?php foreach ($list as $item) : ?>`
- `<li>`
- `<a href="<?php echo $item->link; ?>">`
- `<?php echo $item->title; ?></a>`
- `<?php echo substr(strip_tags($item->introtext), 0, 50) . '...'; ?>`
- `</li>`
- `<?php endforeach; ?>`
- Yea! This works!

# Layout Overrides

- There are many additional things we can add to this little block to enhance it's appearance
- There is a string class called 'Jhtml\_string' that would automatically break the text on word breaks to avoid the partial strings at the end of each line.
- If you want more – get the
- 'Joomla Programming' book.