Updating Your Course Homepage in D2L - Daylight

Introduction:

An overview of homepage changes from Brightspace (D2L):

“In the Brightspace Daylight Experience, you can no longer set background colors or images for a homepage or select a color for widget headers. These limits ensure that information is not lost when the display resizes for a tablet, mobile device, or other narrow displays. It also ensures that the Brightspace Learning Environment continues to provide a clean backdrop for announcement items, content, and other custom widget material.”

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Best Practices:

• Due to the added responsiveness in Daylight, columns wrap on smaller screens. Widget-based homepages resize and content stacks from left to right. Therefore, it is recommended that you use a one or two-column page layout, putting primary content on the left because most importance is given to the left column when wrapping or “stacking” occurs.

• The Course Content Widget is commonly used across the institution. You are strongly encouraged to leave that widget turned on in your homepage and have it placed towards the top of your column layout hierarchy, and avoid renaming this widget to ensure that students are able to easily identify and access course content across all courses and from all devices.

• You can still add custom widgets to your course. Remember, adding images to custom widgets can affect the responsiveness of your course. It is recommended that you test this by looking at your course on a mobile device after adding such widgets to ensure that the content sizes properly.

• It is recommended that you add a footer widget to your online course that contains information such as, course name, instructor name, email address, phone number, office location, office hours and department information.

Step 1: Setting column layout

A. Click on the Course Admin link in the Navigation bar.

B. In the Course Administration window, click the Homepages link.
Step 1: Setting column layout, cont.

C. You will be taken to the Homepages window. Look through the sample homepages provided and choose one that you would like to work from. Click on the drop-down arrow to the right of the homepage you are going to select, and choose Copy.

D. You will now see a copy of the page you selected. However, you will notice that the page title is an active link. Click on the active title page link to be taken to the editor where you can start setting up your course homepage.

E. At the top of the Edit Homepage window, you will be able to update the title of the homepage file. (This is just what you see in the listing of homepages in the editor, not your course title.) Type a name in the Name field. You can also type a description in the Description field or remove it all together.
Step 1: Setting column layout, cont.

F. Next, you will be able to choose the type of homepage as well as the layout. For type, it is suggested that WIU courses use the Widget-based option. Choose Widget-based from the Type dropdown menu if it is not already selected.

G. If you chose a pre-styled WIU template, you likely will not have to change the layout. However, if you do want to change the layout, click the Change Layout button.

H. When the Select New Layout window appears, scroll down to see the selection of layouts you can choose from. Click on the radio button to the left of the layout you would like to use.

I. Click the Update button.

Remember, due to the added responsiveness in Daylight, columns wrap on smaller screens. Widget-based homepages resize and content stacks from left to right. Therefore, it is recommended that you use a one or two-column page layout, putting primary content on the left because most importance is given to the left column when wrapping or "stacking" occurs.

**NOTE:** Any time you make changes in the Edit Homepage area you must click the Save or Save and Close button at the bottom of the page in order to put them in effect. If you do not click one of these buttons, the changes will be lost and you will have to make them again.
Step II: Setting up your widgets

A. If you have exited the edit homepage window, repeat steps A, B, and D from Step I to get back to it. Scroll down the edit homepage window until you see the Widgets area.

Adding a widget:

B. Click the Add Widgets button within the panel where you would like to add a new widget.

C. When the Add Widgets window appears, place a checkmark in front of the widget you would like to add to your homepage.

D. Click the Add button in the lower left corner of the window.
Step II: Setting up your widgets, cont.

E. You will now see your new widget on the page panel. (In my example I added the **Announcements** widget.

* NOTE: Any time you make changes in the **Edit Homepage** area you must click the **Save** or **Save and Close** button at the bottom of the page in order to put them in effect. If you do not click one of these buttons, the changes will be lost and you will have to make them again.

**Reordering widgets:**

Remember, in the Daylight responsive design, when content wraps or stacks on smaller device screens, the content in the top left column will appear first. Therefore, in the page above as it is currently set the Content Browser would appear first, followed by Announcements, Calendar, Updates and then Role Switch. (See the image to the right).
Step II: Setting up your widgets, cont.

Reordering widgets, cont:

Reordering your widgets in Western Online is simple! If you have exited the edit homepage window, repeat steps A, B and D from Step I to get back to it.

F. Hover your mouse over the widget that you would like to reorder. Notice that the bounding box around the widget becomes blue showing that it is selected. You should also notice that your cursor turns into the four-arrow cross bars.

G. Click and drag the selected widget to wherever you would like it to appear then drop-it in that location.

In my example, I moved the Announcements widget above the Content Browser widget.

*NOTE:* Any time you make changes in the Edit Homepage area you must click the Save or Save and Close button at the bottom of the page in order to put them in effect. If you do not click one of these buttons, the changes will be lost and you will have to make them again.
Step III Hiding and Modifying Widget Titles

In D2L Daylight Experience, you no longer have a title bar that you can style. You do still have the ability to hide, modify and customize titles.

**Hiding Widget Titles:**

Modifying widget titles in Western Online is simple! If you have exited the edit homepage window, repeat steps **A, B and, D** from **Step I** to get back to it.

A. **Click on the widget** that you would like to adjust the tile for.

![Widget Properties Editor](image)

B. At the bottom of the **Edit Homepage** window the **Widget Properties** editor will appear.

C. If you would like to turn the title off/remove it, **uncheck** the box in front of **Display Titlebar**.

D. If you would like to make it so that students cannot minimize the widget, **add a check** before **Prohibit minimizing widget**. (We recommend this for the **Content Browser** widget.)

E. If you would like to modify the title of the widget, select the **Custom** radio button and type the new title in the field provided.

* **NOTE:** Any time you make changes in the **Edit Homepage** area you must click the **Save** or **Save and Close** button at the bottom of the page in order to put them in effect. If you do not click one of these buttons, the changes will be lost and you will have to make them again.
Step IV: Adding the Course Information Footer Widget

For this step, you are going to copy, insert and modify a pre-made custom widget. This widget will be displayed at the bottom of your homepage, and it will list the course name, instructor name, email, phone, office location, office hours and provide links back to your departmental and college homepages.

A. Click on the Course Admin link in the Navigation bar.

B. In the Course Administration window, click the Widgets link.

C. In the Widget List window, click on the Custom Widgets tab.

D. Locate the widget named Course Information (Footer). Click on the duplicate icon to the right of the widget.

E. A Confirmation dialog box will appear. Click Yes.

F. A new widget Course Information (Footer) Copy will appear in your custom widgets list.

G. Click on the Edit (pencil) icon to the right of the widget name.
Step IV: Adding the Course Information Footer Widget, cont.

H. When the Edit Widget Course Information window appears, you can add a new title for the widget in the name field.

I. Click on the Content tab.

J. The Widget Content editor window will appear. Click in the window and begin editing the content areas that are provided. Use the formatting toolbar to add styles such as Bold, Alignment and etc.

K. After you have finished editing the content, click Save and Close.

L. Repeat Steps II and III from this tutorial to add and place this widget on your homepage.
Getting Assistance:

For assistance, please contact The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research.

Phone: 309.298.2434

Email: CITR@wiu.edu

Location: Malpass Library 637