Welcome to Umbraco

We are very happy you've decided to install Umbraco and think you've made a great choice. As you'll soon discover, Umbraco will simplify the way you build web sites, but first let's get Umbraco installed. There are two ways to get started with Umbraco; 1) sign up with a web host that will install Umbraco for you or, 2) install Umbraco to your local computer or your own web server.

What to do first

If you are installing Umbraco locally, we strongly recommend you use the Microsoft Web Platform Installer (webPI) to install Umbraco. The Web Platform Installer is a free tool from Microsoft that handles much of the complexity of determining the compatibility of your system with Umbraco.

Go to the Web Platform Installer step-by-step section to get started.

If you have decided to use a web host that has installed Umbraco for you, you have even less to do. The web host will send you instructions detailing how to connect and login to your Umbraco site once the installation is complete.

If you've already installed Umbraco and you want to know what's next, skip ahead to the **Understanding Umbraco - A Primer section** below.
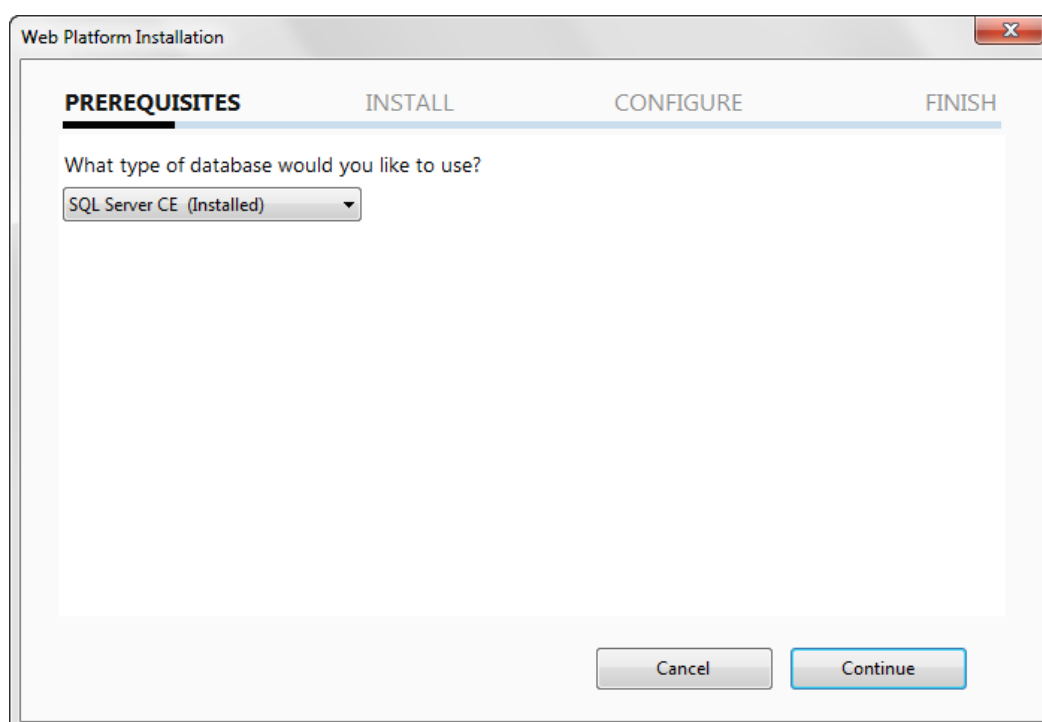
What to expect

Once you have completed the Web Platform Installer installation, or have received notice from your web host that your Umbraco site is ready, you are ready for the Umbraco Installation Wizard. The Umbraco Installation Wizard allows you to configure your site and to install a Starter Kit site and Skin.
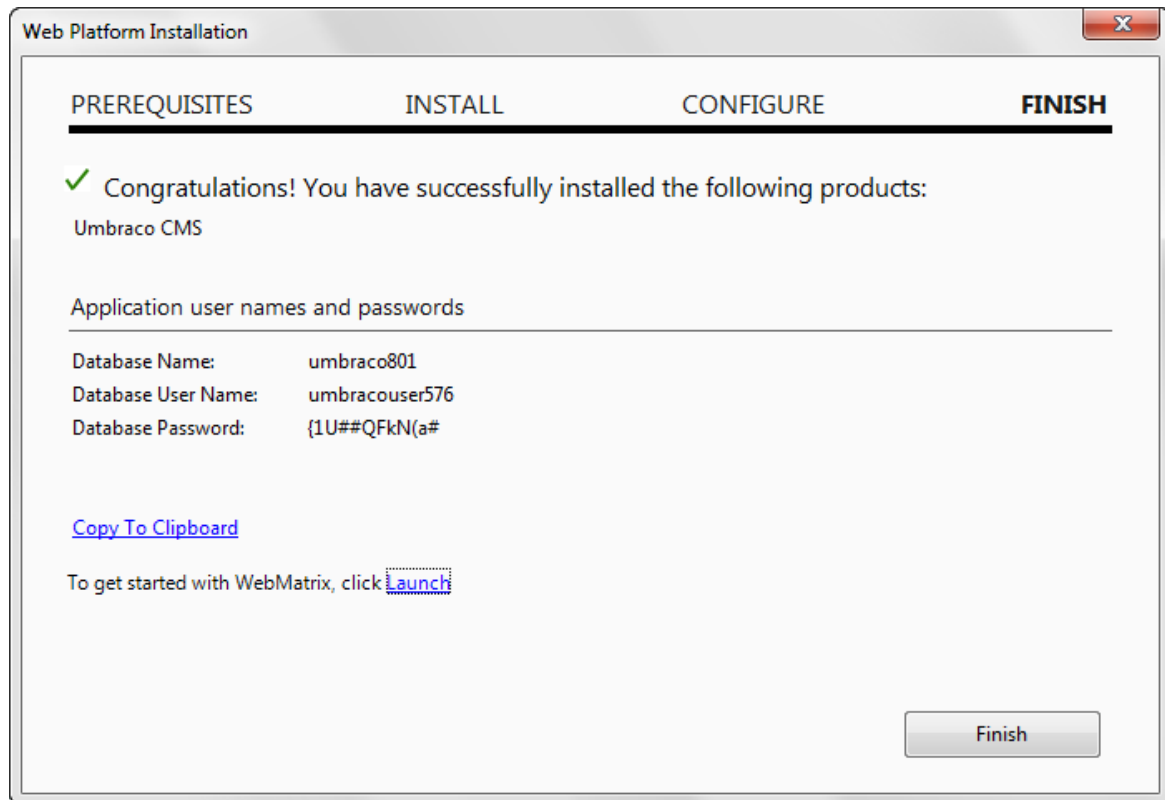
You can choose to install a Starter Kit and a Skin so that your Umbraco site is immediately ready for use, or you can choose to start with an empty Umbraco site and build up the foundation yourself. Of course, we recommend beginning with a Starter Kit.
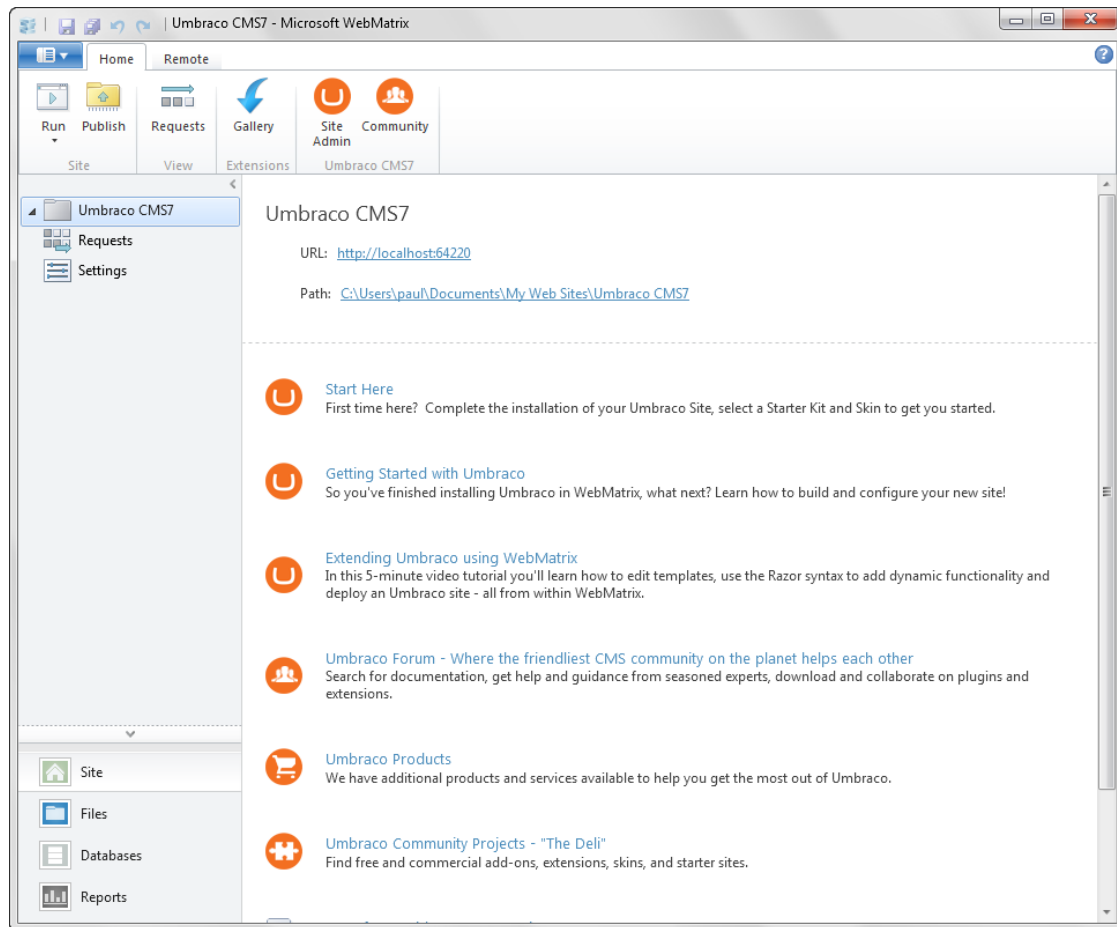
Web Platform Installer step-by-step

1. Launch the webPI from the Microsoft Web Application Gallery
   (http://www.microsoft.com/web/gallery/Umbraco.aspx).

2. Select Umbraco from the Applications list, and then click Install if it is not already selected

3. From the prerequisites screen select the database of your choice

   a. We strongly recommend selecting "SQL Server CE" if you are installing Umbraco to your
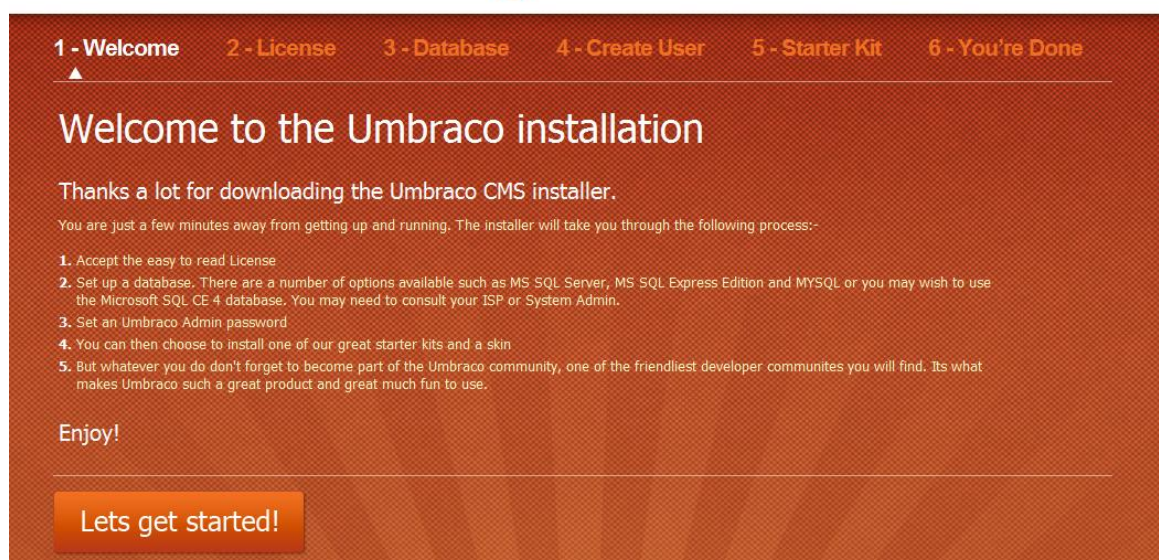   local PC and for almost all development purposes

4. Once you click the I Agree button webPI will download and install Umbraco, including any
   dependencies required. If all dependencies are already installed this will take just a moment, if
   many dependencies are requires it may take some patience.

5. When complete, webPI will display the database user name and password it created while
   installing the database. We recommend making note of these as you may need them later

6. Clicking the Finish button will launch Microsoft WebMatrix, a free, easy-to-use web development tool from Microsoft

7. From the WebMatrix Site pane, select the Start Here link to launch Umbraco and open the Umbraco Installation Wizard

8. Accept the Umbraco License

9. The database connection information will already be present

10. Set a Password for the Admin user

    a. You can also register for our Newsletter (if you like)

11. Install a Starter Kit and a Skin

12. Browse your site and/or log in to the Umbraco back-end to begin working with Umbraco

You're all done and Umbraco is ready for use! To add content, change layout, or add dynamic features you use the Umbraco back-office (also known as the admin interface or the back-end) which can be found by clicking the Configure your Site button in the Umbraco installer, from the Site Admin ribbon button in WebMatrix, or at the Url: http://yoursite/umbraco/ - just replace 'yoursite' with the domain provided by your host or with the Url provided by WebMatrix which can be found on the Site pane.

How to get more information and assistance

Along the way you are bound to have some questions about how to work with Umbraco or how to accomplish a specific task. Fortunately, Umbraco has one if the friendliest user communities around and there are several places to get more information. The Umbraco Community site is known as Our Umbraco (http://our.umbraco.org/) and is a collection of resources for users at all levels.

The Community **Forum** is a great place to look for an answer to a specific question. The Community **Wiki** is a great place to find our more by reading. The Community **Projects** area is a great place to find additional functionality for your Umbraco site. If you'd like to meet your fellow Umbraco users in real life, the Community **Events** and **People** listings are a great place to find out what is happening in the Umbraco Community.

In addition to the Umbraco Community, we offer the official **Umbraco TV** video tutorial site (http://umbraco.tv/). Umbraco TV is a collection of more than 100 free and subscription based videos covering everything from installing Umbraco to working with Umbraco from your own code. You can find some of the free videos below:

http://umbraco.com/getting-started

http://umbraco.com/introduction-to-umbraco

http://umbraco.com/help-and-support/video-tutorials/creating-a-skin-for-umbraco

You can find out more about the Umbraco TV subscription options here below:

http://umbraco.com/subscriptions

Commercial Products and Support

The Umbraco CMS is open-source and free, that much you know already. When you find that you're ready to boost your Umbraco productivity, have a look at our commercial add-ons for Umbraco - http://umbraco.com/products. We offer **Contour**, an easy to use form builder; **Courier**, a robust deployment tool; and **Concierge**, a team development tool as optional, add-on products for Umbraco.

For your important production Umbraco sites we offer support, known as **Umbraco Confidence**. With Umbraco Confidence, you not only have unlimited access to Umbraco TV and all of our commercial products, but also dedicated support from the Umbraco core team who are Umbraco focused full-time and a bug fix warranty that truly does provide confidence. To find out more about Umbraco Confidence have a look at our product page http://umbraco.com/products/confidence.

Understanding Umbraco - A Primer

Umbraco is a web content management system (CMS) that makes creating and maintaining websites simple. More than that, it is a web application framework that can be used to build web applications limited only by your imagination. Umbraco is a very flexible system that can be used to create your site in the way you need it. Even with the flexibility inherent to Umbraco, we find it is still best to start from a common point so the concepts become clear.

For an excellent guide to working with Umbraco from the Content Editor's perspective download the very useful Umbraco Editor's Manual, available in several languages;
http://our.umbraco.org/projects/website-utilities/editors-manual

Foundation

If you installed a Starter Kit (you did right?), you will see that Umbraco has created a number of items for you already. Using the Umbraco back-office, let's take a closer look at these items as they form the foundation of an Umbraco site.

There are more details below on working with the Umbraco back-end, so for now it is enough to mention that each of the icons in the lower-left of the Umbraco back-end UI relates to a specific set of Umbraco site functions. The Content section is for creating and editing content; the Media section for working with images, videos, and files; the Settings section for Templates; and the Developer section for working with Macros and Packages. There are other sections as well, but we'll leave those alone for now.
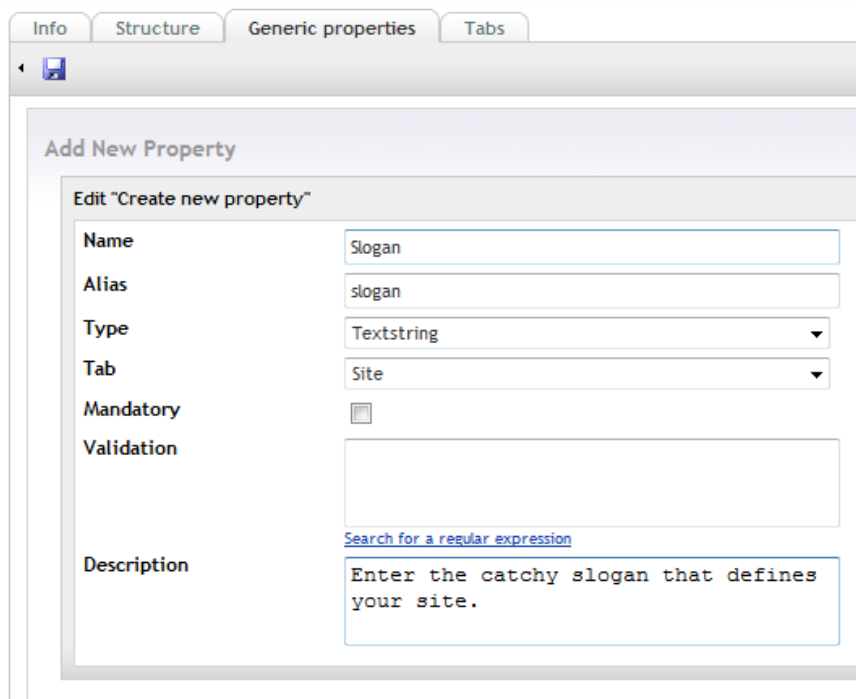
Document Types

Document Types are the Umbraco items used to define how content, or data in your site, will be stored. They have no visual relationship to the display of your site's web pages, but rather allow you to store you content in a structured, and easily managed, way.

From the Settings section, expand the Document Types tree then click the 'Homepage' item. The Homepage Document Type will display in the right-hand editor pane. From here you can navigate to the various elements that make up a Document Type by clicking on the tabs. Each tab provides you the ability to edit a different set of elements for the Document Type.

Select the Generic Properties tab and note how the properties are organized into groups called 'Tabs.' In this case the Document Type has the site name and description organized on the Site tab and the content (BodyText) organized on the Content tab. To add your own property, simply click the 'Click here to add a new property' link, input a name (this is what the content editors will see), an alias (which will be automatically filled in for you, and is used by designers and developers), enter a description (this is optional, but can be useful to provide content editors with some more context for the property), select the

Type of data you will use the property for, and select the tab used for this property - then click the Save button on the edit toolbar. For example, to add a property to be used for a site's slogan, we can enter the values as shown below, then click the Save button.

Templates

While Document Types are all about the data, Templates are all about the layout of your site. Using Templates you define how your site will look and feel.

From the Settings section, expand the Templates tree, and then expand the Starterkit Master Template, finally click the 'Homepage' Template. Once the Template displays in the right-hand edit pane you will notice right away that Templates are simply Html. In fact, Umbraco Templates use the ASP.NET Master Pages Template format rather than a proprietary Template format.

In this template, note the line *<umbraco:Item runat="server" field="bodyText"/>*. This is an Umbraco specific tag which instructs Umbraco to replace the tag with the value of the 'bodyText' property ('bodyText' is the alias of the property) - remember that from the Document Type above? Let's add our 'slogan' property from above to this template as follows:

1. Click the 'add umbraco page field' button on the Edit tool bar
2. Select the 'slogan' value from the Choose field list
3. Click the Insert button
4. Now save your changes to the Template by clicking the Save button on the Edit tool bar

Content

Now that we have added a property and changed a Template to display the property, we need to take advantage of this by providing a value for the 'slogan' property.

From the Content section, click on the 'Simple website' (or other 'Homepage') node at the top of the Content Tree. The node, or page, will display in the right-hand edit pane. You'll notice the 'slogan' property on the Site tab. Go ahead and give this property a value (perhaps, "where the customer is always right" or another of your choosing) then click the Save and Publish button on the Edit tool bar.

To view your changes, you can navigate to the updated page from your site, or you can simply click the Preview button on the Edit tool bar - which will load the current page in your default browser. Looks good, right?

Given this very simple example, it's easy to see how Umbraco can be used to define the structure of your site, control the layout precisely using any Html you create, and manage the site content in a simple way.

Macros

Macros are the Umbraco items which add dynamic features, such as automatically updated navigation, to your site. The can be simple, as in navigation, or complex, as in an ASP.NET User Control to allow new content to be created by your site's visitors.

Let's take a quick look at macros. From the Developer section, expand the Macros tree and click on the 'Top Navigation' item. You'll note the Macro's source is set to 'umbTopNavigation.xslt,' but there are other options as well. We'll leave the various options alone for now, but please have a look at the free foundation videos on Umbraco TV for more about working with Macros. Now expand the XSLT Files tree and click on the 'umbTopNavigation.xslt' item. What you see in the right-had editor pane is the XSLT code that creates the Top Navigation on the Starterkit site.

Packages

Packages are a way which other developers can share components they have created. There are many great packages available on the Our Umbraco website (in the Projects section), and the packages which are voted the highest can be accessed directly from the Umbraco back-office - from the Packages tree in the Developer section.

While there are too many excellent Packages to cover in this guide, here are a few very useful Packages to get you started:

- uComponents
  - A set of various extensions, from Data Types to API extensions
- ImageGen
  - An excellent image processing library
- Desktop Media Uploader
  - A tool for uploading media directly from your desktop

Thank you for choosing Umbraco!