

New DesignPLUS Sidebar: What's New?

New feature information for Legacy Sidebar users

Why is the DesignPLUS Sidebar changing?

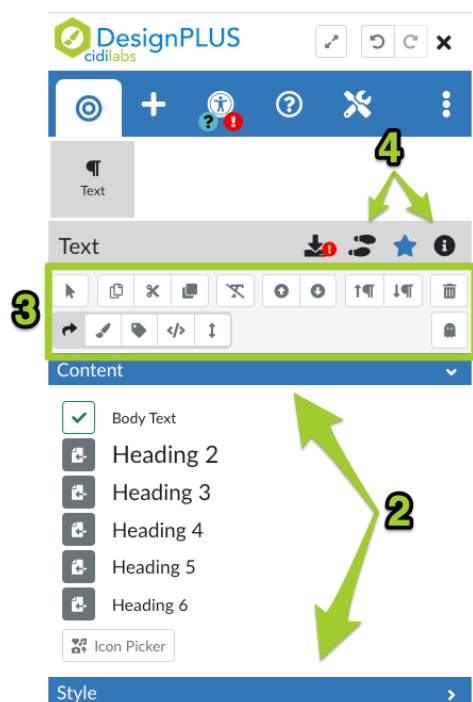
Easier to Use	More Flexible	New Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intuitive for basic users - New help features - Durable elements - Dynamic previews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New styling options - New customizations - No prescribed workflow - Modular design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accessibility checkers - Import external files - Link lists, grids, menus - And much more!

The new DesignPLUS Sidebar is easier to use out of the box (especially for new and basic users), more intuitive to customize, and more powerful than ever.

For power users who want a lot of granular control, tools like the **Style Editor** allow them to create custom styles for sharing and reuse later.

For users who just want to jump in, add basic content, and adjust some styling, the DesignPLUS Sidebar's **Add tab** is robust, searchable, and sortable, and the **Edit tab** has a straightforward, easy-to-use layout.

What has changed?



UI Updates

The Sidebar offers a few UI changes that will make it easier to use right away:

1. Automatic DesignPLUS wrapper. Users no longer need to add their content to content blocks in order to style it with the new Sidebar. The DesignPLUS wrapper will wrap all content automatically once the Sidebar is opened.

2. Consistent tool UI structure. All content tools include a Content panel for adding/adjusting content. For applicable tools, Style and Advanced panels are also available for more granular styling and for controlling specific tool features. For tools that load dynamic content such as accordions and module lists with quick links, a Preview panel allows users to see an interactive preview of the live content without having to save the page first.

3. Action toolbar for frequent functions. Copying, duplicating, cutting, deleting and moving content has been simplified via the action toolbar. The toolbar also allows

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users to insert empty paragraphs before or after any element and access shortcuts to advanced editor tools.

4. **In-Sidebar help tools.** Walkthroughs and tutorials are easy to access in the Sidebar so that users do not have to complete hours of training before they can use the Sidebar.

New Styling Options

Over the years, institutions have frequently asked for an easy way to generate custom themes. We have added several features to make this process easier as well:

- **Custom link grid, banner title, and heading style builders.** Users can create, view, and share custom style settings for theme components (all themes are composed of a set of link grid, banner title, and heading classes/styles).
- **Shareable styles in the Style Studio.** Once custom styles have been defined, users can retrieve a JSON object containing the style attributes and add it to a customizations course or share it with other users.
- **Classes and styles in the Style Editor.** View, copy, and edit the classes/style attributes for any element.

Control Institutional Settings

Customizing institutional settings has never been easier!

- **Update default institutional configuration in customizations courses.** Instead of complex JavaScript editing, the Primary Customizations course now includes an [Account Settings] page where admins can set Sidebar access permissions, set the default tools available on the Add tab of the Sidebar, and enable optional features like sortable rubrics.
- **Create custom tutorials and guides in customizations courses.** Users with editing permissions in customizations courses can now build and insert tutorials and guides from customizations courses.

See the following section for a detailed breakdown of features new to the Sidebar.

New DesignPLUS Sidebar features

Feature	Function
Institutional Customizations	
Adjust DesignPLUS configuration from customizations courses	Use the [Account Settings] page in a customizations course to update Sidebar permissions, default tools, and optional features without editing account-level JavaScript.
Simplified custom theme creation	Easily locate link grid (formerly navigation block), banner title, banner image, and heading style classes in the Style Editor to generate custom themes.

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Institutional tutorials and guides	Build and insert your own tutorials and guides from customizations courses.
Course-level customizations	Any pages that can be defined in a customizations course can be added at a course level to create course-only customizations. These course level customization pages do not need to be published.
New customizations course pages	Course pages for tools like Icons (for defining custom icon categories, <i>not</i> adding custom icons), Questions, and theme component styles (e.g. Link Grid Styles, Banner Title Styles) have been added to customizations courses.
Content Tools	
Upgrade tool	Content built using legacy Design Tools can be upgraded in a few clicks via the Upgrade tool in the new Sidebar.
Build and style content outside of content blocks	Content blocks are no longer required to build and style content with the new Sidebar, so working with existing content is easier than ever.
Import template content without overwriting	In addition to overwriting the page, you can also add template content to the top or bottom of current content.
Adjust default/active/hover color styling from sidebar	Adjust default, active, and hover colors for content like links, accordions/expanders/tabs, and module lists from the new Sidebar.
Edit accordion headings	The new accordion tool has a more durable heading structure that will maintain the html structure needed to work. Accordions no longer use element IDs, which has resolved most of the issues reported in the past.
Set heading level and position of content blocks	You can choose to insert content blocks at the top, bottom, or at cursor position, and set content block heading levels h2 through h6.
Insert images from sidebar	Add images from the current course or customizations courses, and keep image styling but change an image with the Choose a Different Image button.
Import images from customizations course files	View images in the Canvas files of customizations courses and import them into the current course.
Content rearrangement enhancements	Arranging is not limited to just content blocks, navigation blocks, and panels. Lists (ordered/unordered), description lists, and individual elements like paragraphs and headings can be quickly rearranged with the Arrange Content tool.
New editor action item types and	In addition to input prompts and instruction blocks, new types

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visibility	of key action items are available including insertions, notes, removals, checklists, and suggestions. Content creators can also see editor action items on the saved page.
New module list styles	New styles are available for basic module lists as well as module list quick links.
Separate banner and heading styles	Control the style of the top banner separately from the rest of the headings.
H1-level banner titles	Use an h1 heading in banners.
User-level styles	Create and save custom styles to a user level.
Grade schemes and policies outside of the Syllabus page	The Grading Scheme and Policies tools that were previously limited to use on the Syllabus page can now be used to insert grade schemes or institutional policies in any content type.
Multiple link grids of any size (previously navigation blocks)	Add multiple link grids to a page and add more than eight items to a link grid. Adjust the number of columns in the link grid display based on screen size.
Snippets divided into separate tools	Some HTML snippets, including dividers, images with captions, and callouts, have been separated into individual tools.
New table features	The Table tool can now insert a default 2x3 table as well as convert an existing table to columns. Text alignment for tables can also be adjusted via the Sidebar.
New tool: Canvas Shortcuts	Insert quick shortcut buttons on pages (depending on content type and user permissions), including Message Teacher, Message Group, View Group Members, and View Rubric buttons
New tool: Questions	Similar to the legacy sidebar Objective tool, host a list of pre-written questions that can be dropped into content.
New tool: Read Time	Add an estimated read time at the top of the page for longer content pages.
New tool: Page Nav	Insert a page navigation button on any page.
Advanced Tools	
Attributes tool enhancements	In addition to editing attributes like ID, class, style, and language, the Attributes tool can now adjust less common element attributes.
Advanced Editor (formerly Advanced HTML Editor) enhancements	The Advanced Editor (formerly Advanced HTML Editor) now allows users to remove all/selected IDs, classes, and inline CSS styles.

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Accessibility / Usability Tools	
External assets importing	Any files on a page that are sourced outside of the current course can be imported using the External Assets tool.
New accessibility tools	Two new accessibility tools, the Math Checker and Table Checker, have been added to the Sidebar. The Contrast Checker can also be run on a full page rather than one element at a time.
New tool: Preview Content	Preview the current page's content for different screen resolutions.
Help / Support	
Tool walkthroughs	The Sidebar itself and several tools have walkthroughs available.
In-sidebar release notes	Release notes can be viewed from within the Sidebar.