- blue screenshots are of actual panels admin pages

- orange ones are my suggestions

[Preview]

it's a bit empty, I'd imagine the Settings tab has the stuff I'd expect to be here, I expect [preview] to be a summary of some of the basics as name title and path, preview of the layout, summeray of content placement. Plus maybe a repeat of all tabs as a list, like a dashboard or homepage.
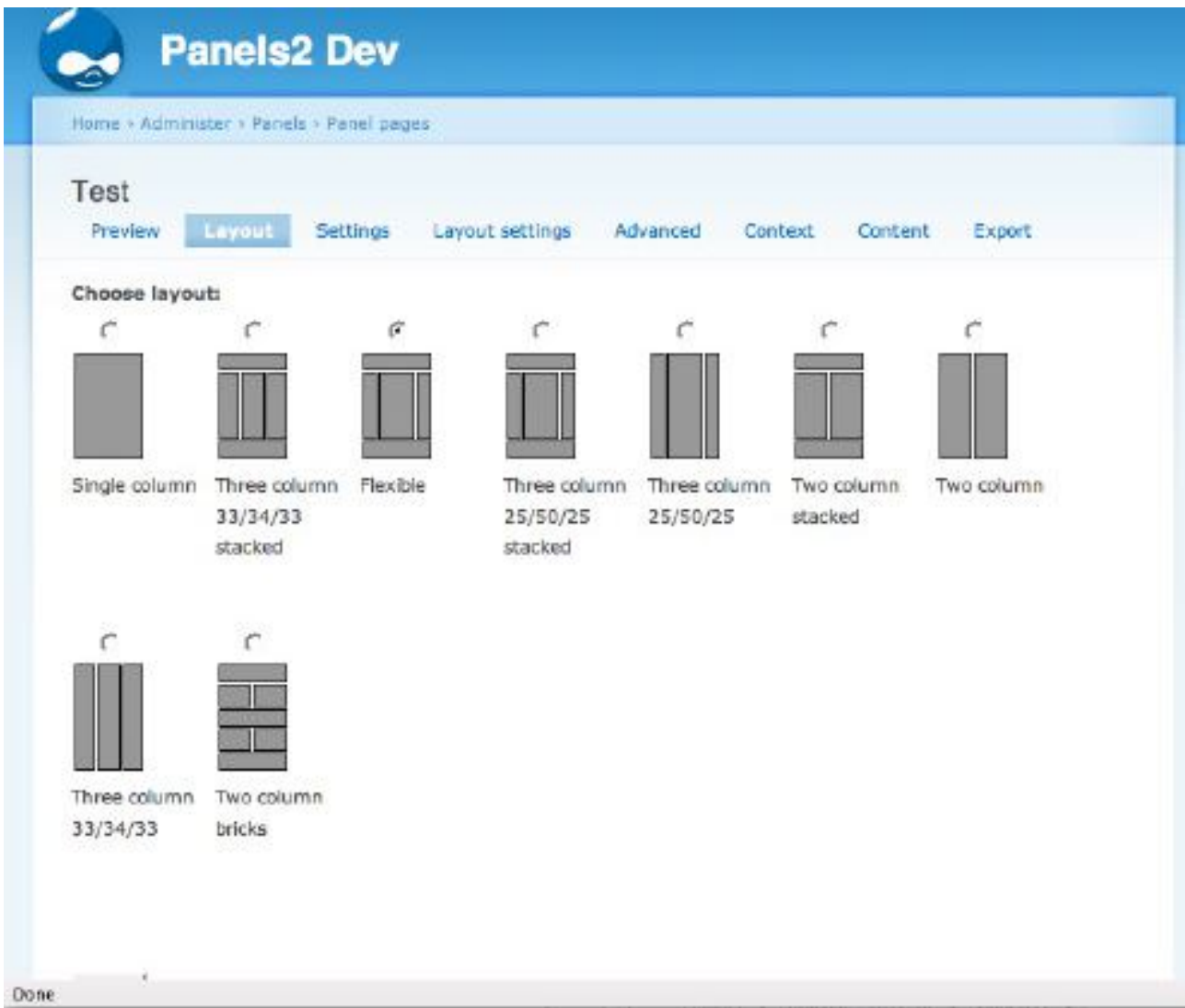
[Preview…]

[preview] shoud generally function as a dashboard for all other settings, this is tab you enter panels admin with, needs more functionality at the fingertips & shortcuts to the rest.

Maybe something like this:

Or maybe not. Maybe the settings tab could come second and be that summary dashboard page.

[Layout]

A whole tab for one simple (though important) task. Would be cool and useful if you could use a preset layout as a basis for further advanced tweaking. All the basic starterpoints are there, there's always one to build of off for most if not all customizations you'd want to do.

Maybe the layout names don't have to be shown like this but moved to the alt and title tag of the thumbnail image. Saves a lot of space and for the task at hand it's not adding a lot of information to help you choose.

The layouts could be orderd a bit more logically from simple to complex

I think I'd prefer the radiobutton below the thumbnail.

Maybe this tab should be 2 columns and incorporate the advanced settings:

[Layout…]

Or:

[Layout…]

The form elements for customizing rows, cells and widths etc. could probably done a bit slicker, but for now I'm just reshuffling the existing ingredients.
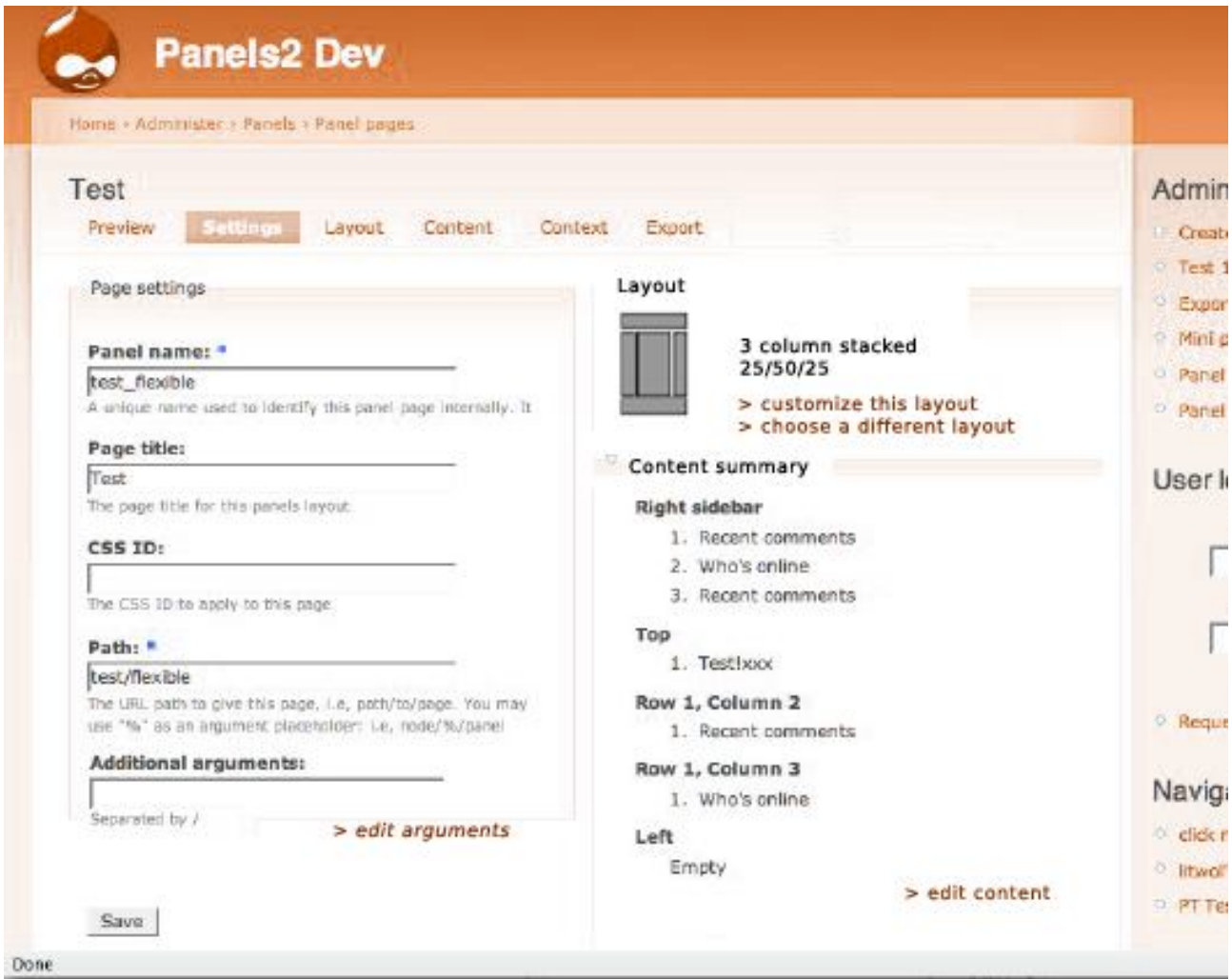
[Settings]

If we keep the preview page clean, without the dasboardstyle expandable fieldset above the preview, then this settingspage should be that launchpad for all other functionality and settings.

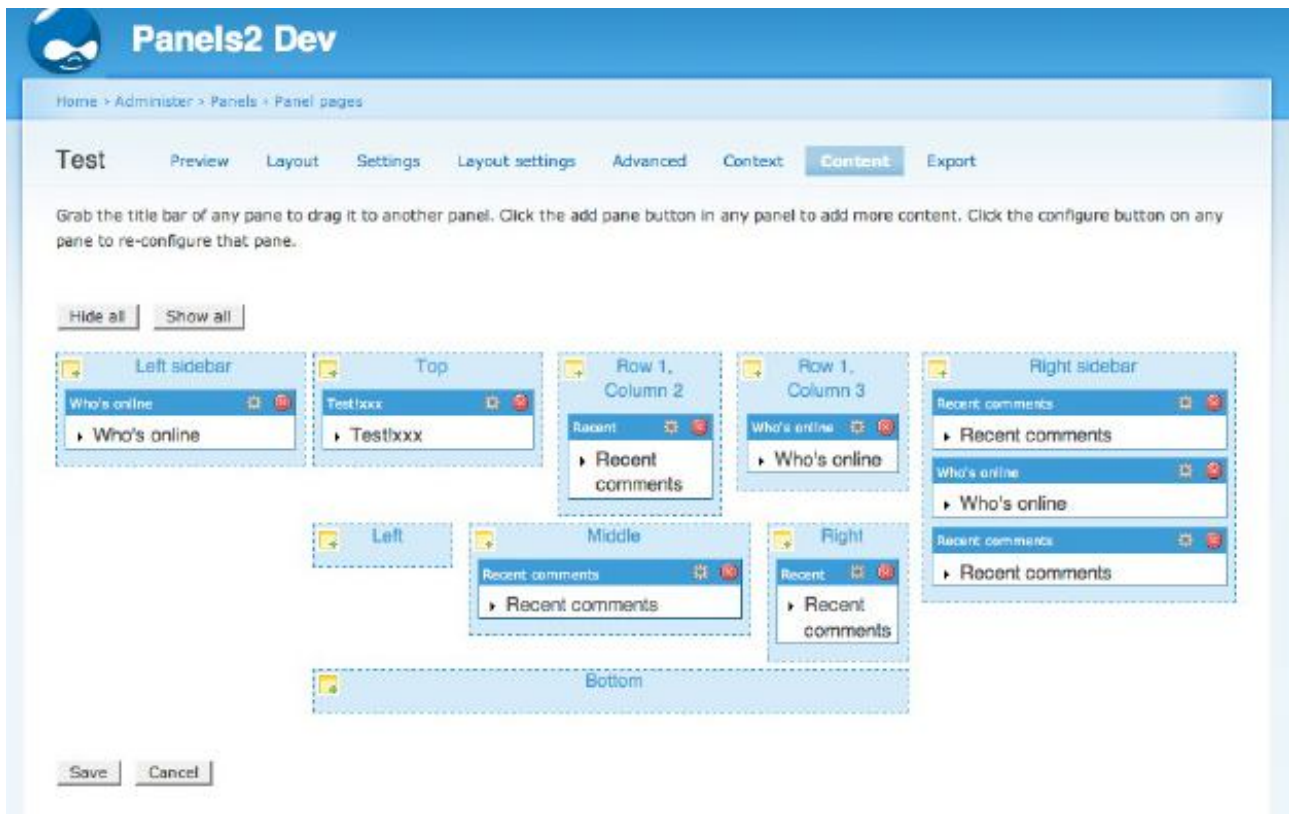The summary of content in the right column is just that, and very static, should somehow link to the [content] tab to make changes. Don't know if it's really very usefull, maybe in an expandable fieldset?

[Settings]

I added the "Additional arguments from the preview tab to the left column and seperated the layout and content in the right one, both should somehow link to their respective settingstab
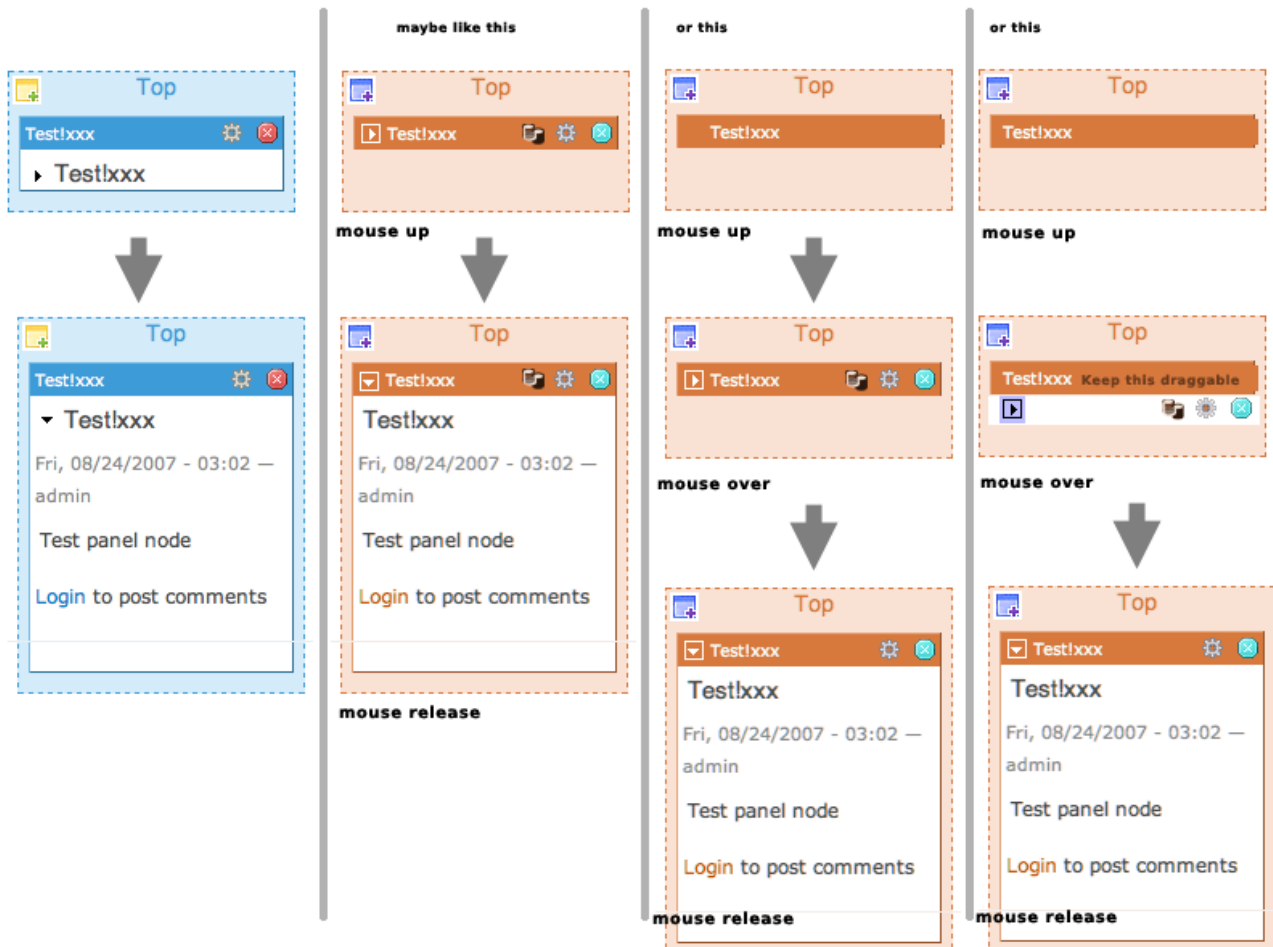
[Content]

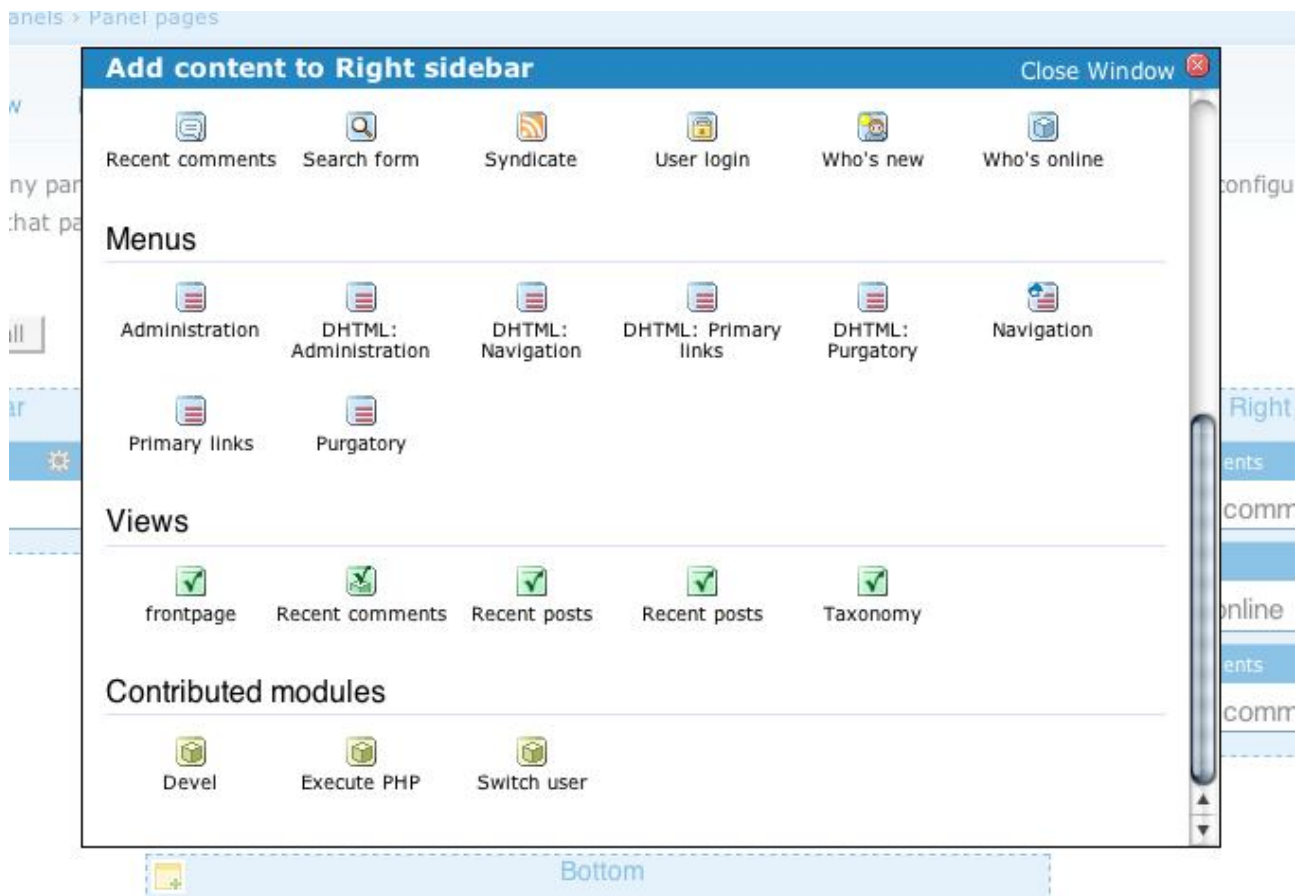Of course this one should stay 1 col full width.

The pane dragbar-title and the content-title are showing the same thing twice and clutter the interface bigtime. Same for the icons for config and delete, to much repetition, we should try to clean up the default state of each pane:

[Content…]

The icons in the dragbar (configure cog and delete + there will be another one for caching settings) might fill up too much of the draggable area, especially in narrow columns. The last option at the has the extra buttons appear below the draggable bar on mouseover, this would keep the dragbar more grabbable (? :-)
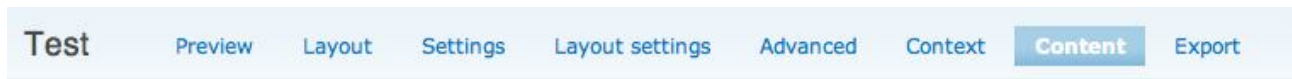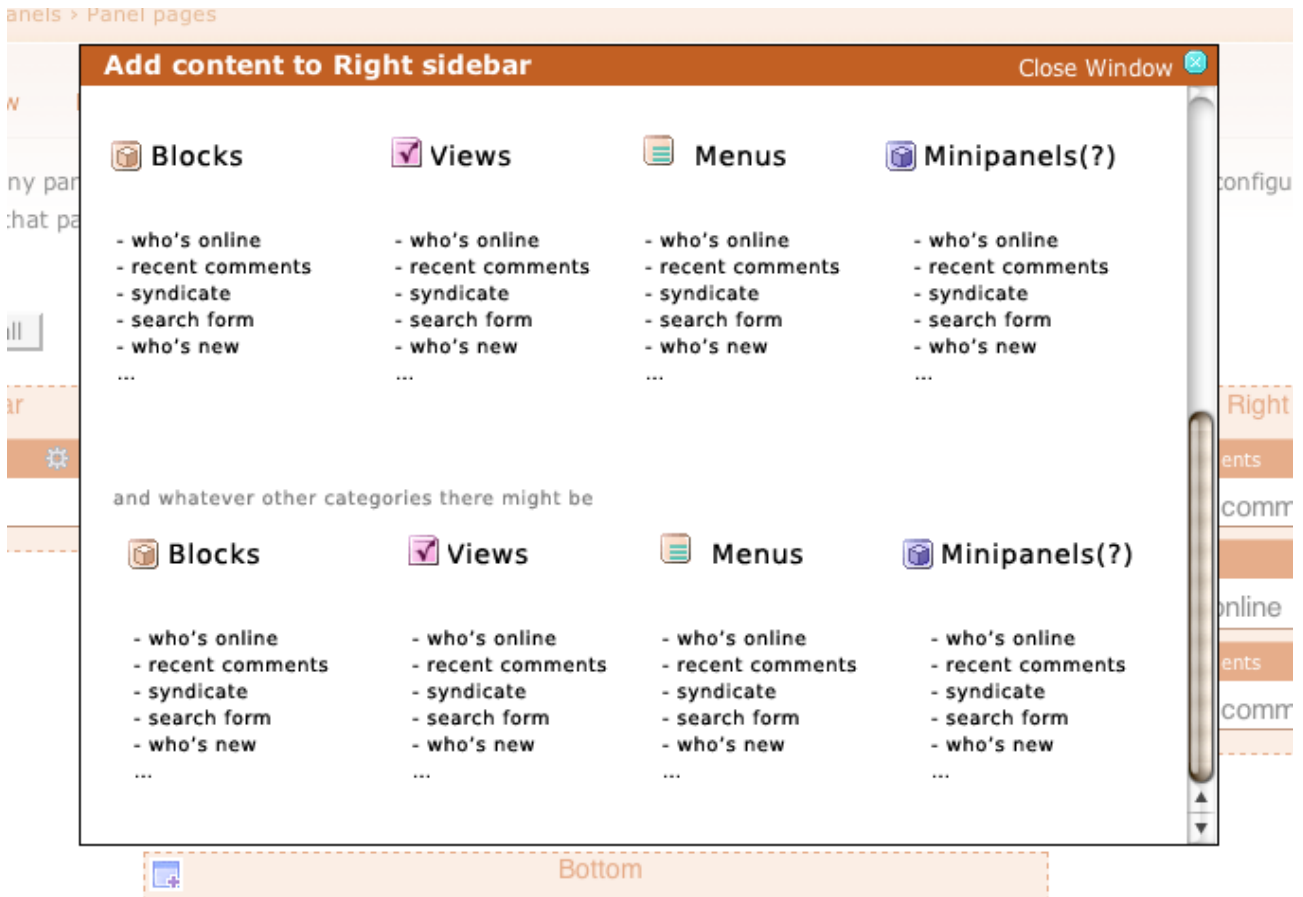
[add content modal]

Too many icons, visual noise instead of helpful. Maybe icons for each category with simple lists below:

[Add content modal…]

A lot easier on the eyes no?

I haven't looked at [context] tab, maybe they could be in a 2-col besides advanced arguments?

that's it for now!

yoroy.