

Editing the Confluence dashboard

For such an important page, Confluence's dashboard (home page) sure is hard to alter. Say we want to display some wiki-rendered content on the left-hand side. In my case, I want to display the [Atlassian Product Releases Macro](#) on the dashboard:

The screenshot shows the Confluence dashboard interface. At the top is a dark blue navigation bar with a hamburger menu icon, a red radish logo, and the text 'Red Radish Wiki'. To the right are links for 'Spaces', 'People', and 'Calendars', followed by a blue 'Create' button. Below the navigation bar is a light grey header area with the word 'Dashboard' in large, bold, black text. The main content area is white and contains several sections: 1. 'Upcoming Events' section with a date '27 Tuesday' and a calendar icon, followed by an event 'Jeff Timesheets Red Radish Work'. 2. 'Latest product versions' section containing a table with 5 rows and 4 columns. 3. A note: 'Note: this content is from the [_dashboard](#) page.' 4. A navigation bar with three buttons: 'Spaces', 'Pages', and 'Network'. 5. 'Favourite Spaces' section with a red radish icon and the text 'Clients'.

Product	Version	Status	Release Date
jira-core	7.0.0	Released	01 Oct 2015
jira-software	7.0.0	Released	01 Oct 2015
fisheye	3.9.1	Released	10 Sep 2015
bitbucket	4.0.3	Released	21 Oct 2015
crowd	2.8.3	Released	01 Jun 2015

The steps are as follows:

Step 1: Create the to-be-included Confluence page

Find a space that all users can view, and create a top-level page called `_dashboard`. Insert any content you want rendered:



Pages / Tech Home

_dashboard

Created by Jeff Turner, last modified about an hour ago

Latest product versions

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Note: this content is from the [_dashboard](#) page.

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(I've included a self-link to `_dashboard`, as I so often forget where this content comes from)

Step 2: Edit the Confluence home page

Now for the tricky part, to display this particular page on our Confluence dashboard.

1. Go to **Administration** -> **Look and Feel** -> **Layouts** (or type 'gg layouts' for a shortcut)

LOOK AND FEEL

Themes

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2. On the **Global Layout** line, click 'Create custom'

3. Search for the div containing the welcome message:

Defines the appearance of the dashboard and a user's profile.

```
Decorator Content <div class="dashboard-section">
#f ($mode == "dashboard")
#parse ("/decorators/includes/dashboard-navigation.vm")
#requireResourcesForContext("dashboard")
#rssautodiscovery($action.rssDescriptor)
#permitSearchEngines()

<div class="dashboard-group left">
  <div class="dashboard-item welcome-message wiki-content">
    $action.welcomeMessage
  </div>
#dashboard_renderGlobalActions("dashboardActionsId", ["system.dashboard"])

#foreach ($webPanel in $webInterfaceManager.getDisplayableWebPanels("atl.dashboard.left", {}))
  <div class="dashboard-item">
    $webPanel.getHtml($req.getParameterMap())
  </div>
#end
</div>## left
```

4. Below the div, insert the Velocity markup:

```
## Dashboard customization
$helper.renderConfluenceMacro(" { include:TECH:_dashboard|nopanel=true} ")
```

where **TECH** is the name of the space your content resides in.

Use surrounding whitespace and indentation to make it visually distinguishable:

Defines the appearance of the dashboard and a user's profile.

```
Decorator Content #requireResourcesForContext("dashboard")
#rssautodiscovery($action.rssDescriptor)
#permitSearchEngines()

<div class="dashboard-group left">
  <div class="dashboard-item welcome-message wiki-content">
    $action.welcomeMessage
  </div>

  ## Dashboard customization
  $helper.renderConfluenceMacro(" { include:TECH:_dashboard|nopanel=true} ")

#dashboard_renderGlobalActions("dashboardActionsId", ["system.dashboard"])

#foreach ($webPanel in $webInterfaceManager.getDisplayableWebPanels("atl.dashboard.left", {}))
  <div class="dashboard-item">
    $webPanel.getHtml($req.getParameterMap())
  </div>
#end
```

And we're done.

Keep in mind that Atlassian could update the default dashboard decorator between versions, and if you have customized it, as above, your Confluence may not render correctly. One would hope that Atlassian would mention such a backwards-incompatible changes in the release notes.

Addendum

If you have customized your global layout in the past, and then upgraded Confluence (I'm on 7.1.2) you may find the right panel just displays:

```
Error formatting macro: recently-updated-dashboard: java.lang.NullPointerException
```

I find that just resetting and re-creating the custom Global Layout fixes this:

1. As before, go to **Administration** -> **Look and Feel** -> **Layouts** (or type '**gg layouts**' for a shortcut)

LOOK AND FEEL

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RESET

2. On the **Global Layout** line, click 'Edit'
3. Copy the custom content into your local clipboard
4. 'Cancel' to return to the Edit Site Layouts page
5. On the **Global Layout** line, click **Reset Default**
6. On the **Global Layout** line, click **Create custom**
7. Paste your saved custom content.
8. 'Save'