How to Create the Site Header and Main Navigation (Content Editor)

Introduction

The CT Site Header and Main Navigation (aka Main Menu) are global components that are displayed throughout the entire website.

The standard CT Site Header is made up of the following parts: The CT logo, Agency Name, an optional Agency Tag Line, the Main Navigation Links, and social media linkable icons.

The Main Navigation is the primary website navigation bar within the site header that's positioned at the top of every website. It links to the most important website pages and appears prominently at the top of the homepage and other pages. Main Navigation helps users to quickly find what they're most likely to want, with minimal searching and clicks.

In this lesson, you will be shown examples of the hierarchical structure within the navigation. You will learn how to create Main Navigation Level 1 links, Level 2 links, and Level 3 links; also known as the main navigation, sub-navigation and topics level.
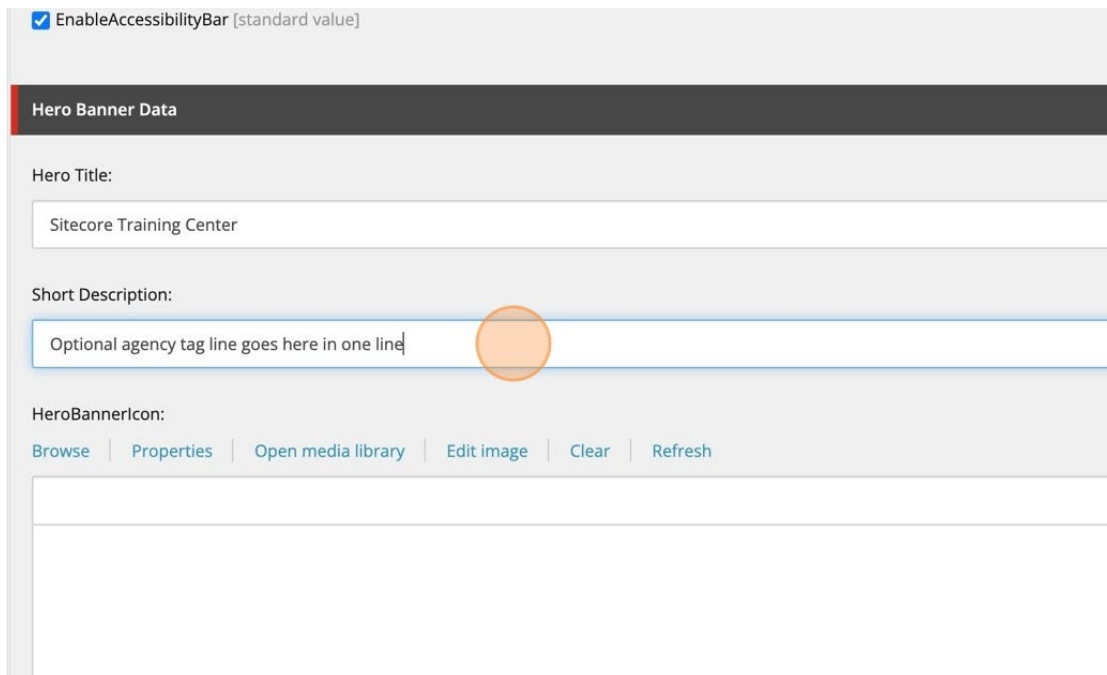
Step 1

Locate the "Content Modules" box and expand it. Content Modules are made up of components that will be used throughout the entire site and not to only one specific Child page. Locate the "Site Header Folder", expand it, and then click on the "Site Header" component.
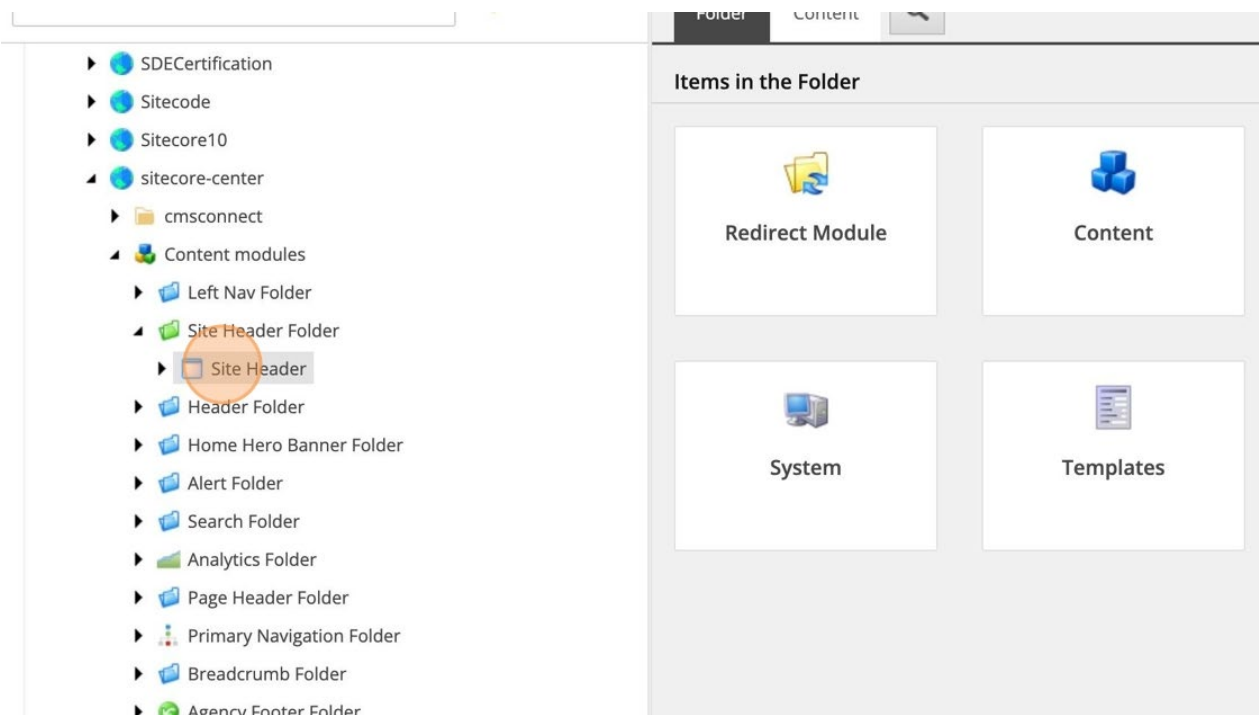
Step 2

In the right panel of the Site Header component, locate the "Hero Title", this where the name of the Agency goes. First, fill in the name of the agency. Next, in the "Short Description" field, you have the option to add the tag line that is associated with the agency.


Step 3

Next, go to the "Hero Banner Icon" field, click on "Browse" and navigate through the Media Folder until you locate the CT logo "C" as demonstrated below and click "Select".
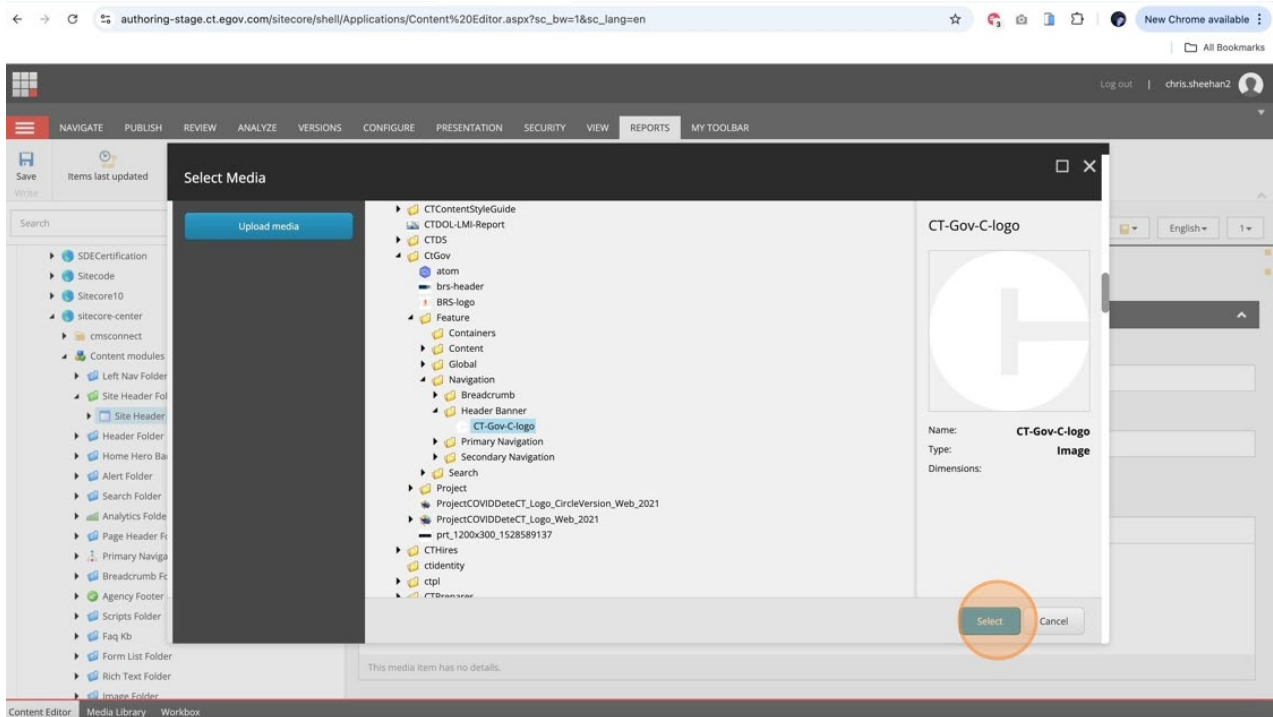
Step 4

Next, go to the Background Images section and drop down the Media folder to locate the "CT Banner Background" image as shown below. Using the right blue arrow in between the "All" and "Selected" panels, click it to move the image into the "Selected" area.
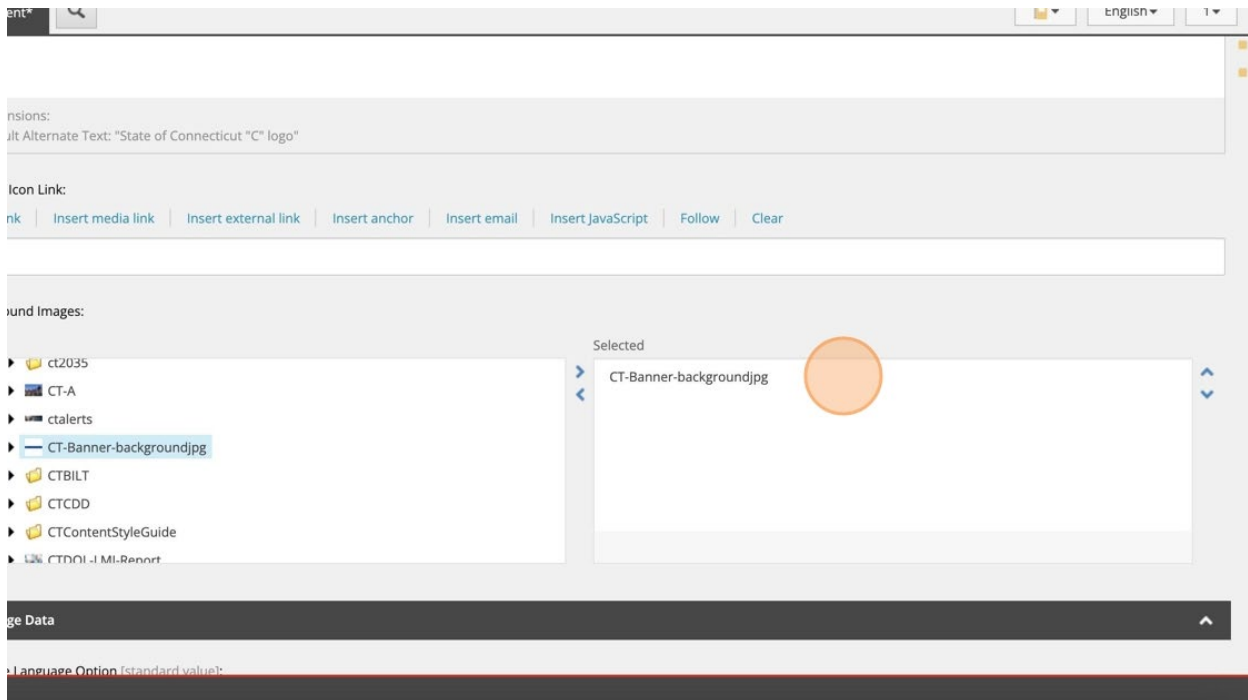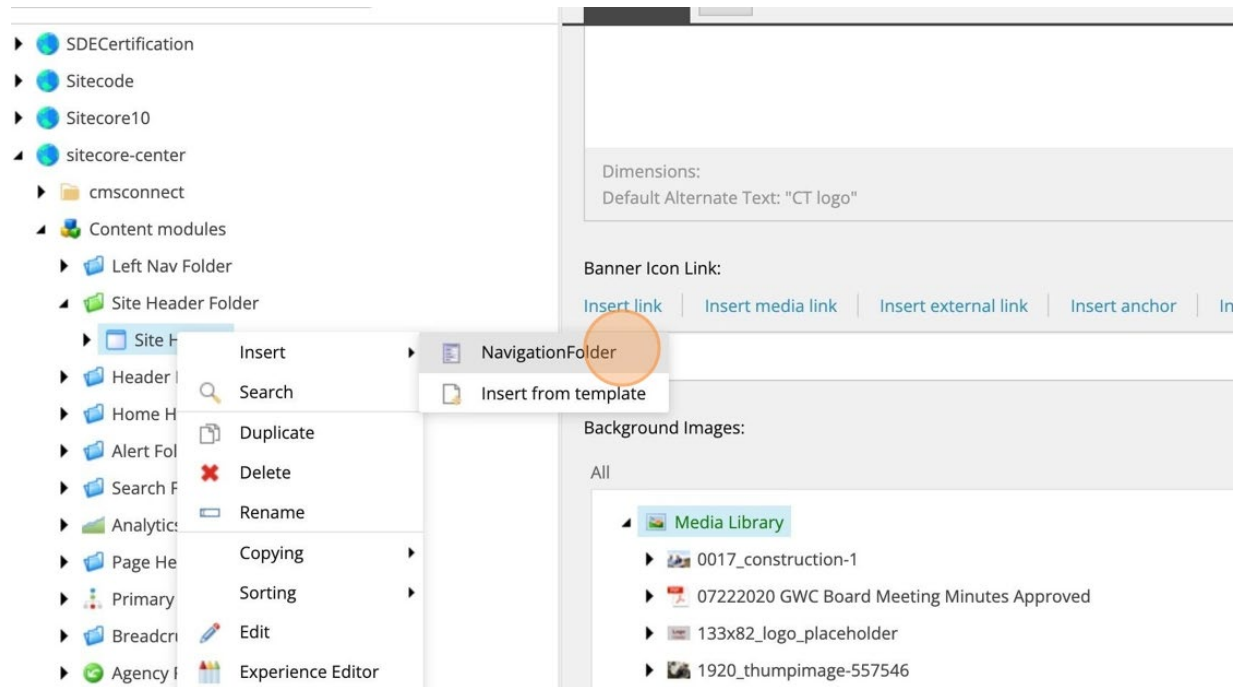

Step 5

Now it's time to save your work on the Site Header. Click on the "Save" icon and then inside the "Publish" tab, click "Publish Content". **The Site Header component in now set up and ready.**
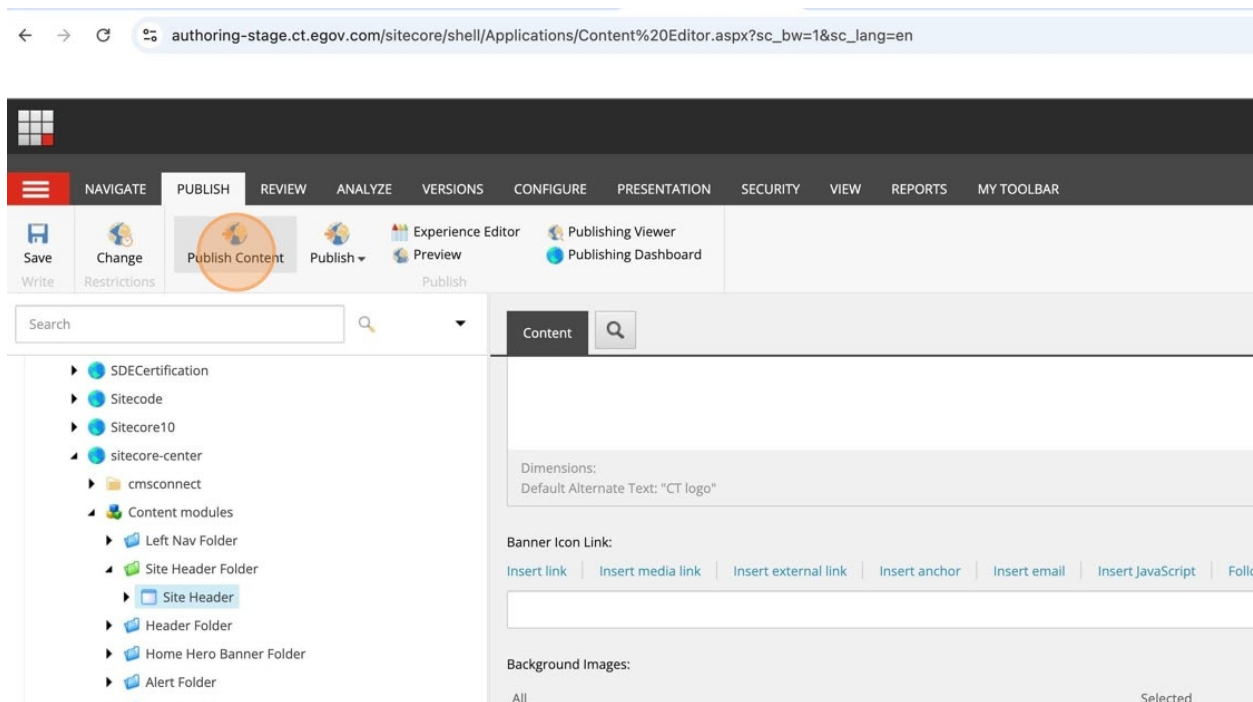
Step 6

Next, it's time to set up the Main Navigation. Click on the Site Header component and right click it. Click "Insert" and then click "Navigation Folder".


Step 7

The component name should be standardized at "NavigationFolder". You should leave it with this name for any site you build a Main Navigation for, but only for this lesson will we add "Example" to the end of the name. Click "Ok".
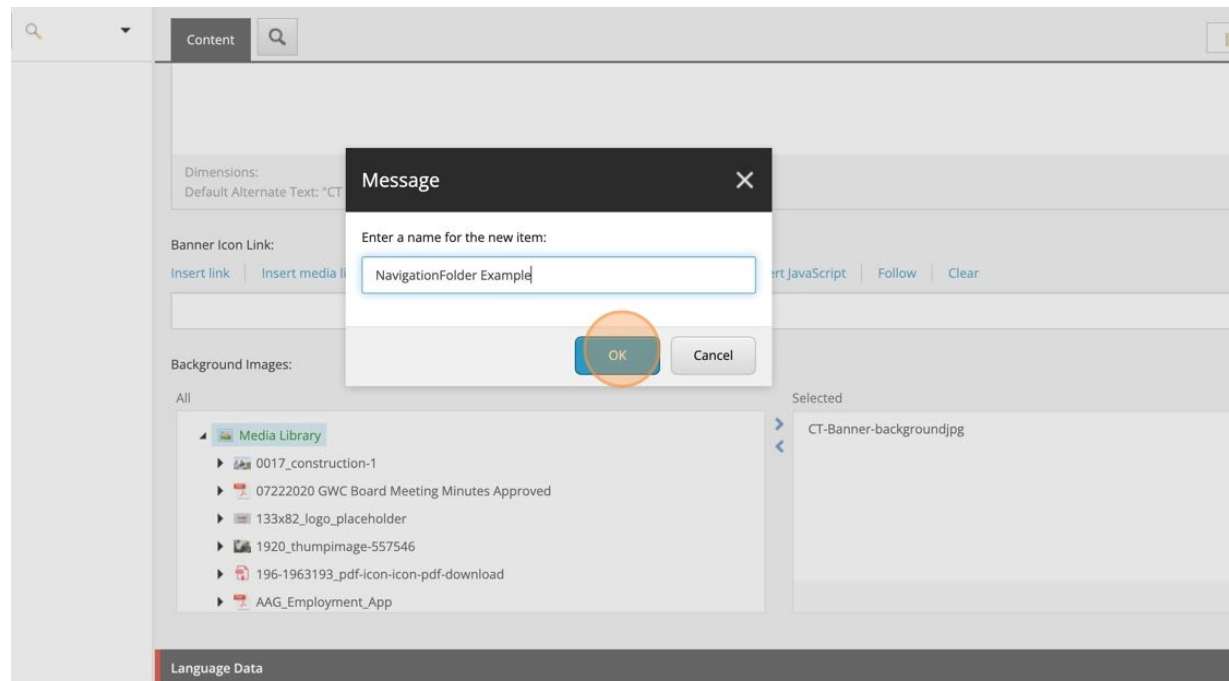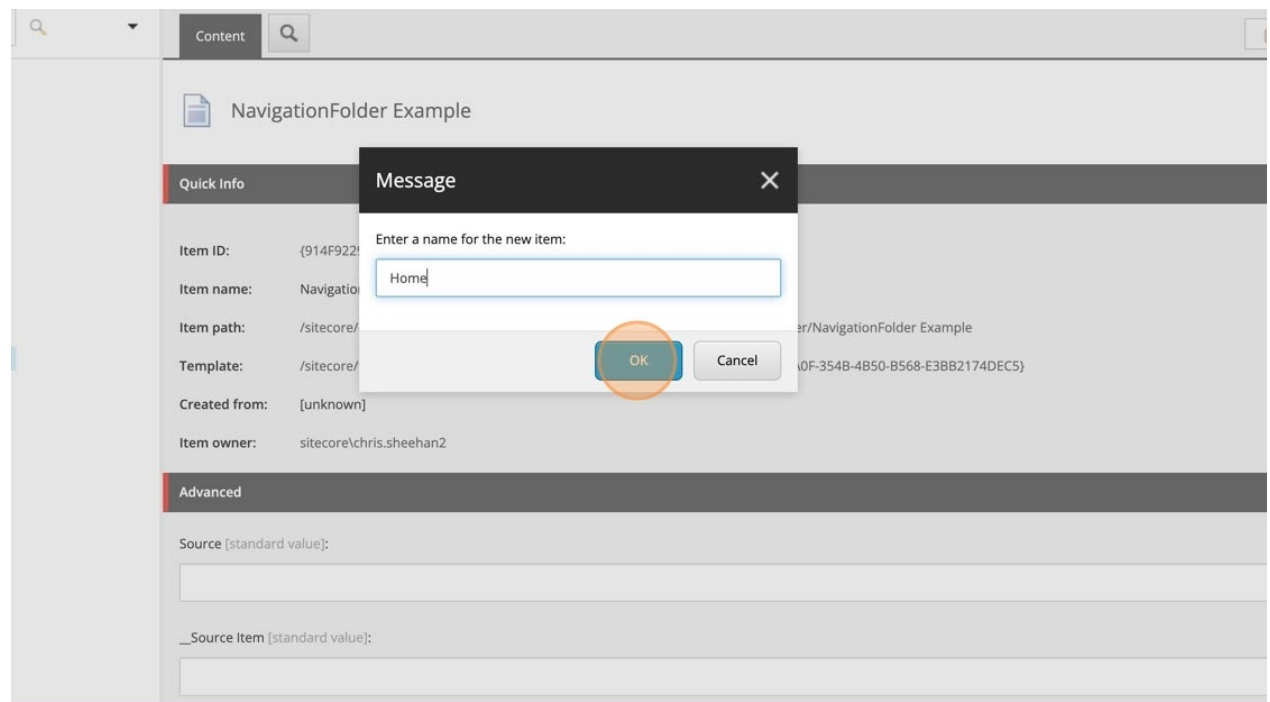
Step 8

Within the Navigation Folder, you will need to create the first link. This link will be part of the Main Navigation Level 1. So, right click the "NavigationFolder" component, click "Insert" then click "Navigation Items".
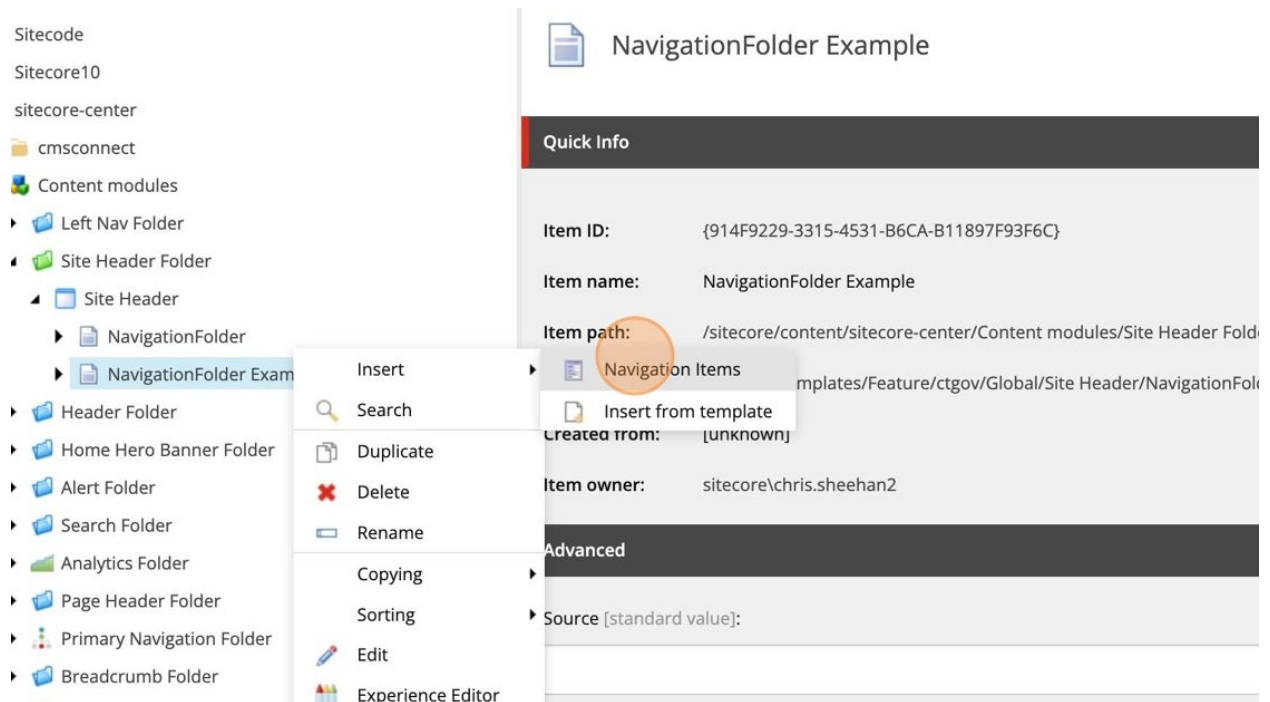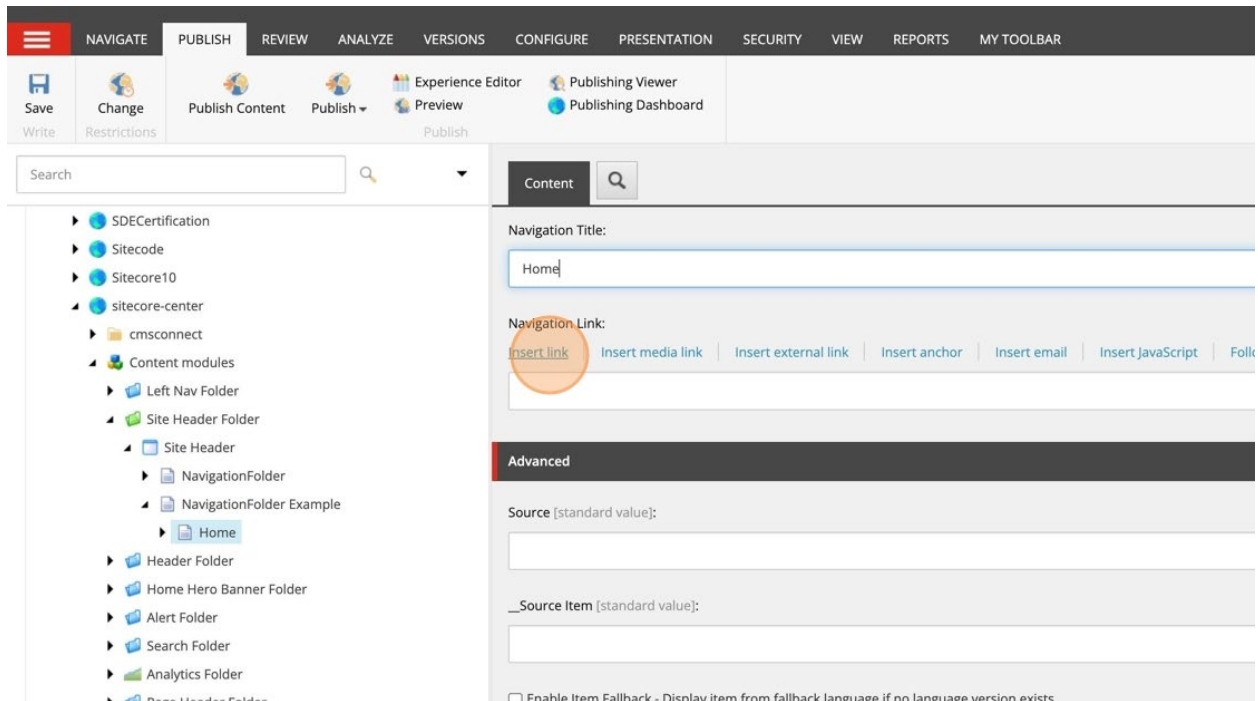
Every time you create a first link for a Ct.gov website, it will always be for the Homepage. So, for this first link of the Main Navigation, always name it "Home", then Click "OK". All the other links that will be in the Main Navigation will have its own unique name and will link to its respective page, although it will follow this same process.

Step 9
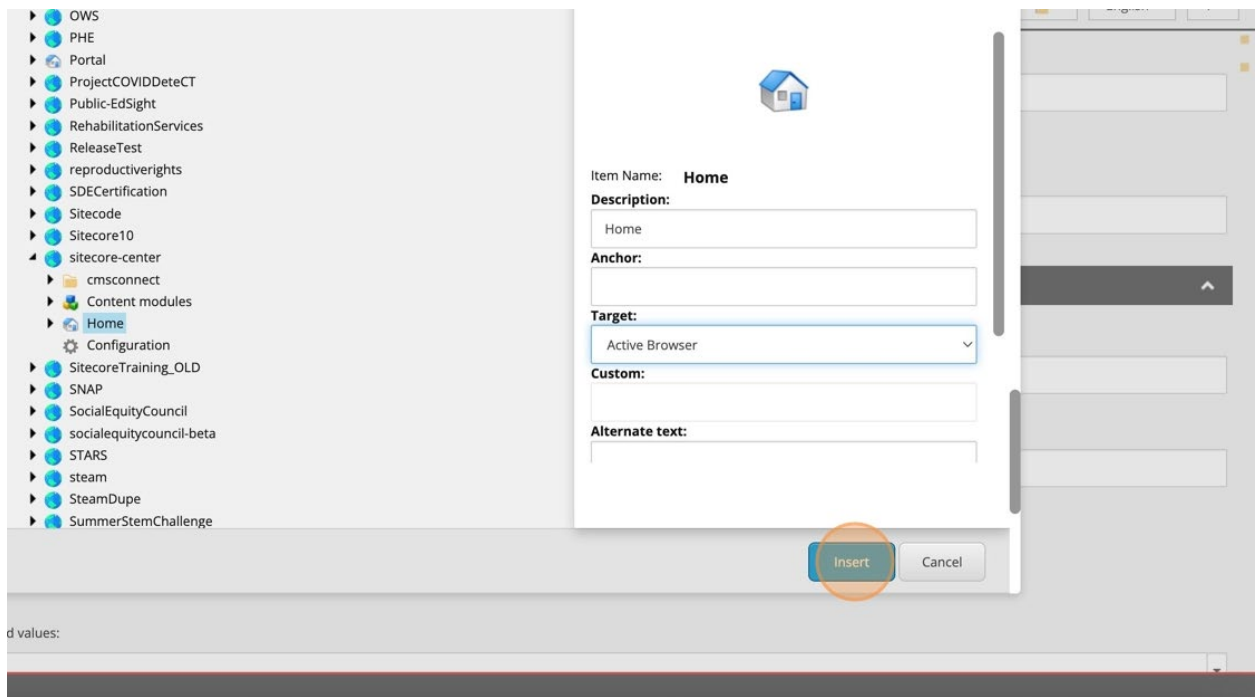
Next, go to the "Navigation Link" field and click "Insert link".

Locate the Homepage of the site, add a Description (name) for the link, click "Active Browser" from the dropdown and then click the "Insert" button.

Follow this same step for all other internal pages that need to be linked within the site in Sitecore. For main nav links that need to be linked to external pages not associated with the site, click "New Browser" from the dropdown before clicking the "Insert' button. This will open that link in a new browser tab.

Step 10

Proceed to click the "Save" icon to save your work for this link. Next, in the "Publish" tab, click "Publish Content". The link has been successfully created.
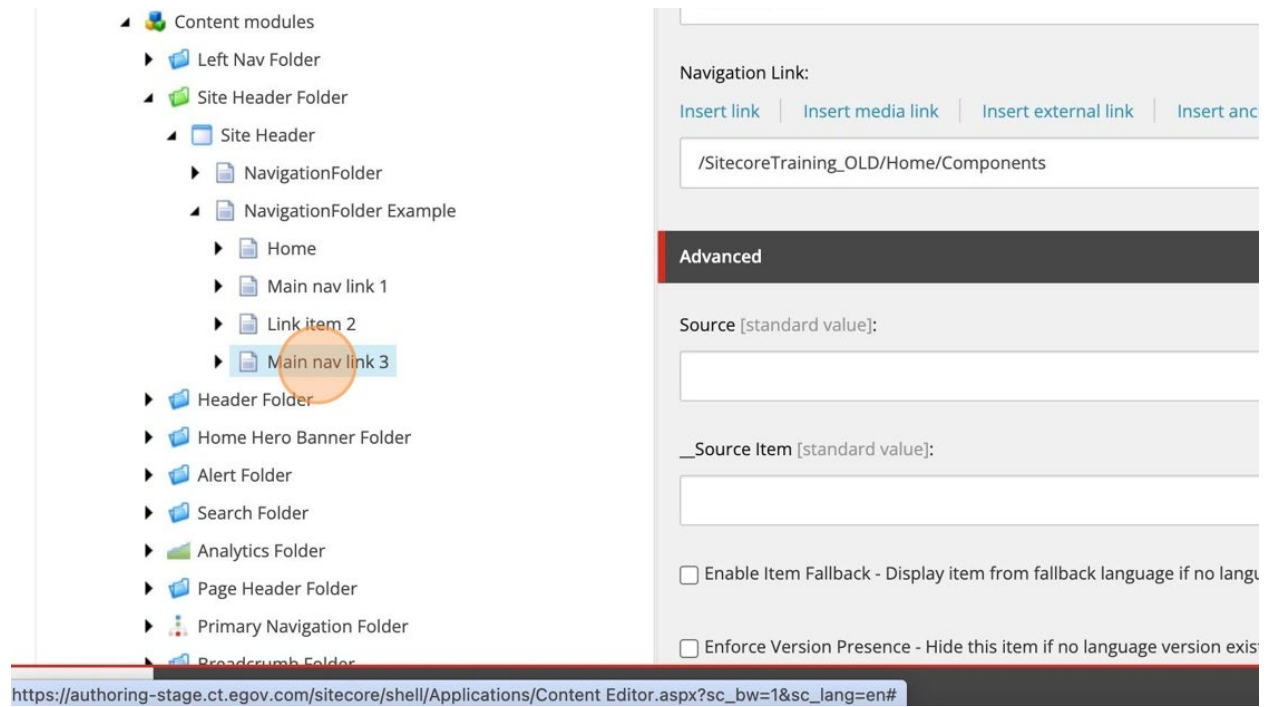

Step 11

For this lesson, follow steps 8-10 to create the second, third and fourth links of the Main Nav level 1.

Once you have reached this point, your Main Nav Level 1 should resemble the example below. Now we will begin introducing Level 2 links into the navigation structure. Select the Level 1 link that requires Level 2 (sub-nav) links.

Step 12

Right click the link, click "Insert" and select "Navigation Items" from the options given. Follow steps 8-10 for each Level 2 link you will create within this Level 1 item.
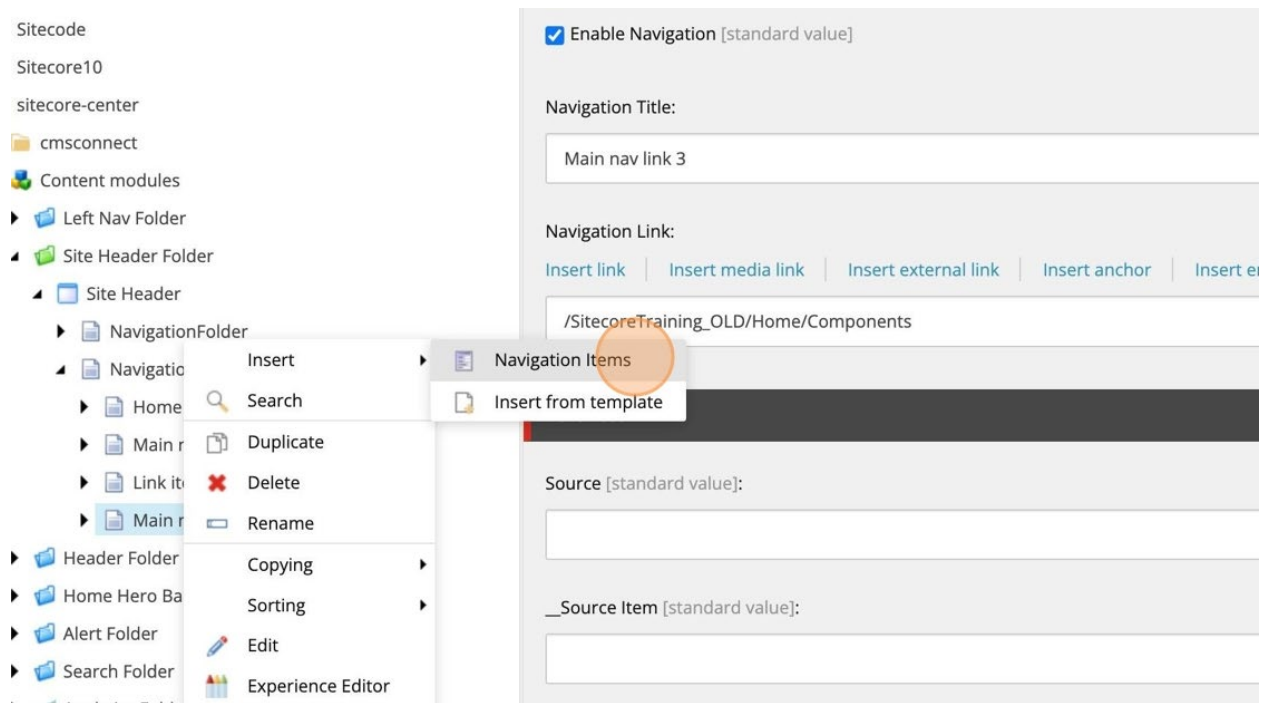
Step 13

Follow steps 8-10 for all the sub-nav links that you would like to insert within the main nav link. For these instructions, we will be placing 2 sub-nav links into the "Main nav link 3". Once this step is complete, your Level 1 and Level 2 structure should resemble the example provided below. Now click on the "NavigationFolder Example".

Step 14

Inside the "NavigationFolder Example" insert a new Level 1 link named "Link item 4". Inside that nav link, insert a Level 2 link and name it "Navigation level 2 link 1". Inside this new Level 2 link, create a Level 3 link and name it "Navigation 1 level three". Follow steps 8-10 to create this link and all the other links that you will create within this Level 2 item.

Step 15

After you have created all the Level 3 links, your Main Navigation structure should resemble the example provided below.

As you can see, starting with the "NavigationFolder Example", and working your way down, the Main Navigation structure collapses indenting to the right for every Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 items that we inserted into the Main Navigation.

In this last part, click the "NavigationFolder Example" component, click "Save" and "Publish Content" to complete the Main Navigation in the Sitecore Content Editor.
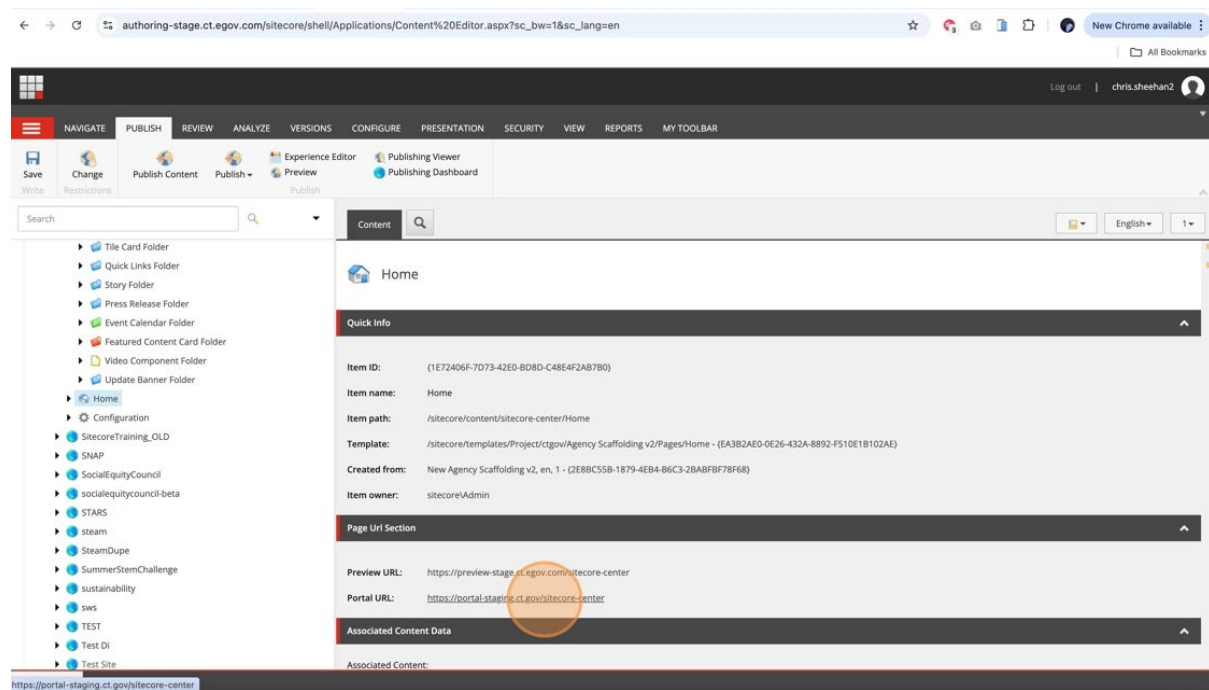

Step 16

Finally, exit the "Content Modules" section of the website, and navigate to the Homepage. Click on it.

Next, in the right panel, locate the "Portal URL" field. This is the link to the front end of the Homepage of the site where we will be able to see and verify that the Main Navigation has been built correctly. Click the link and wait for the new browser tab to load.
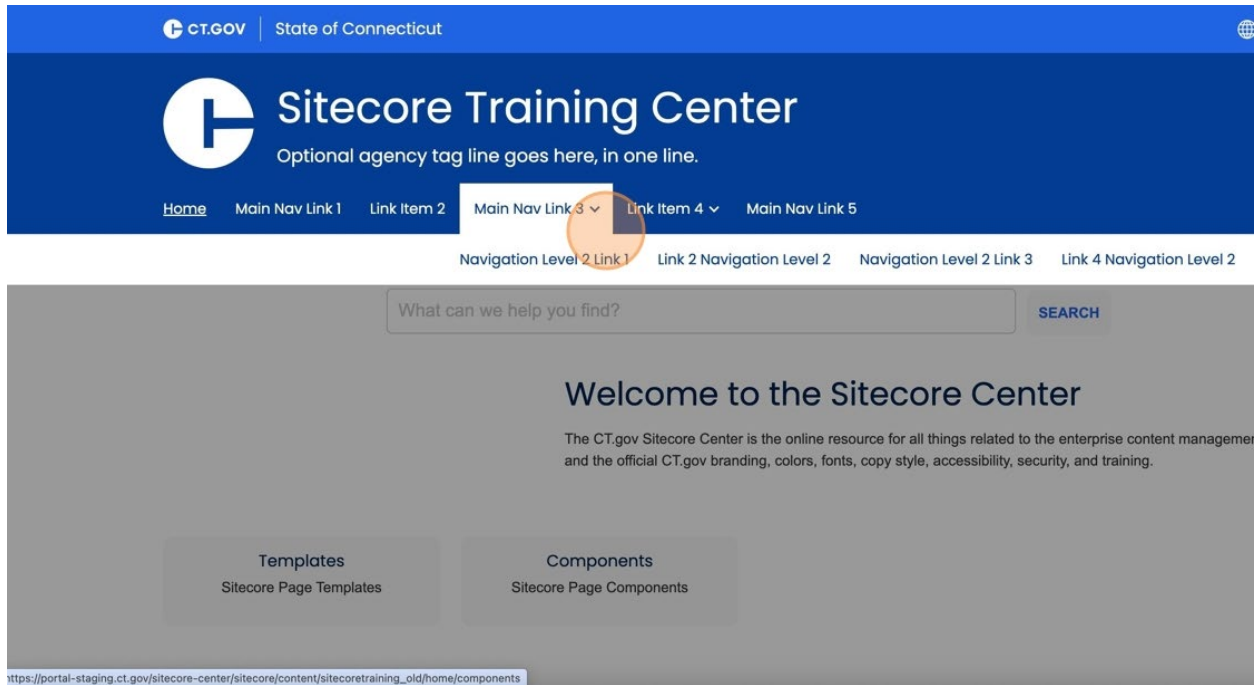

Step 17

Once the front end of the site has loaded, you can verify if the Site Header and First Level of the Main Navigation is displaying and functioning properly. In this example, we can see that within the Site Header the CT logo is in place, the same can be said about the Agency name, the tag line, and the background blue image. The First Level of the Main Navigation is also working and displaying as it has been set up in the Content Editor.
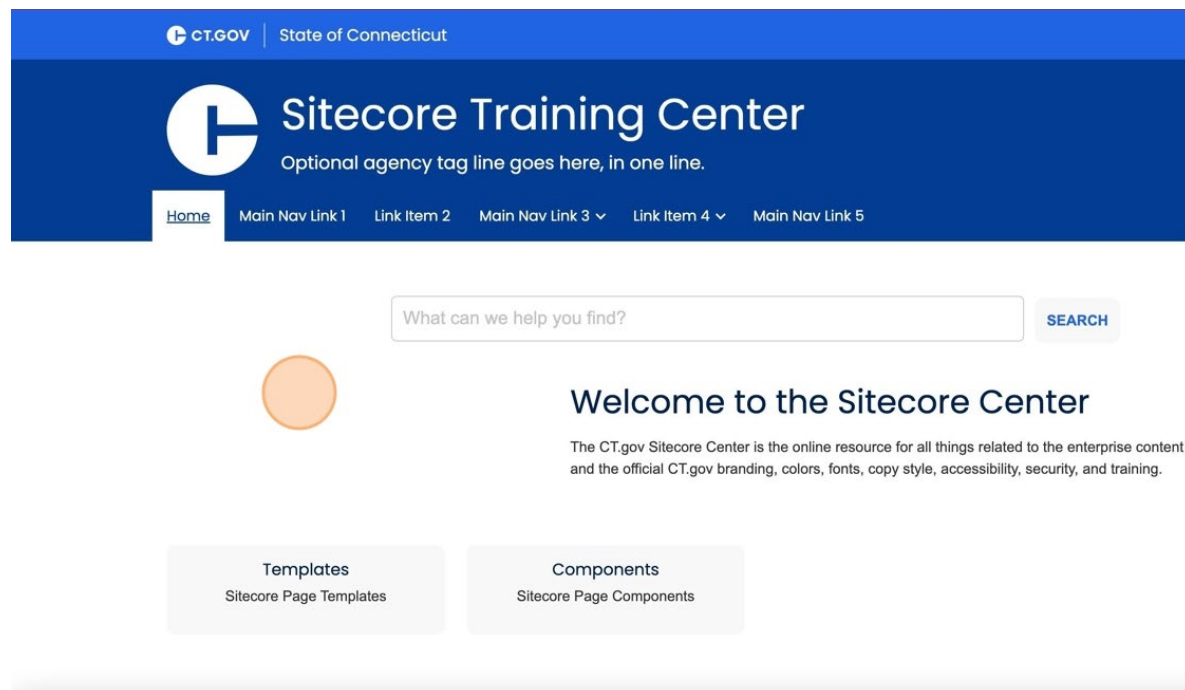
Step 18

Next, we also must check that the Level 2 part of the Main Navigation is displaying and functioning correctly as well. Your second level menu should resemble the example provided below.

Step 19

Finally, we also have to make sure that the Level 3 part of the Main Navigation is displaying and functioning properly as well. Your third level menu should resemble the example provided below.