

# Dashboard Widget Plugins

See also: [Writing Registry Plugins](#)

Some additional conventions are required when writing a Dashboard Widget Plugin.

1. The name of the Plugin must match the format `FooWidget`.
2. The Plugin must implement a `CoFooWidget` model and a corresponding Controller.
  - a. The Model `CoFooWidget` should extend `CoDashboardWidgetBackend`, which provides some behind the scenes common functionality.
  - b. The Controller should to extend `SDWController` ("Standard Dashboard Widget" Controller), which provides some common functionality. The controller should use `$this->calculateParentPermissions($roles);` to calculate permissions for `display()`, in accordance with the current user and the Dashboard's visibility.
  - c. When a new Dashboard Widget is instantiated, a skeletal row in the corresponding `co_foo_widgets` table will be created. There is no `add` operation or view required. The skeletal row will point to the parent Dashboard Widget Model.
  - d. When a Dashboard Widget Backend is edited, the entry point to the Dashboard Widget Plugin will be `foo_widget/foo_widgets/edit/#`. This will be called immediately after the Widget is first instantiated.
3. Note `CoDashboardWidget` has a `hasOne` (ie: 1 to 1) relationship with `FooWidget`.
4. The table `cm_foo_widgets` should include a foreign key to `cm_dashboard_widgets:id`.
  - a. Other tables used by the plugin should reference `cm_foo_widgets:id`.
5. The Plugin must implement `CoFooWidgetsController::display($id)`, and a corresponding view `CoFooWidgets/display.ctp`. These will generate the widget's content when the dashboard is rendered.



The widget should always render content, even if there is no "relevant" content to render. In such cases, render a message like "No Fools found."

6. The Plugin's instantiated configuration is available in `$this->CoFooWidget->getConfig()`.
7. If the Plugin is rendering CO Person-specific content, the CO Person ID for which the widget should render content is available in `$this->reqCoPersonId`. Use this rather than reading session information to allow support for administrators viewing Dashboards as other users.