



DE{CODE} 2023

THE VIRTUAL DEVELOPER CONFERENCE

GO BEYOND: Build Smarter

Cutting edge pattern management and creation

Learn how you can leverage the latest pattern features with an exciting new developer tool by WP Engine



Mike Day

Software Engineer

WP Engine

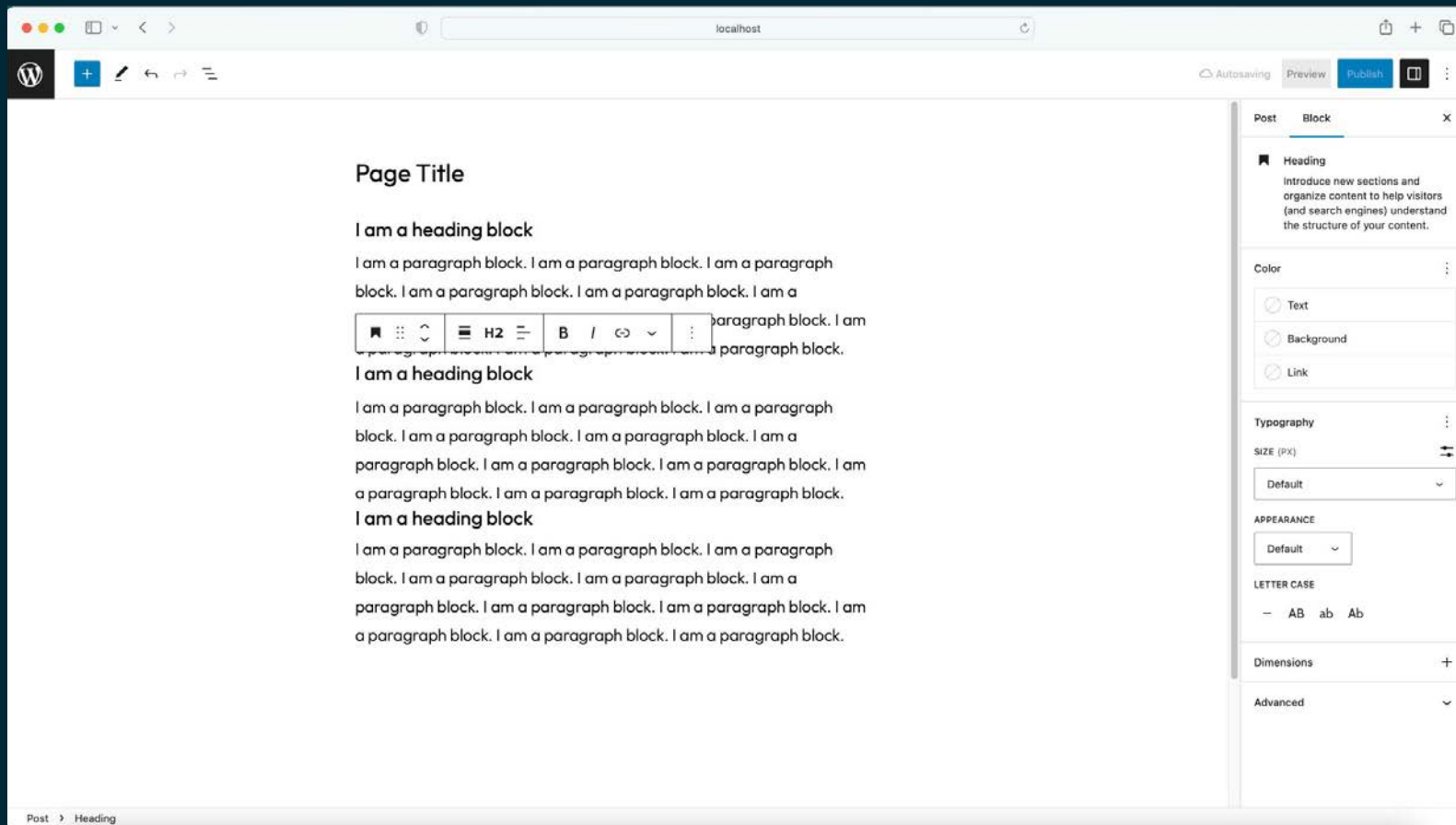


Phil Johnston

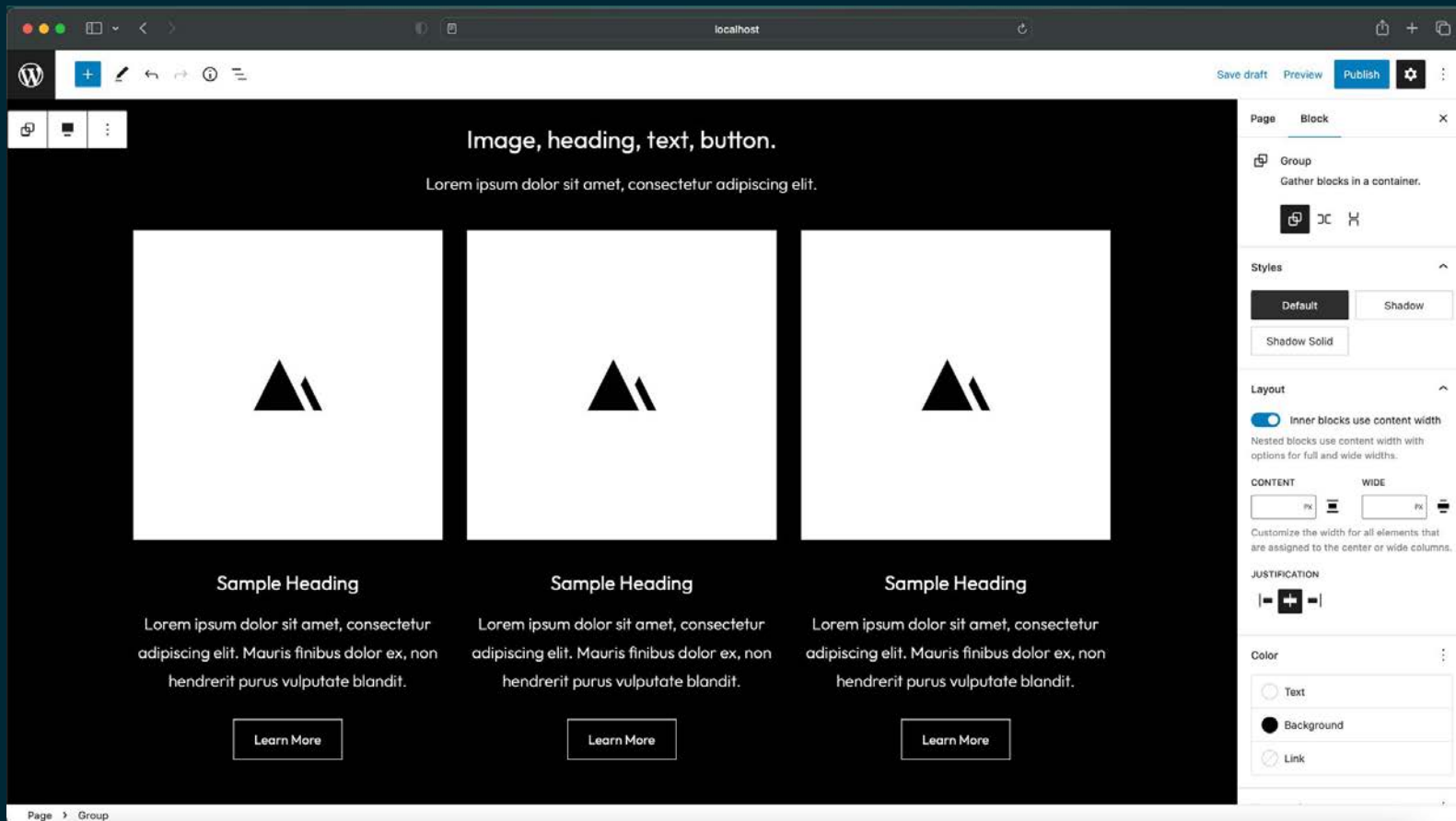
Sr. Staff Software Engineer

WP Engine

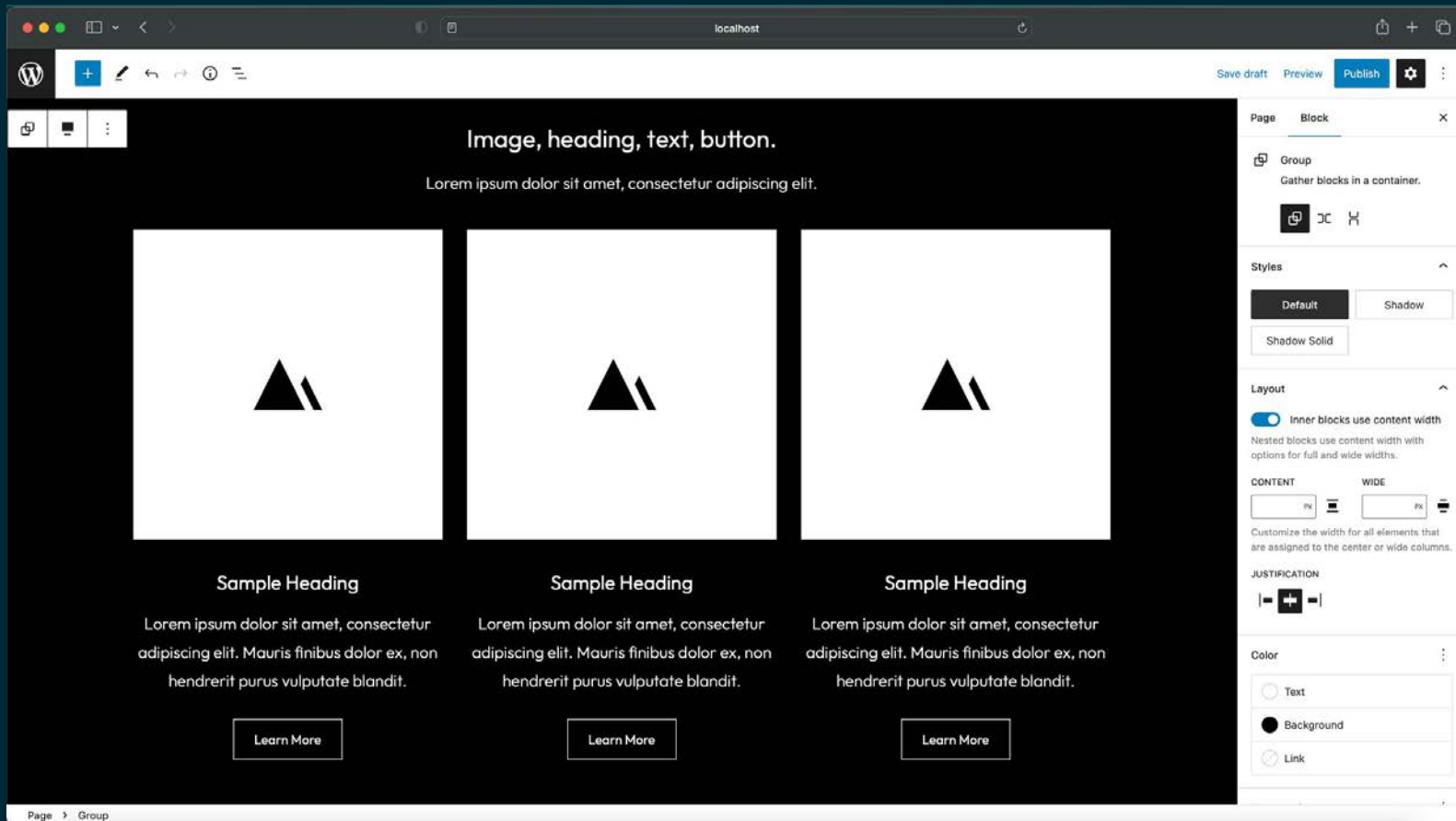
The block editor is a place to use blocks



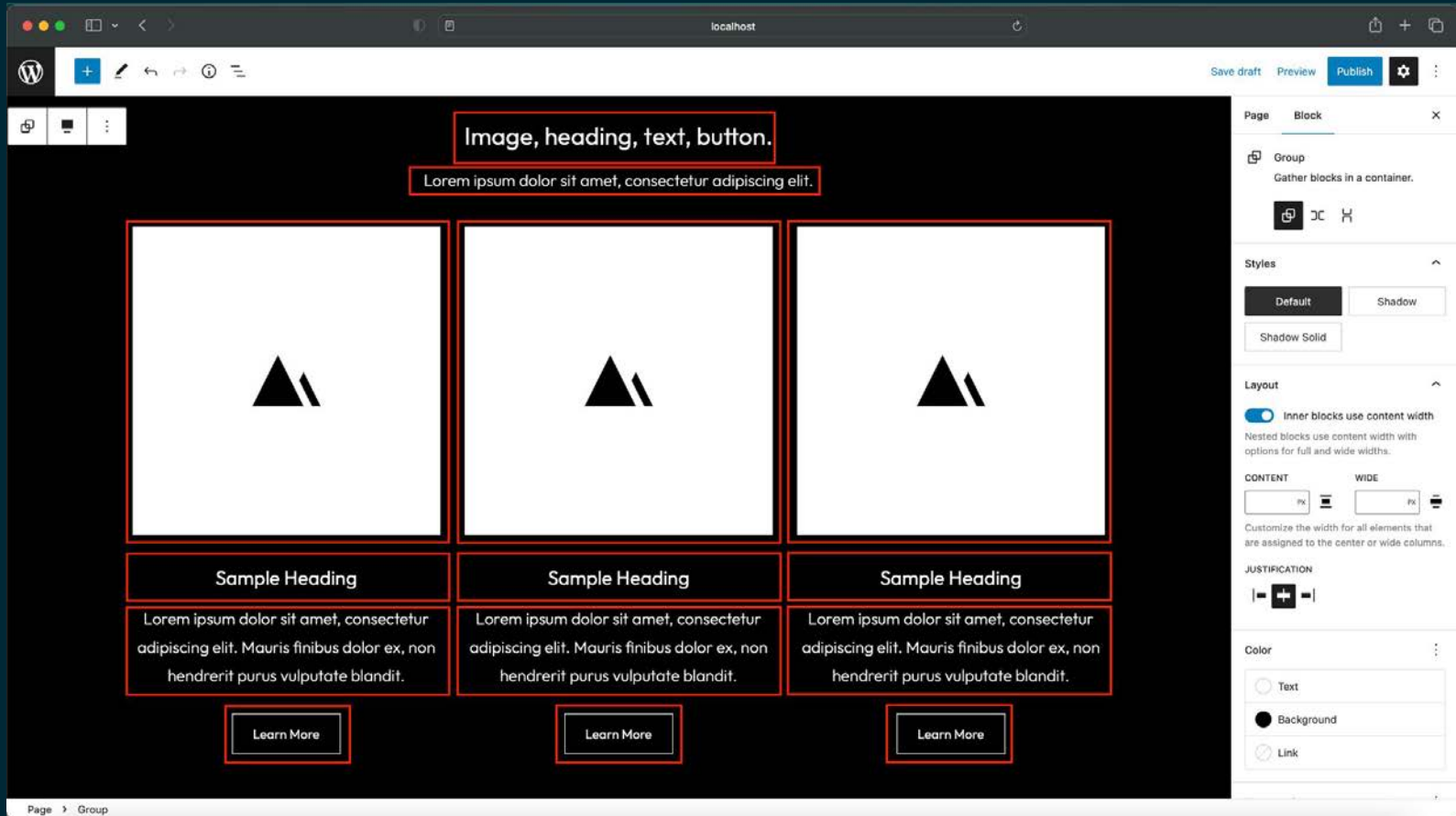
A complex block layout



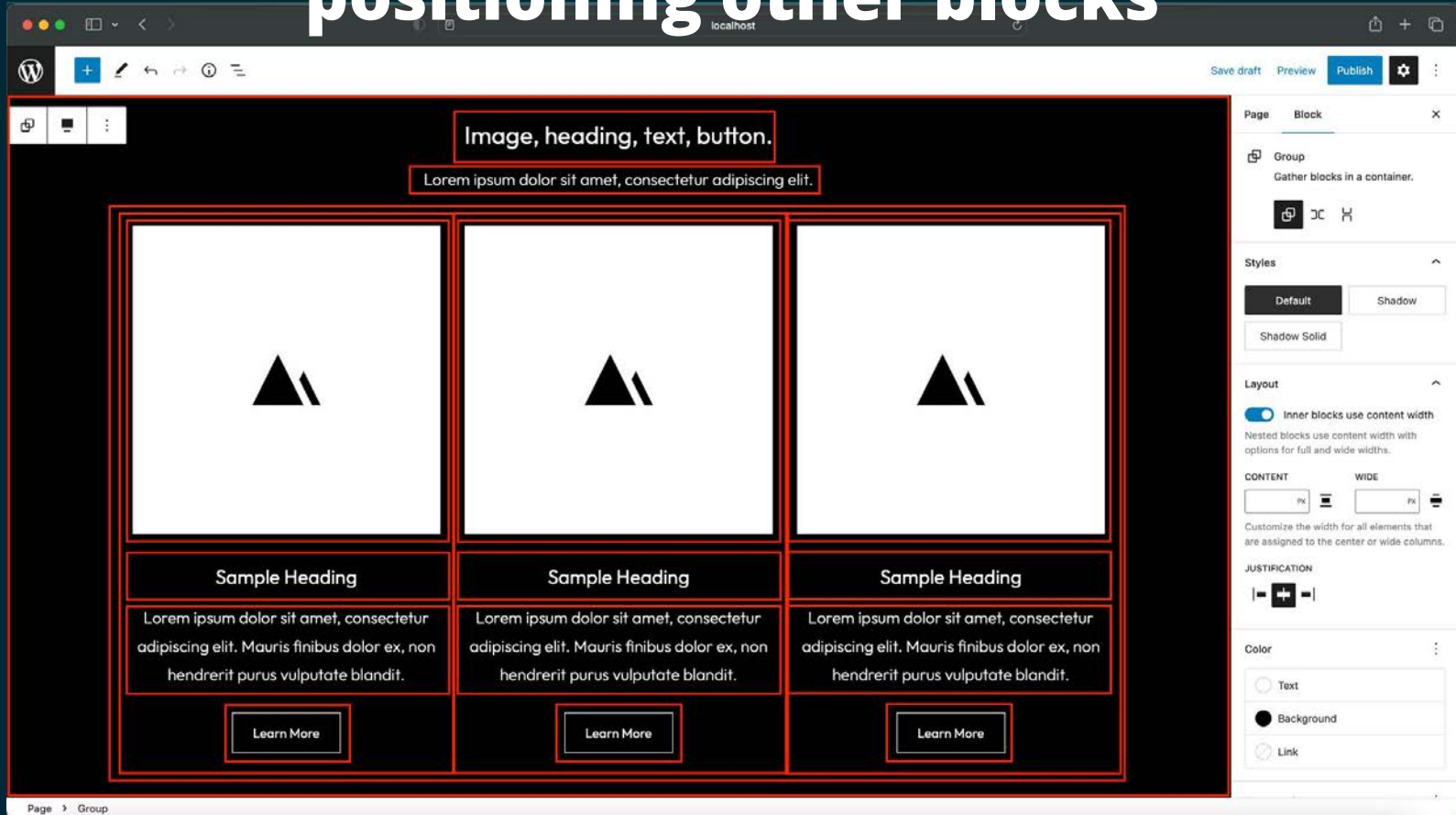
WordPress Blocks are like Lego



Blocks are parts of a webpage



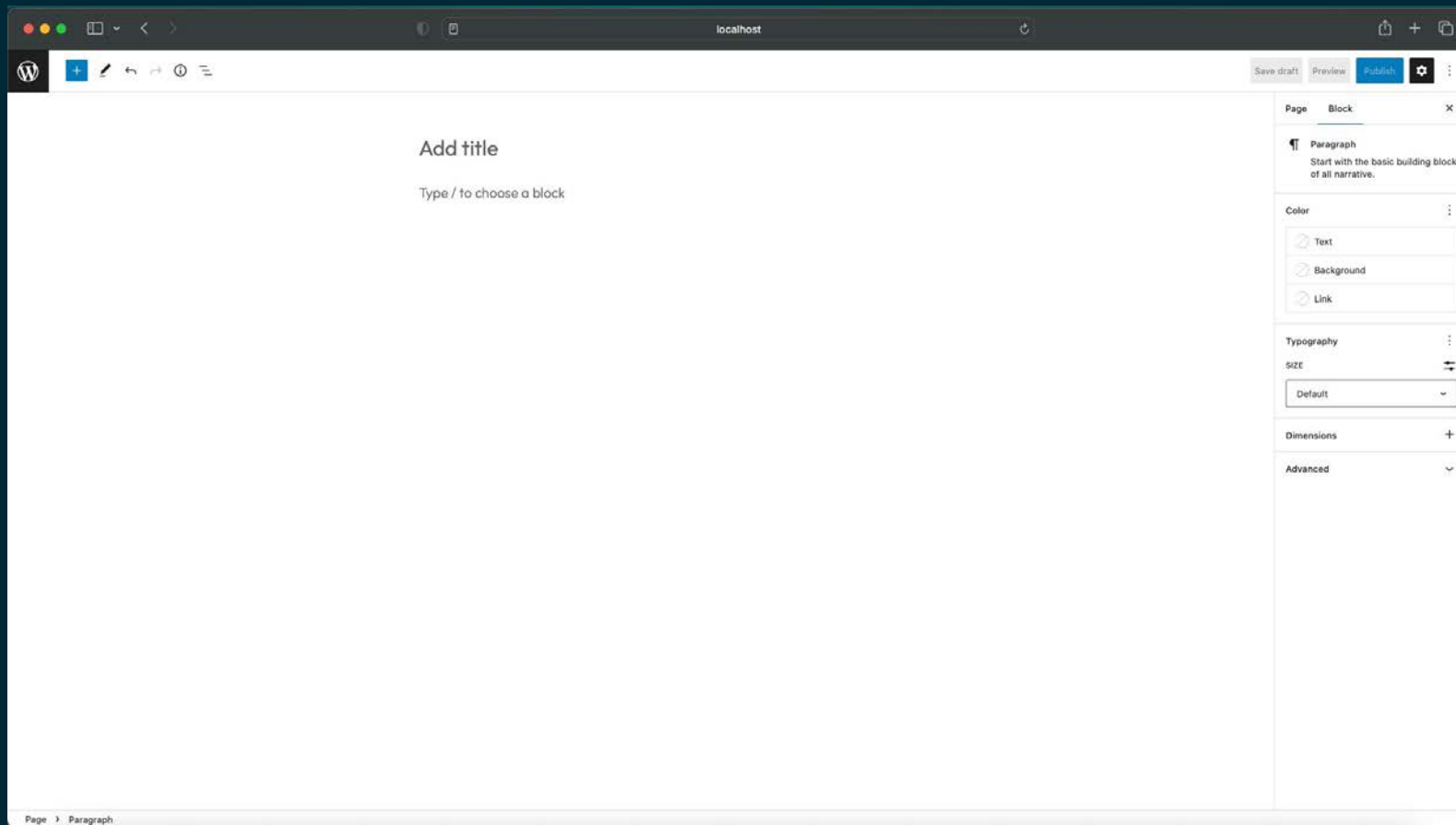
Some blocks are invisible, used only for positioning other blocks



Each block has its own set of controls

The screenshot displays the WordPress Gutenberg editor interface. On the left is the 'List View' sidebar showing a hierarchy of blocks: Group, Paragraph, Spacer, Columns, and Column. The 'Column' block is selected. The main editing area shows a multi-column layout with three columns. The middle column is highlighted with a red border. Above the columns is a header area with the text 'Image, heading, text, button.' and a toolbar with icons for image, heading, text, and button. The right-hand side of the interface features a settings panel with tabs for 'Page' and 'Block'. The 'Block' tab is active, showing various settings for the selected column, including 'Layout' (with a toggle for 'Inner blocks use content width'), 'Column settings' (with a 'WIDTH' input field), 'Color' (with options for Text, Background, and Link), 'Typography' (with a 'SIZE' dropdown), 'Dimensions' (with 'PADDING' and 'BLOCK SPACING' sliders), and 'Border'.

Starting from scratch is difficult

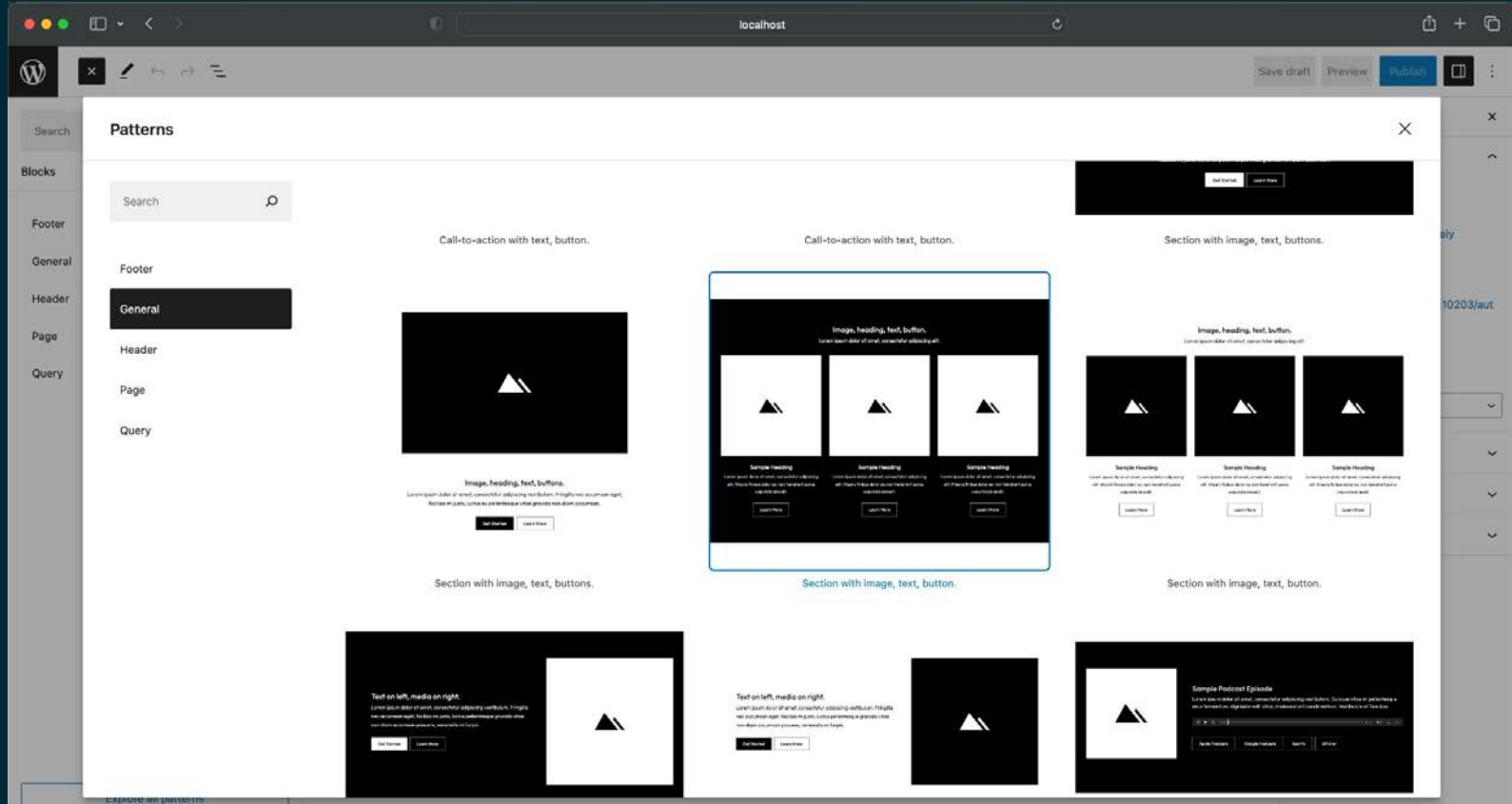


While powerful, blocks can be difficult to use

This is why patterns were invented

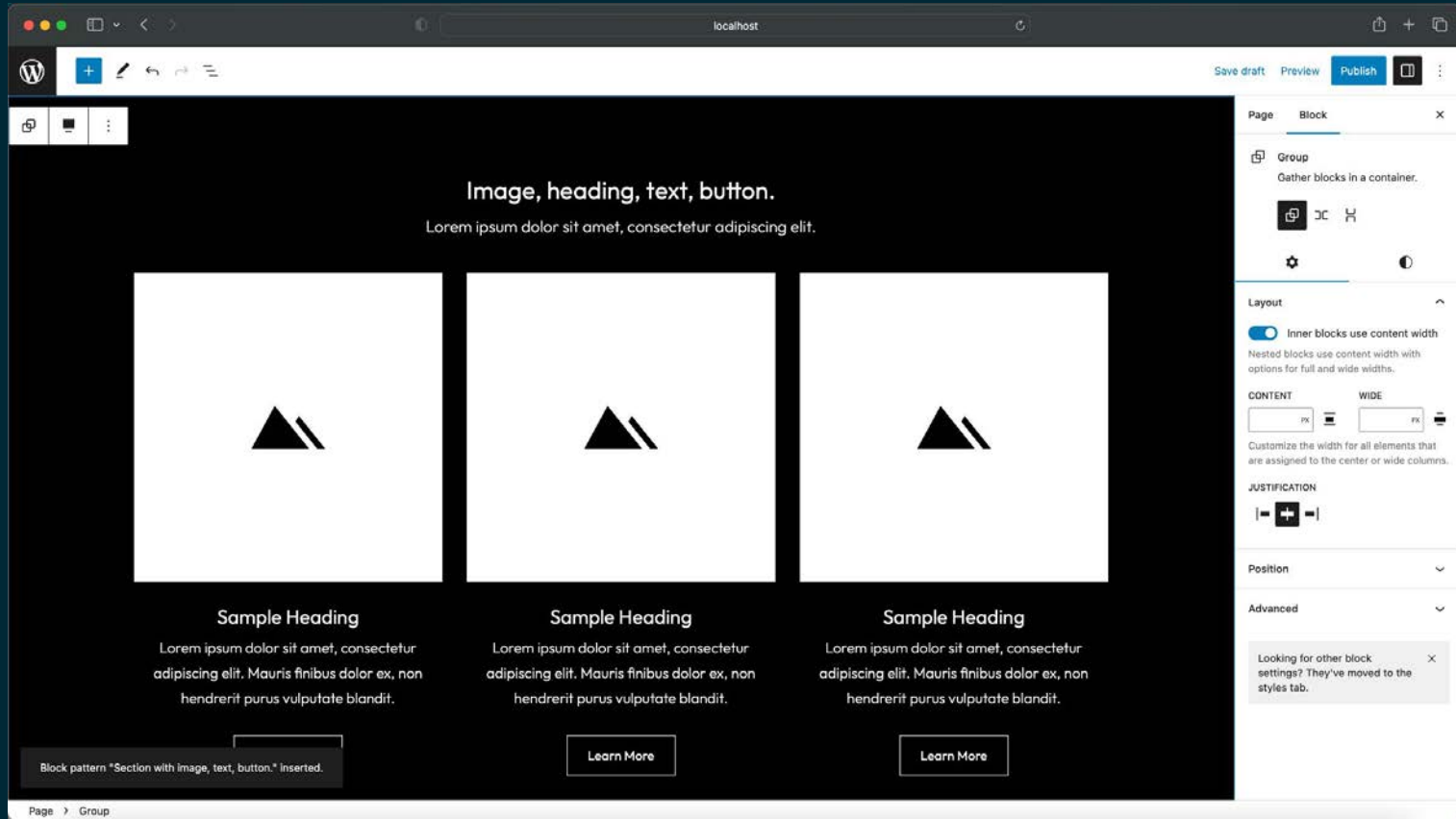
Patterns are pre-built groups of blocks

Browse, and insert one with a single click



Patterns are pre-built groups of blocks

Insert with a single click



Block Patterns can help agencies help their clients, help themselves


Give your clients the ability to help themselves with a library of design parts they can self-assemble

But while patterns are easy to use, they are not easy to create.

They are even harder to manage over time.

For developers, there's no workflow or tooling for working with patterns.

Here's how you currently build a pattern for WordPress (the hard way)

- 
1. Create a new PHP file in a code-editor like vscode
 2. Put a specific file header at the top of the file.
 3. Create a temporary page in WP to use as your "work space"
 4. Build out the pattern blocks and make it look pretty
 5. When finished, switch to code-view and copy the block code
 6. Copy the block code from the WordPress editor into the file
 7. Save the file to your theme's /patterns directory
 8. If your pattern contains images, change the URL for each image in the pattern code to a PHP tag
 9. Move those images to your theme as well
 10. For any tweak to the pattern, repeat steps 3-9.

As you can see, this is far from an ideal workflow for modern WordPress building.

That's why we built **Pattern Manager, a UI for creating and maintaining pattern collections inside WordPress.**

Pattern Manager Demo

Pattern Meta Properties

Title

- A human-readable title for the pattern

Categories

- An array of registered pattern categories used to group block patterns
 - What categories are available? Where can these be found on a typical dev site?

Keywords

- An array of aliases or keywords that help users discover the pattern while searching

Description

- A visually hidden text used to describe the pattern in the inserter

Pattern Meta Properties

Viewport Width

- An integer representing the scaled width for previewing the pattern in the inserter

Post Types

- An array of post types that the pattern is restricted to be used with

Block Types

- An array of block types that the pattern is intended to be used with
 - What is the actual intent behind this setting?

Inserter

- By default, all patterns appear in the inserter, but you can hide a pattern so that it can only be inserted programmatically by setting this value to false

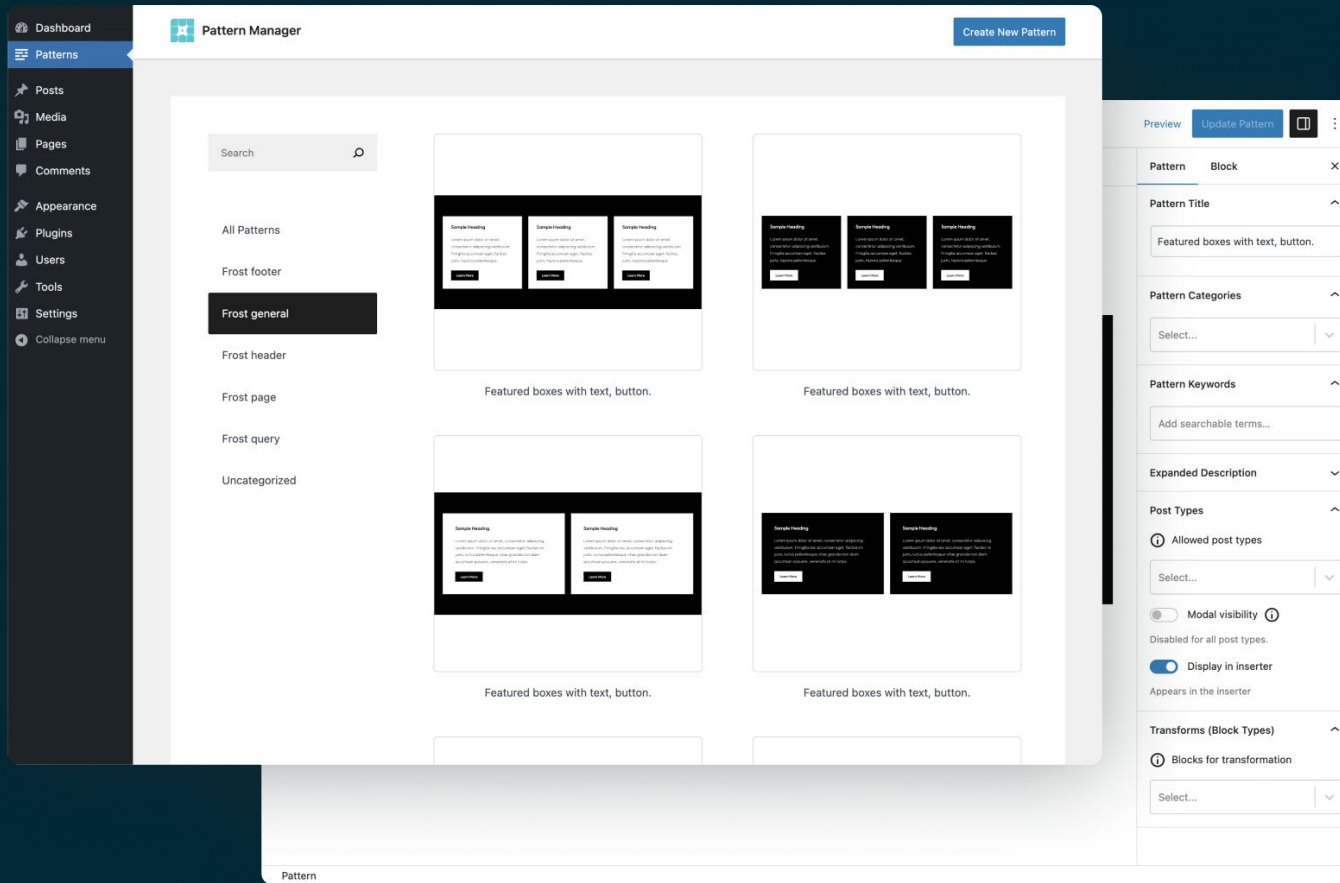
Recap

Patterns are a game-changer for Builders.

**Create and reuse larger layout elements
across a theme.**

**But, there's no workflow or tooling for
working with patterns.**

Pattern Manager slides into your workflow



Want to try out **Pattern Manager?**
**Download it now, and be sure to let us know
what you think.**

<https://wpengine.com/builders/pattern-manager/>

Thank you.

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