



# 25 MUST-HAVE RESOURCES NEW SITEFINITY DEVELOPERS NEED

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## CONTENT RESOURCES

This section contains content resources that I recommend keeping bookmarked at all times. If your developing and administering Sitefinity websites, these are a must.

### Important Sitefinity Content

This section contains several Sitefinity specific resources that I use all the time.

#### 1. PROGRESS SITEFINITY DEVELOPER RESOURCES

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/SITEFINITY-CMS/DEVELOPERS](https://www.progress.com/sitefinity-cms/developers)

This is the most important Sitefinity resource to keep bookmarked, the official Sitefinity Developer page on progress.com. I recommend spending time on this site weekly.

#### 2. PROGRESS SITEFINITY CMS DOCUMENTATION

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/DOCUMENTATION/SITEFINITY-CMS/](https://www.progress.com/documentation/sitefinity-cms/)

The official documentation page for Sitefinity. If you are looking for code examples and general documentation this is usually a good place to start.

#### 3. SITEFINITY KNOWLEDGEBASE

[HTTPS://KNOWLEDGEBASE.PROGRESS.COM/APEX/PKB\\_HOME#SORT=RELEVANCY&F:@SFDCPRODUCTGROUP=\[SITEFINITY\]](https://knowledgebase.progress.com/apex/pkb_home#sort=relevancy&f:@sfDCPRODUCTGROUP=[SITEFINITY])

Having an issue with Sitefinity? I usually check the Sitefinity Knowledgebase first to see if the issue has a fix already provided.

#### 4. SITEFINITY FORUMS

[HTTPS://COMMUNITY.PROGRESS.COM/?FILTER=SITEFINITY](https://community.progress.com/?filter=sitefinity)

Can't find your answer in the Sitefinity Knowledgebase? Post your question in the Sitefinity forums. There is usually someone in here that can answer your question.

## 5. SITEFINITY PATCH/SECURITY NOTES

[HTTPS://COMMUNITY.PROGRESS.COM/COMMUNITY\\_GROUPS/SITEFINITY/PATCH-NOTIFICATIONSANDRELEASE-NOTES/F/294](https://community.progress.com/community_groups/sitefinity/patch-notificationsandrelease-notes/f/294)

The Sitefinity support team will typically post weekly release notes on their latest patches. Also, if any security notices are release, you can find them here as well.

## 6. DATABASE CHANGES IN SITEFINITY CMS

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/DOCUMENTATION/SITEFINITY-CMS/DATABASE-CHANGES-IN-SITEFINITY-CMS](https://www.progress.com/documentation/sitefinity-cms/database-changes-in-sitefinity-cms)

Ever wanted to see what changed in your Sitefinity database when you upgraded to a new version of Sitefinity. This tool allows you to select the version you are upgrading from and the version of Sitefinity you are upgrading to, then it will show you a chart of all the database changes.

## 7. SITEFINITY CMS AND .NET FRAMEWORK COMPATIBILITY

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/DOCUMENTATION/SITEFINITY-CMS/REFERENCE-SITEFINITY-CMS-AND-.NET-FRAMEWORK-COMPATIBILITY](https://www.progress.com/documentation/sitefinity-cms/reference-sitefinity-cms-and-.net-framework-compatibility)

Another important piece of documentation when your upgrading a Sitefinity website. When upgrading to new version of Sitefinity it will require you to be on a specific version of the .NET Framework.

## 8. PROGRESS SITEFINITY BLOG

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/BLOGS/WEB-EXPERIENCE](https://www.progress.com/blogs/web-experience)

The Sitefinity team will release blog posts from time to time for developers. A nice add to your RSS Reader.

## 9. SITEFINITY ON GITHUB

[HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/SITEFINITY](https://github.com/sitefinity)

The Sitefinity GitHub page of open source Sitefinity projects. Here you will find sample projects, the Sitefinity Feather Widgets project, code examples, and a lot more.

## 10. PROGRESS SITEFINITY IDEAS & FEEDBACK PORTAL

[HTTPS://FEEDBACK.PROGRESS.COM/PROJECT/153](https://feedback.progress.com/project/153)

Do you have a great idea you would like to see implemented into Sitefinity? Want to see the next major features that could be implemented into Sitefinity? Check out ideas submitted by other, comment on it, and vote them up.

## 11. SITEFINITY RELEASE NOTES

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/SITEFINITY-CMS/RELEASE-NOTES](https://www.progress.com/sitefinity-cms/release-notes)

Get the official release notes when a new version of Sitefinity is released.

## 12. SITEFINITY NUGET PACKAGE FEED

[HTTP://NUGET.SITEFINITY.COM](http://nuget.sitefinity.com)

If you are using NuGet to manage your Sitefinity installation, then you will need to check out the Sitefinity NuGet package feed. See all the packages used by your Sitefinity installation and even download them for inspection.

## SOFTWARE RESOURCES

### Visual Studio Extensions

The first set of software tools that I recommend installing are a few Visual Studio extensions that will help you with your development process. Some of these extensions are specific for Visual Studio 2017 and Visual Studio 2019.

#### 13 SITEFINITY VSIX

[HTTPS://WWW.PROGRESS.COM/SITEFINITY-CMS/PLATFORM/SITEFINITY-VSIX](https://www.progress.com/sitefinity-cms/platform/sitefinity-vsix)

At the time of writing this content the Sitefinity VSIX works only on Visual Studio 2015 and Visual Studio 2017. Support for Visual Studio 2019 should be coming soon. This extension replaces the Sitefinity Thunder extension, but only provides the ability to work with the newer MVC components. This includes MVC Packages, MVC Templates, MVC Grid Templates, and MVC Widgets.

#### 14 PROGRESS SITEFINITY THUNDER

[HTTPS://MARKETPLACE.VISUALSTUDIO.COM/ITEMS?ITEMNAME=VS-PUBLISHER-443.PROGRESSSITEFINITYTHUNDER](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemname=vs-publisher-443.progress.sitefinity.thunder)

An older Sitefinity extension, I recommend using it only if you are building the older web forms components for Sitefinity or you are using Visual Studio 2015 and older.

#### 15 GITHUB EXTENSION FOR VISUAL STUDIO

[HTTPS://MARKETPLACE.VISUALSTUDIO.COM/ITEMS?ITEMNAME=GITHUB.GITHUBEXTENSIONFORVISUALSTUDIO](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemname=github.githubextensionforvisualstudio)

It's always a good idea to put your source code into source control. GitHub is FREE for all public and private repositories and Visual Studio makes it easy with the GitHub Extension for Visual Studio.

#### 16 WEB ESSENTIALS 2019

[HTTPS://MARKETPLACE.VISUALSTUDIO.COM/ITEMS?ITEMNAME=MADSKRISTENSEN.WEBESSENTIALS2019](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemname=madskristensen.webessentials2019)

[HTTPS://MARKETPLACE.VISUALSTUDIO.COM/ITEMS?ITEMNAME=MADSKRISTENSEN.WEBEXTENSIONPACK2017](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=MadsKristensen.WebExtensionPack2017)

If you're doing web development on Visual Studio, then Mads Kristensen's Web Essentials extension is a must. It provides bundler and minification support, web compiler support for LESS and SCSS and so much more.

## Software Tools

This section contains a list of software tools that I use almost every day. Most of these tools are free to use

### 17. VISUAL STUDIO DEV ESSENTIALS

[HTTPS://VISUALSTUDIO.MICROSOFT.COM/DEV-ESSENTIALS](https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/dev-essentials)

If you can't afford an MSDN subscription, that's fine, Microsoft provides developer tooling for those on a shoe string budget with Visual Studio Dev Essentials. This FREE subscription gives you access to Visual Studio Community Edition and access to SQL Server Developer Edition. I recommend you have these both installed on your dev machine.

### 18. SQL SERVER MANAGEMENT STUDIO (SSMS)

[HTTPS://DOCS.MICROSOFT.COM/EN-US/SQL/SSMS/DOWNLOAD-SQL-SERVER-MANAGEMENT-STUDIO-SSMS](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/ssms/download-sql-server-management-studio-ssms)

If you're working with SQL Server databases or Azure SQL Databases with your Sitefinity projects, then SQL Server Management Studio is a must. Download and install.

### 19. JUST DECOMPILE

[HTTPS://WWW.TELARIK.COM/PRODUCTS/DECOMPILER.ASPX](https://www.telarik.com/products/decompiler.aspx)

Every wonder how that Sitefinity code was built? Just Decompile allows you to open a .NET assembly (.dll) and view the disassembled C# or VB code. Even convert a .NET assembly back into a Visual Studio project.

### 20. JUST ASSEMBLY

[HTTPS://WWW.TELARIK.COM/JUSTASSEMBLY](https://www.telarik.com/justassembly)

Ever wanted to compare the code of two .NET assemblies? Now you can with Just Assembly. Just select two different versions of the same assembly and compare. Simple but awesome.

## 21. POSTMAN

[HTTPS://WWW.GETPOSTMAN.COM/DOWNLOADS/](https://www.getpostman.com/downloads/)

If your solution uses REST service endpoints, then get Postman. It makes it easy to view and try out REST endpoints before trying to implement them in your own code.

## 22. FIDDLER

[HTTPS://WWW.TELERIK.COM/FIDDLER](https://www.telereik.com/fiddler)

Need to do some deep inspection of your HTTP Requests and Responses? Fiddler allows you to get deep insights on your HTTP communication.

## 23. LOCK HUNTER

[HTTPS://LOCKHUNTER.COM](https://lockhunter.com)

Ever try copying a newer version of a file over an older version only to find out the file is locked? With Lock Hunter, just right and select “What is locking this file?”. Then remove the file lock and your good to go.

## 24. BEYOND COMPARE

[HTTPS://WWW.SCOOTERSOFTWARE.COM](https://www.scootersoftware.com)

The best file comparison tool ever. This tool does code a few bucks, but it is well worth it. Compare files, folders, Excel spreadsheets, Word documents, pictures, you name it, Beyond Compare can tell you exactly what is different. It even allows you to compare from UNC paths and FTP directories.

## 25. NUGET PACKAGE EXPLORER

[HTTPS://WWW.MICROSOFT.COM/EN-US/P/NUGET-PACKAGE-EXPLORER/9WZDNCRDMDM3?ACTIVETAB=PIVOT:OVERVIEWTAB](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/nuget-package-explorer/9wzdncrdmdm3?activetab=pivot:overviewtab)

Want to explore the contents of a NuGet package (.nupkg)? Inspect and see how Progress Sitefinity and Microsoft have built their NuGet packages.