

## Expanding Zen Coding Templates with User Defined Templates

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You can expand Zen Coding templates with your own live templates.

Suppose you have a template `entry` with the following template text:

```
<entry type="$TYPES$">$END$ <entry>
```

To generate a list of entries, you just need to type “`entry-list<entry[number=]*5`” and press **TAB**. By default, the number attribute will be generated before `type`. To customize the position where it is generated, you need to add the `ATTRS` variable to your template, for example:

```
<entry type="$TYPES$" $ATTRS$>$END$ <entry>
```

The `ATTRS` variable must have an empty string as the default value and should be skipped.

### To expand a zen coding template with a user-defined template

1. In the **IDE settings**, open the **Live Templates** page, and expand the **Zen Coding** template group.
2. Select the template to expand. The focus moves to the **Template Text** area where the fields show the settings of the selected template.
3. In the **Template Text** field, add the required text and variables to the template body.
4. Click the **Edit Variables** button. In the **Edit Template Variables** dialog box that opens, specify the default variable values in the **Default value** field and select the **Skip if defined** check box, where necessary.

### See Also

Procedures:

- [Creating and Editing Live Templates](#)
- [Creating and Editing Template Variables](#)

Reference:

- [Live Templates](#)

External Links:

- <http://blogs.jetbrains.com/webide/2010/03/zen-coding-support-in-webstormphpstorm/> 
- <http://code.google.com/p/zen-coding/> 

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 