Why do we need roles?

Imagine that you and a friend of yours are managing a website. Maybe you are a successful web designer whereas your friend has no idea about CSS but is a committed writer. Therefor, you have decided to share the work. In the future, you will be doing the design and administration of the website and your friend will be writing articles. This is a basic principle of any CMS by the way - separation of content and design.

Now, as both of you have to have access to the back end, your friend would still be able to edit the look of the website or to create new user accounts, although he is actually not responsible for design or administration. Therefor, you want to disable these functions for his account. At this point, you have created a role (although it exists in your mind only) that you could name "editor" or "author".

To learn how user permissions can be restricted, let's take a closer look at the roles of our example users.

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There are three ways to relate to a page: as the user who owns the page, as the group who owns the page or as someone else. Each role has its own set of permissions (similar to the UNIX chmod utility).

Of course, page *Elements of Jazz Piano* belongs to Mr. Wilson and he is the only user who is allowed to do something with it (remember that administrators have access to all pages and modules at any time).

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Our example page *Elements of Jazz Piano* is only visible to members of the group *Piano students*. You will not be able to access the page when you are logged in as Donna Evans or when you are not logged in at all.

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