

Understanding Panel Boundaries and Layout Behavior

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Recognizing Panel Edges, Splitters, and Resize Handles

In Sherkety ERP & Website Platform, a **resizable panel** is usually separated from the next panel by a visible **divider** or a narrow **drag handle**. This is the line you place your pointer over when you want to change how much space each side uses. If you already read [Resizing Panels for Better Workspace Visibility](#), this section focuses on how to recognize where resizing is allowed and where it is not.

Look for these signs before you drag:

- A thin line between two side-by-side areas
- A boundary between an upper and lower section
- A pointer change when you hover over the divider
- A subtle highlight on the divider when it is active

When the divider controls a **left and right layout**, you drag **side to side**. This is common when a main work area sits beside a navigation area, settings area, or preview area. When the divider controls a **top and bottom layout**, you drag **up and down** instead.

You can usually tell a **fixed area** from a resizable one because fixed areas do **not** show a draggable boundary. If you move your pointer over an edge and nothing changes, that edge is likely not meant to be resized.

As you drag, Sherkety ERP & Website Platform may give live feedback such as:

- The divider becoming more visible
- The panel width or height changing immediately
- Nearby content reflowing as space changes
- A clearer visual separation while the boundary is active

[SCREENSHOT: A two-panel workspace with the divider highlighted between the main content area and a side panel]

This feedback helps you confirm that you are dragging the correct boundary, especially on screens with more than one panel group or nested side areas.

Resizing Panels Within Their Allowed Size Range

When you drag a panel boundary in Sherkety ERP & Website Platform, one panel grows while the neighboring panel gives up space. The total available space inside that panel group stays the same, so resizing is always a tradeoff between adjacent areas.

For example, if you drag the divider toward the right:

- The **left panel** becomes wider
- The **right panel** becomes narrower

If you drag the same divider back toward the left, the opposite happens. The same idea applies to stacked panels: dragging downward gives more height to the top section, while dragging upward gives more height to the lower section.

Every resizable panel has an allowed range. This means you can only shrink or expand it so far. You will notice this when:

- A panel stops getting smaller even though you keep dragging
- A panel stops getting larger before reaching the edge of the screen
- The divider feels like it has reached a hard stop

That stop usually means the panel has reached its **minimum usable size** or **maximum allowed size**. In practical terms, Sherkety ERP & Website Platform prevents a panel from becoming too cramped to use or from taking over the entire workspace.

On screens with several panels, resizing can become more noticeable. If one neighboring panel has already reached its limit, another panel in the same group may need to absorb the change instead. If no nearby panel can give up more room, the divider will stop moving.

Watch for these behaviors while dragging:

- Text areas stop shrinking after they remain readable
- Side panels stop expanding once they reach their intended width
- Other visible panels may hold their size if they are not allowed to change further

[SCREENSHOT: A multi-panel admin layout showing one side panel at its smallest width while the main workspace expands]

This is normal layout behavior, not an error. The boundary is responding to the size limits built into that workspace.

Understanding What Happens When Space Runs Out

As the available area becomes smaller, Sherkey ERP & Website Platform has to redistribute width or height across the panels that share that space. This often happens when you narrow the browser window, open additional side areas, or work in a dense admin screen with several visible regions.

The layout usually responds in stages:

- Panels that can shrink begin giving up space
- Panels reach their minimum usable size one by one
- Panels that cannot shrink further stop changing
- Remaining adjustable panels absorb any additional reduction

This is why one area may continue shrinking while another appears unchanged. A panel that contains navigation, controls, or key actions may hold at its minimum width while the main content area continues to compress. On another screen, the main content area may be protected while a side panel gives up space first.

Other panel states also affect the result:

- **Collapsed panels** free up more room for the remaining visible areas
- **Hidden panels** no longer compete for space
- **Fixed-width panels** keep their size and force other panels to adjust
- **Non-resizable panels** stay stable while neighboring panels change

A common point of confusion is when a divider stops responding even though you are still dragging. In most cases, this means all nearby panels have already reached their allowed limits. There is simply no more space available to redistribute inside that panel group.

You may notice this most clearly in content editing and admin workspaces where several areas are visible at once, such as:

- A main editing area
- A side settings area

- A preview or supporting panel

[SCREENSHOT: A narrow workspace where multiple panels have reached their smallest usable size]

When space runs out, Sherkety ERP & Website Platform prioritizes keeping the visible layout usable rather than allowing panels to overlap or become too small to work with.

Seeing How Layouts Respond to Window and Screen Changes

Panel behavior in Sherkety ERP & Website Platform is affected not only by dragging dividers, but also by the size of your browser window and screen. If you widen the window, panels usually gain more room to breathe. If you narrow it, the layout has to compress and may rebalance space across the visible areas.

You will typically see these patterns:

- When the window becomes **wider**, panels may expand while keeping their general proportions
- When the window becomes **narrower**, panels shrink until one or more reaches its minimum size
- When the window is restored after being small, the layout may reopen space across the same panel group

Some screens include **nested layouts**, where one large area contains smaller split sections inside it. In that case, the outer layout reacts first. After that outer area changes size, the inner sections recalculate how much room they have. This can make the adjustment feel like a two-stage response:

- First, the overall workspace changes
- Then, the inner panels settle into their new sizes

On smaller screens, Sherkety ERP & Website Platform may preserve only the most important regions. Depending on the page, side areas may become tighter, stack differently, or give priority to the main reading or editing area. This is especially relevant when moving between a large desktop window and a smaller laptop display.

Panel proportions are not always restored exactly as you last saw them. If the available space becomes too limited, the layout may recalculate based on each panel's minimum and maximum size rules instead of preserving the previous balance perfectly.

[SCREENSHOT: The same workspace shown at wide, medium, and narrow browser widths]

If a layout looks different after a screen-size change, that usually reflects the workspace adapting to fit the available room while keeping key areas usable.

Adjusting Layouts for Editing and Administration Work

In Sherkety ERP & Website Platform, the best panel balance depends on what you are doing. A content-focused task usually benefits from a wider main workspace, while a management task may require keeping more supporting panels visible at the same time.

When you are editing website content, it often helps to give the largest share of space to the **main content area** or **live preview area**. Keep side areas such as navigation or settings visible, but only as wide as needed to remain usable. This makes it easier to read longer text, compare sections, and review changes without constant horizontal crowding.

A practical editing setup usually looks like this:

- The main editing or preview area is widened first
- The side panel stays at a narrow but readable width
- Extra space is reserved for the content you are actively reviewing

For administration work, the balance can shift. On screens used for settings, pricing, services, SEO details, or user management, you may temporarily widen a detail area to inspect fields more comfortably. After reviewing or updating that information, you can return the panel to a smaller width so the surrounding list or navigation remains visible.

Choose your layout based on the task in front of you:

- Prioritize **readability** when reviewing text-heavy content
- Prioritize **comparison** when you need to see a list beside details
- Prioritize **visibility of controls** when working with settings and configuration screens

Dense management screens may feel tighter because more controls compete for the same space. Content-focused screens usually reward a wider central area. If a workspace starts to feel cramped, reduce side panels to their minimum usable width before shrinking the main area further.

[SCREENSHOT: An editing workspace with a wide main area and a narrow side panel for supporting controls]

This approach keeps Sherkety ERP & Website Platform comfortable to use without hiding the panels you still need nearby.

Fixing Panels That Won't Resize or Seem Stuck

If a panel in Sherkety ERP & Website Platform will not move, the most common reason is that the panel group has already reached one of its size limits. This can make the divider feel stuck even though the layout is behaving correctly.

Start by checking whether the panel has already reached its allowed boundary:

- If the panel will not get any smaller, it may already be at its **minimum size**
- If it will not get any larger, it may already be at its **maximum size**
- If the neighboring panel cannot shrink or grow any further, the divider may stop moving entirely

It also helps to confirm that you are dragging the correct divider. Some screens contain an outer layout and a smaller inner layout inside it. In those cases, one divider changes the overall workspace, while another changes only a section within that workspace. If the wrong boundary is selected, the result may not match what you expected.

Look for nearby conditions that block further movement:

- A neighboring panel is fixed in size
- A side area is already collapsed
- Another visible panel has already reached its own limit
- The available browser width is too small for further redistribution

A quick way to test whether the issue is caused by limited space is to enlarge the browser window and try again. If the divider starts moving after the window is wider, the problem was likely the amount of available room, not the panel itself.

[SCREENSHOT: A panel divider that has stopped at its limit, with neighboring panels already compressed]

If the layout still seems confusing, compare the visible boundaries carefully and drag only the divider directly between the two areas you want to rebalance. That usually reveals whether the panel is truly stuck or simply constrained by the current layout.

Overview

Panel boundaries in Sherkety ERP & Website Platform control how space is shared between visible work areas. When you drag a divider, you are not creating more room—you are redistributing the room already available inside that layout. Understanding that simple rule makes panel behavior much easier to predict.

The key ideas to remember are:

- **Only visible dividers can usually be resized**
- **One panel grows while another gives up space**
- **Panels stop moving when they reach their minimum or maximum size**
- **Window size affects how much freedom the layout has**
- **Nested panel groups may react in layers rather than all at once**

You will notice these behaviors most often in workspaces that combine a main area with supporting side panels, such as content editing, previewing, and admin screens. A layout may feel flexible at a wide browser size and much more restricted at a narrow one. That is expected, because the same panel rules are being applied to a smaller amount of available space.

Keep these practical habits in mind:

- Use the divider closest to the area you want to change
- Watch which neighboring panel is giving up space
- Expect a hard stop when a panel reaches its allowed limit
- Widen the browser window if the layout feels locked too early

If you need a refresher on the dragging action itself, return to [Resizing Panels for Better Workspace Visibility](#). The next topic, [Understanding Panel Limits and Layout Recovery](#), explains what to do when a layout becomes too compressed or no longer feels balanced.

Prerequisites

Before this topic is useful, you should already be comfortable with the basic resizing action in Sherkety ERP & Website Platform. You do not need any setup, special permissions, or advanced configuration. You only need access to a screen that shows more than one visible panel with a draggable divider between them.

This topic makes the most sense if you have already worked with:

- A page that has a **main workspace** and a **side panel**
- A screen where panels sit **side by side** or **top and bottom**
- A layout where dragging a divider changes the visible space immediately

You should already know how to:

- Hover over a divider or handle
- Drag it in the correct direction
- Notice when a panel becomes larger or smaller

If that action is still unfamiliar, read [Resizing Panels for Better Workspace Visibility](#) first. That guide covers the basic interaction, while this one explains why the divider sometimes stops, why one panel changes before another, and why the same layout behaves differently at different browser sizes.

It also helps if you are viewing Sherkety ERP & Website Platform in a browser window large enough to show multiple regions at once. A wider window makes panel boundaries easier to spot and makes it easier to observe:

- Minimum and maximum size limits
- Neighboring panels giving up space
- Different behavior between outer and inner panel groups

You can explore these behaviors on content-heavy screens or admin workspaces where several visible regions compete for space.