

HDV410: Monkeying with Master Pages

(taking control of your SharePoint user experience)

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Agenda

- Master pages (quick review)
- SharePoint master pages (quick review)
- Integrating UI components
- Persistent navigation in MOSS
- Application components
- Demos
- Pros & Cons

Master Pages

- ASP.NET template page
- Includes
 - static elements
 - content place holders
- Used to generate ASP.NET page as a control collection
 - Master page is “top control” on page
 - Expansion process is between PreInit and Init Page events

SharePoint default.master

- System page located in SharePoint path
<%System Drive%>Program Files\Common Files\Microsoft Shared\Web Server Extensions\12\TEMPLATE\GLOBAL\
- Other relevant master pages located in
“LAYOUTS”
- BE CAREFUL CHANGES HERE ARE SCOPED TO ENTIRE SERVER (ALL SITE COLLECTIONS) MSDN warns “do not edit here”

SharePoint master page gallery

- Located in the SharePoint content store as a list
 - “_catalogs/masterpage”
- Use the gallery for site or site collection scoped master pages
- Edit directly with SharePoint designer
- Include site specific master page in site definition

Master page editing

DEMO

**Three techniques for
modifying a master page
(plus another hint)**

Obvious reasons to modify

- **Force a theme equivalent**
 - Set colors / images
 - Remove or add “global” scripts
- **Update navigation**
 - Relocate navigation to accommodate different page design
 - Replace components

Not so obvious reasons

- **Modify SharePoint navigation**
 - Replace words with graphics
 - Integrate persistent tools
 - “Wrap” SharePoint controls to support portal-wide roles
- **Provide new user interface features**
 - New common UI
 - “Hidden” application tools

User Notification

- “Icon tray” equivalent
 - Immediate alert
 - Notifies users of important status change
 - Runs on all pages in site
- Includes
 - Graphic banner
 - Rendering web part
 - JavaScript polling (sorry, not AJAX)
 - Read/Unread marks

User Notification

DEMO

with code reviews

Site Navigation

- **Persistent navigation panel**
 - Integrated into MOSS left navigation
 - Always provides important user links
 - Runs on most pages in site
- **Supports ICONIC mode**
 - Replace text links with structured image links
 - Persistent state

Site Navigation

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Site “Health check”

- **Verifies integrity of a user’s my site**
 - Checks and modifies site membership and permissions
 - Checks and modifies list schema
 - Checks and modifies theme
- **Includes**
 - Page control
 - “Out of band” support engine
 - Cached evaluation

Site “Health check”

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Simplified master page

- Used in `_Layouts` applications with no need for SharePoint master page support
 - Programmatic pages
 - Administrative pages

Simplified master page

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Master page tag reference

**A quick reference for
page tags**

**[http://www.graphicalwonder.com
/masterpage-reference.jpg](http://www.graphicalwonder.com/masterpage-reference.jpg)**

Pros and cons

- **CONS**

- Break use of other themes
- Bound to specific version of pages from specific version of SharePoint/MOSS
- Be careful about language issues

- **Pros**

- Global impact
- Instant updates
 - (no page instance issues)

Tools / Tips

- **SharePoint designer**
 - Good for visual impact analysis, but occasionally removes links and can “one off” the page
 - Visual studio a better editor
- **Master page galleries**
 - Add an event handler to the gallery to notify you or your application when someone changes their page (then fix it if you need to)

Review

- Monkey with your master page when you need to:
 - Modify global navigation
 - Add global application components
 - If possible use the master page gallery
 - If necessary use the file system pages
- Code samples available at:

<http://files.ver3.com>

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