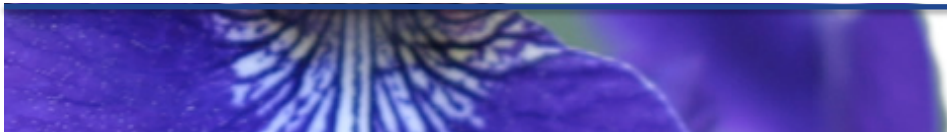

Joomla Templates 101

Barb Ackemann

Joomla Day NE

May 30, 2009

NOTE: Slides, files and resources are all online –
So you can listen /think hard and not worry about writing everything down!

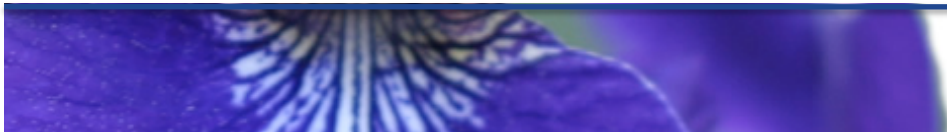


Joomla Templates 101 – Agenda

- Introduction
- “ons” and “tos”
- Module positions in Joomla
- Ingredients of a Joomla 1.5 template
- Build the html / css, add php snippets
- templateDetails.xml
- Upload, Activate and Tweak!
- Tips and Tricks

Barb Ackemann

- Public education (k-12) for 28 years
- M.S.I.T MCGS 2006
- Independent web developer
- Owner, Iris Lines Designs – irislines.com
- Instructor MCGS
 - Designing with Web Standards (html and css)
 - Web Accessibility



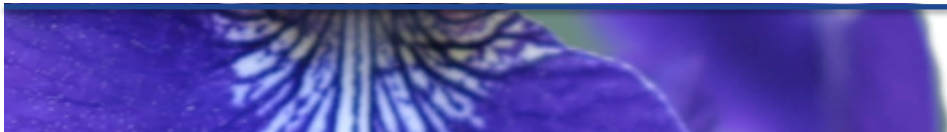
Ons and Tos

This workshop assumes you are able to create a static html page layout with all aspects of presentation in an external stylesheet.

Html is for structuring your content with semantic markup (related to the meaning of the content)

CSS is for all things presentational: color, font, layout, etc.

The two files work together. There are many advantages to this separation, including: accessibility, efficiency, SEO.



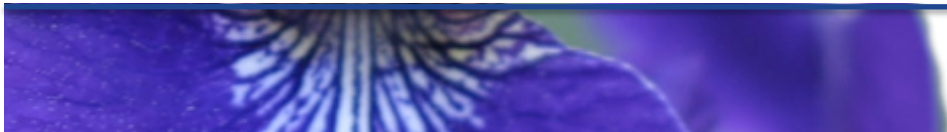
Ons and Tos

This workshop assumes you are familiar with working with Joomla content and modules.

Joomla presents the content of your pages in various kinds of blocks.

Articles or other components (photo galleries, contacts, forms, etc.) sit in one position on the page (usually the largest block).

Other blocks (navigation menus, random images, most read, etc.) are assigned to module positions which are defined in the template.

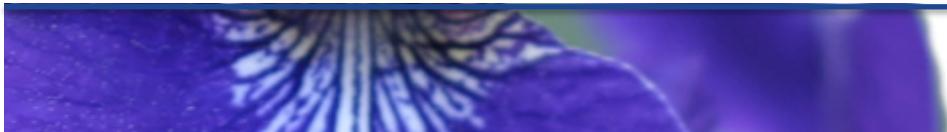


Ons and Tos

After this workshop, you should be able to create a simple custom Joomla 1.5 template.

You'll be able to install your custom template and make adjustments to the css stylesheet.

You'll learn about some helpful tools and tricks.



Software Tools

Graphics: PhotoShop, FireWorks or other graphics program.

HTML editor or simple text editor to write HTML and CSS or Dreamweaver CS4.

Firefox browser with the free Web Developer's Tool Bar (WDTB) extension.

(<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/60>)

Other CSS tools: CSS Edit for the Macintosh (<http://macrabbbit.com/cssedit/>) or TopStyle for Windows (<http://www.newsgator.com/individuals/topstyle/default.aspx>)

Ingredients of a Joomla 1.5 template:

The template “BEEZ” has these files:

The ones with * are needed for even a basic template.

*index.html (blank html so users won't see the contents of folder – include one of these in every sub-folder as well!)

*index.php

*templateDetails.xml (start with file from BEEZ and modify for your template)

*template_thumbnail.png

favicon.ico (generate one of these at <http://tools.dynamicdrive.com/favicon>)

*css (folder) (minimum of one template.css file can have others for ie or print)

*images (folder) (images used in template or to decorate modules or components)

html (folder) – (borrow whole folder from BEEZ template to use in your template!)

Beez also adds:

component.php

images_general (folder)

javascript (folder)

params.ini

templateDetails.xml

The templateDetails.xml file creates the installer and lists all of the files included in the template.

It also includes details about the template (author, copyright, etc.)

Template module positions are identified in the templateDetails.xml file.

```
<positions>  
  <position>left</position>  
  <position>right</position>  
  <position>top</position>  
  <position>breadcrumb</position>  
  <position>user1</position>  
  <position>user2</position>  
  <position>user3</position>  
  <position>user4</position>  
  <position>debug</position>  
  <position>syndicate</position>  
</positions>
```

It's probably a good idea to use these names for module positions so you can switch between templates without having to reassign your modules to new positions.

Live Demonstration

At this point in the workshop, Barb turned to the real tools and demonstrates the process of creating a Joomla template using FireWorks, Dreamweaver, Firefox and the Web Developer's Tool Bar.

Some of the files you'll see are posted for you to examine
(Note: php files are saved as .txt so you can open them without restriction!)

These (and more!) are available at <http://iriswebs.com/JoomlaDay/>

- Fireworks mockup file
- Original html file with embedded styles
- First version of template file (as a text file)
- First version of stylesheet
- Second version of template file with if / else conditional code (as a text file)
- Second version of stylesheet
- Sample templateDetails.xml file
- A live version of the site

Live Demonstration

The steps were:

1. Develop graphic design
2. Plan and develop html and css code to achieve the design. Insert “dummy” content as placeholders. Validate the code. Test in other browsers. (Now and often!)
3. Take a screen shot and save at 200px wide as **template_thumbnail.png**
4. Plan for module positions and names.
5. Save **index.html** as **index.php** in a folder for your template.
6. Replace head code with Joomla “snippet”.
7. Replace placeholder content with Joomla “snippets”.
8. Save css as **template.css** in css folder.
9. Have image folder for all template images.
10. Copy html folder from BEEZ template into your template folder.
11. Create a **favicon .ico** file if you want one.
12. Open BEEZ **templateDetails.xml** and modify to be an exact inventory of **your** files.
13. Zip the folder.
14. Install into your Joomla site, set as default or assign to a test page.
15. Use the Firefox Web Developer Toolbar to tweak and fine tune your css. Save copies of changes locally and copy and paste into Template Manager **template.css** file.

Things to watch out for....

Paths to images:

1. Hardcoded into template: ``
2. Called by css stylesheet: `background-image:url(../images/logo.gif);`
3. Called by content item: ``

Be sure to include `<jdoc:include type="message" />` -- usually just above your component.

Be sure your **templateDetails.xml** file list matches the contents of your template folder EXACTLY! If your installation fails, it is most likely a problem of a missing file or mis-named file. Fix **.xml** file, re-zip and re-install until it works!

Snippets

Dreamweaver Snippets: http://iriswebs.com/JoomlaDay/JOOMLA_1.5.zip

Or text file of snippets: <http://iriswebs.com/JoomlaDay/all-snippets.txt>

For Dreamweaver:

Your Snippets are here (Vista) -

C:\Users\\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\Dreamweaver
CS4\en_US\Configuration\Snippets

and here (WXP) -

C:\Documents and Settings\\Application Data\Adobe\Dreamweaver
CS4\en_US\Configuration\Snippets

and here (Mac) -

Library :: Application Support :: Adobe :: Dreamweaver CS4 :: en_US ::
Configuration :: Snippets

**Be aware that the Windows location is normally HIDDEN - you would have to
unhide it in the Explorer options.**



Module Styles

The “snippet” for adding a module position is:

```
<jdoc:include type="modules" name="footer" style="xhtml" />
```

style=“xhtml” is one of five options for designating how Joomla will wrap your module content. It is the one I use the most. The options are:

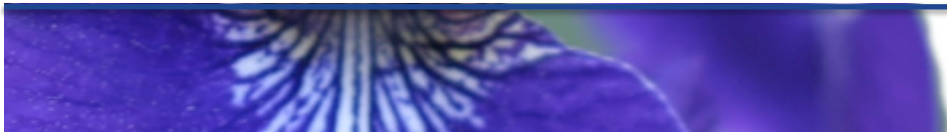
style=“table” – Joomla will wrap your module as a <td> in a single column <table> to place one module under another.

style=“horz” – Joomla will wrap your module as a <td> in a single row <table> to place modules side by side.

style=“xhtml” – Joomla gives you a single <div> wrapper.

style=“rounded” – Joomla will wrap each module in four nested <div>s.

style=“none” – no containing code will be added.



All resources available at:

iriswebs.com/JoomlaDay

PDF Version of this slide show
All files you saw today

Dreamweaver CS4 Snippets
Joomla Snippets in a text file

Book List
Online Resources

barb@irislines.com