Integrating Web Dynpro and SAP NetWeaver Portal Part VII: Defining the Theme of a Web Dynpro Application

Applies to:

Integration of Web Dynpro for Java applications into SAP NetWeaver Portal for the SAP NetWeaver 04s SP8 release.

Summary

This article describes how the theme used by a Web Dynpro application can be defined or modified.

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Author Bio:

Jochen Guertler works as a development architect within the Web Dynpro for Java team. His main responsibilities are the integration of Web Dynpro for Java with other components of SAP NetWeaver, especially the integration with the SAP NetWeaver Portal.

Jochen is co-author of the book “Maximizing Web Dynpro for Java” from SAP Press.

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Introduction

Web Dynpro applications provide the possibility to define customer-specific themes. The following document describes how to define the theme used by a Web Dynpro application.

Running Inside the SAP NetWeaver Portal

When running inside the SAP NetWeaver Portal, i.e. running a Web Dynpro based iView the defined portal theme is automatically used by the Web Dynpro application. Also any user or role-based personalization of the theme is automatically used by the Web Dynpro application.

If the Web Dynpro application and the portal are running on different systems with different releases there could be problems with incompatible style sheets defining the used theme. Especially if the portal system is "older" than the system running the Web Dynpro application this could cause errors in the behavior of some UI elements of the Web Dynpro application (because these UI elements depend also on the used themes / style sheets).

Especially when running the SAP NetWeaver Portal on a SAP NetWeaver 04 installation and the Web Dynpro application on a SAP NetWeaver 04s installation you have to keep in mind, that the themes could be not compliant. For more details please check also OSS note 935687.

To avoid these compatibility problems there is the possibility to configure the Web Dynpro runtime to use in any case *not* the portal theme but the defined Web Dynpro theme. This could mean that the Web Dynpro application is rendered with a different theme than the portal but the Web Dynpro application works fine without problems (because the incompatible portal theme is not used).

To prevent the Web Dynpro runtime to use the portal theme you have to use the Visual Admin. Please choose **Configuration Adapter** service and browse to **webdynpro -> sap.com -> tc~wd~dispwda -> Propertysheet default**.

You have to open this default property sheet and change one property value called `sap.useWebDynproStyleSheet`.

The possible values are

- **true**

  The Web Dynpro application do not use the portal theme but every time the theme defined by the Web Dynpro runtime. This should only be used if there are compatibility problems between the themes provided by the portal system and the system running the Web Dynpro application.

- **false**

  The Web Dynpro application use the theme defined by the portal. This is the default value.

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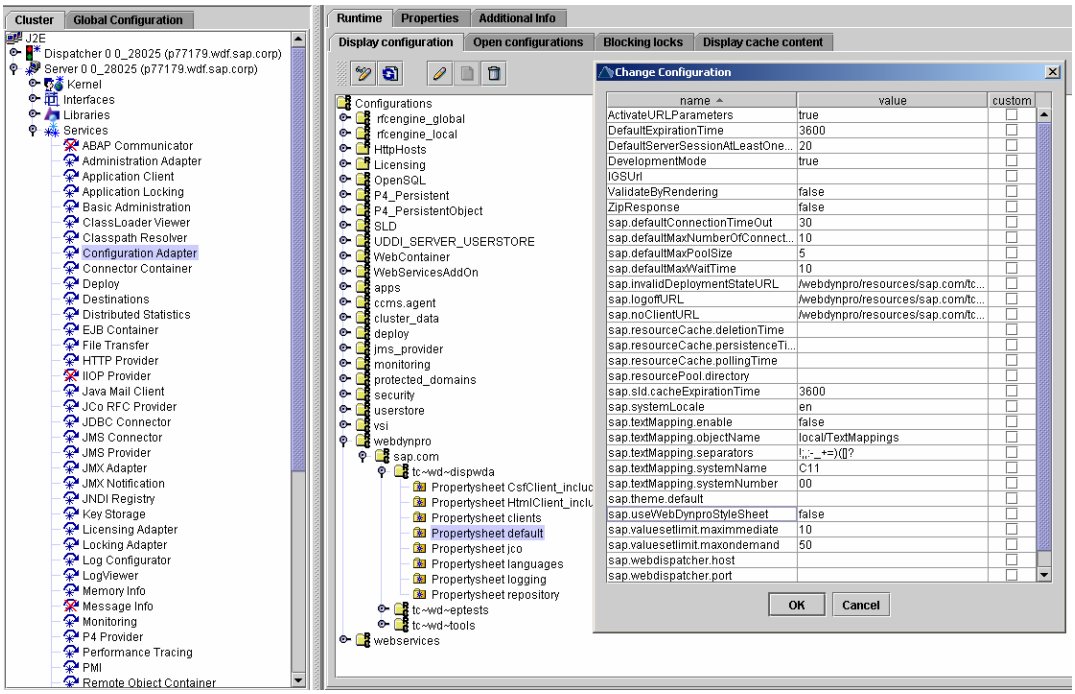
The following screenshot shows the editor for changing this property value.



Running as a Standalone Application

If the Web Dynpro application runs as an standalone application (i.e. not inside the SAP NetWeaver Portal or if the Web Dynpro runtime is configured to use in every case the Web Dynpro theme you have two options to define the theme used by a Web Dynpro application. You can define the default theme (i.e. the theme used by all applications running on this system) or you can define an application specific theme.

Defining the Default Theme

If you want to change the default theme of the Web Dynpro runtime you have to use also the **Configuration Adapter** service of the Visual Admin like described above.

You have to maintain again one property of the **Propertysheet default** named `sap.theme.default`.

As value you have to define a valid URL referring the used theme like

`http://<Your host>:<Your port>/<Your path to the theme>/<The theme name>.`

A concrete example could be

`http://localhost:50000/irj/portalapps/com.sap.portal.themes.lafservice/themes/portal/sap_chrome.`

You have to make sure that the defined URL points to the theme folder (in the example for the theme `sap_chrome`). You must not use a full-qualified URL to the concrete `css` file of the theme.

Defining an Application-Specific Theme

If you would like to define a theme only for one specific application you can use the URL parameter `sap-cssurl` to define the theme. This theme overrides then any default settings. The format is the same like above. Additionally you have to make sure that the used theme URL is encoded.

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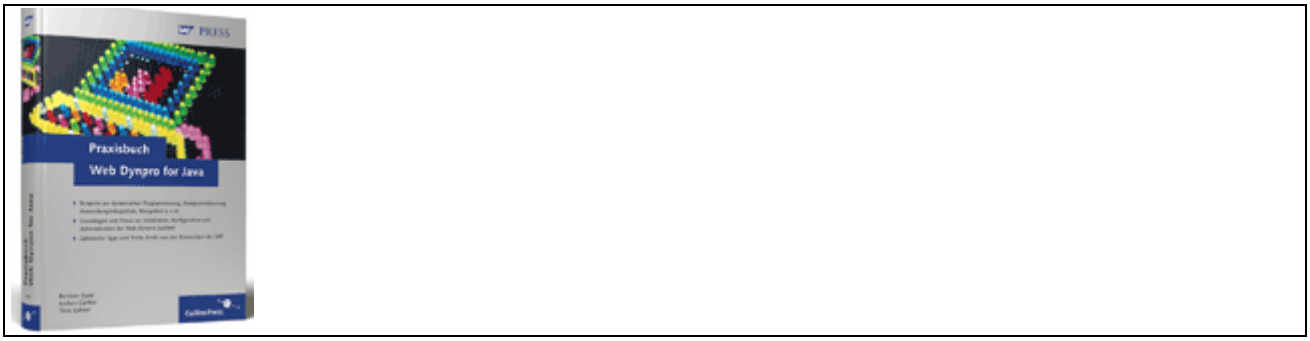
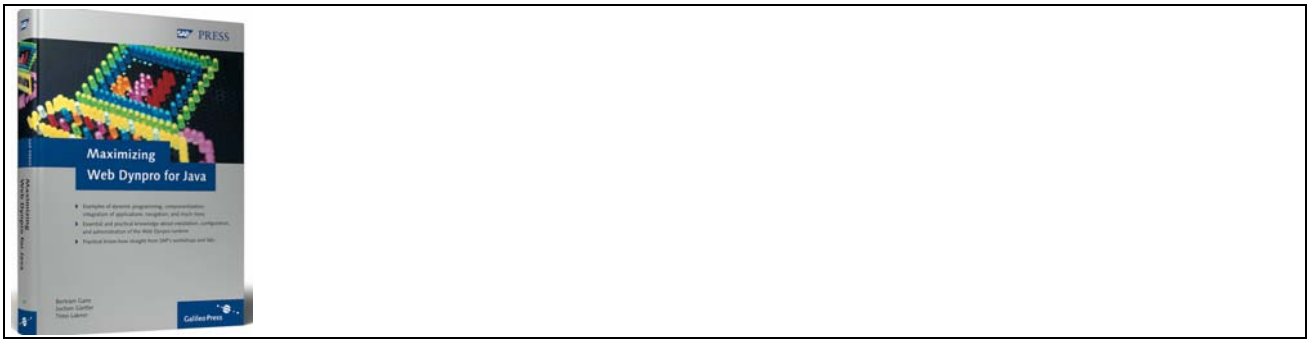
Further Information

To get more information and examples how to extend and implement your Web Dynpro application we would like to bring to your attention a new Web Dynpro for Java book. The German version *Praxisbuch Web Dynpro for Java* is available now – the English translation *Maximizing Web Dynpro for Java* will follow soon.



Praxisbuch Web Dynpro for Java

Besides portal integration related aspects, this book discusses in detail the componentization of Web Dynpro applications on top of the NetWeaver Development Infrastructure (NWDI), the usage of Web Services and the pros and cons of dynamic programming. In the end there is a comprehensive overview about the configuration and administration of the Web Dynpro runtime.



Maximizing Web Dynpro for Java

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