How to Define the Theme Used by a Web Dynpro Java Application

Based on SAP NetWeaver™ ’04 Stack 09

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Introduction

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

Running Inside the SAP Enterprise Portal 6.0

When running inside the SAP Enterprise Portal 6.0, 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. 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 also depend on the used themes/style sheets).

Therefore, it is possible to configure the Web Dynpro runtime to use not the portal theme, but the defined Web Dynpro theme. This would mean that the Web Dynpro application is rendered in 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 from using the portal theme, you have to use the Visual Admin. 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:

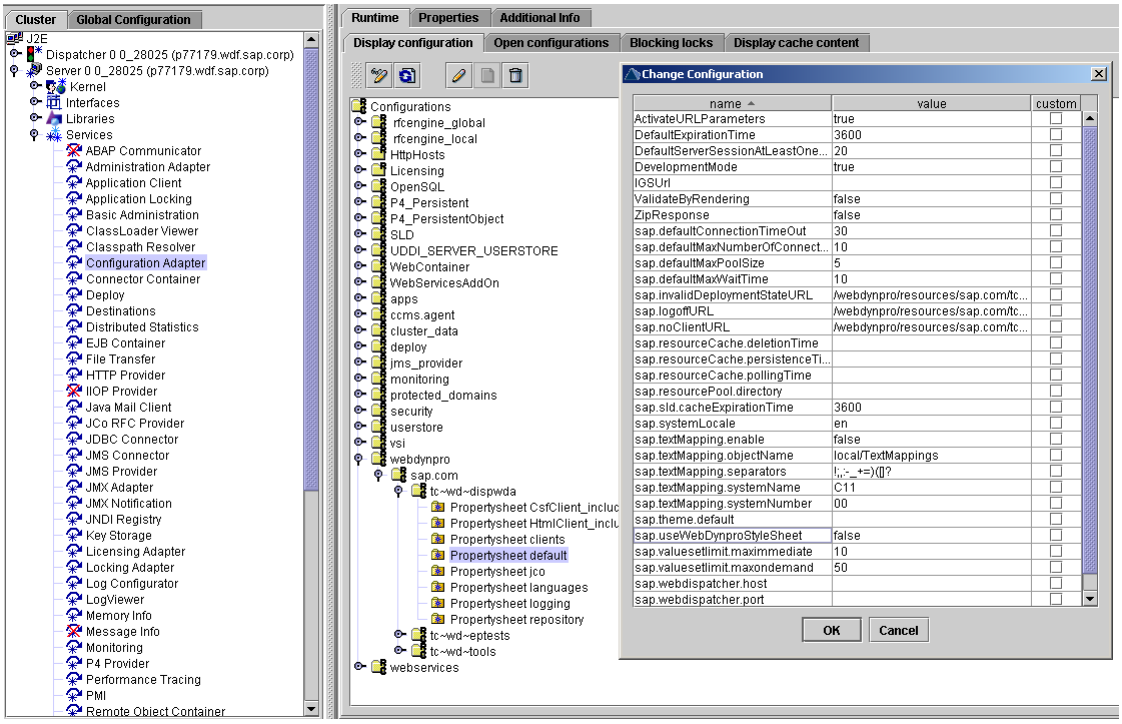
- **true**

  The Web Dynpro application does not use the portal theme but 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 uses the theme defined by the portal. This is the default for SAP NetWeaver ’04 Stack 09.

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



Running as a Standalone Application

If the Web Dynpro application runs as a standalone application (i.e. not inside the SAP Enterprise Portal 6.0), or if the Web Dynpro runtime is configured to use the Web Dynpro theme in every case, 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 wish to change the default theme of the Web Dynpro runtime, you must use the `Configuration Adapter` service of the Visual Admin as described above.

You must maintain one property of the `Propertysheet default` named `sap.theme.default`.

For value, you must define a valid URL referring the used theme as:

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 must make sure that the defined URL points to the theme folder (in the example, for the theme `sap_chrome`). You must not use a fully-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 then overrides any default settings. The format is the same as above. Additionally, you must make sure that the used theme URL is encoded.