
Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/08 03:54

UPDATE: I just posted a Heavily Commented Forum.css file to help people find things easier:

http://www.bestofjoomla.com/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,38/func,view/id,17409/catid,8/limit,10/limitstart,10/#21469

GreatPixels has commissioned me to help develop a template guide for those looking to develop or customize templates for their Fireboard forums. It is my hope people will provide me with some insight as to what they would like to see as I have never really taken on a project like this before. Any ideas or suggestions would be appreciated and taken under consideration.

In addition to a summarizing guide, I wanted to create some sort of reference sheet for people. Sort of a cheat sheet to quickly identify where code is that you may wish to change. Here is an unfinished sample of the format I am considering to use.

http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/template_doc_prelim.zip

I would love your feedback and input on this to help guide me into creating documentation that will be useful to you, the end user.

Thanks!

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by greatpixels - 2007/08/08 05:09

This is perfect! I like to point idea. I didn't think before. Keep up good work palebluedot. We can update when we fix or change our template system with this idea. And we can make special area for this when you finish it. Thanks again.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MindTooth - 2007/08/08 11:43

A wiki with a reference to all the template tags would be nice :) And etc.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by danialt - 2007/08/08 11:58

Very nice indeed! Good job mate ;)

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by waderw24 - 2007/08/08 18:54

mmmm...delicious!

I mean, nice work PBD :D

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/08 19:04

MindTooth wrote:

A wiki with a reference to all the template tags would be nice :) And etc.

I thought about Wiki's, but I really have no experience with them. That project may be for another person.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MindTooth - 2007/08/08 19:40

MediaWiki is easy to use and learn. But get some dudes on your team, and setup a wiki all the template tags, etc.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/08 20:57

The reference I post is, and will only be for the default template, because that is what I plan to use for examples. The guide itself will not be a list by list description of every selector (tag), attribute and value. Every template is unique and thus every template a user will encounter may have selector/attributes defined in different places or with additional/less information.

e.g. You can define the basic body text color by defining a color attribute for #fireboard. Or you could define it in multiple child DIVs.

Different Joomla templates will determine the look of forums as well. So a set specific guide defining all selectors will not necessarily be applicable to all templates a user may wish to customize. Therefore, my guide, will be a much broader stroke providing tools and knowledge of how to find CSS for a specific element.

I will use the default template as a point of reference, but it will be up to the end user/developer to interpret that and use the tools I provide them to discover how that information specifically applies to their template. It will discuss problems that may be encountered with the parent/child hierarchy. And so on... However, it will not be a how to use CSS guide. There are plenty of those already in existence. It will also not be a step-by-step walk through from start to finish.

As far as a Wiki goes, I do not have time to learn a new system. If others wish to join the Template Documentation Team, they are welcome to volunteer and work on that if they wish. Right now I am still working on the basic outline of the guide and my default template reference sheet.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MindTooth - 2007/08/08 22:00

That I fully understand. I believed that Fireboard used those custom tags for template tags. Thus it was a mistake made by me. I have full confidence that you will succeed. And if you need help in any way, I might be of an asset to you.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/18 03:34

Trying to keep people in the loop of where I am, here is a very preliminary look at the actual guide portion. Lots of blank space so far, but I just wanted to share so people can get an idea of where this is going.

http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/TemplateGuide_v.zip

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by BertSP - 2007/08/18 06:31

You might look at this little applet called SMFtg.exe . It was designed for SMF. In the meantime, being a newbie, I watched your videos and made a list of all the hex codes in the CSS file. Posted them in a large array with color backgrounds and descriptions of where they are in the template and made a revised color theme using different hues and did a search and replace of all hex with new ones and the result is acceptable for my needs with a couple hours work.

A revised applet like the one above with the proper css lines (grouped or not) and proper descriptions could work very well.

A newbie's 2 cents worth.

BertSP

Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/19 00:23

Interesting program, but I have no clue how to create something like that.

Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/08/19 01:29

I've not had a chance to go through the guide yet but may I suggest a commented version of the CSS file to aid in the learning process. CSS is very powerful but also puts people off that aren't into, or comfortable with, programming languages.

Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/08/19 01:58

This guide will not be giving a how-to for CSS. As I've stated earlier, there are already a ton of guides out there if people are interested in learning CSS. It will contain various examples, but it won't take a particular selector then tell you everything you could possibly do with it. Users will need to have a pre-existing knowledge of CSS and an understanding of how it works. E.g. I will show them how to find a particular selector in the forum.css file, but it will be up to them to understand that the attribute "background" changes the background color, or even the attribute "background-color" or even a URL() value.

I will be making a sort of commented forum.css file in the appendix (see first post zip file), but only for example reference. Since every template a user may encounter or wish to edit will be unique, a one-reference-fits-all really won't be very helpful in the grand scheme of things.

Thanks for your input.

Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by tendo - 2007/08/23 20:38

Hmm I wish this was complete. What controls the text color in the quick reply box? I can't find "fb_qr_sc__67" anywhere in the CSS....

Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/09/08 14:07

Actually I was thinking more along the lines of commenting the sections up in an effort to more thoroughly label them. I was in no way suggesting giving CSS lessons. Just something to answer most of the "where do you find this?" questions. It would be nice if more people would take the time to actually LEARN this stuff but as you know that isn't the case most of the time.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/09/09 20:49

Here is a heavily commented Forum.CSS file.

<http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/files/forum-5819475e09361cedc90db1878eccc447.zip>

It is for the Default Template, which is a good starting point for beginners. Comments welcome.

To use, replace with forum.css in /root/components/com_fireboard/template/default/

Click Edit CSS in back end or open in your favorite text editor.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/09/09 22:26

Hey! I was working on that! Cool! Pretty much what I was thinking about. That should take care of any questions. Anything else and they'll have to open a book or read a tute.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/09/09 23:31

LOL sorry, I thought you were suggesting it for me :). Well, go ahead and merge the two. Change mine, do whatever :).

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/09/10 00:40

Yours it pretty complete. I don't have enough commenting done to warrant changing anything yet.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by hanzo - 2007/09/12 11:06

I heard they changed some things in the way the templates work in 1.0.3 but I can't find any info anywhere... but maybe I misunderstood something. anyway... is this last commented css up to date with 1.0.3? or should I wait for an updated version?

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/09/12 11:39

It's up to date. Check the date on the last posts.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by lebisol - 2007/09/13 20:01

Hi palebluedot,
Thanks for all the work!
I was thinking of making an 'interactive' guide...using this concept
Has this been done or is my offer waste of time?
Post back!
All the best!

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by hanzo - 2007/09/13 23:19

It's up to date. Check the date on the last posts.
I've seen the date... but wasn't sure...
anyway, thank you very much!

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by bunglehaze - 2007/09/23 17:26

A wiki with a reference to all the template tags would be nice

This will be added shortly, I am working on the wiki at the moment but obviously the more essential sections have to be completed for newer users before I can make a start on the more in-depth tutorials.

cheers

leigh :D

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by BenGalf - 2007/09/28 03:01

I would just like to say thank you to bluepaledot for the hard work.

I had no hesitation to bring your karma up. Thanks!

Your guide is well conceived and saved me a few hours(if not days) of hunting down everything with firebug(i still have it installed mind you.. it's a great addon for FF)

Now i've always been a visual kind of guy.. but i need some specific things to be done in the css so i think i will follow your advices and start reading on some decent tuts for CSS.

I can, i think .. manage my way around the fireboard css file and learned alot by actually changing stuff and banging my head on the table for not finding .. but hey.. i think it's the best way to learn.. trial and error. =)

Thanks again for the awesome documentation you've given us.. i'm keeping it as reference material.

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by jimp180 - 2007/10/10 16:54

Hello,
Thanks for this most useful information.
I am trying to change the width of my template so I can have a bit of a background image showing around the outside of the tables/forum, I have gone into every table I can find and changed the width to 90% and aligned them to center but this has no effect on the forum layout (the tables all seem to stretch the full width of the area inside my center column of my joomla template) is there an easy way to do this or a file I should be editing that Im missing? I am working with the default template.
Thanks

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by palebluedot - 2007/10/11 05:08

I'm trying to visualize what you are trying to do, but having a difficult time. Can you create some sort of mock-up of what you are trying to attempt and a site URL if possible?

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by jimp180 - 2007/10/13 17:18

Sorry

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by Jellocat - 2007/11/04 01:39

This is a great thing! Thanks so much. It will save me hours of work. I would love to see another document that just explains some of the forum administration stuff. Does such a thing exist?

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by WiZeGuY - 2007/11/30 07:12

palebluedot wrote:

Different Joomla templates will determine the look of forums as well. So a set specific guide defining all selectors will not necessarily be applicable to all templates a user may wish to customize.

If I check Use Joomla Style? in the FB configuration, the changes in CSS in the forum.css are ignored (but nice mix with the scheme of the joomla template); So is the css coming from the template_css.css? I guess the specificity is changed. I'll figure it out eventually, but I just want to move fb_title and fb_title_cover to center so its easier to read with the color scheme I have. You can see what i mean on the forum on clan8.org

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MCM - 2007/12/28 10:51

hello,

thanks hugely for the forum.css file, it was VERY useful.

I wanted to edit the width of the left (user profile) part and had partial success. I've had a good look through but only seem to be able to edit the width of one post (see attached, including extra 'btw' question). Where else should I be looking? Thanks

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MCM - 2007/12/28 10:56

(I had trouble with the image, went to edit and did not have image upload option)

Here is the image

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MCM - 2007/12/28 10:57

OMG it happened again

third time lucky...

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MCM - 2007/12/28 11:00

la di da

all my fault...many apologies <http://www.bestofjoomla.com/images/fbfiles/images/fireboard.JPG>

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by grumblemarc - 2007/12/28 14:23

Read this.

http://www.bestofjoomla.com/component/option,com_fireboard/Itemid,38/func,view/id,11116/catid,8/

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Re:Template Guide Project

Posted by MCM - 2007/12/28 15:05

Thanks, will do.

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