How to Customize the Forums Look and Feel

Applicable Releases:
SAP NetWeaver 7.0 and higher
SAP NetWeaver 7.3 and higher

Topic Area:
Forums

Capability:
Customize the Forums Look and Feel

Version 1.0
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# Document History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Version</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>First official release of this guide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Typographic Conventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type Style</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example Text</td>
<td>Words or characters quoted from the screen. These include field names, screen titles, pushbutton labels, menu names, menu paths, and menu options. Cross-references to other documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example text</td>
<td>Emphasized words or phrases in body text, graphic titles, and table titles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example text</td>
<td>File and directory names and their paths, messages, names of variables and parameters, source text, and names of installation, upgrade and database tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example text</td>
<td>User entry texts. These are words or characters that you enter in the system exactly as they appear in the documentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;Example text&gt;</td>
<td>Variable user entry. Angle brackets indicate that you replace these words and characters with appropriate entries to make entries in the system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMPLE TEXT</td>
<td>Keys on the keyboard, for example, F2 or ENTER.</td>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Caution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⚠️</td>
<td>Important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>📝</td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>🔴</td>
<td>Recommendation or Tip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>📄</td>
<td>Example</td>
</tr>
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<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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1. Business Scenario

As a forum administrator you can customize the look and feel of the forum application. You can do this in the following ways:

- Edit the default theme that is part of the forum installation.
- Create your own custom theme.

2. Background Information

Depending on the way, in which you choose to customize the forum application, you must consider the following:

- Editing the default theme
  To edit the default theme you do not need to have any previous knowledge in development or design.

- Creating a new custom theme
  To create a new custom theme you must have some knowledge and experience in development.
3. Step-by-Step Procedure

3.1 Editing the Default Theme Provided with the Forums Installation

In the Forums application there are several themes that are created during the installation. These are the default theme, SAPTradeshow, SAPHighContrastBlack and SAPHighContrastWhite.

If you want to make small changes to the user interface, we recommend that you do that by editing the default theme.

From the forums administration console, choose User Interface → Themes → Edit Default.

You can edit the following aspects of the default theme:

- Font settings
- Color settings
- Global header and footer

Editing the Font Settings

To edit the global font settings enter a list of fonts (in order of preference) and font size in the corresponding fields as follows:

- Global font – this is the font that is used for the body text of the forums.
- Description (Smaller) Font – this is the font that is used for descriptions, button labels and so on.

Editing the Color Settings

In the Global Color Settings table you can choose a different color for each of the individual elements listed in the table. You can do that in two ways:

- Click the colored button that appears in the middle column of the table. In the dialog that appears select the new color and choose the OK button.
- Enter the hexadecimal code of a color directly in the field that appears in the middle column.

When you change the color of some of the elements, an example with the new color appears in the third column of the table.

Editing the Global Header and Footer

Note

When you set custom Global Header and Global Footer this affects all the themes installed in the system.

1. To activate the use of custom header and footer, choose the Use Custom HTML radio button for each of these elements.
2. In the respective fields enter the text or path to the image that you want to be displayed.

Example

For HTML Header enter:
<img src="http://www.sap.com/global/images/SAPLogo.gif" style="float:left" >

For HTML Footer enter: This is my system Copyright (C)
As a result, the forums application looks like this:

### 3.2 Creating a New Custom Theme

To create a new theme, we recommend that you copy the content of one of the themes that are provided with the forums installation. This way you get all the files that are needed for the theme and you can start making your own customizations.

#### 3.2.1 Creating Themes in SAP NetWeaver 7.0 and Higher

The procedure described below applies to the following releases:

- SAP NetWeaver 7.0
- SAP NetWeaver 7.0 including Enhancement Package 1
- SAP NetWeaver 7.0 including Enhancement Package 2

The themes are located in the
\usrsap\<SID>\<IID>\j2ee\cluster<serverN>\apps\com.sap.netweaver.coll.forumsHome\servlet_jsp\forumsHome\root\jiveHome\themes directory.

To create a custom theme, follow the steps below:

1. Open the \usrsap\<SID>\<IID>\j2ee\cluster<serverN>\apps\com.sap.netweaver.coll.forumsHome\servlet_jsp\forumsHome\root\jiveHome\themes directory.
2. Copy the content of one of the directories that contain the themes provided with the forums installation, for example, SAPTradeshow.
3. Create a new directory, for example, MyTheme and paste the content in it. This name will be displayed in the Admin Console as the name of your new theme.
4. Some files contain SAPTradeshow in their name. Replace that with MyTheme.
   For example, rename the files SAPTradeshow.ftl and admin_SAPTradeshow.ftl to MyTheme.ftl and admin_MyTheme.ftl respectively.
5. Open the file theme.xml file and edit it as follows:

   ```xml
   <theme>
   <!-- The name of the theme must match the name of the folder containing the theme.-->
   <name>MyTheme</name>
   
   <!-- The name of the decorator file for this theme. The decorator file will be loaded from the templates directory -->
   <decorator>MyTheme.ftl</decorator>
   ```
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3.2.2 Creating Themes in SAP NetWeaver 7.3 and Higher

The procedure described below applies to the following releases:
- SAP NetWeaver 7.3
- SAP NetWeaver 7.3 including Enhancement Package 1

The themes are located in the `\usr\sap\<SID>\SYS\global\forums\themes` directory.

To create a custom theme, follow the steps below:
1. Open the `\usr\sap\<SID>\SYS\global\forums\themes` directory.
2. Copy the content of one of the directories that contain the themes provided with the forums installation, for example, `SAPTradeshow`.
3. Create a new directory, for example, `MyTheme` and paste the content in it. This name will be displayed in the Admin Console as the name of your new theme.
4. Some files contain `SAPTradeshow` in their name. Replace that with `MyTheme`.
   For example, rename the files `SAPTradeshow.ftl` and `admin_SAPTradeshow.ftl` to `MyTheme.ftl` and `admin_MyTheme.ftl` respectively.
5. Open the file `theme.xml` file and edit it as follows:
<theme>
   <!-- The name of the theme must match the name of the folder containing the theme. -->
   <name>MyTheme</name>
   <!-- The name of the decorator file for this theme. The decorator file will be loaded from the templates directory -->
   <decorator>MyTheme.ftl</decorator>
   <!-- Optional: The locale of this theme. This should only be specified if all pages relating to this theme should use a specific locale. If not specified, the locale will be determined in the default manner -->
   <locale>en_US</locale>
   <!-- Optional: Theme specific properties can be specified, if desired. -->
   <properties>
      <property name="key1" value="value1"/>
      <property name="key2" value="value2"/>
   </properties>
</theme>

6. Restart the application.
7. To verify that your new theme is available, from the forums administration console, choose User Interface → Themes → Custom Themes.

**Note**

During an upgrade the `/usr/sap/<SID>/SYS/global/forums/themes` directory is overwritten. Therefore, we recommend that before an upgrade you make a backup of your custom themes.

### 3.2.3 Example: Editing the CSS of a Custom Theme

After you create your own theme, you can edit the CSS files located in `\MyTheme\resources` to customize the forums look and feel. To do that you can use some of the developer tools that integrate with web browsers, for example, Microsoft Internet Explorer’s integrated Developer Tool, or Firebug in Mozilla Firefox. With these tools you can easily locate the CSS classes that you need to edit to change the forums.

The example below shows how to change the background color of the table headers from `#C6C9CC` to `#F7ED79`:

1. Use your browser’s developer tools to identify the CSS classes that are used.
2. Edit the file `\MyTheme\resources\style.css` as follows:
   ```
   .jive-table THEAD TH {
      FONT-SIZE: 0.7em;
      font-weight : bold;
      text-align : center;
      background-color : #F7ED79;
      color : #000;
      border-top : 1px #F7ED79 solid;
      border-bottom : 1px #F7ED79 solid;
   }
   ```
The screenshots below show the forum application before and after editing the CSS.

**Default color:**
Color after editing the CSS: