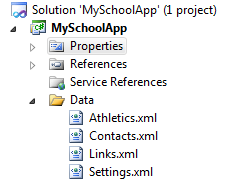
How to Customize MySchoolApp

# Overview

The MySchoolApp project is built to allow you to update easily the content and the appearance to match your school. This document steps you through customizing the application. Specifically:

* Customize the settings and data
* Customize the appearance and content

# Customize the settings and data

Customizing the dynamic content and data sources of the MySchoolApp is accomplished by updating the XML files found in the Data folder. The “Settings.xml” file contains multiple values used throughout the application and the remaining files correspond directly to their respective section of the application.

## Settings.xml

This XML file provides multiple values used throughout the application. The values of the individual nodes are used in the following manner.

* **name** – used as the title of the main and subpages. The value should be your school name.
* **themeColor1** – used as the color for the first colored band at the top of each page. The value is set using the hexadecimal format for a color (rrggbb). The value may be preceded by a “#” symbol for clarity. Optionally, a value for alpha may be passed using the (aarrggbb) format.
* **themeColor2** – used as the color for the second colored band at the top of each page. The value is set the same as themeColor1.
* **newsUrl** – used as the RSS feed url for the “what’s new” section. The value should be set to an RSS feed containing recent school news.
* **bingMapsKey** – used to request the static map on the MainPage and the dynamic map on the MapPage. BingMapsKeys are available at the [Bing Maps Account Center](http://www.bingmapsportal.com/). If a key is not supplied, a warning will be shown on the MainPage.
* **location(s)** – values are used for the pin points that appear on the dynamic map on the MapPage. The latitude and longitude of the first location is used for both the static map on MainPage and the weather forecast.

## Contacts.xml

This XML file provides multiple values for the Contacts section on the MainPage. The vales of the individual nodes are used in the following manner.

* **name** – used as the title for the contact in the list
* **photoUrl** – used as the photo for the contact in the list
* **email** – opens a new email page when tapped
* **phoneNumber** – opens a call prompt dialog when tapped

## Links.xml

This XML file provides multiple values for the Links section on the MainPage. The vales of the individual nodes are used in the following manner.

* **title** – used as the title for the contact in the list
* **url** – opens a Browser window when tapped
* **isRSS** – if this attribute is present on the link element, rather than opening a Browser window, a FeedPage will be opened. The url will then be requested and the results will be treated as an RSS feed. Feed items will be displayed in a list and when tapped, a Browser window will open displaying the feed item url.

## Athletics.xml

This XML file is setup in the same way as the “Links.xml” and is used to support the “athletics” section on the MainPage.

# Customize the appearance and content

Customizing the appearance and content of the MySchoolApp is accomplished by providing new graphics and using Visual Studio or Expression Blend.

## Application Title

The title of your application that is displayed when it’s installed on the Windows Phone can be changed by modifying the project properties. To open the properties editor select the Project > MySchoolApp Properties option from the File menu.

Change the value of the “Title” fields found under “Deployment options” and “Tile options” to better represent your school name.

## Application Icon

The “/Application.png” file is the image displayed next to the application in the installed apps list on the phone. This file must be 62x62 pixels and transparency is supported.

## Pinned Application Icon

The “/Background.png” file is the image displayed when the application is pinned to the phone start screen. This file must be 173x173 pixels and transparency is supported.

## Splash Screen Image

The “/SplashScreenImage.jpg” file is the image that fills the screen, while the application is loading. This file must be 480x800.

## Top Color Bands

As previously discussed in the “Settings.xml” file section, the top two color bands are determined by the values given for the themeColor1 and themeColor2 elements.

## School Logo

The “/Resources/logo.jpg” file is the image displayed in the upper left corner of the MainPage. This file should be at least 160x160 and is automatically clipped to fit within the circle area provided.

## The Athletics section

The Athletics section could be easily repurposed by simply changing the Header property of the PanoramaItem currently set to “athletics” to another topic. The links in the “Athletics.xml” would then need to be updated to reflect the new topic.

As another alternative the Athletics section can be removed by completing the following steps:

1. Delete the PanoramaItem with the Header property set to “athletics” in MainPage.xaml
2. Delete the following line in the *resetListBoxes* method of MainPage.xaml.cs  
     
   athleticsListBox.SelectedIndex = -1;
3. Delete the following line in the *loadlinks* method of MainViewModel.cs  
     
   parseLinkFile("/Data/Athletics.xml").ForEach(x => AthleticLinks.Add(x));

## The Campus Map section

This section can be used as an alternative to the “map” section in case a BingMapsKey is not available. The “/Resources/campusmap.jpg” file is the image displayed and should be sized be 376x376.

The section can be easily removed by deleting the PanoramaItem with the Header property set to “campus map” in the MainPage.xaml file.