

Code Repository Exercises

CSS, Themes, and Skins

Purpose: The purpose of this exercise is to familiarize you with ASP.NET Themes and Skins, which are used to create a customized look-and-feel for Web Server controls. You'll see what themes consist of and where to create them in an ASP.NET application. You will also see how the theme can be changed programmatically.

Directory Name: Themes_Skins

Instructions:

1. Open the web.config file of your repository application. Somewhere inside the <configuration> element (but not inside the <system.web> element) paste in the following (if you already have a <connectionStrings> element, paste only the contents of the <add> element inside the existing <connectionStrings> element):

```
<connectionStrings>
    <add name="NorthwindConnectionString" connectionString="Data
Source=johnson.usu.edu;Initial Catalog=Northwind;User
ID=Northwind_user;Password=northwind"
        providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />
</connectionStrings>
```

(Note: This provides a connection to a SQL Server Database that is needed for this exercise).

2. Download and extract the starting files. Do the following:
 - a. Place the *ThemeDemo.aspx* and *ThemeDemo.aspx.cs* files into the *Themes_Skins* directory you created for this exercise
 - b. Create a new ASP.NET *App_Themes* folder in the **root directory** (not the *Themes_Skins* directory) of your application (right click on the root directory, select 'Add ASP.NET Folder', and select 'Theme'). Delete the default *Theme1* folder created by Visual Studio within the *App_Themes* folder. Copy all of the theme folders (MSN_Blue, MSN_CherryBlossom, etc.) included in the starting files into the *App_Themes* folder (Hint: It might be easier to do this using Windows Explorer than using Visual Studio).
3. Browse through the contents of each of the themes you just copied. Notice that they contain images, css file(s) and skin file(s). Look inside several of these files to get a feel for what they contain.
4. The *ThemeDemo.aspx* file contains a DropDownList to allow the user to select a different theme for the page. However, this functionality is not implemented in the code-behind file. Implement this functionality. When the user changes the selection in the DropDownList, the page should re-load with the chosen theme. If the user selects "none", then no theme should be applied. (Hint: The theme can be set programmatically by setting the *Page.Theme* property. However, this must be done in the Page_Preload event handler method, which occurs before

Page_Load and before any control event handler methods. Therefore, you will need to use some mechanism of preserving the selected theme in a state variable and then reposting the page.)

Header on Default.aspx: CSS, Themes, and Skins

Pages linked from Default.aspx: *ThemeDemo.aspx*