

How to use the forrest:view config-DSL

This How-To describes the usage of the forrest:view config Domain Specific Language to create beautiful website in no time.

Table of contents

1 Intended Audience.....	2
2 Purpose.....	2
3 Prerequisites.....	2
4 Steps.....	2
4.1 Empty view file.....	2

1. Intended Audience

Warning:

"Views" are new functionality which is still in development phase. That is why it is in the "whiteboard" section of the Forrest distribution. This HowTo is far from being finished.

This part of the views is dedicated to webdesigner and user with some knowlegde of css.

2. Purpose

This how-to will show you how to write a forrest:view from ground on. We will focus on html as output format. As well it will show how to add your own css implementation to the view.

3. Prerequisites

- You have a ready-to-go new seed based on views (like described in Install views).

4. Steps

We developed forrest:view to let the user decide where to place elements in e.g. html-pages. We started this work with the `skinconf.xml` where you could configure certain elements and their positions. This elements was known under certain names. It was up to the skin-designer to support this configuration and the elements.

The work started with grouping elements (the ones from `skinconf`). We used css-contracts that we added as `@attributes` e.g. `<div id="content-main"/>`. That made it possible to use the same elements in different skins. For the full list refer to the inicial contract list

Around this contracts we developed a configuration Domain Specific Language and called it `forrest:view`. `forrest:view`'s allows us to define the order in which `forrest:contract`'s appear, and also to group them using `forrest:hook`'s.

`forrest:hook`'s are container that are only used for layout reasons. They **do not** add any content nor functionality to the output. They add **only** layout information to the output.

`forrest:contract`'s are functionality or extra content that a skin can use to display the requested document (content-main). Sometimes a contact delivers format specific markup, other times it delivers a format-independent string.

4.1. Empty view file

```
<forrest:views xmlns:forrest="http://apache.org/forrest/templates/1.0" >
  <forrest:view type="xhtml">
    </forrest:view>
  </forrest:views>
```

`forrest:view` is designed to be open for any format that can use `forrest:view` as configuration file. The only format we implemented is `xhtml` for now. This is as well true for the delivered contracts.

Now lets start to skin our site. :)

