

Create a Layout Template

Steps

1. Create a new file for the layout template.

Note:

- The layout template must contain at least one pane.
- Exactly one of the panes must be called **ContentPane**.
- Each pane must have a name that is unique within the page.
- All panes must be defined as a server control by adding **runat="server"** to the element.
- A pane can be one of the following HTML elements: <td> (table cells), <div>, <p>, and .

Example: A very basic layout template.

- HTML

```
<div id="ContentPane" runat="server"></div>
```

- ASCX

```
<%@ Control language="vb" AutoEventWireup="false" Explicit="True" Inherits="DotNetNuke.UI.Skins.Skin" %>
<div id="ContentPane" runat="server"></div>
```

Example: A layout template with several panes, a header, a footer, and a LOGO theme object.

- HTML

```
<div id="wrapper">
  <div id="header">
    [LOGO]
  </div>
  <div id="sidebar">
    <div id="feed">
      <a class="feed-button" href="#">&nbsp;</a>
    </div>
    <div id="SidebarPane" class="SidebarPane" runat="server"></div>
    <div id="sidebar-bottom">&nbsp;</div>
  </div>
  <div id="content">
    <div id="BannerPane" class="BannerPane" runat="server"></div>
    <div id="ContentPane" runat="server"></div>
  </div>
  <div id="footer"></div>
</div>
```

- ASCX

```
<%@ Control language="vb" AutoEventWireup="false" Explicit="True" Inherits="DotNetNuke.UI.Skins.Skin" %>
<%@ Register TagPrefix="dnn" TagName="LOGO" Src="~/Admin/Skins/Logo.ascx" %>
<div id="wrapper">
  <div id="header">
    <dnn:LOGO runat="server" id="dnnLOGO" />
  </div>
  <div id="sidebar">
    <div id="feed">
      <a class="feed-button" href="#">&nbsp;</a>
    </div>
    <div id="MySidebarPane" class="SidebarPane" runat="server"></div>
    <div id="sidebar-bottom">&nbsp;</div>
  </div>
```

```

<div id="content">
  <div id="MyBannerPane" class="MyBannerPane" runat="server"></div>
  <div id="ContentPane" runat="server"></div>

</div>
<div id="footer"></div>
</div>

```

Tip: ASP.NET might modify the control names (e.g., **div id**) when the page is rendered to avoid duplicate control names in a page. Instead of depending on the control name when styling, add a **class** attribute to each of the controls and refer to those class attributes in your CSS.

2. (Optional) Add theme objects to any pane for a more dynamic page.
 - In HTML, you can use the HTML token (example: [LOGIN]).

Example:

```

<div id="login_style" class="user">
  [LOGIN]
</div>

```

- In ASCX, you must register the ASCX token (example: <dnn:Login ...>) before using it for the first time in the file.

Example:

```

<%@ Register TagPrefix="dnn" TagName="Login" Src="~/Admin/Skins/login.ascx" %>
...
<div id="login_style" class="user">
  <dnn:Login runat="server" id="dnnLogin" CssClass="user" />
</div>

```

A default DNN installation includes the following theme objects:

BANNER	LEFTMENU	SOLPARTMENU
BREADCRUMB	LINKS	STYLES
COPYRIGHT	LOGIN	TAGS
CURRENTDATE	LOGO	TERMS
DOTNETNUKE	MENU	TEXT
HELP	NAV	TREEVIEW
HOSTNAME	PRIVACY	USER
LANGUAGE	SEARCH	

Tip: [10 Pound Gorilla's Skinning Tool](#) is both a reference and a tool that customizes the code for DNN theme objects, based on the attribute values you specify.

See Also

- DNN Wiki: [DotNetNuke Skins](#)
- [Create CSS](#)
- [Create a Container](#)

Sources

- DNN Community blog: [DotNetNuke Skinning 101 \(Part 1\) and DotNetNuke Skinning 101 \(Part 2\)](#) by [Joe Brinkman](#)
- DNN Professional Training: Creating HTML Skins