eveloping a portlet application using IBM Portlet Container ools for WAS Liberty Profile and consuming it using WSRP
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#### **Overview**

IBM Portlet Container Tools for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile hosted at <a href="IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog">IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog</a> is a light weight set of tools to speed up the development and test process for portlet development targeted for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile. It offers the capabilities to create JSR 286 & JSR 168 compliant portlet projects targeted to the IBM WebSphere Application Server Liberty profiles. It offers capabilities to deploy the portlet projects from within the workspace to the Liberty profile to speed up the test and development process.

The article will illustrate how you can create and publish a JSR 286 portlet project on WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile server using IBM Portlet Container Tools for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile and then how the same portlet application can be consumed as a remote service by WebSphere Portal Server.

## **Usecase**

The objective is to depict the process of creating deploying the portlet over WAS Liberty profile and then consume them though the WebSphere Portal Server. To achieve this you will work with a portlet project containing two portlets, the publisher portlet would publish the event and the subscribed portlet would listen to the published event.

- The portlets would communicate with each other via JSR286 based events mechanism.
- Both the portlets would be deployed to the WAS Liberty profile.
- Finally you would configure the WSRP (i.e. web services for remote portlets) producer on a
  WebSphere Portal server and consume these portlets through WSRP by placing them on a
  portal page.

We would keep the events usecase simple by passing a string parameter across the publisher and subscriber portlet.

# Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP)

Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP) provides a standard for the communication between Producers who provide WSRP services and Consumers who consume them. WSRP defines a web service communication interface for presentation-oriented Web services. Producers and consumers use this interface for providing and consuming the Web services.

WSRP is based on open standards to enable cross product interoperability. WSRP allows non-portal technologies to integrate with WebSphere Portal. With WSRP portal users can choose from a rich variety of remote content, portlets and applications to integrate them into their portal.

# **Prerequisites**

To achieve the usecase, you need to install the following software:

• IBM Portlet Container Tools for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile, it would be installe don top of IBM WebSphere Developer Tools, you can get the detailed instructions at IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog.

- WebSphere Application Server V8.5.5 Liberty Profile. At the add-ons dialog you need to select
  the additional features IBM WAS Liberty Profile Extended Content, Portlet Container &
  Portlet Serving while installing the profile. The Portlet Container serves as the runtime
  environment for portlet applications and Portlet Serving is required by the toolkit for
  development scenarios.
- IBM WebSphere Portal v 8.0.
- Download the WSRP Producer for WebSphere Application Server Liberty profile from the IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog.

You can prepare the development environment by following the instructions provided in the readme file for the <u>IBM Portlet Container Tools for WAS Liberty profile</u>. To install IBM WebSphere Portal you can follow the instructions at the Portal infocenter (link provided in resources section).

# Developing the sample portlet application

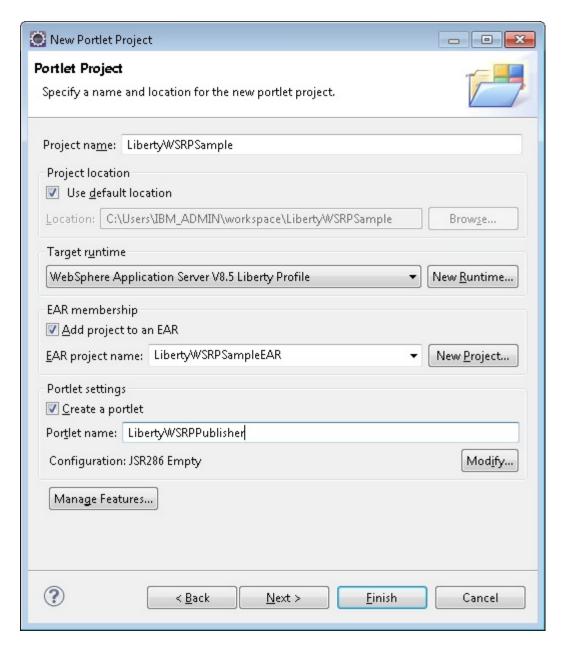
## Creating the Portlet project and publisher portlet

You would create a portlet project with two portlet, use LibertyWSRPSample as the portlet project name, LibertyWSRPPublisher as the first portlet name and LibertyWSRPSubscriber as the name for the second portlet. To create the portlet project

Select File->New->Portlet Project. The Project creation dialog as shown in fig.1 would launch

- Enter LibertyWSRPSample as the portlet project name.
- Select WebSphere Application Server v8.5 Liberty Profile as your target runtime.
- Select the Create a portlet checkbox.
- Enter the Portlet name as LibertyWSRPPublisher.
- Click the modify button of the Configuration label, and select JSR286 as portlet API and Empty portlet as Portlet type.
- Click Finish.

Figure 1: New portlet project wizard



The portlet project containing the LibertyWSRPPublisher portlet would be created in the workspace. The class LibertyWSRPPublisherPortlet would be opened by default in the editor.

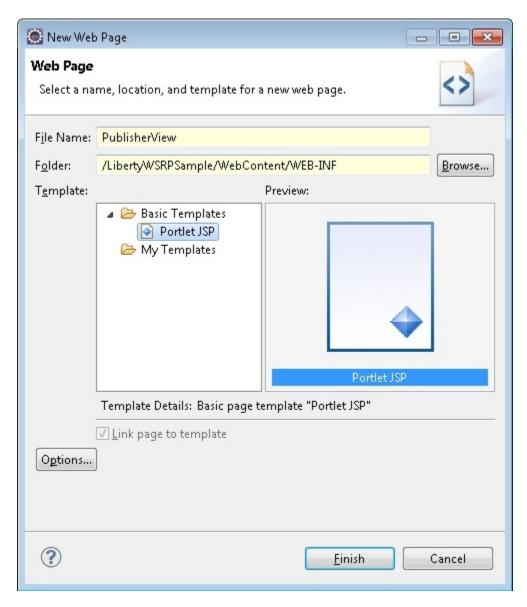
# View creation for the publisher portlet

The empty portlet type doesn't have a portlet JSP created by default so you need to create a JSP view for the portlet created above. To create a JSP file,

- In the Project Explorer, right-click on the WebContent folder of your portlet project.
- Select New > Web Page.
- The Web Page wizard will open. Enter the JSP name as PublisherView
- Select the Portlet JSP as a Template

• Press Finish.

Figure 2: New web page for the LibertyWSRPPublisher portlet



A new web page PublisherView.jsp would be created in the WebContent folder of your project and would be opened in your workspace.

# Updating the Portlet Class and portlet configuration file

You need to add the desired logic to the portlet to make it work as per desired usecase. There are few changes that you need to take care of like referencing the portlet JSP in the portlet class file, event definition in portlet configuration (i.e. portlet.xml) and then add the corresponding login in processAction() method of portlet class file.

#### Reference of View JSP in the portlet class

Open the portlet class file LibertyWSRPPublisherPortlet under Java Resources, In its doView() method, uncomment the following lines of code and make sure you replace the parameter provided here with the value of the JSP file.

The updated method would look like the snippet below.

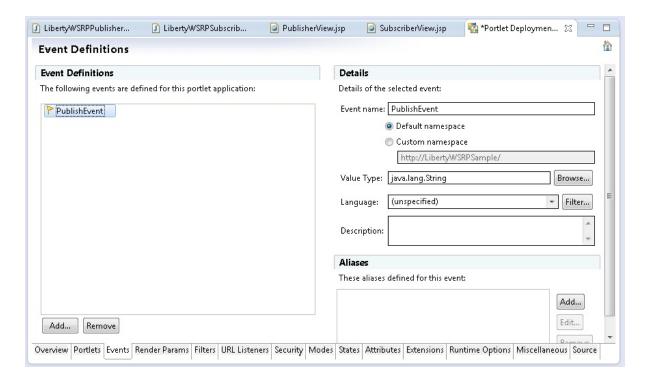
#### Code Snippet 1: doView() method in LibertyWSRPPublisherPortlet.java

# **Event definition for publisher portlet**

Now you would define the JSR event that you intend to send across the portlet. To achieve that,

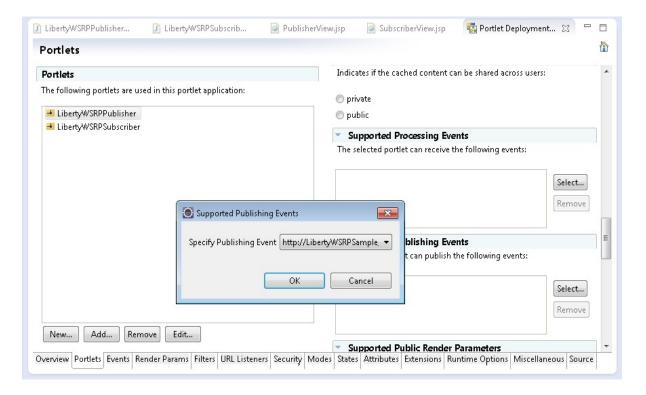
- Select the node Portlet deployment descriptor (or portlet.xml) in project explorer.
- Open it.
- It would open the portlet.xml with the visual editor.
- Select the Event tab from the tabs listed at bottom of editor.
- Press the Add button to create a new event. See Figure 3

Figure 3: Events tab in Portlet deployment descriptor.



- In the Details section enter the name as PublishEvent.
- Enter the Value Type as java.lang.string
- Save the changes.
- Select the Portlet tab to display the portlet(s) available in the project.
- Select the portlet LibertyWSRPPublisher
- Scroll down to the section Supported Publishing Events.
- Press the Select button
- In the dialog with dropdown listing the defined events, select the PublishEvent. See Figure 4

Figure 4: Supported Publishing Events in portlet tab



- Press OK
- Save the changes

In above steps you have first defined an event with name PublishEvent to the portlet project and then you have added the PublishEvent as a publish event for the portlet LibertyWSRPPublisher. Move to the Source tab to ensure the portlet.xml has the desired configuration changes.

Portlet.xml should have event definition tags added to it, outside the portlet tags in the file.

The portlet tag should have supported-publishing-event tag added to it with the event name.

# Updating the processAction() for event handling

To publish the event across other applications, you need to update the processAction() method in the portlet class file.

```
Declare the following parameter to the portlet class public static final String PUBLISHEVENT_PARAM = "PUBLISHEVENT_PARAM";
```

Add the following snippet to processAction() method.

#### Code Snippet 2: Set event in processAction() method of publisher portlet

The updated method should look like the following snippet

#### Code Snippet 3: processAction() method in LibertyWSRPPublisherPortlet.java

# Designing the portlet JSP for publisher portlet

Finally you would design the portlet JSP as the use case. For the usecase you would have an input text and a submit button to receive the user input and send it across. Replace the JSP content by the snippet shared below.

#### Code Snippet 4: code snippet for PublisherView.jsp

```
<%@page language="java"</pre>
    contentType="text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1" pageEncoding="ISO-8859-1"
session="false"%>
<%@taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/portlet 2 0"</pre>
prefix="portlet"%><portlet:defineObjects />
<form method="POST" action="<portlet:actionURL/>">
    Publisher
<u>Portlet</u> for the
                  WSRP use case <br > <br > 
         <t.r>
              Enter your text message here.
              <input name="PUBLISHEVENT PARAM" value="" type="text"
size="50">
         <input name="submit"
value="Pass It On" size ="30" type="submit">
         </form>
```

At this stage, your first portlet LibertyWSRPPublisher is ready for deployment. You can test it by publishing the portlet to the server. To test the Portlet, you need to

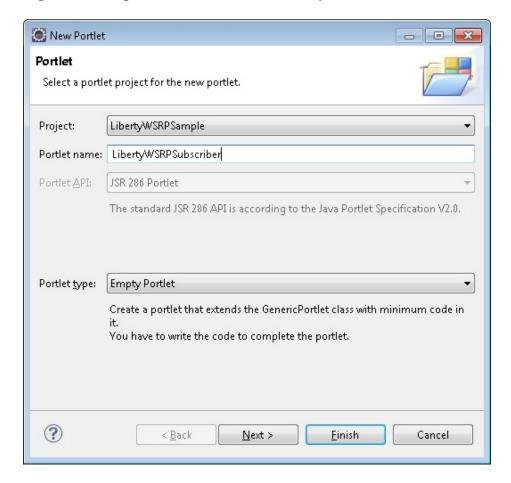
- Switch to the Server view
- Create a server instance for WebSphere Application Server Liberty profile
- Use Run On Server option to publish the portlet project (described in section <u>Publishing the</u> portlet to Server).

# Creating the subscriber portlet

To create the second portlet i.e. LibertyWSRPSubscriber porlet, Select the portlet project and then select File->New->Portlet. The Portlet creation dialog would launch

- Enter the Portlet name as LibertyWSRPSubscriber.
- Select Finish

Figure 5: New portlet wizard for the LibertyWSRPSubscriber



The portlet project LibertyWSRPSample would now contain two portlets, LibertyWSRPPublisher portlet and LibertyWSRPSubscriber portlet.

## View creation for the subscriber portlet

Use the steps above to create the JSP for the LibertyWSRPSubscriber portlet with the name as SubscriberView.

## **Updating the Portlet Class and portlet configuration file**

Similar to the above portlet, you need to add the desired logic to the portlet to enable it to process the received event. There are few changes that you need to take care of like referencing the portlet JSP in the portlet class file, event definition in portlet configuration (i.e. portlet.xml) and then add the corresponding login in processEvent() method of portlet class file.

#### Reference of View JSP in the portlet class

To render and invoke the correct portlet view JSP

- Open the portlet class LibertyWSRPsubscriberPortlet under Java Resources.
- In its doView() method, uncomment the following lines of code

```
PortletRequestDispatcher rd =
getPortletContext().getRequestDispatcher("/subscriberView.jsp");
rd.include(request,response);
```

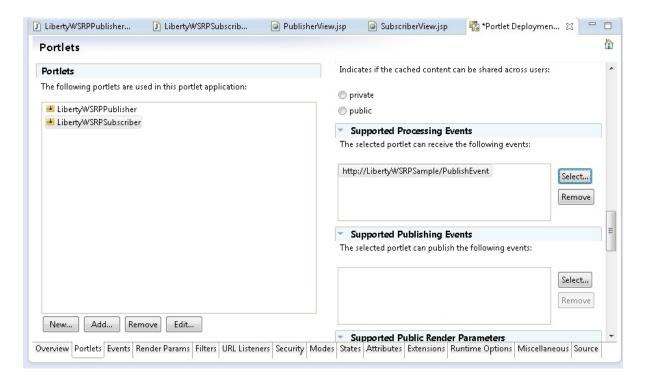
• Replace the parameter provided in auto generated code with the correct name of the JSP file.

## **Event definition for subscriber portlet**

Now you would define the JSR event that you intend to send across the portlet. To achieve that,

- Select the node Portlet deployment descriptor (or portlet.xml) in project explorer.
- Open it.
- It would open the portlet.xml with the visual editor.
- Select the portlet tab to display the portlet(s) available in the project.
- Select the portlet LibertyWSRPSubscriber
- Scroll down to the section Supported Processing Events.
- Press the Select button
- Select the PublishEvent from the list of defined events. See Figure 6

#### Figure 6: Supported Processing Events in portlet tab



- Press OK
- Save the changes

The above steps would add the the PublishEvent as a processed event for the portlet LibertyWSRPSubscriber. Move to the Source tab to ensure the portlet.xml has the desired configuration changes.

Portlet.xml should have event definition tags added to it, outside the portlet tags in the file.

The portlet tag for LibertyWSRPSubscriber should have supported-processing-event tag added to it with the event name.

## **Event handling for subscriber portlet**

To process the event, you need to add a method the processEvent()in the portlet class file for the subscriber portlet.

- Declare the following parameter to the portlet class
   public static final String PUBLISHEVENT\_PARAM = "PUBLISHEVENT\_PARAM";
   private String eventValue = "";
- Add the following processEvent() method to the portlet class

#### Code Snippet 5: processEvent() method in LibertyWSRPSubscriberPortlet.java

• Set the parameter PUBLISHEVENT\_PARAM to the event value by adding the following statement to the doView() method.

```
request.setAttribute(PUBLISHEVENT PARAM, eventValue);
```

The updated doView() method would look like the snippet below:

#### Code Snippet 6: doView() method in LibertyWSRPSubscriberPortlet.java

## Designing the portlet JSP for subscriber portlet

Finally you would design the portlet JSP for the subscriber JSP to receive and process the event. Replace the JSP content by the snippet shared below.

#### **Code Snippet 7: code snippet for SubscriberView.jsp**

# Deploying the portlet application

# Configuring WSRP producer for WAS liberty profile and enabling the add-on features

Next you need to configure the WSRP producer for WAS Liberty profile to enable All WSRP compliant Consumer portals to consume and integrate portlets that are provided by the WSRP Producer. To achieve the same

- Copy the "was.wsrp.producer.ear" in dropins folder, the sample path is <Liberty\_Home>\usr\servers\defaultServer\dropins, where <Liberty\_Home> denotes the root installation folder.
- Add the following entry in the server.xml (located at <Liberty\_Home>\usr\servers\defaultServer)
   <webContainer deferServletLoad="false"/>
- To enable the add-on features recommended in pre-requisite section, add the following entries to server.xml of your WAS liberty profile.

Refer the following code snippet of the updated server.xml file for the profile.

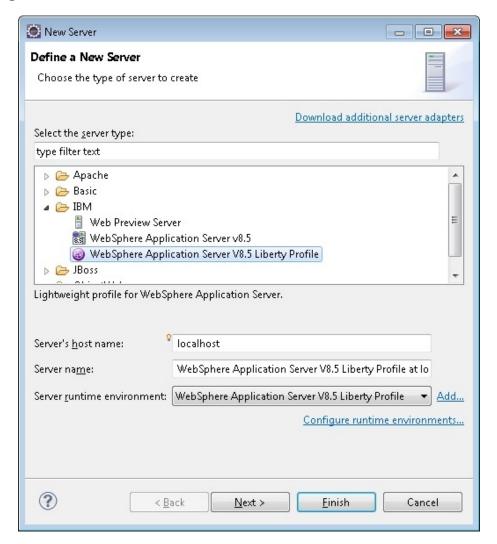
#### **Code Snippet 8: Server.xml for the WAS Liberty profile**

# **Publishing the portlet to Server**

To publish a project to the server, first you need to define a desired runtime for it, to define a runtime,

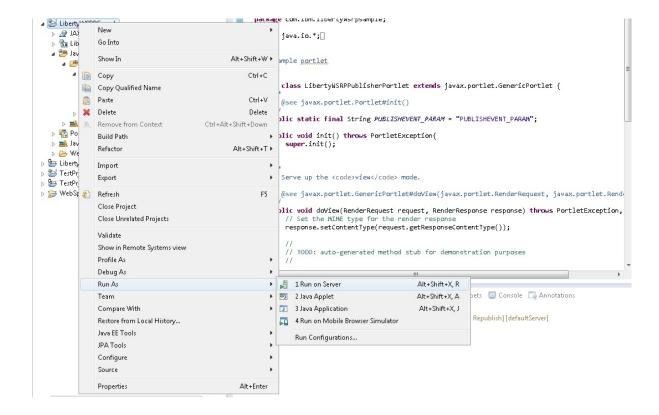
- Select Windows > Show View > Servers.
- Right-click in the Servers view and select New Server.
- Choose Server Type **IBM** > **WebSphere Application Server v8.5 Liberty Profile** from the list. See **Figure 7**.

Figure 7: New Server Wizard



- Select Next.
- Provide a path to an installed Liberty Profile runtime environment.
- Select Finish.
- Right-click on project and select Run as >Run on Server.
- Select WebSphere Application Server v8.5 Liberty Profile and click Finish. See Figure 8.

Figure 8: Run On Server option



# Configurations on WebSphere portal

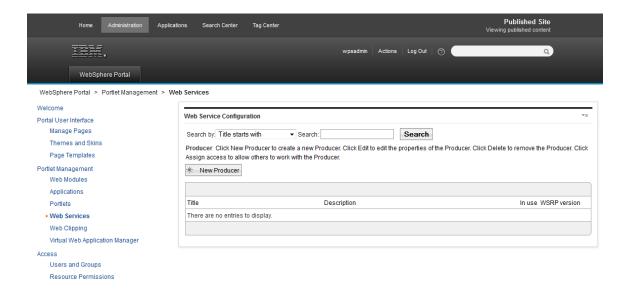
# Adding IBM WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile as Web Service Producer

As mentioned earlier, you have a WSRP Producer already installed on your IBM WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile, so when you publish your portlets to it, they are available to be consumed remotely. In this section we will see how it can be achieved.

#### To add a WSRP producer:

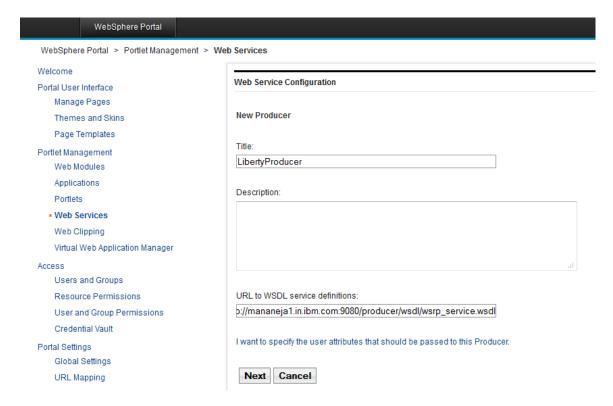
- Login to the portal home page, and browse to the administration console. The standard login url is https://<hostname>:<port>/wps/portal
- Navigate to Administration > Web Services.
- Select the **New Producer.** See Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Web Services Configuration** 



• Enter the title and location of wsdl on IBM WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile to add the server as a web service producer and click Next. See Figure 10.

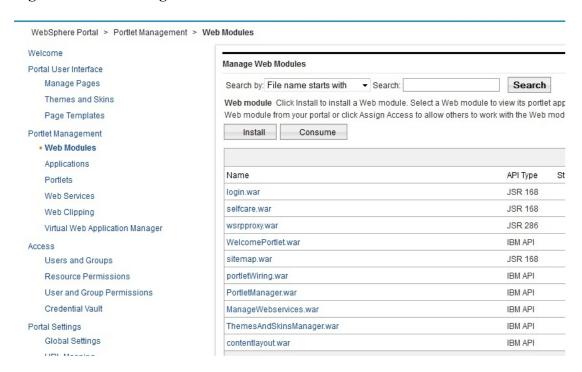
Figure 10: Web Service Producer Configuration



## Consuming the remote portlet application

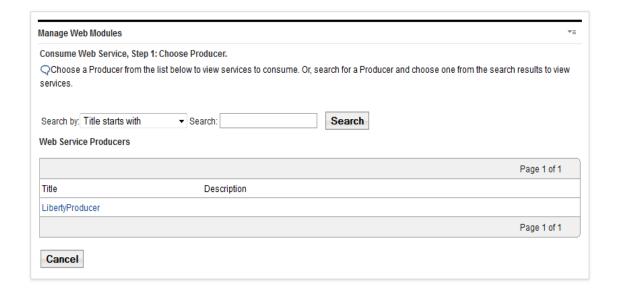
- The remote portlet application is to be consumed into IBM WebSphere Portal v8.0.
- Navigate to the **Web Modules**, and select **Consume**. See Figure 11.

Figure 11: Consuming web modules



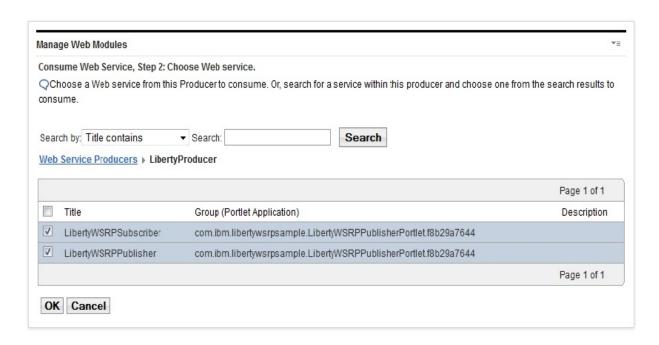
• Select the web services producer that you have created earlier. See Figure 12.

Figure 12: Manage web module



• All remote portlets that are available for consumption are listed on the page. Select the **LibertyWSRPPublisher and LibertyWSRPsubscriber** portlet and click **Ok**. The remote source portlets are now available for addition to any IBM WebSphere Portal v8.0 page. See Figure 13.

Figure 13: Selecting remote web module

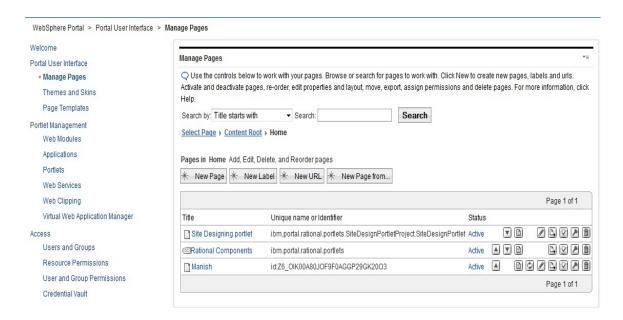


# Creating portal page

To create a portal page for hosting the remote portlet:

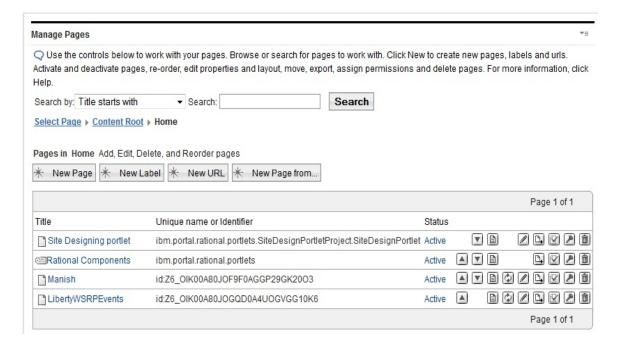
- Open the IBM WebSphere Portal v8 administration console and select **Administration** > **Manage Pages**.
- Select Content Root > Home page.
- Select **New Page**. See Figure 14.

Figure 14: New portal page creation



- Enter LibertyWSRPEvents as page title and click **Ok** to create the portal page.
- The newly created portal page will be added to the existing pages list. See Figure 15.

**Figure 15: Manage Pages** 



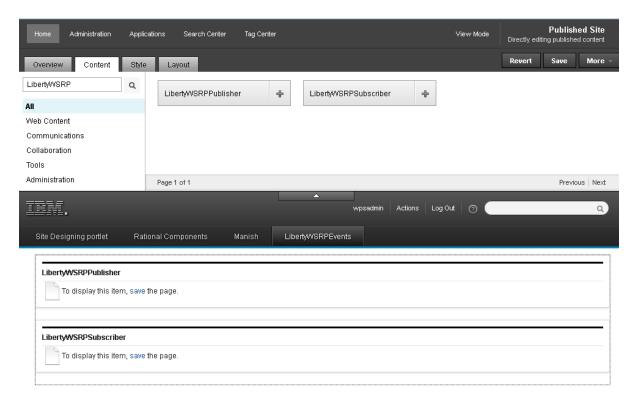
# Adding portlets to portal page

To add the portlets to the newly created portal page:

• Open the page created LibertyWSRPEvents and switch to Edit Mode.

- In the Edit Mode, select the **Content** tab to add the content to the page.
- Search for the subscriber and publisher portlets by using **LibertyWSRP** as the search parameter.
- Add both the portlets to the page. See Figure 16.
- Click **Save** to save the changes made to the page.

Figure 16: Add Content to the Page

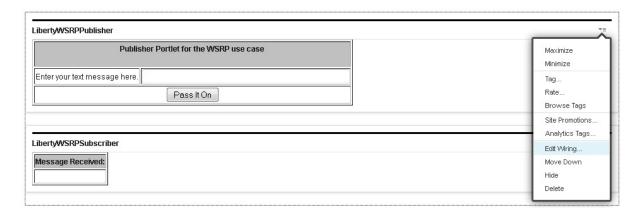


# Wiring the portlets

After adding the portlets to the page, wire them to start events brokered by the portal. To wire portlets:

• Select the **Edit Wiring** option in the portlet options menu. See Figure 17.

Figure 17: Creating wires for the portal page



- **Wiring** dialog would display (see Figure 18), select the portlet to send and receive the events in the dialog.
- Use the Done button to Save the wiring changes.

Figure 18: Wires created for the portal page



- Save the changes made to the Portal Page.
- Switch to View Mode.

### Result

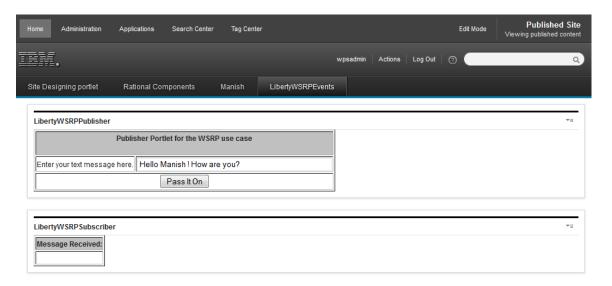
• To see the portlets in action, navigate to LibertyWSRPEvents page under Home menu. See Figure 19.

Figure 19: Portlets displayed on Portal page



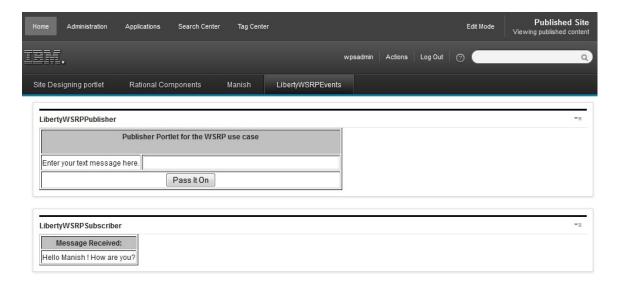
- Enter a string in the message box for LibertyWSRPPublisher portlet. See Figure 20.
- Click the button.

Figure 20: String entered to the first portlet



• The page refreshes to show the same string appear in LibertyWSRPSubscriber portlet. See Figure 21.

Figure 21: Message displays in the subscriber portlet



# **Summary**

In this article, you first learnt how easily you can create and publish a portlet project targeted against WebSphere Application Server Liberty profile using IBM Portlet Container Tools for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile. Next you configured the two portlets to communicate with each other using JSR events mechanism. Finally you observed how a portlet hosted on IBM WebSphere Application Server Liberty profile can be consumed through IBM WebSphere Portal, using WSRP.

## Resources

- IBM Portlet Container Tools for WebSphere Application Server Liberty Profile at IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog, <a href="http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/47QE">http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/47QE</a>
- To install WebSphere Developer Tools, you can visit <a href="https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/#wasdev/view/535905568ee62f5d660003ea">https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/#wasdev/view/535905568ee62f5d660003ea</a>
- To install WebSphere Application Server V8.5.5 Liberty Profile, you can refer <a href="https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/liberty-profile-using-eclipse/">https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/liberty-profile-using-eclipse/</a>
- To install Portlet Container feature for WAS Liberty Profile, see the following link, https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/#wasdev/view/535abc8c528289eb2200006b

- To install Portlet Serving feature for WAS Liberty Profile, check the following link, https://developer.ibm.com/wasdev/downloads/#wasdev/view/5358f5b18ee62f5d660003dd
- The WSRP Producer for WAS Liberty Profile is available at the IBM Collaboration Solutions Catalog, <a href="http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/4A47">http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/4A47</a>
- IBM WSRP 2.0 Producer for WebSphere Application Server documentation, http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/MHGH
- IBM WebSphere Portal 8 product documentation, http://ibmurl.hursley.ibm.com/MHGG