

Exercise Solutions

Section 3 Lesson 6. Design & Layout Initialization

Exercise 1: View the Layout XML for a Single Page


Use your IDE to do this exercise.

Step 1. Output some page's merged XML

- a) We are going to do this exercise using the `PracticeController` from the `Training_Routing` module. Open the file `app/code/local/Training/Routing/controllers/PracticeController.php`.
- b) Add a new action method `pageLayoutXmlAction()`.
- c) In the method, add the following code.

```
public function pageLayoutXmlAction()
{
    $this->loadLayout();
    $this->getResponse()->setBody(
        $this->getLayout()->getUpdate()->asString()
    );
    $this->getResponse()->setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');
}
```

- d) Call the action in the browser by visiting the path `training/practice/pageLayoutXml`.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `mage-training.dev/training/practice/pageLayoutXml`. The main content area displays the following XML code:

```
<block name="formkey" type="core/template" template="core/formkey.phtml"/>
<label>All Pages</label>
<block type="page/html" name="root" output="toHtml" template="page/3columns
  <block type="page/html_head" name="head" as="head">
    <action method="addJs">
      <script>prototype/prototype.js</script>
    </action>
    <action method="addJs">
      <script>lib/ccard.js</script>
    </action>
    <action method="addJs">
      <script>prototype/validation.js</script>
    </action>
    <action method="addJs">
```

Step 2. (Optional) Write the XML to a file using `Mage::log()`

- a) `Mage::log` is a great debug method. To try it out, change the `pageLayoutXmlAction()` method to look like this.

```
public function pageLayoutXmlAction()
{
    $this->loadLayout();
    Mage::log($this->getLayout()->getUpdate()->asString());

    $this->getResponse()->setBody(
        'The page layout XML has been saved.'
    );
}
```

- b) Open the file `var/log/system.log`.

The layout XML has been saved to the log file.