

# Skin Management Utility(SMU)

## Getting Started

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This document will cover different aspects of the Skin Management Utility and will serve as documentation for the time being.

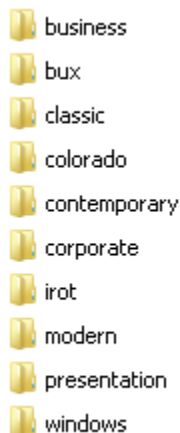
### 1. Preparing the Environment for the New Skin

Before you can begin to use SMU, one of the out of the box skins must be updated to contain all the images that are required for the new corporate skin that will be created. Once the folder has been renamed and updated with the images, then it should be copied to all the gateway machines in the environment. The skins folders contain more than just the files required for the Cognos Connection skin so these out of the box skins must be used as the template for creating new skins.

The default skins are found here:

<install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins

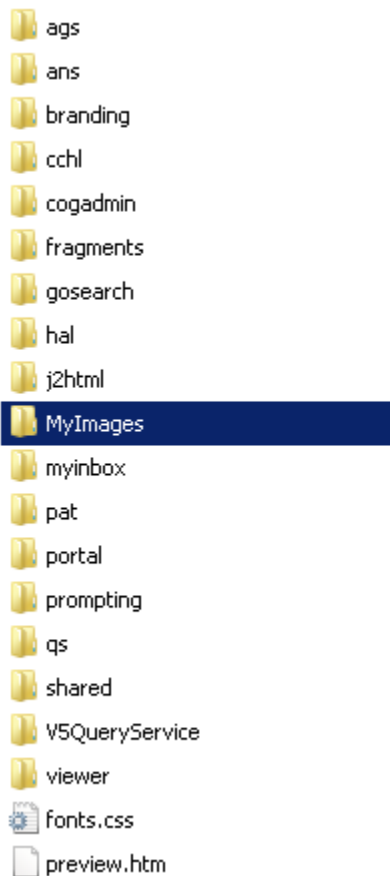
Image 1: Skins Location



In this demonstration the "contemporary" skin will be the skin that we work from. Copy the contemporary skin directory and paste it into the ..\skins directory giving it a name that you would like to name the skin. Keep in mind that this name will be exposed in the Cognos Connection UI for users to see. In this example we will name the skin "MyCompany". After copying the contemporary folder and renaming it MyCompany, open this directory and look at the contents and structure.

Now create a directory called "MyImages". This is the directory will be where the images are placed that will be used to replace the images in Cognos Connection that are currently used to skin the contemporary skin. See Image 2.

Image 2: Create Directory for new skin images



With this directory created you can now place all images in here.

**NOTE:** At this point of the process all the images required will likely not be known to you. This is fine. Once SMU is being used, the images required to be changed will become evident. Default images can be edited, or created from scratch, and saved to the MyImages directory and immediately used by SMU.

With this step complete, copy the MyCompany directory to all the gateway machines in the environment. Whenever a new image is required it must be copied to all the directories in the environment. One way to eliminate this step during the skin creation process is to work from a single gateway machine. As long as you are accessing SMU using a URL that specifies a physical gateway, then the skin can be created and once finished, it can be copied to all machines for full access by the environment.

Example: <http://MyGatewayMachineName/ibmcognos/SMU>

This will allow you to successfully edit, save, test and deploy the MyCompany skin without the immediate need of copying the images to the MyCompany directory on each machine. If you do this, there is no need to copy the MyCompany directory to the skins directory on every gateway machine either.

## 2. Launching the SMU UI

For the Beta, the SMU package is already deployed into the ..\webcontent directory and available for use. Navigate to the <install directory>\c10\webcontent\smu directory.

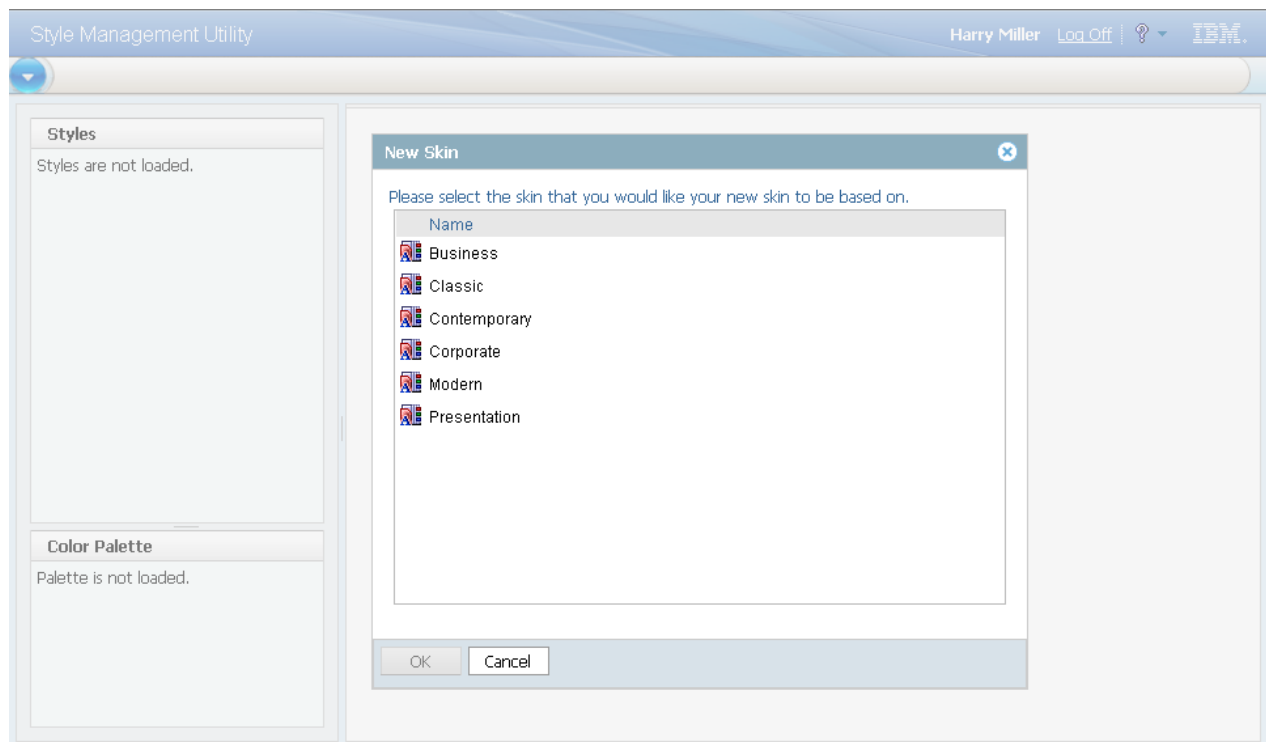
With the Cognos 10 beta application running, SMU is ready for use. In Firefox enter the following as the URL: "http://YourGatewayServerName/ibmcognos/smu" . If you have security setup, you will be prompted for a user id and password before getting access to the SMU application.

NOTE: In order to create, test, deploy, and make available to users you will need to be part of the "Portal Administrators" capability, or higher.

You will be presented with the Skin Management Utility's UI. see Image 3

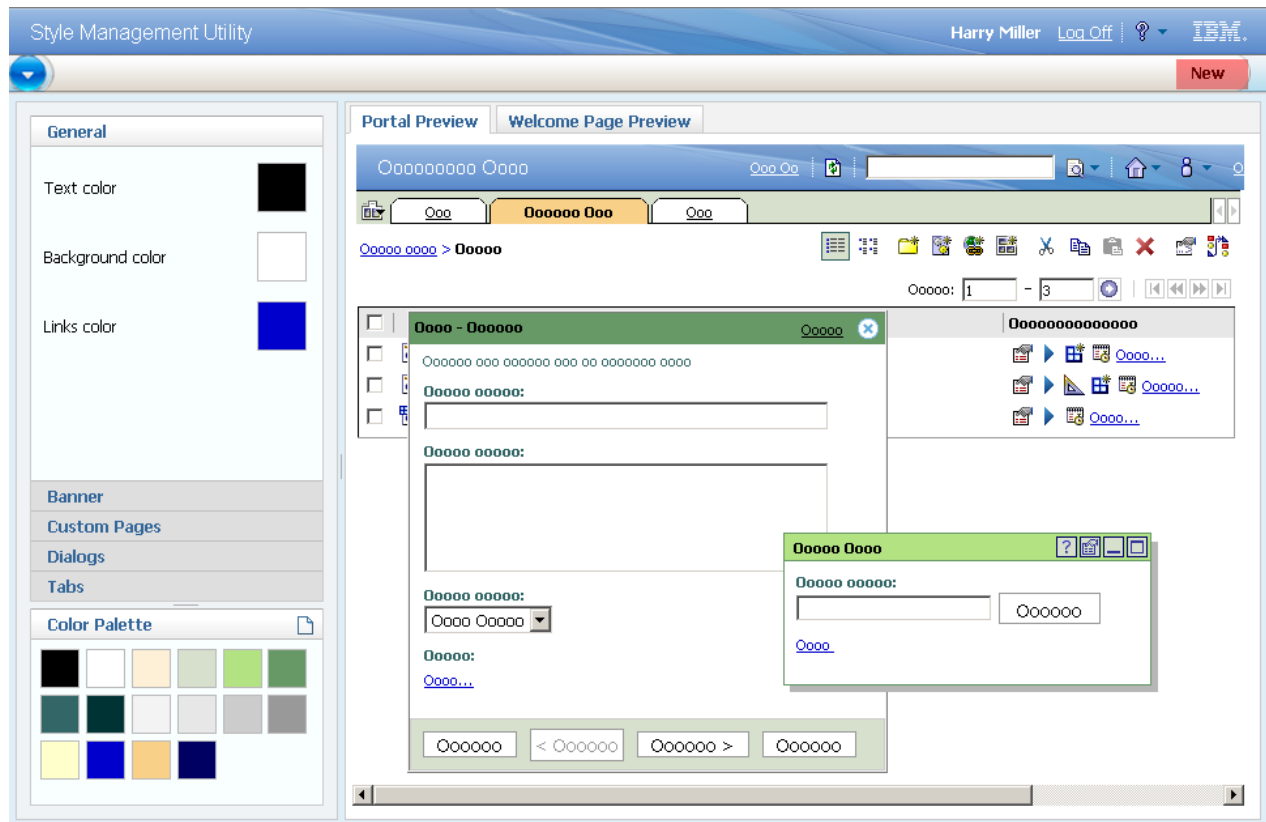
"ibmcognos" will be replaced by your beta applications correct web alias.

Image 3: SMU UI



As discussed earlier, new skins need to be based off existing skins. The new skin in this document is based off of the contemporary skin so that is what will be selected above. Once selected click the OK button to open the contemporary skin and see the default skins and colours. See image 4 which shows that the skin is named "new"(highlighted in red), top left of the UI but this is actually the contemporary skin that has been loaded.

Image 4: SMU with "new" skin open



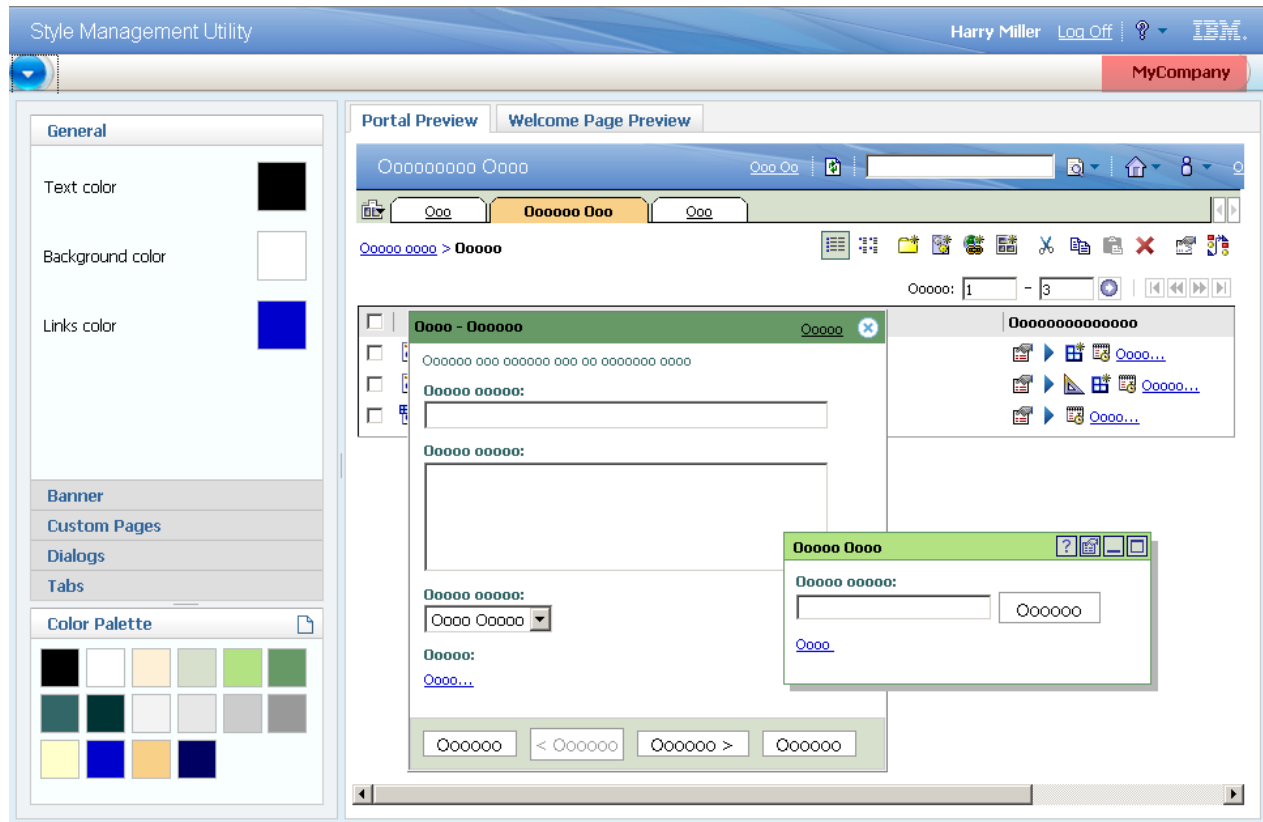
At the top left of SMU is the button that controls, Open, Save, Publish ... See Image 5

Image 5: SMU Skin Control



Now save this new skin as the same name that you gave the new directory that was created at the root of the <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins directory. In this case, MyCompany. See Image 6.

Image 6: New Skin called MyCompany



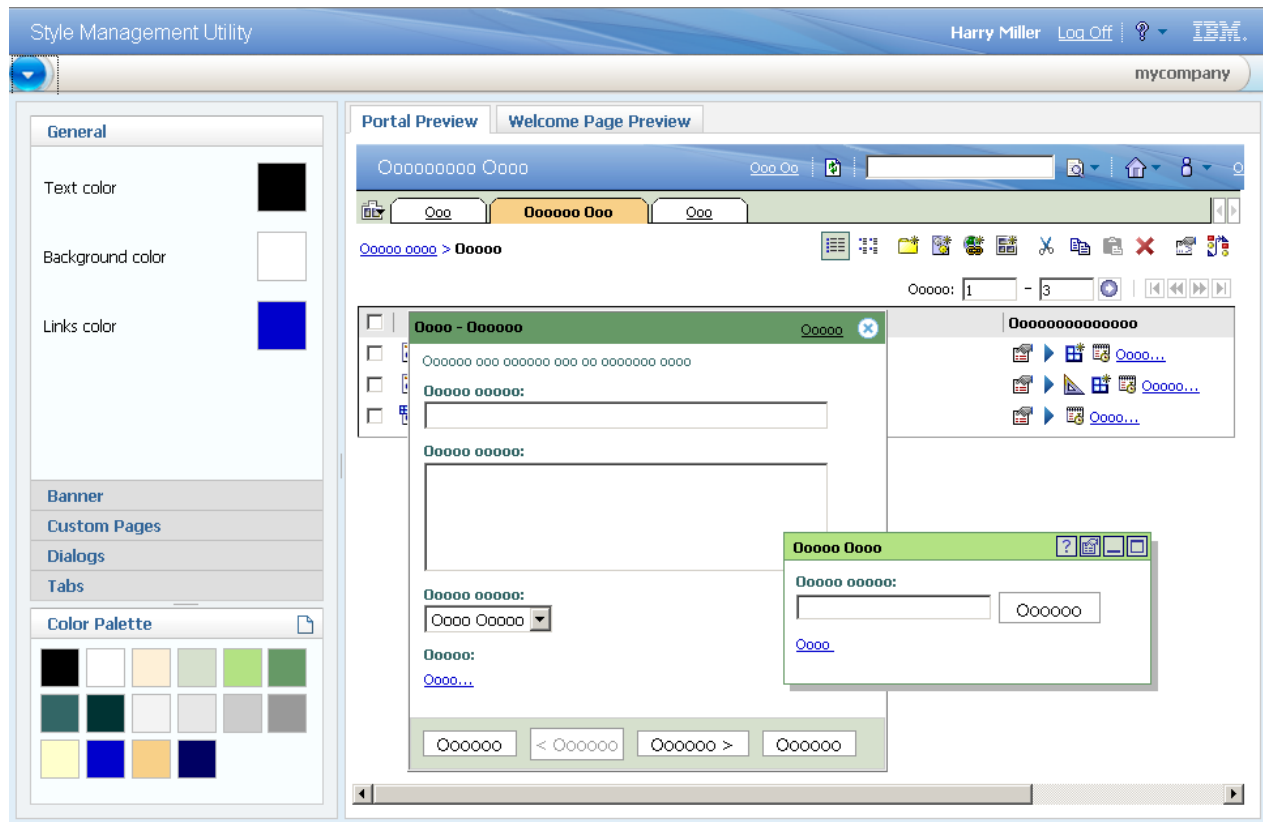
NOTE: For this beta version only, you will now have to select the SMU control and select Open. Open the new project that you just saved. This will reload the skin and it will now be using the MyCompany directory and the images within it. This will not be required when SMU is released.

The new skin, MyCompany, is now ready to be updated to use any new images that are created or updated and put into the <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\MyCompany directory.

### 3. Navigating the SMU UI

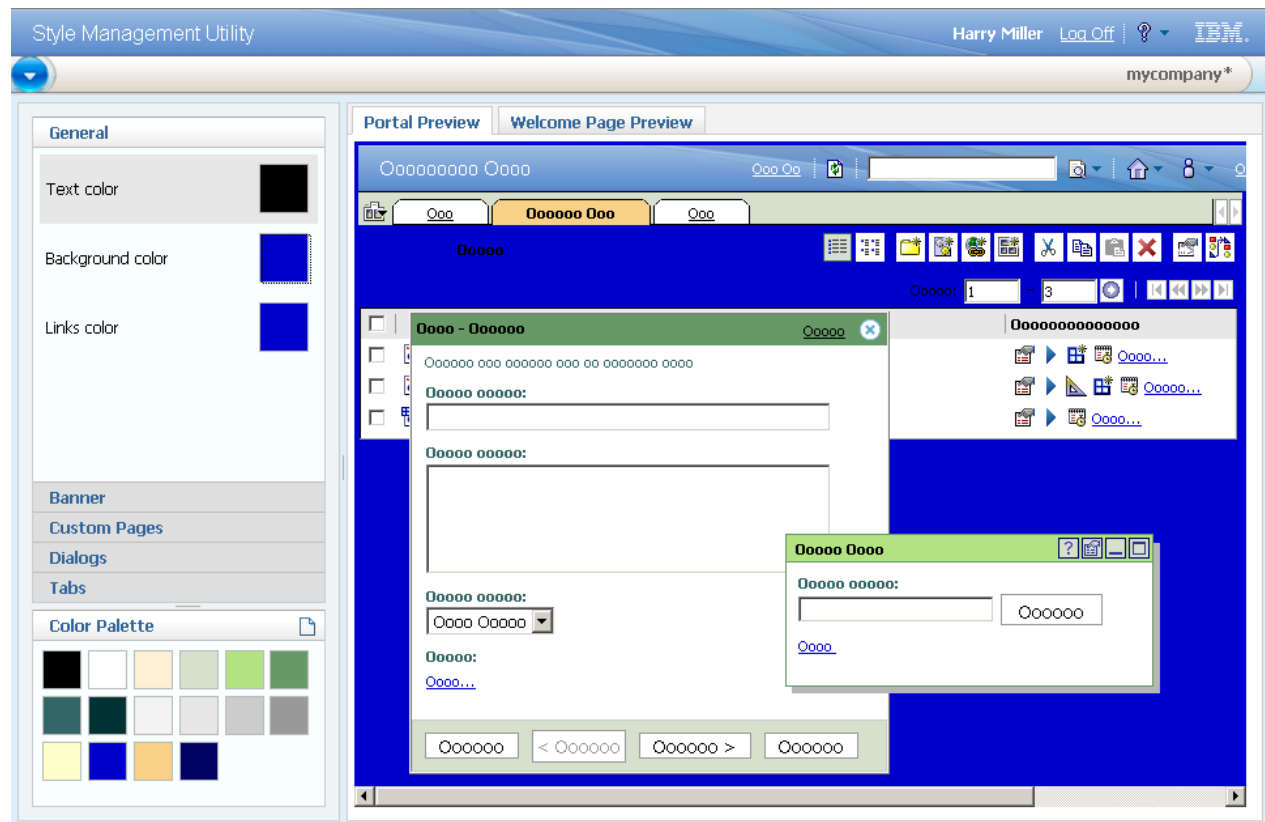
Before we begin to skin let's take a quick glance at SMU. See image 7.

Image 7: SMU UI



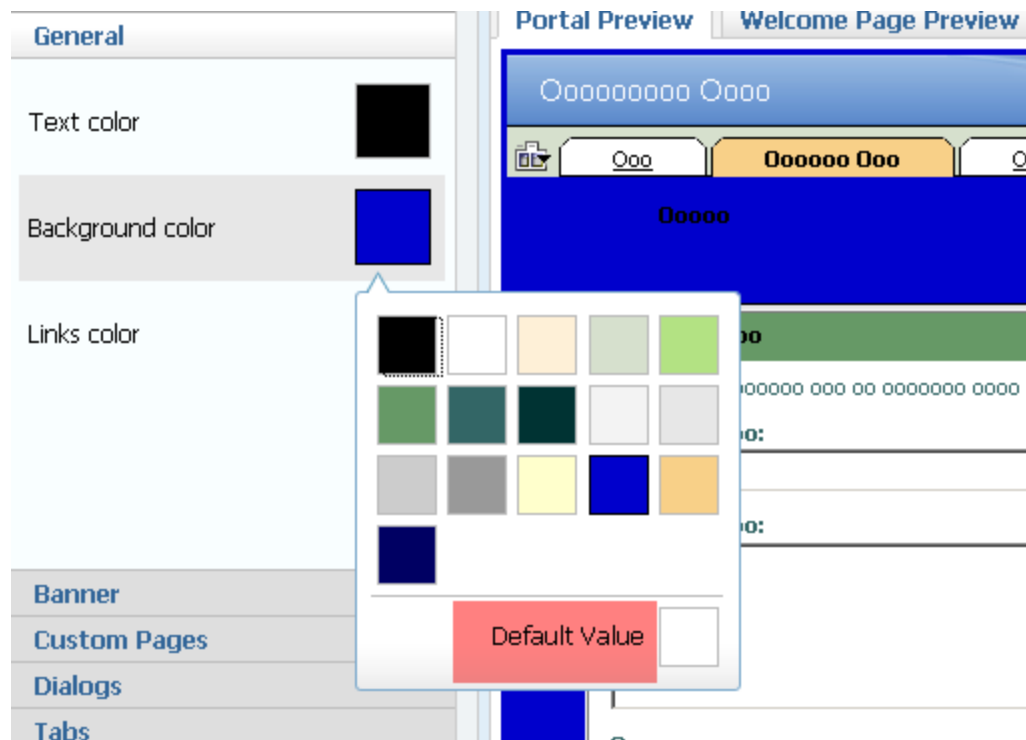
There are 2 Cognos Connection skin able pages currently available and they are represented by tabs at the top of the UI, Portal Preview and Welcome Page Preview. Each of these will give you a live representation of what the page will look like as you hover over elements in the different UI Categories that are available to be skinned. For example, while on the General category, hover over the white box next to the "Background color" element. when this is done, the background of Cognos Connection in the live viewer will begin to flash. This flashing area is the area that will be modified if a change is made. Now click the white box that you are hovering over and select the blue box. The viewer is updated to reflect what the change would look like. See image 8.

Image 8: Updated Background color to be Blue



At anytime the default for any element can be reinstated. Hover over the Background color element in the General category and then click it. This will restore the Background color to it's default color. See image 9, highlighted in red.

Image 9: Restoring Elements to their Default color/state



When the box to the right of Default Value is clicked, the element is restored to it's default value.

All the elements that are exposed are the only elements that are currently available to be currently changed using SMU.

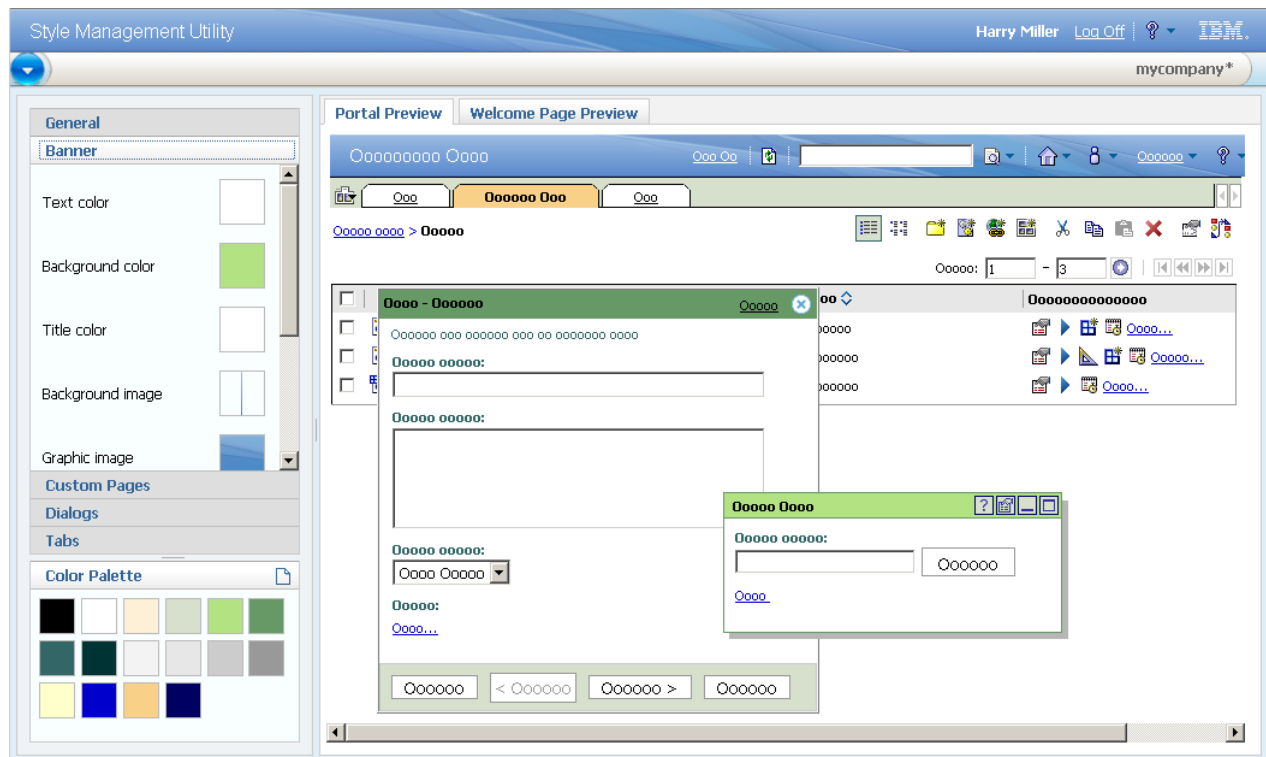
Now begin to edit Cognos Connection to brand/skin it.

#### 4. Editing the Elements in the Banner UI Category

On the left pane of SMU select the Banner horizontal tab to bring up the elements of the Banner category that are available to be changed. See Image 10.

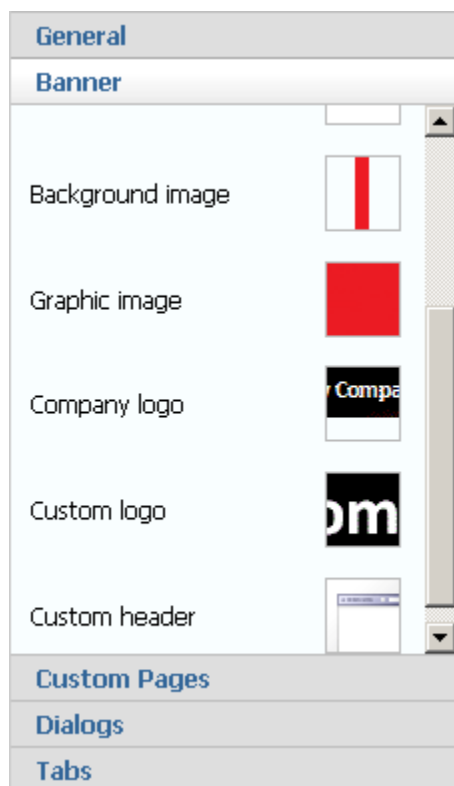
Image 10: Banner Category Elements





In this step images for 4 of the elements available to be changed in the Banner category. See Image 11.

Image 11: Elements Changed in Banner category in this Example



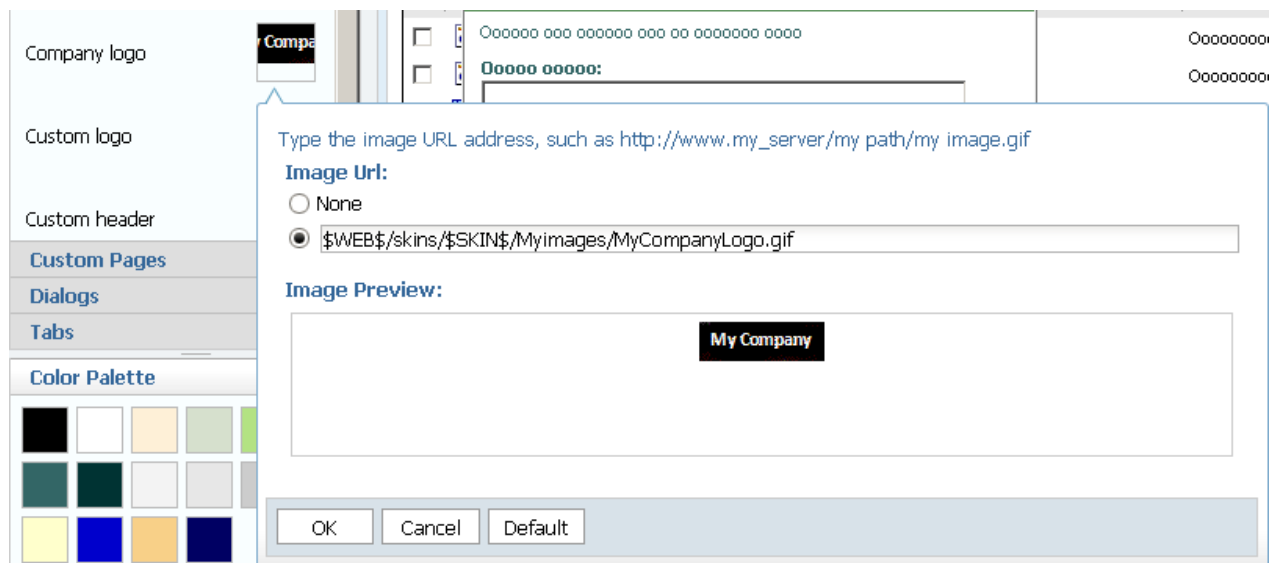
By clicking on each of the elements it can be determined which images drive the UI. By editing and naming these images to what is required and placing them in the <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\MyCompany\MyImages directory, SMU can update the skin. By clicking on the element SMU will display the location of the image.

Default location for the element "Company Logo" is the following:

\$WEB\$/skins/\$SKIN\$/branding/ibm-logo-white.gif

Create a new company logo gif and place it in the <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\MyCompany\MyImages directory. In SMU, click on the box to the right of Company Logo and change the location of the gif to the new company logo to the correct location as seen in Image 12.

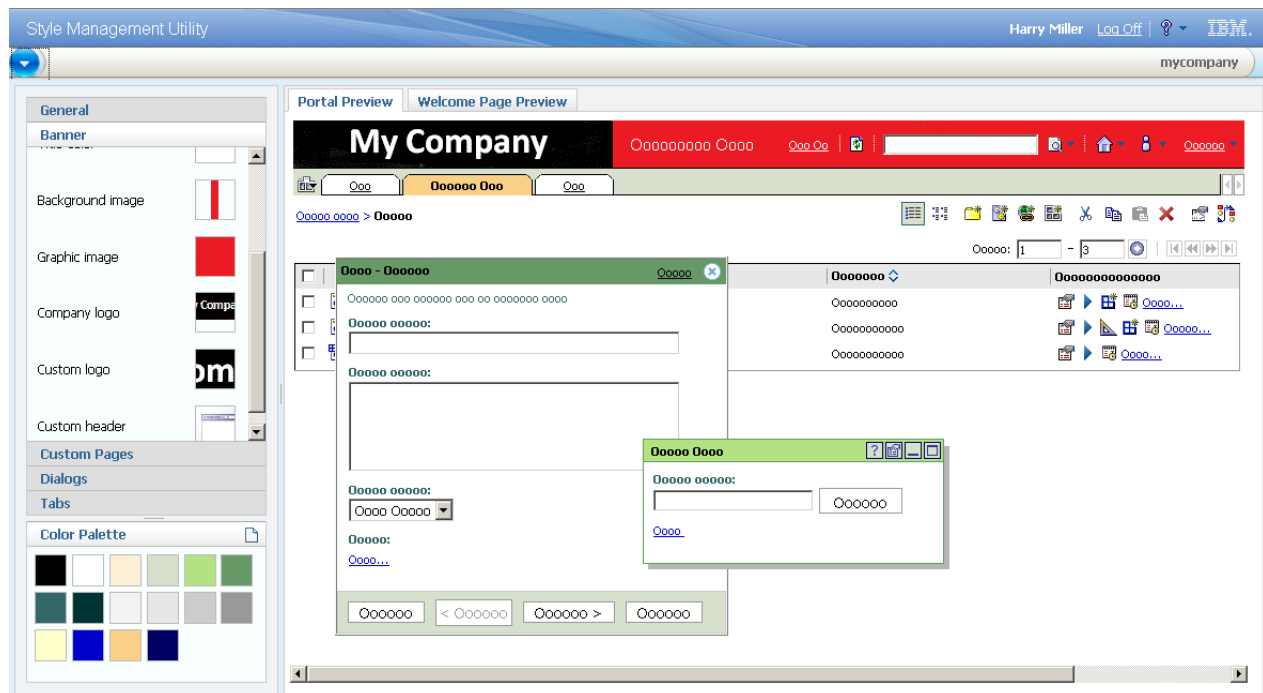
Image 12



Do this for any elements in the Banner category and save the skin.

This examples viewer now displays the updated Cognos Connection UI if it were to be published today.

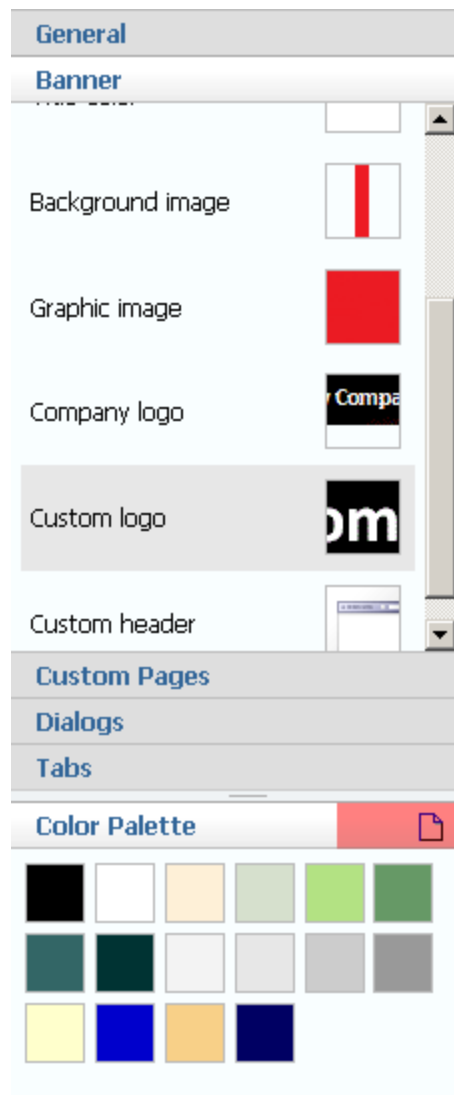
Image 13: Updated New SMU Skin



The Color Palette is something that is very useful too. The palette does have default colors but also offers the option to add custom colors that can be applied to different elements of the UI. For instance, in image 13 above, the Dialogs, Custom Pages and Tabs have elements in them that will allow the color to be changed. In the image above, the green needs to be replaced with red, which is the MyCompany standard.

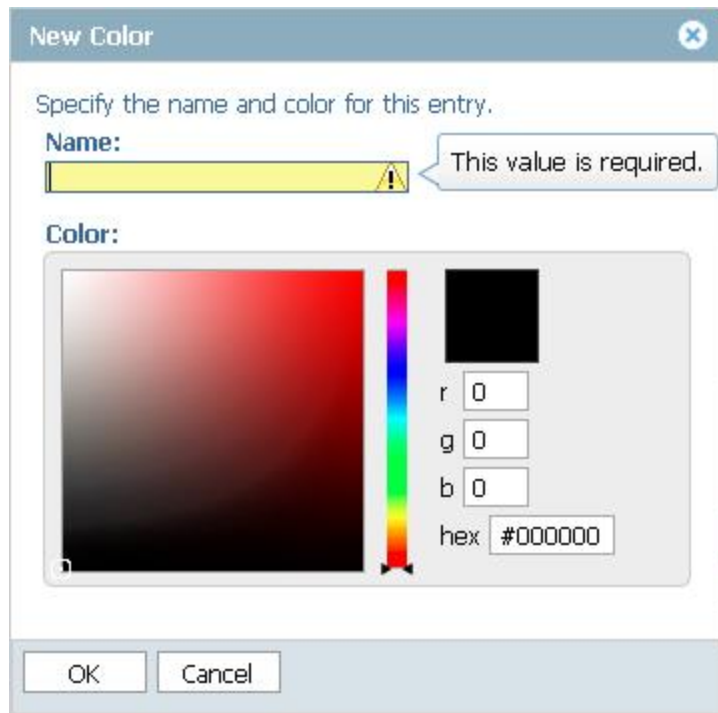
First add the custom color by clicking the image to the right of "Color Palette". Image highlighted in red in image 14.

Image 14: Adding a Custom Color



This invokes the "New Color" dialog box so that a color can be added.

Image 15: New Color Dialog



The new color must be given a name. On the Color: box using the mouse you can manually find the right color or the "hex" value for the color can be entered.

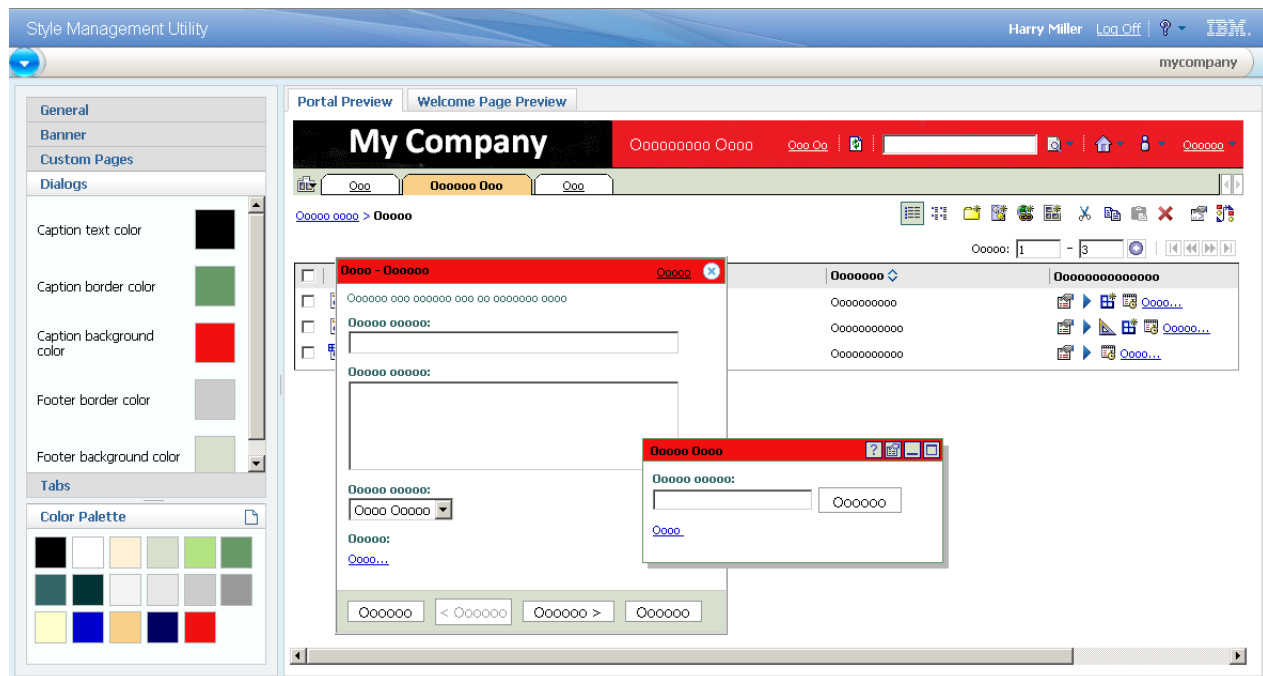
In Image 16 we have manually found the red that is desired and saved it as MyCompany\_Red and you can see that it has been added to the Color Palette.

Image 16



This new color is now available to be used in any element that allows color to be changed. Image 17 shows that the new color has been used in the Custom Pages and Dialogs elements.

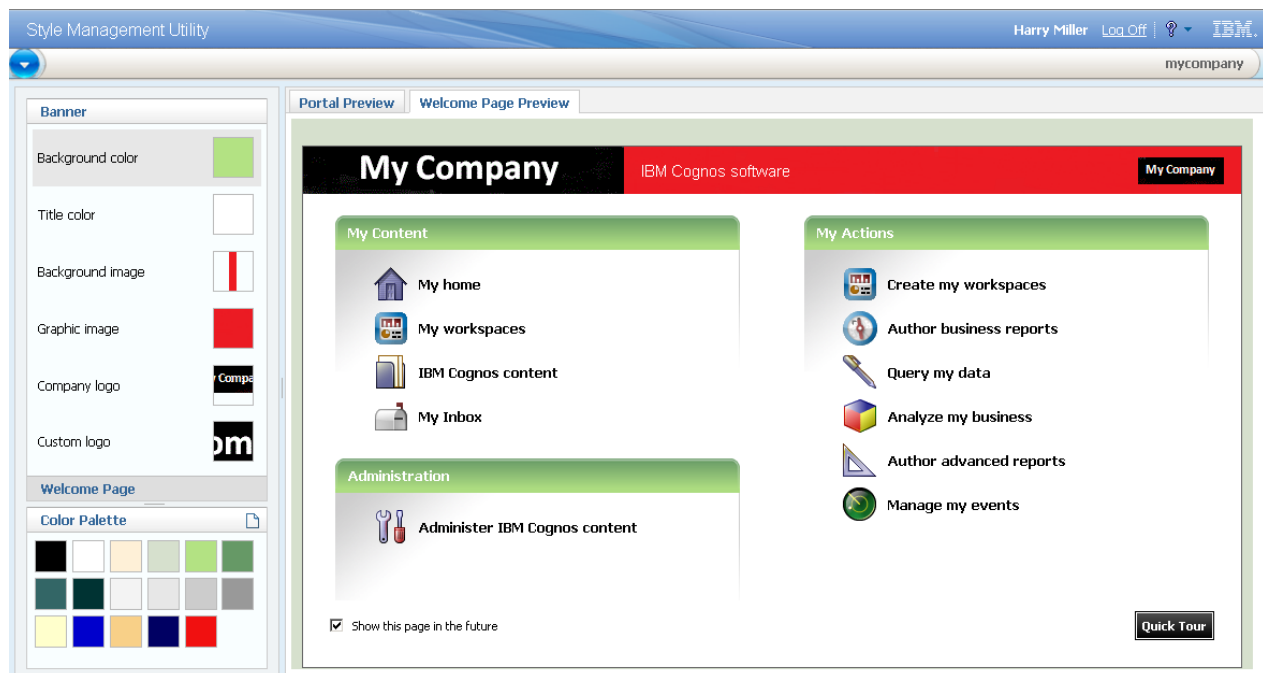
Image 17: New Skin Updated with Custom Color



Investigate the other UI Categories and the elements that are exposed and make changes to them.

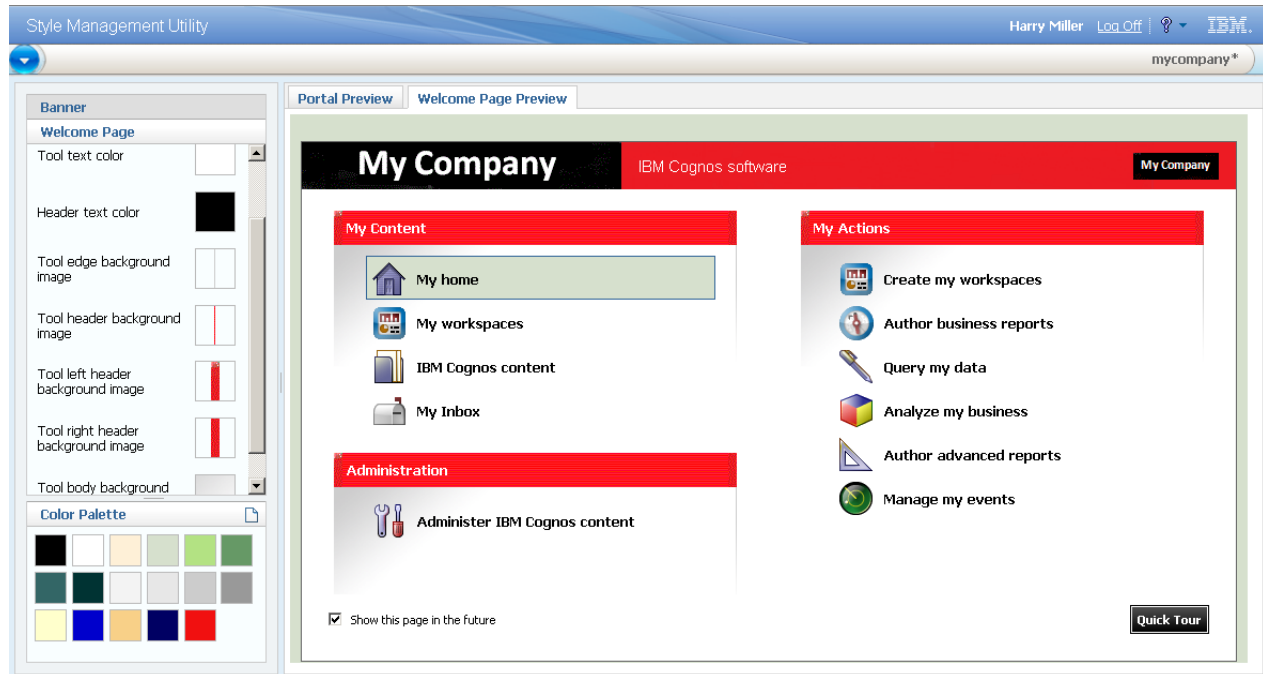
At any time the live viewer can be switched to see what changes are being applied to the Welcome Page. This can be done by selecting the Welcome Page Preview tab. Image 18.

Image 18: Welcome Page Preview



Using the UI Categories elements that are available for the Welcome page, the Welcome Page can be skinned as is desired. See results in image 19 below.

Image 19: Welcome Page Skinned

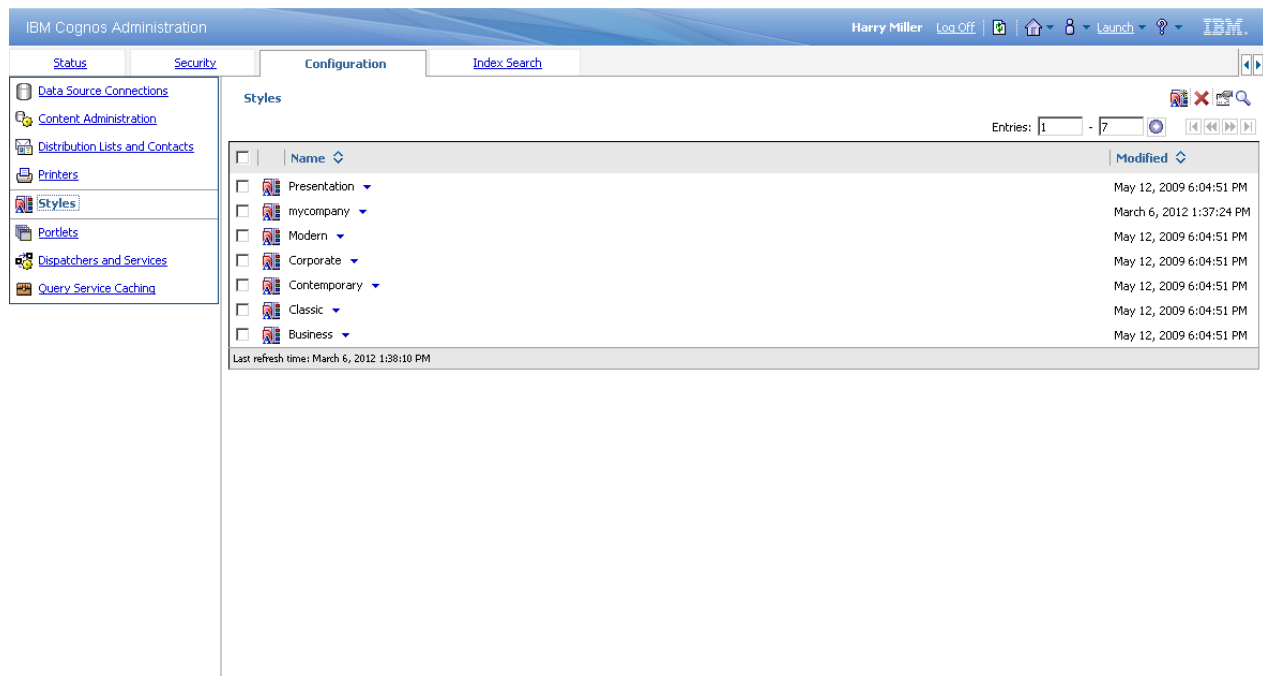


## 5. Saving, Securing and Publishing New Skins

SMU saves a "skin specification" to the content store. This specification contains all the information required to implement the skin. When a skin is first saved it becomes available in Cognos Connection to Administrators only. This allows for the testing of the skin in Cognos Connection and not just in the SMU live previewer. Although the skin is available in the Administration console in Cognos Connection, it is still not available for any user to use the skin until it is "Published" from SMU.

The new MyCompany skin has been saved numerous times. To see the results of what has been done so far, logon to Cognos Connection as an Administrator and navigate to the IBM Cognos Administration -> Configuration tab -> Styles as seen in image 20.

Image 20: After Saving the MyCompany skin in SMU it is Available in Cognos Administration



At this point the skin is not available for users to select from their preferences. This can be confirmed by navigating to Cognos Connection -> My Preferences -> Style dropdown in image 21.

Image 21: MyCompany Skin is not available for Selection after a Save in SMU



Set preferences

General

Personal

Portal Tabs

Specify your settings.

Number of entries in list view:

15

Separators in list view:

No separator

Style:

Corporate

Business

Classic

Contemporary

Corporate

Modern

Presentation

Preview

Number of columns in details view:

3 columns

Report format:

HTML

☒ Show the Welcome page at startup

☒ Show a summary of the run options

☐ Enable accessibility support for reports I run or schedule

Regional options

Product language:

☒ Use the default language

☐ Use the following language:

English

Content language:

☒ Use the default language

☐ Use the following language:

English (United States)

OK

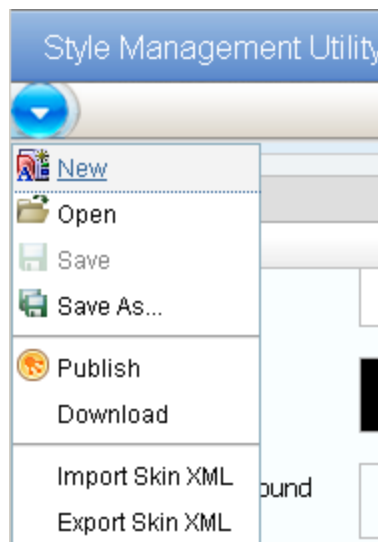
Cancel

At this step the Administrator can apply the proper permissions to the MyCompany skin so that only users that are allowed to set this as their skin can. Users will not be able to select the skin, regardless of permissions, until the MyCompany skin has been published from SMU.

Before the skin can be published, the MyCompany specification has to be applied to the skin folder, in this case <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\MyCompany. The functionality to do this is built into the SMU application.

From the SMU File button, select "Download" as seen in image 22.

Image 22: Download the MyCompany Specification

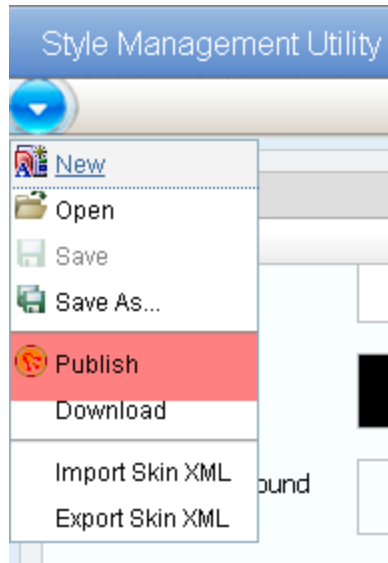


Select Download and save the file. Extract the folder in the zip file. In this case it is called "mycompany", which is the name of the skin. Copy this folder to the following location, <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\, making sure to Copy and Replace the files in the target. Once this is done, the case <install directory>\c10\webcontent\skins\MyCompany directory has been updated with the properly generated files to make the skin available to the user community.

Now that the skin specification has been saved, used to generate the proper files in the MyCompany directory and has had the proper permissions applied to it in the Cognos Administration -> Styles page, the skin is ready for Publishing.

To Publish a skin, and make it available to users with the proper permissions, select the SMU File button and select Publish. A message indicating that the publish is successful will be displayed and this indicates that the skin is now available under My Preferences in Cognos Connection. See image 23.

Image 23: Publishing the MyCompany Skin



Now that the MyCompany skin has been published, log into Cognos Connection as a user who has permissions to use this new skin. Go to My Preferences -> Styles and the new skin will be available for selection, as seen in image 24.

Image 24: MyCompany Skin Available in My Preferences

Set preferences

General

Personal

Portal Tabs

Specify your settings.

Number of entries in list view:

15

Separators in list view:

No separator

Style:

Corporate

Business

Classic

Contemporary

Corporate

Modern

mycompany

Presentation

Details

[Preview](#)

Number of columns in details view:

3 columns

Report format:

HTML

☒ Show the Welcome page at startup

☒ Show a summary of the run options

☐ Enable accessibility support for reports I run or schedule

Regional options

Product language:

☒ Use the default language

☐ Use the following language:

English

Content language:

☒ Use the default language

☐ Use the following language:

English (United States)

OK

Cancel

Select the MyCompany skin and click the OK button to return to Cognos Connection and look at the newly skinned portal. See images 25 and 26.

Image 25: Welcome Page Skinned with MyCompany Skin

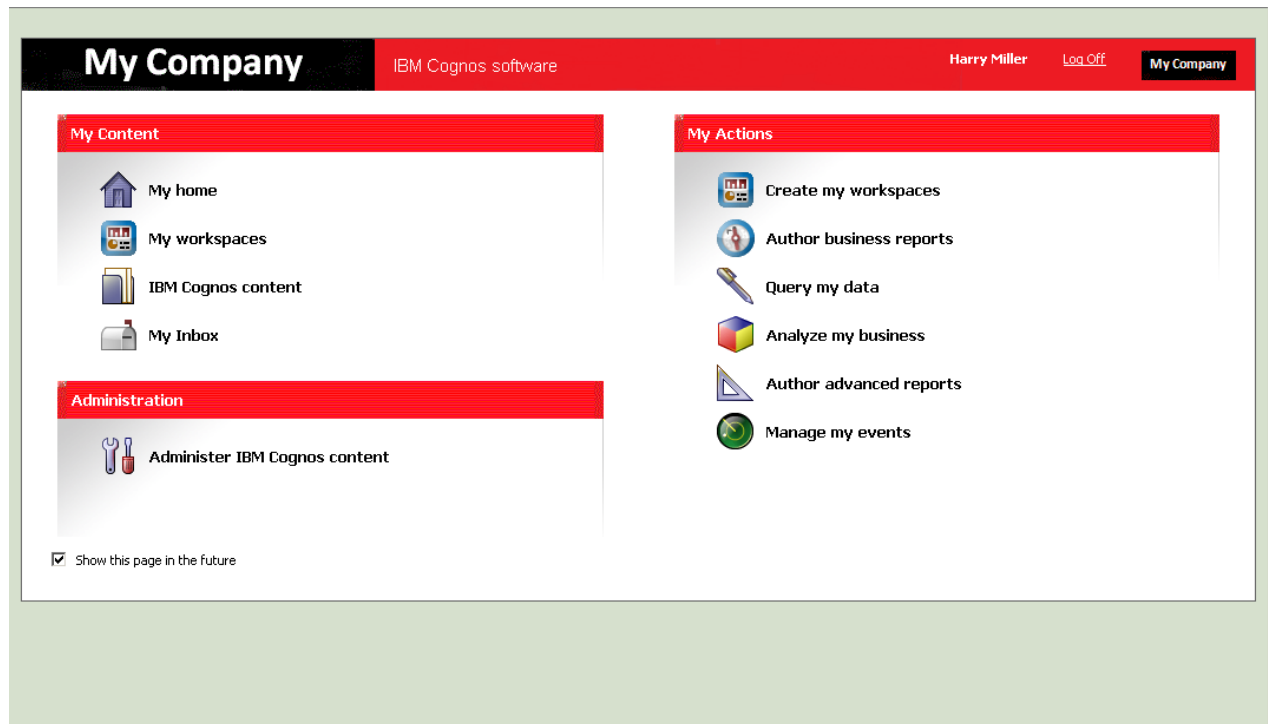


Image 26: Cognos Connection Skinned with MyCompany Skin

