



PrimeFaces: Themes (Skins)

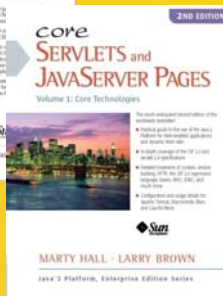
Originals of slides and source code for examples: <http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/primefaces/>

Also see the JSF 2 tutorial – <http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/>
and customized JSF2 and PrimeFaces training courses – <http://courses.coreservlets.com/jsf-training.html>



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.



**For live training on JSF 2, PrimeFaces, or other
Java EE topics, email hall@coreservlets.com**
Marty is also available for consulting and development support

Taught by the author of *Core Servlets and JSP*, this tutorial,
and JSF 2.2 version of *Core JSF*. Available at public venues, or
customized versions can be held on-site at your organization.

- Courses developed and taught by Marty Hall
 - JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, JSP, Android, general Java, Java 8 lambdas/streams, GWT, custom topic mix
 - Courses available in any location worldwide. Maryland/DC area companies can also choose afternoon/evening courses.
- Courses developed and taught by coreservlets.com experts (edited by Marty)
 - Hadoop, Spring, Hibernate/JPA, RESTful Web Services

Contact hall@coreservlets.com for details



Topics in This Section

- **Installing and specifying a default theme**
 - Standard themes
 - Custom themes
- **Changing themes at runtime with p:themeSwitcher**
- **Looking up current theme**
- **Changing themes at runtime without using p:themeSwitcher**
- **Best practices for making your apps adapt to themes**

5

Overview of Themes

- **All PrimeFaces components follow themes**
 - Font families, font sizes, colors, borders, icons, etc.
- **PrimeFaces provides many pre-built themes**
 - 37 themes as of PrimeFaces release 3.4. This includes the RichFaces and Trinidad themes, for easy migration.
- **Installing a theme is simple**
 - Download the JAR. Set a context-param in web.xml.
- **You can customize themes (with effort)**
 - Use ThemeRoller. Edit several files. Save JAR.
- **You can change themes at runtime**
 - Use p:themeSwitcher
 - Call PrimeFaces.changeTheme('theme-name') in JavaScript
- **CSS class names documented**
 - So you can write standard HTML that follows theme

6



Setting the Default Theme



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Installing a Theme: Summary

- **Browse themes and choose name**
 - <http://www.primefaces.org/themes.html> or
 - <http://apps.jsf2.com/primefaces-themes/themes3.jsf>
- **Download and install corresponding JAR**
 - <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/>
- **Specify theme as default in web.xml**

```
<context-param>
  <param-name>primefaces.THEME</param-name>
  <param-value>theme-name</param-value>
</context-param>
```

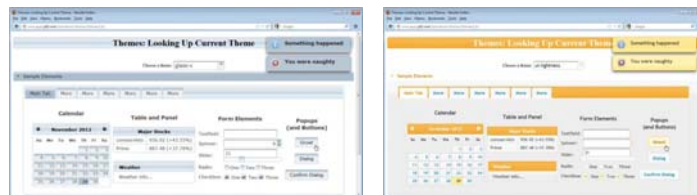
Installing a Theme: Details

- **Browse themes and choose name**

- <http://www.primefaces.org/themes.html>
 - Click on magnifying glass at bottom, then browse to various showcase sections to see components displayed in that theme.



- <http://apps.jsf2.com/primefaces-themes/themes3.jsf>
 - Choose theme from dropdown at top, and see many components all at once.



9

Installing a Theme: Details

- **Download JAR corresponding to name**

- <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/>
 - Click on theme name, then latest version number, then click on JAR file (top entry) to download.
 - This tutorial uses version 1.0.8 of each of the themes, the latest version as of 12/2012.
 - Put JAR file in the WEB-INF/lib folder of your app, as with all JAR files.
- Note: default is “aristo”
 - So, if your choice is aristo, you neither need to download the JAR nor specify it in web.xml
- Customizing a theme
 - You can also use the jQuery UI “ThemeRoller” to interactively customize a theme, then save the results. It is a bit tedious, but far better than editing CSS files. For details, see Section 7.2 of the PrimeFaces 3.4 User’s Guide.

10

Installing a Theme: Details

- **Specify theme as default in web.xml**

- PrimeFaces looks for a context-param named primefaces.THEME
- If that context-param exists and there is a JAR file with the required theme info, that theme is used. Otherwise “aristo” is used.
- Example: make bluesky (the RichFaces theme) the default

```
<context-param>
  <param-name>primefaces.THEME</param-name>
  <param-value>bluesky</param-value>
</context-param>
```

- This assumes that <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/bluesky/1.0.8/bluesky-1.0.8.jar> installed in WEB-INF/lib

11

Example: Sample Elements Using glass-x

- **Made a page with several PrimeFaces components**

- Accordion panels, tabbed panels, tables, panels, spinners, sliders, calendars, textfields, buttons, dialogs, confirmation dialogs, growl, etc. *All* components were described in earlier sections of this tutorial.

- **Set glass-x as default**

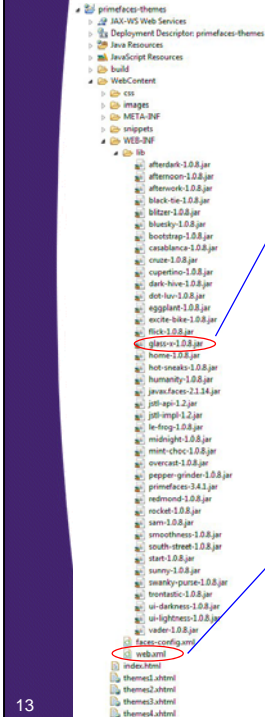
- Set the primefaces.THEME context-param to glass-x
- Installed the glass-x JAR file in WEB-INF/lib

- **Accessed the page**



12

Project Layout in Eclipse

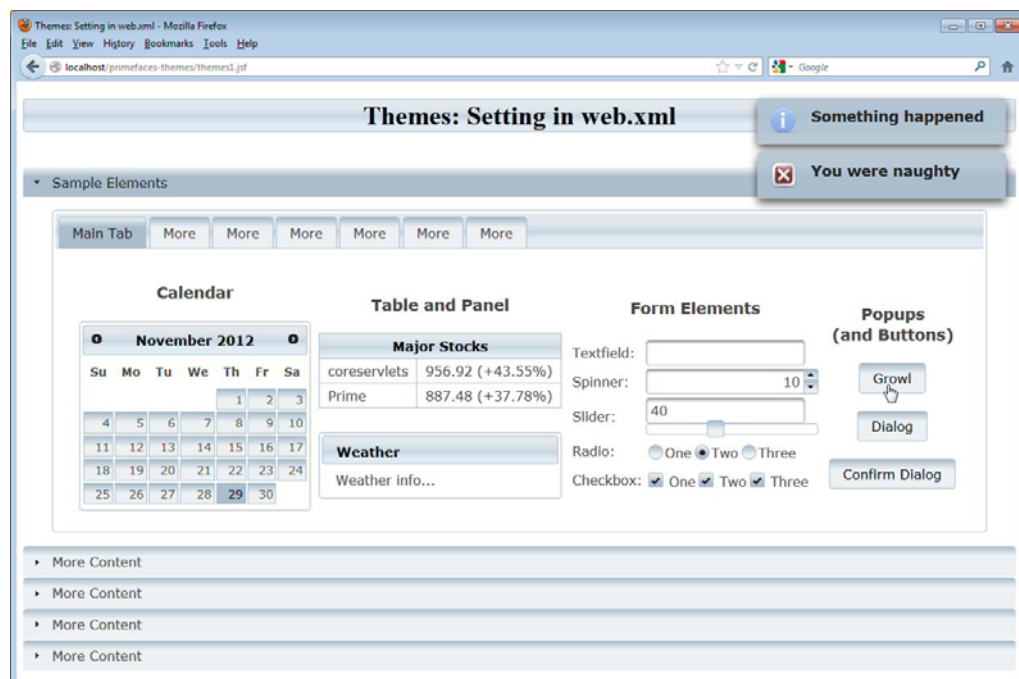


Downloaded from <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/bluesky/1.0.8/> (start at <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/> and browse from there) JARs for the other themes are also installed because later examples will let user interactively choose among all available themes.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<web-app ...>
  <context-param>
    <param-name>primefaces.THEME</param-name>
    <param-value>glass-x</param-value>
  </context-param>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>Faces Servlet</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>javax.faces.webapp.FacesServlet</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>Faces Servlet</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>*.jsf</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
  ...
</web-app>
```

13

Results



Result after moving the slider and spinner, clicking one radio button, then clicking "Growsl" button.

14

Main Page: Facelets

```
<p:accordionPanel>
<p:tab title="Sample Elements">
<p:tabView>
<p:tab title="Main Tab">
<h:panelGrid columns="4">
  <ui:include src="/snippets/calendar.xhtml"/>
  <ui:include src="/snippets/table-and-panel.xhtml"/>
  <ui:include src="/snippets/form-elements.xhtml"/>
  <ui:include src="/snippets/popups.xhtml"/>
</h:panelGrid>
</p:tab>
<p:tab title="More">
  <ui:include src="/snippets/filler.xhtml"/>
</p:tab>
...
</p:tabView>
</p:tab>
<p:tab title="More Content">
  <ui:include src="/snippets/filler.xhtml"/>
</p:tab>
...
</p:accordionPanel>
```

All four of these content sections contain elements that were covered in earlier parts of this PrimeFaces tutorial. And, none of them have any real server-side behavior. So, if you have already gone through earlier parts of this tutorial, you probably want to skip or skim the next few slides in this sub-section that show the code for the four content regions.

15

Calendar: Facelets

```
<h:panelGrid>
<h3 align="center">Calendar</h3>
<h:form>
<p:calendar mode="inline"/>
</h:form>
</h:panelGrid>
```

Calendar

November 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

This and the other three content sections are each wrapped inside ui:composition so that they can be inserted with ui:include.

16

Table and Panel: Facelets

```
<h:panelGrid>
<h3 align="center">Table and Panel</h3>
<p:panelGrid columns="2">
  <f:facet name="header">Major Stocks</f:facet>
  coreservlets
  <h:outputText value="#{financeBean.coreservlets}"/>
  Prime
  <h:outputText value="#{financeBean.prime}"/>
</p:panelGrid>
<br/>
<p:panel header="Weather">
  Weather info...
</p:panel>
</h:panelGrid>
```

Table and Panel

Major Stocks	
coreservlets	956.92 (+43.55%)
Prime	887.48 (+37.78%)

Weather
Weather info...

17

Form Elements: Facelets

```
<h:panelGrid>
<h3 align="center">Form Elements</h3>
<h:form>
<h:panelGrid columns="2">
Textfield: <p:inputText/>
Spinner: <p:spinner/>
Slider: <h:panelGroup>
  <p:inputText id="sliderField"/>
  <p:slider for="sliderField"/>
</h:panelGroup>
Radio: <p:selectOneRadio>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="One"/>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="Two"/>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="Three"/>
</p:selectOneRadio>
Checkbox: <p:selectManyCheckbox>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="One"/>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="Two"/>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="Three"/>
</p:selectManyCheckbox>
</h:panelGrid>
</h:form>
</h:panelGrid>
```

Form Elements

Textfield:

Spinner:

Slider:

Radio: ☐ One ☒ Two ☐ Three

Checkbox: ☒ One ☒ Two ☒ Three

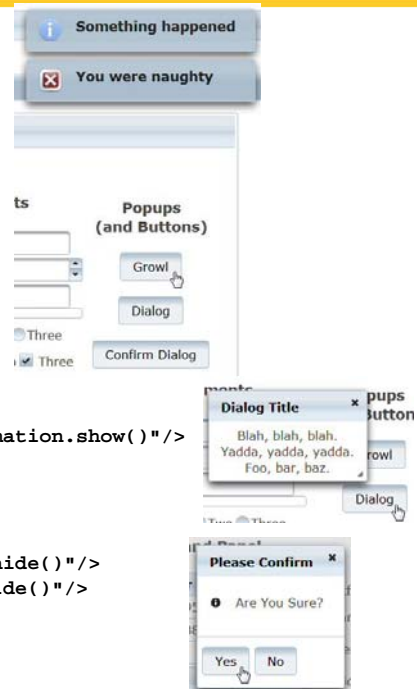
18

Popups: Facelets

```

<h:panelGrid>
<h3 align="center">Popups<br/>(and Buttons)</h3>
<h:form>
<div align="center">
<p:commandButton value="Growl"
                 action="#{growlBean.makeMessages}"
                 update="growl"/>
<p:growl id="growl"/>
<br/><br/>
<p:commandButton value="Dialog" onclick="dlg.show()"/>
<p:dialog header="Dialog Title" widgetVar="dlg">
Blah, blah, blah.<br/>
Yadda, yadda, yadda.<br/>
Foo, bar, baz.
</p:dialog>
<br/><br/>
<p:commandButton value="Confirm Dialog" onclick="confirmation.show()"/>
<p:confirmDialog header="Please Confirm"
                 message="Are You Sure?"
                 severity="info"
                 widgetVar="confirmation">
    <p:commandButton value="Yes" onclick="confirmation.hide()"/>
    <p:commandButton value="No" onclick="confirmation.hide()"/>
</p:confirmDialog>
</div>
</h:form>
</h:panelGrid>

```



19

Popups: GrowlBean

```

@ManagedBean
public class GrowlBean {
    public String makeMessages() {
        FacesContext context = FacesContext.getCurrentInstance();
        FacesMessage message1 =
            new FacesMessage("Something happened");
        // Default severity is INFO
        context.addMessage(null, message1);
        FacesMessage message2 =
            new FacesMessage("You were naughty");
        message2.setSeverity(FacesMessage.SEVERITY_ERROR);
        context.addMessage(null, message2);
        return(null);
    }
}

```



20



p:themeSwitcher – Changing Theme at Runtime



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Idea

- **Install JARs for several themes**
 - I installed JARs for all 36 non-default themes
 - aristo is built in
- **Use p:themeSwitcher**
 - Syntax is almost identical to that of h:selectOneMenu except no bean property for the user selection (handled by JavaScript on the client). Very simple to use.
 - f:selectItems refers to the themes.
 - String[] – Should contain the theme names in lower case
 - List<String> – again, theme names in lower case
 - Map<String,String> – the keys are arbitrary display values and the values are the theme names in lower case
 - SelectItem[] or List<SelectItem> – Display part of each SelectItem is arbitrary, values are theme names

Issue: Theme Switcher Fires on Change (like h:selectOneMenu)

- **Problem**

- Themes changed only when menu selection *changes*
 - So, if top entry is a theme that does not match the current theme, there is no way to select it without changing to another theme in between.

- **Solution 1**

- Put dummy value (e.g., “—Choose Theme—”) as top value of menu. If value is empty string, p:themeSwitcher will ignore it if selected. This means that any initial selection of a theme will be a change.
 - This point was also discussed in general JSF2 tutorial when discussing h:selectOneMenu.

- **Solution 2**

- Put current theme first in the list. (Next section)

23

Example: Facelets

```
<div align="center">
<h:form>
<p:themeSwitcher>
  <f:selectItem itemLabel="--Choose Theme--"
                itemValue="" />
  <f:selectItems value="#{themeChoices.themes}" />
</p:themeSwitcher>
</h:form>
</div>

<ui:include src="/snippets/theme-body.xhtml" />
```

Dummy value so that any theme name selected will be a change.

Returns an array of the theme names.

24

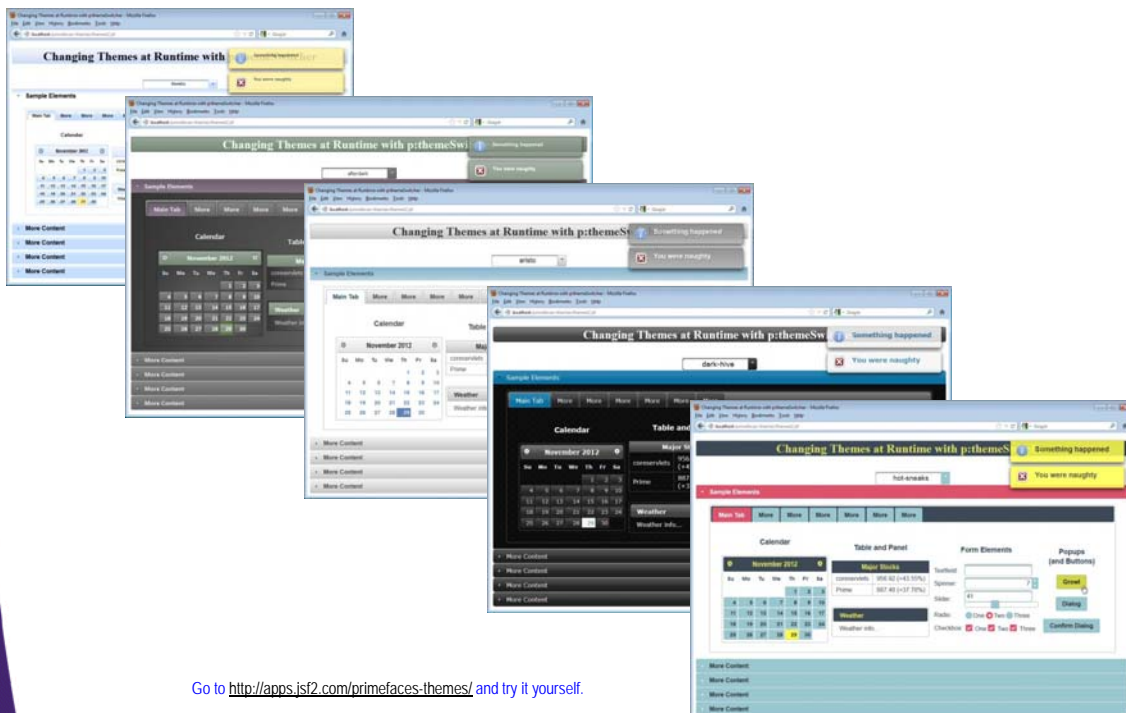
Example: Bean

```
@ManagedBean
public class ThemeChoices {
    public static final String[] POSSIBLE_THEMES =
        { "afterdark", "afternoon", "afterwork", "aristo",
          "black-tie", "blitzer", "bluesky", "casablanca",
          "cruze", "cupertino", "dark-hive", "dot-luv",
          "eggplant", "excite-bike", "flick", "glass-x",
          "home", "hot-sneaks", "humanity", "le-frog",
          "midnight", "mint-choc", "overcast", "pepper-grinder",
          "redmond", "rocket", "sam", "smoothness",
          "south-street", "start", "sunny", "swanky-purse",
          "trontastic", "twitter bootstrap", "ui-darkness",
          "ui-lightness", "vader" };

    public String[] getThemes() {
        return(POSSIBLE_THEMES);
    }
}
```

25

Example: Results



26

Go to <http://apps.jsf2.com/primefaces-themes/> and try it yourself.



Looking up the Default Theme



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Idea

- **Default theme is stored as a context-param**
 - Using the ExternalContext, there is a standard way of reading a context-param.
- **Last example required a dummy value at the top of the p:themeSwitcher list**
 - But, if you know the current theme and put it first in the list, you can skip the dummy value.
 - Note that p:themeSwitcher has no associated bean property (other than the list of choices), so you cannot have the bean property getter return a value matching an entry in the list as with h:selectOneMenu. Thus, with p:themeSwitcher, the top value is always the one initially shown.

Example: Facelets

```
<div align="center">
<h:form>
<h:panelGrid columns="2">
Choose a theme:
<p:themeSwitcher>
    <f:selectItems value="#{smartThemeChoices.themes}" />
</p:themeSwitcher>
</h:panelGrid>
</h:form>
</div>

<ui:include src="/snippets/theme-body.xhtml"/>
```

No dummy value.

Returns a List of the theme names, with default theme first.

29

Example: Bean

```
@ManagedBean
public class SmartThemeChoices {
    public List<String> getThemes() {
        List<String> themes = new LinkedList<>();
        for(String theme: ThemeChoices.POSSIBLE_THEMES) {
            themes.add(theme);
        }
        String currentTheme = ThemeUtils.currentTheme();
        themes.remove(currentTheme);
        themes.add(0, currentTheme);
        return(themes);
    }
}
```

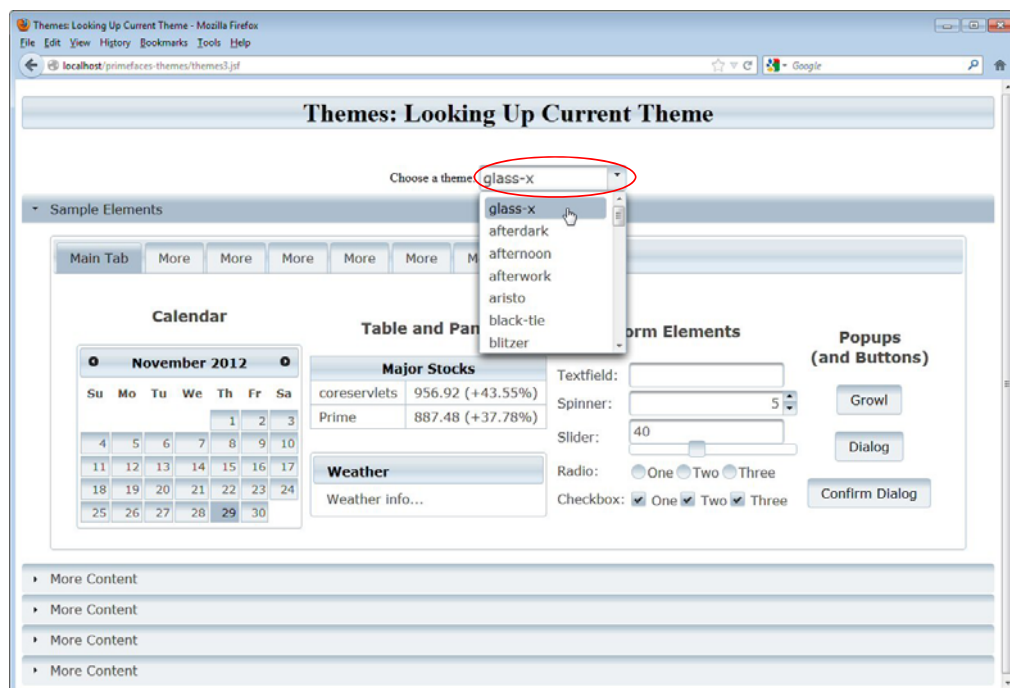
30

Example: Helper Class

```
public class ThemeUtils {  
    public static final String DEFAULT_THEME = "aristo";  
  
    public static String currentTheme() {  
        String theme = DEFAULT_THEME;  
        ExternalContext externalContext =  
            FacesContext.getCurrentInstance().getExternalContext();  
        String param =  
            externalContext.getInitParameter("primefaces.THEME");  
        if (param != null) {  
            theme = param;  
        }  
        return(theme);  
    }  
  
    private ThemeUtils() {} // Uninstantiatable class  
}
```

31

Example: Results (When First Loaded)



32



Changing Theme at Runtime (without p:themeSwitcher)



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Idea

- **How p:themeSwitcher works**
 - It calls PrimeFaces.changeTheme, which uses jQuery to find the “link” tag that loads the theme’s CSS file, and changes the “href” attribute.
 - Although not documented, this is a PrimeFaces function that is in core.js, and is unlikely to change in future releases.
- **So, no need to reproduce functionality**
 - Just call PrimeFaces.changeTheme('theme-name')
 - Caveat 1: the appropriate JAR must be in WEB-INF/lib
 - Caveat 2: this does not change the default; it is a pure client-side change. So, next time page is reloaded, it will revert to previous theme. But this is the same behavior as with p:themeSwitcher. You could easily use a View Parameter to make this persistent.

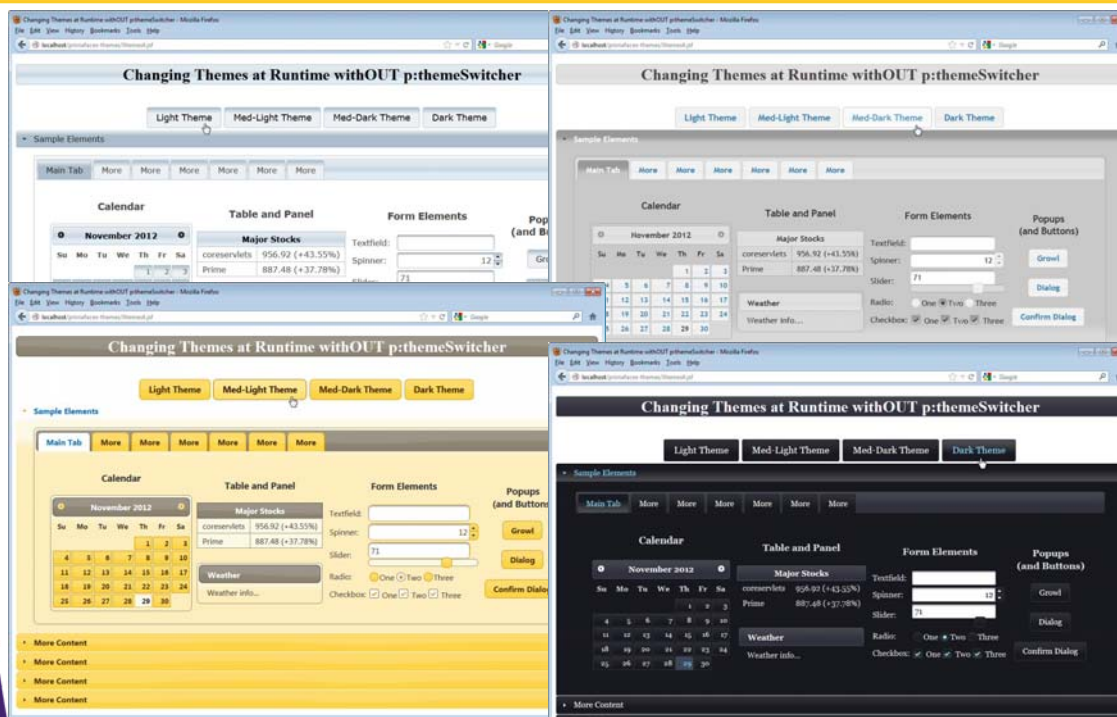
Example: Runtime Theme Changes

```
<div align="center">
<h:form>
<h:panelGrid columns="4">
<p:commandButton value="Light Theme"
                  onclick="PrimeFaces.changeTheme('glass-x')"/>
<p:commandButton value="Med-Light Theme"
                  onclick="PrimeFaces.changeTheme('sunny')"/>
<p:commandButton value="Med-Dark Theme"
                  onclick="PrimeFaces.changeTheme('overcast')"/>
<p:commandButton value="Dark Theme"
                  onclick="PrimeFaces.changeTheme('midnight')"/>
</h:panelGrid>
</h:form>
</div>

<ui:include src="/snippets/theme-body.xhtml"/>
```

35

Results



36



Best Practices for Using Themes



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop
Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Plan Ahead for Changes to the Theme

- **Use CSS class names, not element names**
 - Yes: class selectors like **.blah { ... }**
 - `<table class="blah">` or `<p:panelGrid class="blah">`
 - No: element selectors like **table { ... }**
 - `<table>` or `<p:panelGrid>`
- **Minimize use of hard-coded colors**
 - Colors change frequently with the theme
- **Use relative, not absolute font sizes**
 - I.e., use 110% or 90%, not 18px
- **Customize components with placeholders**
 - Each class defines placeholder class names for you to use to add additional customization. *These are clearly listed in the “Skinning” entry under each component in the User’s Guide.* E.g., `p:slider` has `.ui-slider`, `.ui-slider-handle`, etc.

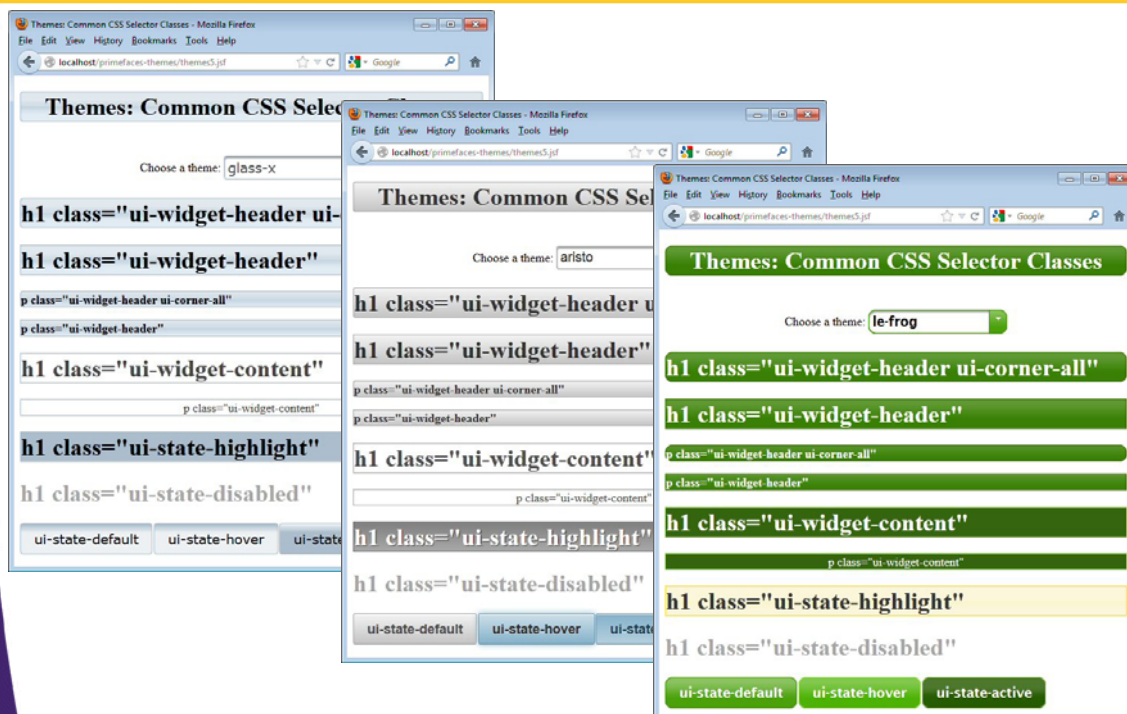
Know the Most Important PrimeFaces CSS Classes

Selector	Applies To
.ui-widget	All PrimeFaces components
.ui-widget-header	Header section of a component
.ui-widget-content	Content section of a component
.ui-corner-all	Makes corners rounded
.ui-state-default	A clickable in its default state
.ui-state-hover	A clickable when the mouse is hovering over it
.ui-state-active	A clickable when it is selected
.ui-state-disabled	Disabled elements
.ui-state-highlight	Highlighted elements
.ui-icon	Predefined icon for that component

More classes and detail: http://docs.jquery.com/UI/Theming/API#The_jQuery_UI_CSS_Framework

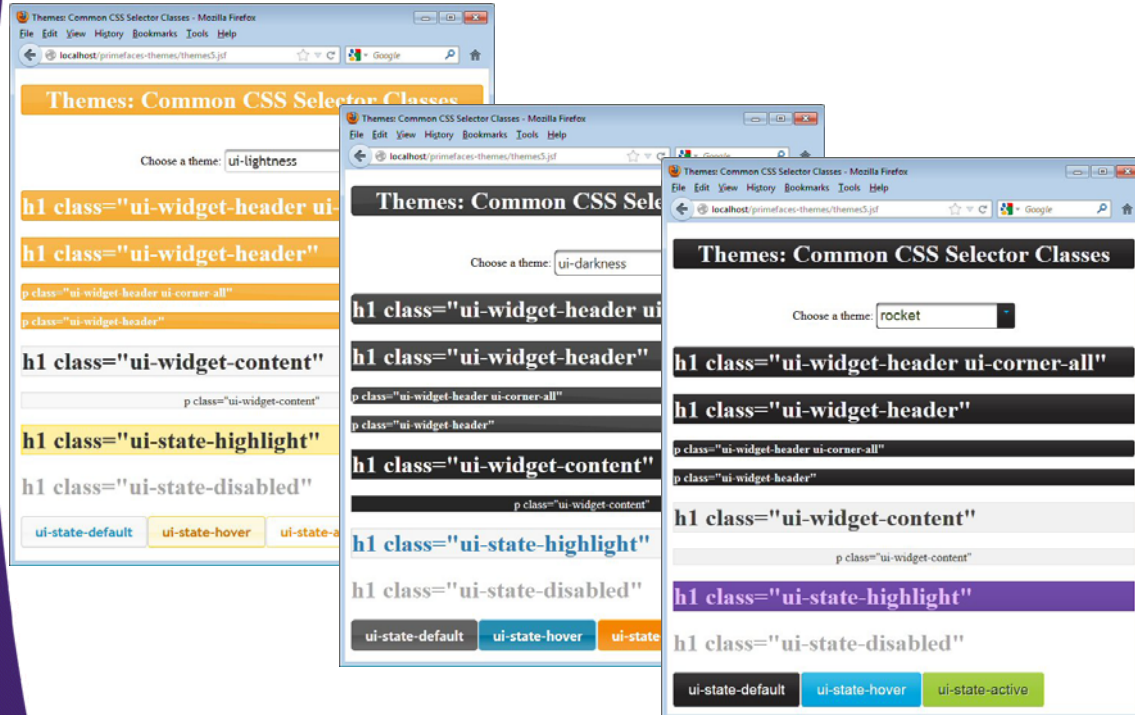
39

CSS Classes: Samples



40

CSS Classes: Samples



41

Theme Gotcha: Style Sheets Being Superseded

- **Problem**
 - You define
 - `.ui-growl { right: 50px; top: 100px }`but settings appear to be ignored
- **Reason**
 - PrimeFaces dynamically inserts `<link>` tag in head section, and it is placed at the bottom of the head, i.e., *after* yours.
- **Solutions**
 - Mark settings as `!important`
 - `.ui-growl { right: 50px !important; top: 100px !important }`
 - Or, use `h:outputStyleSheet`
 - Your style sheet will be loaded *after* the PrimeFaces one
 - `h:outputStyleSheet` covered in Page Templating section

42

Theme Gotcha: Everything in Theme is Too Large

- **Problem**

- Many people feel that most themes make components slightly too large for most professional apps

- **Solution**

- Change default font size, leave everything else the same

```
.ui-widget, .ui-widget .ui-widget {  
    font-size: 90% !important;  
}
```

- As discussed on previous slide, if you use `h:outputStyleSheet`, then you do not need the `!important` above.

43

Theme Gotcha: Not All Styles Well Documented

- **Problem**

- Main styles are documented clearly. Placeholder styles for each element also well documented. But, some of the minor styles used throughout the themes are not documented.

- **Solution**

- Find the CSS file in the JAR file
 - META-INF/resources/primefaces-aristo/theme.css
- Open it in TopStyle or another CSS editor that shows previews.
 - Browse around!

44

Theme Gotcha: None of the Themes Fit Your Needs

- **Problem**

- None of the 37 builtin themes is exactly what you want

- **Solution**

- Roll your own. But don't start from scratch. Choose the theme that is nearest to what you want, then use ThemeRoller to tweak it.
 - <http://jqueryui.com/themeroller/>
 - The output of ThemeRoller has to be edited in several ways to be compatible with PrimeFaces, but this is moderately well documented in Section 7.2 of PrimeFaces User's Guide, and is *much* easier than editing CSS by hand.

45

© 2015 [Marty Hall](#)



Wrap-Up



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop

Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

Summary

- **Browse themes and choose name**
 - <http://www.primefaces.org/themes.html> or
 - <http://apps.jsf2.com/primefaces-themes/themes3.jsf>
- **Download and install corresponding JAR**
 - <http://repository.primefaces.org/org/primefaces/themes/>
- **Specify theme as default in web.xml**

```
<context-param>
  <param-name>primefaces.THEME</param-name>
  <param-value>theme-name</param-value>
</context-param>
```
- **Change themes at runtime**
 - Use `p:themeSwitcher` or call `PrimeFaces.changeTheme`
- **Plan ahead for changes to themes**
 - Learn most important CSS names. Avoid hard-coded fonts and colors. Don't define your own CSS for HTML elements, only classes.
 - See <http://docs.jquery.com/UI/Theming/API>

47

© 2015 [Marty Hall](#)



Questions?

More info:

<http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/> – JSF 2.2 tutorial

<http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/primefaces/> – PrimeFaces tutorial

<http://courses.coreservlets.com/jsf-training.html> – Customized JSF and PrimeFaces training courses

<http://coreservlets.com/> – JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Java 7 or 8, Ajax, jQuery, Hadoop, RESTful Web Services, Android, HTML5, Spring, Hibernate, Servlets, JSP, GWT, and other Java EE training



Customized Java EE Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>

Java 7, Java 8, JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Android, JSP, Ajax, jQuery, Spring MVC, RESTful Web Services, GWT, Hadoop

Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.