

MOSS UI Development

Applying custom visual design to a MOSS website using Master Pages and CSS

05:

**Using the Base Master Page
to Create a Custom Master Page**

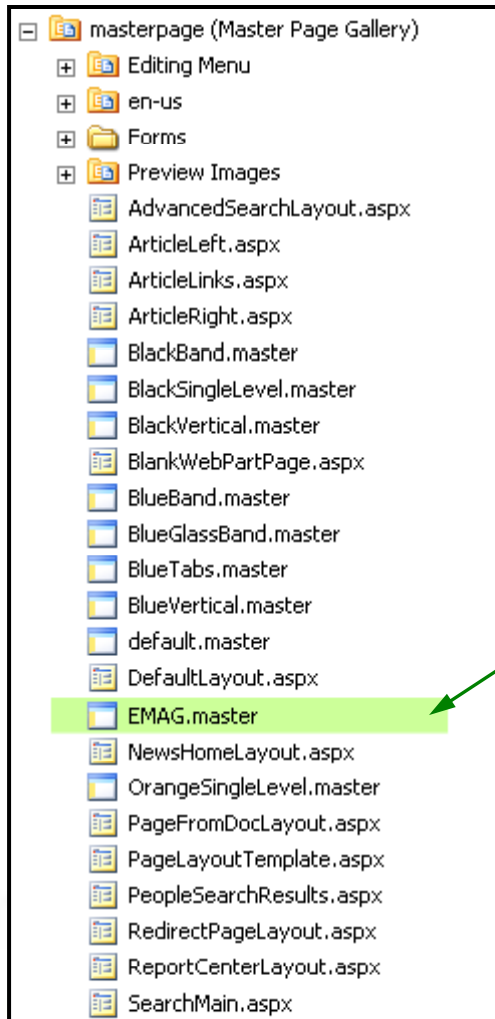
Base Master Page

A base master page called [Emag_BaseMasterPage.master](#) has been created for e.magination. See the previous PowerPoint presentation in this series for an overview of the base master page code.

You can use the base master page as a template to create your custom master page.



Creating a Master Page File



1. Open your project in SPD and navigate to the **/_catalogs/masterpage** folder.
2. Drag and drop the base master page file, **Emag_BaseMasterPage.master**, from your local system to the **/masterpage** folder in SPD.
3. Rename the file with the same prefix used for your CSS classes and Style Library folders.

Incorporating the HTML

Your new master page file is ready for buildout. You can copy code from your HTML template (on your local system) into the new master page. HTML comments in the master page will help guide where the code from your HTML template should go.

Open your new master page in **code view** in SPD and follow these step-by-step tips...



Incorporating the HTML

<head> tag

- **DO NOT** place a link to your main CSS file in the master page code. This would cause Core.css to override your custom CSS file. Your CSS will be assigned in a later step.
- You may copy other script links and code directly **above** the closing </head> tag in the master page (such as a javascript link).
- Note the Content Placeholder called “PlaceHolderAdditionalPageHead”. This allows you to place additional <head> code in the page layouts.



Incorporating the HTML

<body> tag

Normally styles for the body tag would be set in the CSS file. However, in MOSS the WYSIWYG content editor uses styles from your CSS file for its display. This causes problems if the editor window picks up a background color or other properties from your body style.

Therefore it is best to hardcode any body styles directly into the master page <body> tag. For example:

```
<BODY onload="javascript:if (typeof(_spBodyOnLoadWrapper)
!= 'undefined') _spBodyOnLoadWrapper();"
style="background-color:#CCCCCC;margin:0px;">
```



Incorporating the HTML

Header to Main Navigation

1. In your master page file, scroll down past the Accessibility Feature and Upper Bar code. Those areas should be left intact.
2. Copy the code in your HTML template file from the line immediately **after** the <body> tag to the line above where the main navigation will go.
3. Paste the code into the master page where shown below:

```
<!-- begin MAIN LAYOUT -->  
  <wssuc:Welcome id="IdWelcome" runat="server" EnableViewState="false">  
  </wssuc:Welcome>  
  <SharePoint:DelegateControl ControlId="GlobalSiteLink1"  
  Scope="Farm" runat="server"/>  
  <SharePoint:DelegateControl ControlId="GlobalSiteLink2"  
  Scope="Farm" runat="server"/>  
  ((PASTE CODE HERE))  
<!-- begin TOP NAVIGATION ---->
```

You may delete the Welcome, My Site, and My Links code if not using them.

Incorporating the HTML

Between Main Navigation and Main Content Area

1. Copy the code in your HTML template file from the line immediately **after** the main navigation to the line above where the main content area will go.
2. Paste the code into the master page where shown below:

```
<!-- end TOP NAVIGATION -->  
( (PASTE CODE HERE) )  
<!-- begin MAIN CONTENT AREA -->  
  <A name="mainContent"></A>  
  <asp:ContentPlaceHolder id="PlaceHolderMain" runat="server" />  
<!-- end MAIN CONTENT AREA -->
```

Incorporating the HTML

Below Main Content Area through Footer

1. Copy the code in your HTML template file from the line immediately **after** the main content area down to (and including) the footer. DO NOT include the closing `</body>` or `</html>` tag.
2. Paste the code into the master page where shown below:

```
<!-- begin MAIN CONTENT AREA -->  
    <A name="mainContent"></A>  
    <asp:ContentPlaceHolder id="PlaceHolderMain" runat="server" />  
<!-- end MAIN CONTENT AREA -->  
((PASTE CODE HERE))  
<!-- end MAIN LAYOUT -->
```

Next Steps

- Your basic custom master page is now complete. You may also add additional components into your code such as custom Content Place Holders.
- You must check in your new master page file before it can be used in the website.
- You will assign your master page and CSS to the website via the Site Settings in a later step.
- First you will need to create one or more page layouts. Please continue in the training series for instructions.



END of 05:
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