

MOSS UI Development

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

07: Assigning the Master Page and CSS File

February 2008

e.magination

Assigning the Master Page

1. Open the MOSS website URL in a browser.
2. Go to *Site Actions > Site Settings > Look and Feel > Master Page*
3. In the Master Page Settings, choose the option to specify a unique Site Master Page. Select your custom master page from the pulldown list.

Site Master Page The site master page will be used by all publishing pages. Choose the first button to inherit the site master page for this site from the parent site. Choose the second radio button to select a unique master page for this site. Check the box to apply this setting to all sub-sites.	<input type="radio"/> Inherit site master page from parent of this site <input checked="" type="radio"/> Specify a master page to be used by this site and all sites that inherit from it. EMAG.master
--	--

4. Do the same for the System Master Page, which is used for some forms and list view pages. (You may want to create an alternate Master Page for this if your original master page does not have a big enough content area for list view tables.)
5. If you want all subsites to inherit your settings, check the appropriate box.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reset all subsites to inherit this Site Master Page setting

Assigning the CSS File

1. The CSS Settings are near the bottom of the Master Page Settings.
2. Choose the option to Specify a CSS file to be used by this site.
3. You may browse to your custom CSS file, or type in the URL (beginning with /Style Library/)
4. Check the box to reset all subsites to use the same CSS file (this is optional)
5. Click OK to save your Master Page and CSS settings.

Alternate CSS URL

Specify the URL of a cascading style sheet (CSS) to apply to this site. The CSS files should contain every class you might reference from any control and from any page in your site. This will help ensure that your site is displayed exactly as you want it to.

Click the first option to use the parent CSS URL of this site. Click the second option to use the Windows SharePoint Services default style. Click Browse to select different CSS style.

- Inherit Alternate CSS URL from parent of this site
- Use Windows SharePoint Services default styles
- Specify a CSS file to be used by this publishing site and all sites that inherit from it.

- Reset all subsites to inherit this alternate CSS URL



Inheritance

- When you assign the master page and CSS file to the root site, you may choose to have all subsites inherit the same master page and/or CSS.
- If you don't want a subsite to inherit the root settings, navigate to the Master Page settings for that subsite and choose a different master page or CSS file. This is useful if you need to apply a different color scheme or other visual changes to a subsite.



CSS File Positioning

Why do we assign the custom CSS file via the Site Settings, instead of adding a reference to it in the Master Page code?

The default MOSS file **Core.css** will always be added when the page renders in a browser.

☹ If we add a **reference** to our CSS file in <head> of the Master Page code, the page will render with our CSS file **first**. Core.css will come **second** in the source code. *Thus Core.css would override any matching styles in our custom CSS file.*

☺ If we assign the custom CSS via the **Site Settings**, the page will render with Core.css **first**, and our custom CSS file **second**. *Thus our custom CSS file can override Core.css.* This is required for styling various MOSS components.



END of 07:
Assigning the Master Page
and CSS File

February 2008

e.magination