

How to customize the IEEE Joomla! template

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¹last version can be found somewhere at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/>

0.1 Introduction

This document is intended for web developers wanting to customize the IEEE Joomla! template. If you just want to use it for your site, this document is not intended for you. You should rather read the *IEEE Joomla! template installation guide* provided somewhere at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/>.

Before going through this file, you should have a Joomla! site running, and you should understand the basic functioning of Joomla!, especially how to install a new Joomla! template. Having basic HTML and css knowledge is also a requirement.

0.2 Understanding the template structure

The template comes as a zip file `template_ieee.zip`. We you unzip it, you find the following files:

- `index.php`, which is the core file of your template, and of your site. Changing this directly affects the layout of all your pages. This file is the first page the server will return when somebody enters your site. It specifies your site's structure
- `templateDetails.xml` tells the Joomla! server how to install the template.
- `template_thumbnail.png`, a 206x150 pixel png image, which is a snapshot of your template. This will only be used in the administrator backend, in the Template Manager.
- `images/`, the directory containing all the images used in your template.
- `css/`, this directory only contains the `template_css.css`, the cascading style sheet file used in your template. This controls all the colors, background, and other visual aspect of your site.

When you have finished changing your template, just zip the content of the directory `template_ieee` (**not** the directory itself) into a zip file called `template_ieee.zip`, using any zip tool. This can then be installed on your machine.

Note that prior to installing a new version of a template, you need to uninstall the older version.

0.3 Changing `index.php`

This is the hardest part. The core of this files is a series of clustered tables. To understand more easily the structure, we have drawn its structure in Fig. 1. You should know HTML before changing this file. You can go along an play with this file, as it does not affect the content of your site.

0.4 Changing `templateDetails.xml`

This files has two parts:

- A series of details about your template. These will appear in the template manager section of your administrator backend. They include the name, creation date, version, author, copyright, author e-mail, author site, and description of your template.
- A list of files which belong to the template. This list is used during installation by Joomla!. Whenever you add/remove a file from the template, you should reflect this in the `templateDetails.xml` file.

0.5 Changing `template_thumbnail.png`

Where your template looks as you want it to look, you make a screenshot of your site, and convert to a 206x150 pixel png image. This can be saved as the `template_thumbnail.png` file.

0.6 Changing `template_css.css`

You should know a CSS before changing this file. The easiest way to go is to do adopt a trial and error technique.

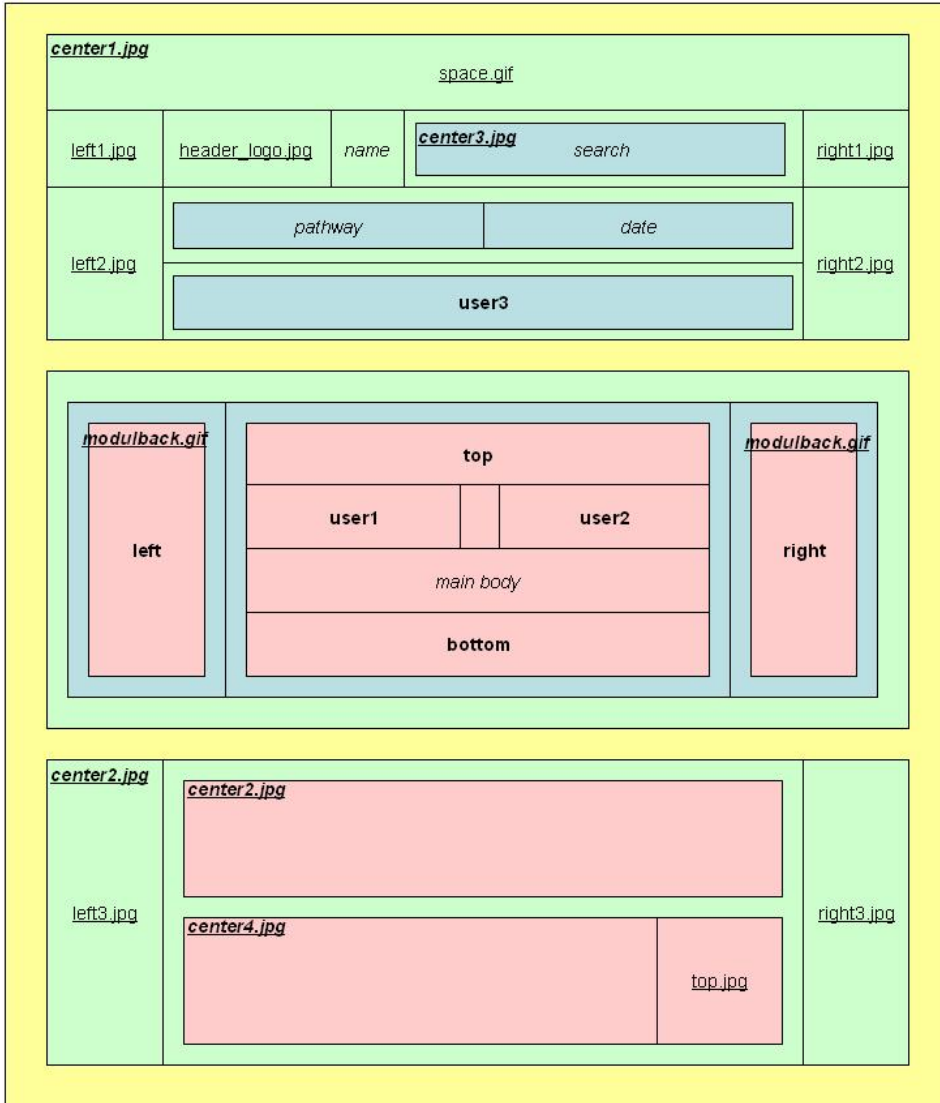


Figure 1: How the `index.php` files structures your site.