An Oracle White Paper
July 2011

Oracle WebCenter Portal: Copying a Runtime-Created Skin to a Portlet Producer

ORACLE

Introduction

This white paper describes a method for copying runtime-created skins from a WebCenter Portal application (the consumer) to a Portlet Producer application (the producer), using Oracle WebCenter 11*g* PS3 or later. Copying a runtime-created skin is necessary because the consumer and producer applications must have the same set of available skins for the portlets to render correctly.

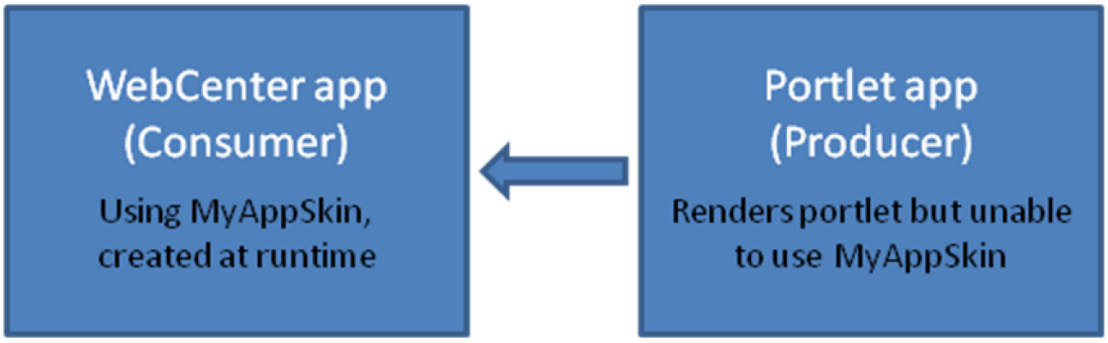

Figure 1. Portlet rendering with runtime-created skins

Overview of Steps

In Oracle WebCenter 11*g* PS3 or later, authorized users are permitted to create skins at runtime, using the Resource Manager. When this is done, users may encounter rendering issues on pages that include portlets, where those portlets are actually task flows exposed using the Oracle JSF Portlet Bridge. This happens when the skin used by the WebCenter Portal application is not available to the remote application rendering the task flow.

The overall process is as follows:

1. Export the skin from the WebCenter Portal application (an EAR file)
2. Repackage the exported skin as a shared library (a JAR file)
3. Copy the JAR file to the Portlet Producer application

These steps are described in the following sections.

Step 1: Export the Skin from the WebCenter Portal Application

The first thing to do is export the skin to an EAR file.

1. Locate and select the skin in the Resource Manager.

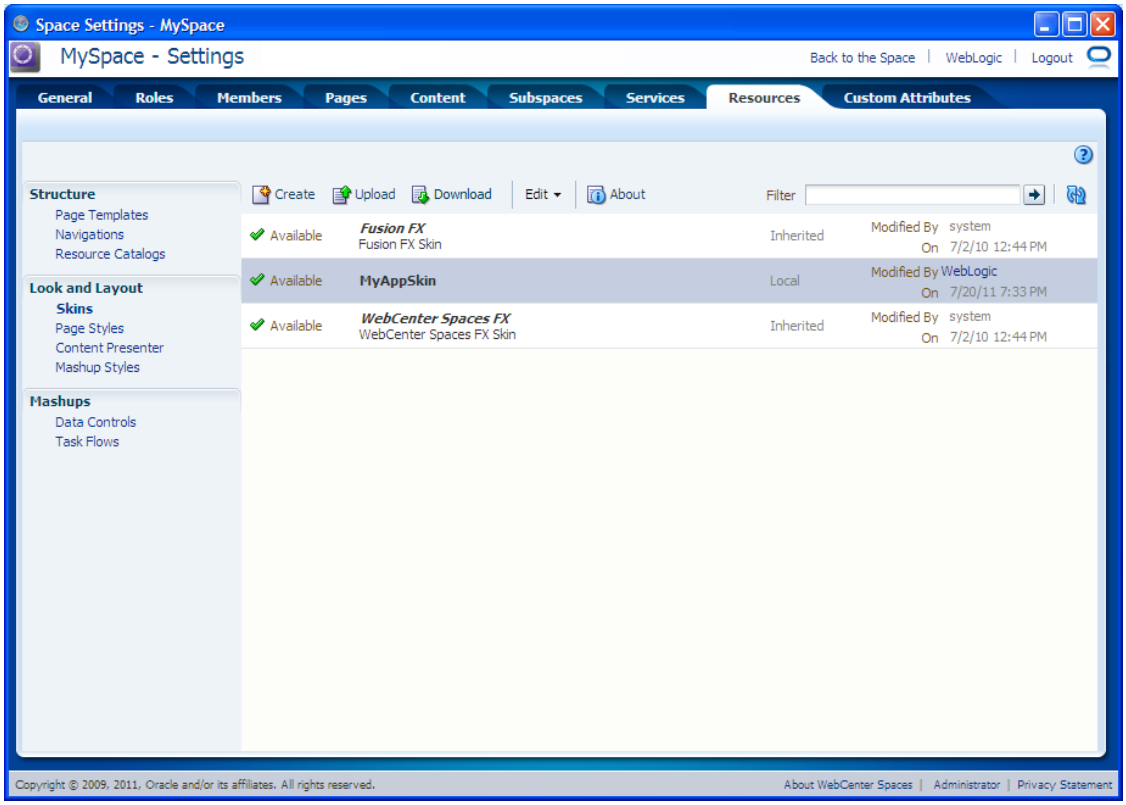

Figure 2. A runtime-created skin in the Resource Manager

2. From the toolbar, click **Download**.

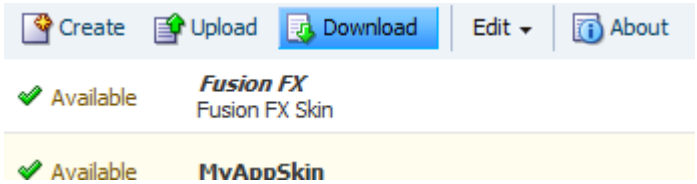

Figure 3. The Download icon

3. In the Download dialog, in the **Archive File Name** field, enter **myskin.ear**, or some other appropriate file name.
4. Select **Save to my computer**.
5. Click **Download**.

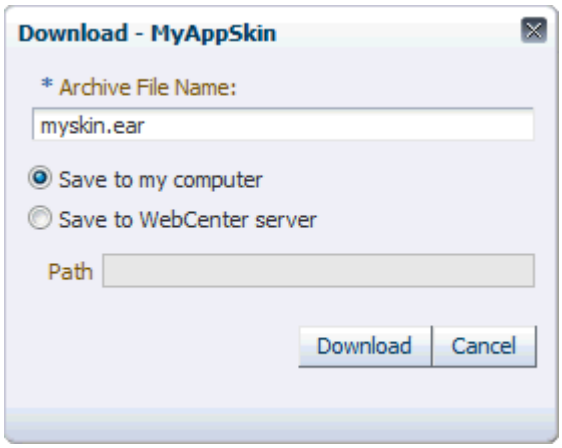

Figure 4. The Download dialog

6. If prompted by your browser, save the EAR file to your computer.

Step 2: Repackage the Exported Skin as a Shared Library

After exporting the skin, you must repackage the resulting EAR file as a JAR file for use by the Portlet Producer application. This requires command line access to a Java JDK so that you can run the **jar** command.

1. Extract the **transport.mar** file:

```
$ jar xvf myskin.ear
inflated: transport.mar
```

2. Extract the metadata files:

```
$ jar xvf transport.mar
inflated: oracle/webcenter/siteresources/.../Skin.css
inflated: oracle/webcenter/siteresources/.../generic-site-
resources.xml
...
```

3. Locate and view the file **generic-site-resources.xml** among the metadata files. Normally this file will be in a directory like **oracle/webcenter/siteresources/scopedMD/*scopeGUID*/generic-site-resources.xml**. The file should have a section that describes the exported skin, similar to the following example:

```
<resourceType name="skin" ...>
  <resource displayName="MySkin"
     metadataFile="/oracle/webcenter/siteresources/.../Skin.css" ...>
    <customAttributes>
      <customAttribute name="skinId"
         value="gsr616d879d_99e0_4bd9_8c10_98e7ea272a6a.desktop" .../>
      <customAttribute name="skinFamily"
         value="gsr616d879d_99e0_4bd9_8c10_98e7ea272a6a" ...>
      <customAttribute name="skinExtends"
         Value="webcenter-fusion-internal.desktop" .../>
    </customAttributes>
  </resource>
</resourceType>
```

4. Note the following information from **generic-site-resources.xml**:

   - `skinId` (for example, `gsr616d879d_99e0_4bd9_8c10_98e7ea272a6a.desktop`)
   - `skinFamily` (for example, `gsr616d879d_99e0_4bd9_8c10_98e7ea272a6a`)
   - `skinExtends` (for example, `webcenter-fusion-internal.desktop`)

5. Build the directory structure for the JAR file:

```
$ mkdir META-INF
```

6. Copy the **Skin.css** file into the **META-INF** directory:

```
$ cp oracle/webcenter/siteresources/.../Skin.css META-INF
```

7. Create a new **trinidad-skins.xml** file under **META-INF**:

```
$ edit META-INF/trinidad-skins.xml
```

8. Add the following XML to the new **trinidad-skins.xml** file:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<skins xmlns="http://myfaces.apache.org/trinidad/skin">
  <skin>
    <style-sheet-name>Skin.css</style-sheet-name>
    <id>skinId</id>
    <family>skinFamily</family>
    <extends>skinExtends</extends>
    <render-kit-id>org.apache.myfaces.trinidad.desktop</render-kit-id>
  </skin>
</skins>
```

where *skinId*, *skinFamily*, and *skinExtends* are the values from step 4 above.

9. Package the JAR file. The JAR file should contain two files: the **Skin.css** file and the **trinidad-skins.xml** file.

```
$ jar cvf myskin.jar META-INF
adding: META-INF/trinidad-skins.xml(in = 359) (out= 171)(deflated 52%)
adding: META-INF/Skin.css(in = 5560) (out= 1413)(deflated 74%)
```

Step 3: Copy the JAR File to the Portlet Producer Application

Finally, copy the new **myskin.jar** file to the Portlet Producer application. The easiest way to do this is to copy the file to the **WEB-INF/lib** directory of the Portlet Producer web application.

Conclusion

Portletized task flows may render incorrectly when they are consumed on a WebCenter Portal application page that uses a runtime-created skin. To ensure that portlets render correctly the skin must be available to the Portlet Producer application. You can make the skin available to the Portlet Producer by copying it using the method described in this white paper.

White Paper Title
[Month] 2011
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