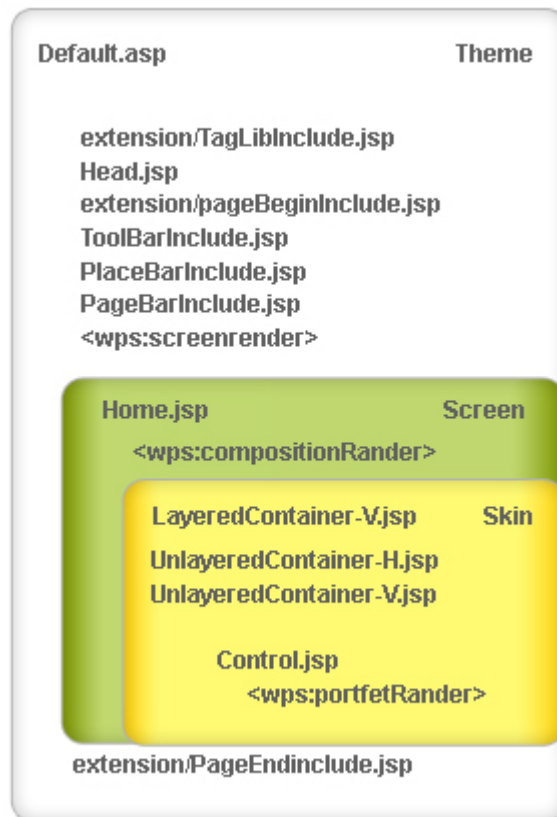


# Themes and Skin



## Table of Contents:

1.	Overview	.....	3
2.	Layout of the portal page	.....	3
3.	Customizable elements of the theme and skin	.....	4
4.	Tags Library	.....	4
5.	Basic Theme Overview	.....	4
6.	Elements of a theme	.....	5
6.1	Head	.....	5
6.2	Toolbar	.....	5
6.3	Administration link bar	.....	5
6.4	Place bar	.....	5
6.5	Page bar	.....	6
6.6	Screen	.....	6
7.	Installation steps for a new Theme	.....	6
8.	Skins	.....	7
9.	Installation steps for a new Skin	.....	7

## Overview

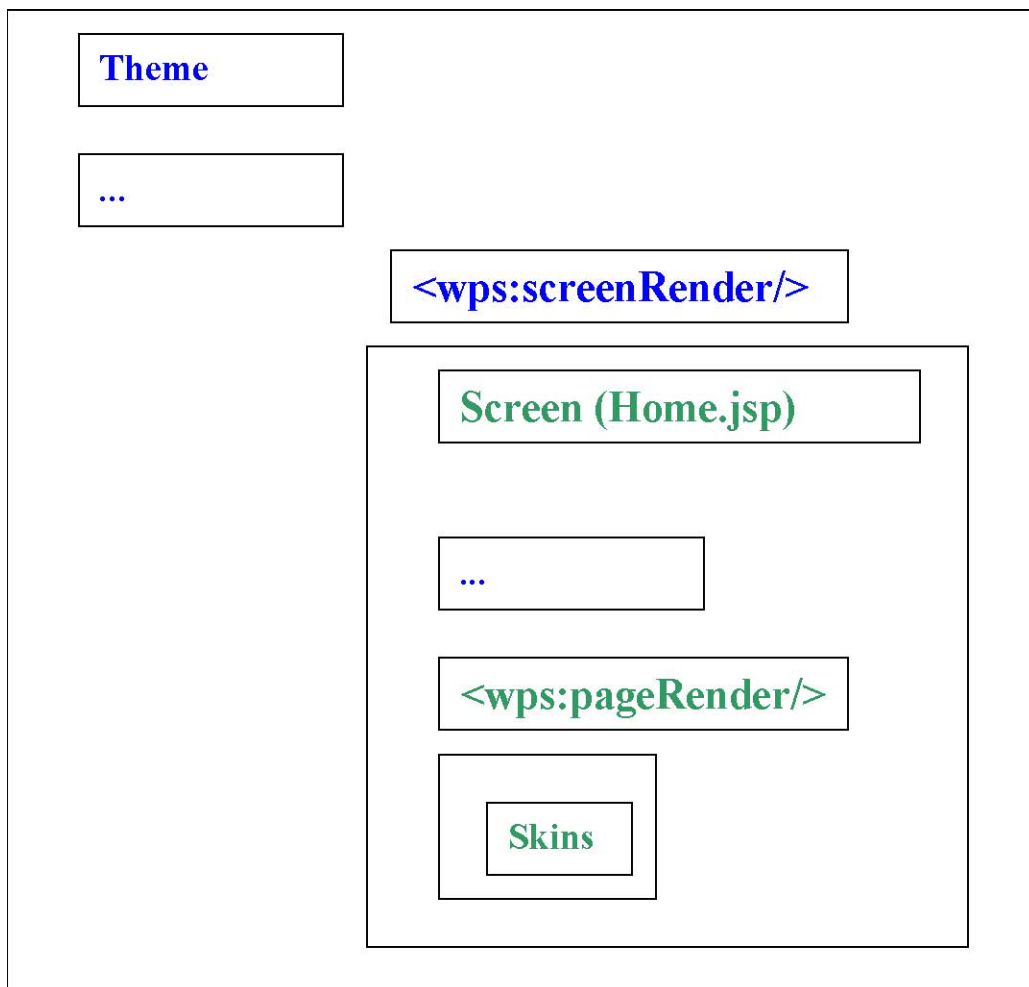
Themes and Skins are simple but most important to any Portal server. These both consist of a collection of different Jsp files and all these jsp files are then combined together with portal tags at different levels. The portal tags controls, renders, and manage these jsp files with predefined internal portal structure. The basic internal directory structure for all these jsp files is controlled by "Default.jsp". Theme and skin jsp files are managed as part of the main WebSphere Portal enterprise application and are thus part of the WebSphere Portal EAR file. WebSphere Portal EAR file must be updated and redeployed when adding new themes and skins. The updated theme and skin files are placed at **WAS\_ROOT/installedApps/nodename/wps.ear/wps.war**

WebSphere Portal comes with several themes and skins out of the box. The themes and skins provide the look and feel to the pages and portlets within WebSphere Portal. Writing a theme or skin from scratch, or even writing one based on an existing theme, requires some programming skills.

## Layout of the portal page

The screen and skin are called by the corresponding `<wps:screenRender/>` and `<wps:pageRender/>` tags from the engine tag library.

**Figure. Layout of the portal page**



## Customizable elements of the theme and skin

Customizable elements of the theme and skin are shown in Figure 2.

- Banner
- Logo
- Row Navigation
- Tree Navigation
- Skin

Figure. Customizable elements of the theme and skin



## Tags Library

There are different tags used by the portal for jsp files. To use the portal tag library, include the following taglib declaration in the parent JSP....

```
<%@ taglib uri="/WEB-INF/tld/portal.tld" prefix="portal" %>
```

## Basic Theme Overview

You can add your own elements to the HTML portal page and rearrange the layout by creating your own theme and changing the layout in Default.jsp and the JSPs that are included. The following sections illustrate the order and layout in which the portal page theme is built using the JSPs that are provided after installation.

## Elements of a theme

- Head
- Toolbar
- Administration link bar
- Place bar
- Page bar
- Screen

### Head

Head.jsp provides the necessary header information to correctly render the portal page. This file is used to link the style sheets and set the page title and the text direction.

### Toolbar

The toolbar is rendered by ToolBarInclude.jsp and includes navigation to the My Portal and Administration pages. These links are built using the `<wps:URLGeneration/>` tag. This JSP also includes links for selecting the screen.

The banner in the toolbar is rendered by the `wpsToolbarBannerBackground` class in the style sheet.

### Administration link bar

AdminLinkBarInclude.jsp provides context-sensitive links for the page. For the current node, the user can create a child page, edit the current node, or assign access permissions. These links are created using the `<wps:URLGeneration/>` tag.

Custom links created by `<URLGeneration/>`

New Page Edit Page Assign Permissions Note: For themes that do not require the full functionality of the Administration link bar, you can selectively remove these links and realize better runtime performance.

### Place bar

PlaceBarInclude.jsp creates level 2 navigation using `<wps:navigationLoop/>` and `<wps:navigation/>` tags and provides the drop-down list that is used to access bookmarked pages.

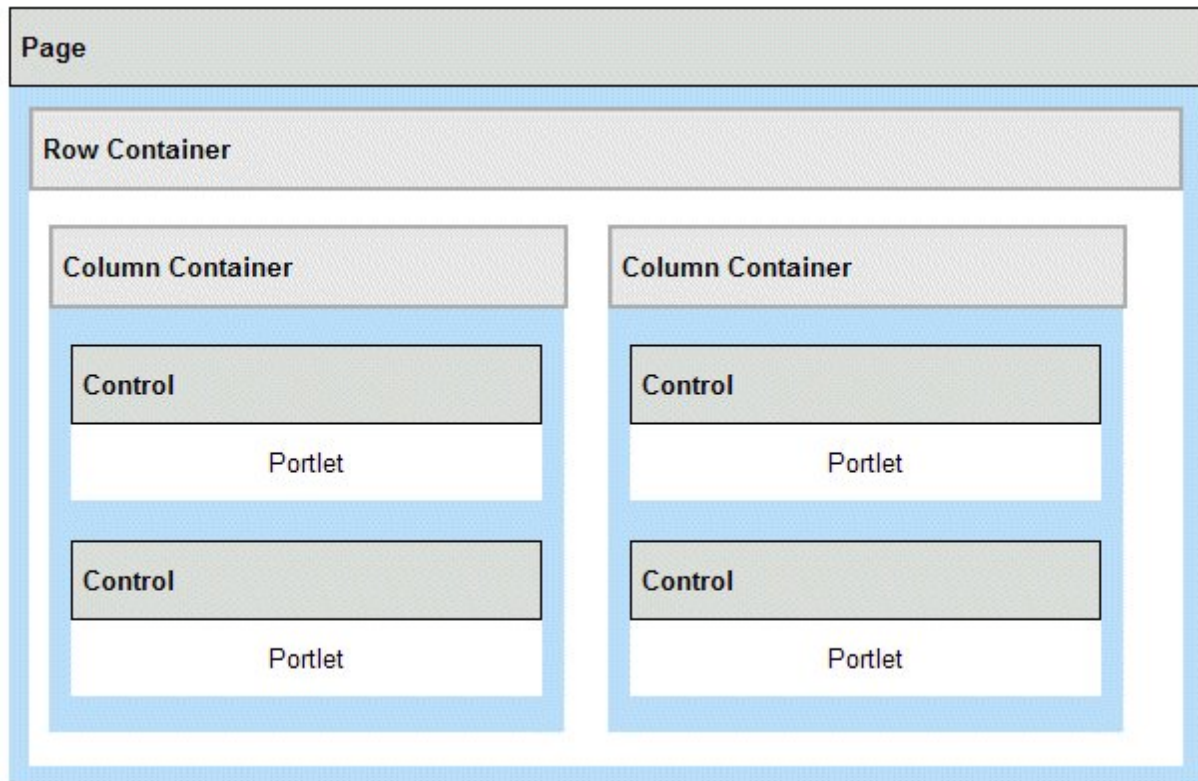
## Page bar

PageBarInclude.jsp creates level 3 navigation using `<wps:navigationLoop/>` and `<wps:navigation/>` tags.

## Screen

The selected screen is rendered by the `<wps:screenRender/>` tag. A screen represents the body content of a portal page. WebSphere Portal uses these JSPs to display different types of content. The screen that is displayed is determined by the links or buttons in the portal toolbar. The Home screen is used most often and is used to display portlet content.

**Figure. Underlying layout of the Home screen**



## Installation steps for a new Theme

1. Copy and past "admin" theme in root directory of themes "**WAS\_ROOT/installedApps/nodename/wps.ear/wps.war/themes/html**" and rename it to "**MyTheme**".
2. Make updates according to the requirements of your portal site.
3. Open the Portal User Interface page in **Administration**.
4. Open **Themes and Skins** and add a new theme to the portal server and provide name "**MyThemeName**" and directory "**MyTheme**".
5. Open **Manage Pages** and edit the properties of one of the page to apply the new theme to the page.

## Skins

Skins define more than the look and feel of portlets; they define the look and feel of components. These components include the containers and controls. The components are implemented as row containers, column containers, and controls depending upon the portal layout that is defined in portal page customization. Controls are displayed using Control.jsp.

### Installation steps for a new Skin

1. Copy and past "Fade" skin in the skin directory  
"**WAS\_ROOT/installedApps/nodename/wps.ear/wps.war/Skin/html**"
2. Make updates to the following files according to the requirements of your portal site.  
Edit Control.jsp to create the title bar and border around individual portlets.
3. To add the skin, use the **Themes and Skins** portlet under **Administration, Portal User Interface**.  
The skin name that you add must be the same as the subdirectory name that you used for the skins.
4. Use the **Appearance** portlet to test and make changes to the new skins as you are working on them.



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