Using Layout Templates

Upgrading to Marketplace 7 Feature Pack 1

Note: This document is for schools that have been upgraded to Feature Pack 1 (or will soon be upgraded) from the original release of Marketplace 7. This document does not apply to schools new to Marketplace.

Marketplace 7 Feature Pack 1 introduces layout templates that determine the look and feel of uStores. Two templates are being introduced, the “Designer: Fixed Width” template and the Classic template. (Schools new to Marketplace as of Marketplace 7 Feature Pack 1 will not see the Classic template.)

A Minimum of Change for Your Customers
The Classic template is chosen by default. It carries over the look and feel of Marketplace uStores that customers experienced prior to Feature Pack 1. So your customers will experience a minimum of change when your installation of Marketplace 7 is upgraded.

Many Settings Have Been Moved
In the Operations Center, many display-related settings have been moved, particularly the settings that were on the Store General Settings page and the Single Store Settings page. Settings on these pages (and others) have been moved into the new template structure. So we encourage you to navigate to the template pages ...

System Administration > Settings > Mall Template Setup

... and review the template settings.

Many settings use a graphical depiction of the template layout. When you click a component (some components are not clickable), the related settings are displayed.

For example, if you click the Mall Header area, the following settings are then displayed ...

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About the Designer Template

We strongly recommend you consider moving your mall and stores to the Designer template. The Designer template represents a major upgrade in layout options; it provides a wealth of customization opportunities that previously required HTML and CSS expertise.

Important! Support for the Classic template will eventually be discontinued. TouchNet will provide notification several months in advance of the discontinuation date for the Classic template.

An example mall home page using the Designer template.

The Designer template provides a new layout that utilizes a curtain navigation menu (a sliding menu available on-demand throughout the entire shopping experience). The Designer template also uses HTML5 and CSS3 architecture, which allows for greater flexibility and customization—and helps ensure cross browser support.

The Designer template features many new settings that allow you to choose background colors, fonts, images, and more. These settings provide a simple and easy means of branding your Marketplace mall and stores with your school’s design choices.

For example, the Global Navbar includes settings for the font family and the color scheme, including background color, border color, and font & icon color.

BUILD YOUR GLOBAL NAVBAR BRAND

- **Logo Font**
  - **Font Family**
    - *Serif UI*

- **Color Scheme**
  - **Light Theme**
    - **Background Color**
    - **Border Color**
  - **Dark Theme**
  - **Custom Theme**
    - Tip: Choose high-contrast colors for font vs. background

These branding settings are available for the Global Navbar.

Upgrade Considerations for the Designer Template

During the upgrade to Marketplace 7 Feature Pack 1, some of your previous Marketplace mall and store settings are migrated to the Designer template settings. These settings are migrated to help give you a head start in the process of taking advantage of the Designer template. However, you should review these imported settings to make sure they still best fit the needs of your school.

The migrated settings represent a snapshot (pre-Feature Pack 1) of your Marketplace environment from the date that the upgrade took place. The longer you wait after the upgrade date to use the Designer template then the greater the chance these settings will be out of sync with the current state of your...
We therefore recommend you consider moving your mall to the Designer template as soon as possible.

Please keep in mind when you move your mall to the Designer template that stores in mall mode will also be displayed with the Designer template.

You can identify which stores are displayed in mall mode by using your Marketplace Operations Center home page. The Type column indicates whether a store is in store-store mode ("Single") or mall mode ("General").

The Type column on the Operations Center home page shows the store mode.

Configuring the Designer Template

The process of moving your mall from the Classic template to the Designer template requires that you make configuration choices. Therefore, Marketplace allows you to begin this configuration process by editing the Designer template while you continue to use the Classic template.

You can edit both the Classic template and the Designer template.

To get started configuring the Designer template for the mall, navigate to System Administration > Settings > Mall Template Setup.

Then select the Edit button in the “Designer: Fixed Width” section. A graphical depiction of the Designer template layout is then displayed.

You click on the components in the layout sample to access the corresponding settings. Additional settings are available on the Mall Branding tab. And you can upload images by using the Images tab. (For complete instructions on the configuration settings, see the Marketplace 7 User’s Guide.)
Once you have completed your configuration choices for the Designer template, you can then return to the Mall Template Setup page and click the “Set to Current” button to make the Designer template your active template selection.

Using Preview Mode

To help you configure the inactive template and monitor the effect of your layout choices and entries—before you select the "Set to Current" button—Marketplace provides "preview" functionality. This functionality allows you to launch your store with your configuration choices on display.

Any time you make edits to the inactive template, you will be given an opportunity to not just "Save" your work; you will be given an opportunity to "Save and Preview" as well. After you edit the inactive template, the "Save and Preview" button will appear beside the "Save" button.

When you choose the "Save and Preview" button, a new browser window will be launched, and this window will display the results of your configuration choices.

Note: In order for the "Preview Mode" window to appear, your browser must be configured to allow pop-up windows.

When you use "Preview Mode," you will be able to see the store home page, product category pages, and product pages. In addition, you will be able to see the shopping cart and checkout pages (however, you will not be able to complete the checkout process).

How the Mall Template Choice Affects Stores

Stores that display in mall mode simply follow the template choice made at the administrative level for the mall. Therefore, the “Set to Current” button for these stores on the Store Templates page is greyed out. Only stores in single-store mode can use a layout template different than the mall.

Ideally, your Marketplace administrator should inform store managers well in advance of the switch to the Designer template—so the store managers can review the settings and images that were migrated to the Designer template.
during the upgrade process and decide if those settings and images still fit the needs of their stores.

Here are some issues that store managers should consider:

**Size Changes for Images**—The splash page images from the Classic template have been migrated to the hero images of the Designer template, but because these images have different maximum display sizes, we recommend store managers review these images. Likewise, the maximum display sizes for product images and category images have changed, so these images should be reviewed as well.

**Store Announcements**—Store announcements from the Classic template have been migrated to the Feature 1 field in the Designer template, but store managers should review the store announcements to ensure they still display as intended.

**Additional Considerations**

Store managers will also need to consider the new features provided in the Designer template.

**Announcements for Store-Level Product Categories**—When the Designer template is active, a store manager can modify a product category by adding an announcement.

**Mall Storefront Tile Images**—Store managers should consider uploading a mall storefront tile image (on the Store General Settings page). Customers will see a mall storefront tile image for each store on the mall home page.

**Product Category Tile Images**—For stores that used the splash page layout in the previous version of Marketplace, store managers should be aware that the Designer template displays category images on the store home page. This is a significant difference between the Classic template and the Designer template. Therefore, these store managers should consider uploading category tile images (on the Edit Store Category page). If a category tile image has not been uploaded for a category, Marketplace will display a default, generic image.

**Note:** The new features described in this section are not available for configuration until the Designer template is active.

**About Stores Displayed in Single-Store Mode**

Stores displayed in single-store mode are not affected by the template choice for the mall. And once single-store mode is activated, a store manager can select which template to use. For example, the store manager for a store in single-store mode can move their store to the Designer template while the mall remains on the Classic template. The reverse is also true: a store in single-store mode can continue to use the Classic template after the mall has switched to the Designer template.