

Enable and customise the XMLUI Mirage 2 theme

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DSpace Theme History

In the beginning DSpace only had one theme option.

Then the XMLUI was added with the Mirage 1 theme in addition to the JSPUI.

So now there are two user interfaces to select from and there are two themes to select for the XMLUI.

Which interface and which theme for the chosen interface, is an investigation that each institution should do.

This presentation focuses on the XMLUI interface using the Mirage 2 theme.

Mirage 2: A responsive UI for DSpace XMLUI

Why a responsive UI?

Users in nowadays access the web mostly using mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, etc. it is therefore essential that your DSpace offers a good user experience for users regardless of the form factor of their device.

Mirage 2 theme implements the capability by providing a distinct look for each of the 3 different categories of screen sizes: mobile phone, tablet and desktop.

Mirage 2: A responsive UI for DSpace XMLUI (2)

What is a responsive website?

A website that rearranges its content to fit in different screen sizes. The main focus is to provide a better user experience whether one is browsing on a mobile phone, a tablet or desktop computer. As opposed to using a separate mobile theme, there is only one version of the website that will work everywhere.

A simple way to find out whether a website has a responsive UI is to go to a webpage and resize the browser window. You should have a clean layout without a having to scroll sideways in order to view the whole content.

Mirage 2: Theme requirements

You need a very good understanding of modern web 2.0 theme styling components such as;

CSS - Cascading Stylesheets

Bootstrap CSS Framework

JavaScript - though not essential

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/Bootstrap_Framework

Read the tutorial which explains how the XMLUI themes are rendered from the source java code

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/Tutorial

Mirage 2: Theme requirements (cont)

DSpace is installed according to;

<http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/DSpace>

Please read about advanced customisation before starting any customisation work, as it is the basis for most of the customisation tasks.

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/DSDOC5x/Advanced+Customisation>

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/DSDOC4x/Advanced+Customisation>

<https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/DSDOC3x/Advanced+Customisation>

Enable Mirage 2 theme

Type the following:

```
nano $HOME/source/dspace/config/xmlui.xconf
```

See below for an example.

```
<theme name="Mirage 2" regex=".*" path="Mirage2/" />
```

See: https://github.com/DSpace/DSpace/blob/dspace-5_x/dspace/config/xmlui.xconf#L185

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2

Prepare the server for the Mirage 2 theme

After logging in as the "dspace" user, install the required Ubuntu software, by typing the following:

```
sudo apt-get install git curl maven ruby-compass default-jdk default-jre
```

Redirect git downloads from port 9418 to port 443:

```
git config --global url."https://".insteadOf git://
```

Install the "node.js" software, by typing the following:

```
sudo curl -sL https://deb.nodesource.com/setup | sudo bash -
```

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2

Prepare the server for the Mirage 2 theme (cont)

Install the node version manager (nvm) software, by typing the following:

```
sudo curl https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.24.0/install.sh | bash
```

Install the ruby version manager (rvm) software, by typing the following:

```
sudo curl -sSL https://get.rvm.io | bash -s stable
```

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2

Install theme build software

When the previous software has been installed correctly, **then logout and login** again as the "dspace" user.

Then type the following to install the software required to customise and build the theme:

```
sudo -i  
npm install --no-check-certificate -g bower  
npm install --no-check-certificate -g grunt  
npm install --no-check-certificate -g grunt-cli  
exit
```

Build/compile the Mirage 2 theme

Rebuild DSpace by adding the following switch, "*-Dmirage2.on=true*", to the Maven build instruction.

For example;

```
mvn -U clean package -Dmirage2.on=true
```

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2

Customise Mirage 2 - Common Elements

Edit the following file:

```
nano $HOME/source/dspace/config/dspace.cfg
```

Search for the following and ensure they are marked “true”;

```
webui.strengths.show = true
```

```
webui.suggest.enable = true
```

Search for the following and ensure it is marked as “list”

```
xmlui.theme.mirage.item-list.emphasis = list
```

Customise Mirage 2 - Front Page Text

Edit the following file:

```
nano $HOME/source/dspace/config/news-xmlui.xml
```

Use the following tags for content markup:

```
<head>Title etc..</head>  
<p>.....</p>  
<list>(add items, see below)</list>  
<item>Item content</item>  
<xref target="http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/BOAI/Section3">BOAI Section 3</xref>  
<figure source="http://www.dspace.org/sites/dspace.org/files/dspace_logo.png"/>  
<hi rend="bold">Bold text... </hi>  
<hi rend="italic">Italic text... </hi>
```

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Introduction_Text

Customise Mirage 2 - Palette (Colors)

Review the palette selection by viewing the following;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/Theme/Color_Palette

Then configure the palette for your repository by viewing the following;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Palette

Speak to your institution's communication or marketing department to determine the palette to use on your repository.

Customise Mirage 2 - Typography (Fonts)

A nice clear font, free of copyright or patents, is a really good way to create a crisp looking website.

We settled on the free Ubuntu font for our repository.

See the link below for more details;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Typography

Customise Mirage 2 - Banner Logo

The banner logo at the top of the web site is the section of theme that gets the most attention.

We changed our banner to use a transparent background color so that it is easy to change the banner background color via CSS.

See the link below for more details;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Logo
[go](#)

Make sure that the logo size is good otherwise, the site may not scale properly on a small screen size.

Customise Mirage 2 - Institutional Branding

To change all instances of “DSpace” to your brand and to enable a custom favicon, see the link below;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Institutional_Branding

To change your Mirage2 styling using CSS, add the changes to the styles in the `_style.scss` found in `[dspace-source]/dspace/modules/xmlui-mirage2/src/main/webapp/themes/Mirage2/styles`

All styles added to this file will be merged with the rest of the styles at the build stage therefore only add those that you have modified.

Customise Mirage 2 - Document Structure

You may want to swap the left and right parts of the site or you want to define custom sizes for responsive layouts. Click on the link below for more details;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Document_Structure

Customise Mirage 2 - Footer Design

The footer can be designed to reflect some global site information.

See the link below for details;

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Footer_Design

Customise Mirage 2 - Extra Customisation

Extra customisation involves the following;

Creating themes per collection with the XMLUI.

Details on creating custom buttons.

Using absolute font settings.

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation/Extra_Customisation

Customise Mirage 2 - Live Webapp Quick Changes

It can be a bit tedious to have rebuild the Mirage 2 theme each time you want to make a change to your theme.

Check the link below for instructions on how to apply changes to the theme in real time without having to rebuild each time.

http://wiki.lib.sun.ac.za/index.php/SUNScholar/XMLUI_Theme/M2/Customisation#Live_Webapp_Quick_Changes

Conclusion

For the best results with your theme it is recommended that you use a professional web programmer/designer.

For your convenience, the SUNScholar Mirage 2 theme is available on github, see the link below.

<https://github.com/hamslaai/Mirage2>