

# JSF 2: Page Templating with Facelets

**JSF 2.2 Version** 

Originals of slides and source code for examples: <a href="http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/">http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/</a>
Also see the PrimeFaces tutorial – <a href="http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/primefaces/">http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/</a>
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# **Topics in This Section**

- Motivation
- Basic templating mechanism
  - Template file
  - Client file
- Including files with ui:include
- Templating with includes
  - Reusable chunks of content that are not part of template, but are used in multiple pages
- Handling relative URLs
  - And relocatable resources

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# Templates – Basics



# **Need for Page Templating**

### Avoiding repetition in facelets pages

- OOP provides good reuse for Java code.
- But what about facelets code?
  - Also want to avoid repeating nearly-identical code there
  - Very common to have multiple pages that share the same basic layout and same general look







### Inadequacies of jsp:include

- JSF pages normally eschew JSP tags
- Even if you use jsp:include, it has problems
  - No real templates or named sections (ala Struts Tiles)
  - Can't easily pass chunks of text to included pages

# **Basic Steps**

### Define a template file

- Content that will appear in all clients is entered directly
- Content that can be replaced in client files is marked with ui:insert (with default values in case client does not supply content)

### Define a client file that uses the template

- Use ui:composition to specify the template file used
- Use ui:define to override content for each replaceable section in template (marked in template with ui:insert)

#### Access the client file in a browser

- http://host/app/clientfile.jsf
  - Users never access template files directly

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## **Super-Quick Example**

### Template File

```
/templates/sample-template.xhtml
```

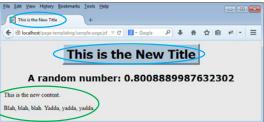
```
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
   xmlns:h="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/html"
   xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<h:head>
<title>
 <ui:insert name="title">Default Title</ui:insert>
</title>
k rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
   href="./css/styles.css"/>
</h:head>
<h:bodv>
<h1 class="title">
<ui:insert name="title">Default Title</ui:insert>
</h1>
<h2>A random number:
    #{numGenerator.randomNum}</h2>
<ui:insert name="content">Default Content</ui:insert>
```

#### Client File

### /sample-page.xhtml

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets" template="/templates/sample-template.xhtml">
<ui:define name="title">
This is the New Title
</ui:define>
<ui:define name="content">
This is the new content.

Blah, blah, blah. Yadda, yadda, yadda.
</ui:define>
</ui:composition>
```



</h:body></html>

## **Template File: Details**

### Namespaces

- If you use other tag libraries (f, c, etc.), list those also <a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xmlns:h="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/html" xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets" xmlns:f="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/core"></a>

</html>

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## **Template File: Details**

### Insert shared content literally

- If you have HTML or JSF data that will be used by all clients, place it directly in template file
- You can use any normal JSF elements
  - Regular HTML, expression language, h:dataTable, ui:repeat, composite componets, etc.

### Mark replaceable sections with ui:insert

- Give a name to the section (client will refer to name)
- Put default content between <ui:insert...> and </ui:insert>
  - If clients don't supply anything for name, they get default

### Put template files in separate folder

- So they won't be confused with user-accessible files.
  - Some developers put them in folder under WEB-INF

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# Template File: Example (/templates/sample-template.xhtml)

```
<!DOCTYPE ...>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"</pre>
      xmlns:h="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/html"
      xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<h:head>
<title>
  <ui:insert name="title">Default Title</ui:insert>
</title>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"</pre>
      href="./css/styles.css"/>
                                                             These sections can be
                                     The parts not marked with ui:insert will appear
                                                             replaced in client files
</h:head>
                                     in all client files. This can include dynamic
                                                             via a ui:define that
                                     content as with the random number below
<h:body>
<ui:insert name="title">Default Title</ui:insert>
<h2>A random number: #{numGenerator.randomNum}</h2>
<ui:insert name="content">Default Content</ui:insert>
</h:body></html>
```

## **Bean Code**

```
package coreservlets;
import javax.faces.bean.*;
@ManagedBean
public class NumGenerator {
   public double getRandomNum() {
     return(Math.random());
   }
}
```

The only point of this file is to show that either the template or the client file can contain any JSF constructs: expression language, loops, forms, Ajax, custom components, and so forth.

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## **Client File: Details**

- Use ui:composition with schema references
  - <ui:composition xmlns="..." xmlns:ui="..." ...>
    - Text outside of ui:composition ignored for output
- Use "template" attribute to refer to template file
  - <ui:composition xmlns="..." xmlns:ui="..."
    template="/templates/some-template.xhtml">
    - If you use h: or f: tags in the client file, then you must declare those namespaces as well.
- Use ui:define to supply content for sections
  - <ui:define name="section-name-from-template-file">
     Content to replace default for that section in template
     XHTML tags, JSF tags, EL expressions, components, etc.
     </ui:define>
- File goes in normal location for JSF file
  - Needs to be accessible to user
    - If file is blah.xhtml, it will be accessed as blah.jsf (or whatever urlpattern was in web.xml – see intro sections of JSF tutorial)

# Client File: Example (/sample-page.xhtml)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
     xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets"
     template="/templates/sample-template.xhtml">
  <ui:define name="title">
     This is the new title
                                                This client file does not directly use any of the h: tags, so
                                                xmlns:h=... is omitted from the start tag of ui:composition.
  </ui:define>
                                                But if h or f or c tag libraries are used directly in the client
                                                file, the schemas must be declared there.
  <ui:define name="content">
     This is the new content.
     Blah, blah, blah. Yadda, yadda, yadda.
  </ui:define>
</ui:composition>
```

Content in client files appears only inside ui:define!

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## **Client File: Result**





# ui:include – Basics



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## **Motivation**

### Main goal

 Of both templates and include files is to avoid repeating JSF/HTML content, but usage is different

### Templates

 Fixed page layout; shared code appears at specific position in final page

### Include files

- Chunks of JSF/HTML content that can appear anywhere within final page
- Included files can be used in regular pages or in client files that use templates
- This syntax is almost identical to that of the old isp:include

# **Super-Quick Example**

#### File to be Included

/snippets/piece-of-content.xhtml

<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets"> <div style="background-color: yellow">

<h3>This is a random piece of JSF and HTML content<br/>br/> A random number: #{numGenerator.randomNum}

</ui:composition>



#### Main File

### /some-random-page.xhtml

<!DOCTYPE ...>

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xmlns:h="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/html" xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">

<h:body>

>ui:include src="/snippets/piece-of-content.xhtml"/>

<ui:include src="/snippets/piece-of-content.xhtml"/>
<hr/>

<div style="float: right">

<ui:include src="/snippets/piece-of-content.xhtml"/>

</div>

<div style="float: left; margin-right: 10px">

-<ui:include src="/snippets/piece-of-content.xhtml"/>

</div>

Blah, blah, blah. Yadda, yadda, yadda....

</h:body></html>

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# Including Files in Templates



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## **Motivation**

- Content that is shared by <u>all</u> clients
  - Put directly in template file
- Content that is specific to individual client
  - Put in client file as body of ui:define (replacing a section from the template file)
- Content that is shared by <u>some</u> clients?
  - And perhaps inserted in different places in each client
  - Problems
    - Not used by all clients, so can't go directly in template file
    - Used by more than one client, so would be repetitive to specify the content in the client file with ui:define
  - Solution
    - Put reusable content in separate file
    - In client file, use ui:include in the body of ui:define

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# Using ui:include

- In last example, content that was always shared went in template file
  - What if content is only *sometimes* shared?
- Options
  - Content that is common to all clients
    - Goes in template file
  - Content that is specific to a particular client
    - Goes in client file in the body of ui:define
  - Content that is shared by multiple clients, but might not be shared by all clients
    - Put in separate file
    - Load it in client file by using ui:include in the body of ui:define

# **Template File**

#### Same rules as before

- Insert shared content literally
- Mark replaceable sections with ui:insert
- Output dynamic values with #{blah}
  - More generally, can use any JSF constructs
- Put template files in separate folder

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# File to be Included (Snippet File)

### Enclose content in ui:composition

- With appropriate schema references, as before
- Place snippets in separate folder
  - Avoid confusion with user-accessible files or templates

### Follow XML syntax

- This is different from files that are included with jsp:include, where snippet file is just a bunch of orphaned tags. Here, the entire file is legal XML.
  - Content outside ui:composition (if any) is ignored

### Snippets can use templates

- But then top-level tag in template file will be <ui:composition>, not <html>
  - · Since those templates build snippets, not full HTML files

### **Client File**

- Use ui:composition as before
  - With schema references and "template" attribute
  - <ui:composition xmlns="..." xmlns:ui="..."
    template="/templates/some-template.xhtml">
- Use ui:define with ui:include to refer to snippets

  - <ui:define name="section-name2-from-template-file"> Client-specific content </ui:define>
- Client file goes in normal location for JSF file
  - Needs to be accessible to user
    - If file is blah.xhtml, it will be accessed as blah.jsf (or whatever url-pattern was in web.xml – see intro sections of JSF tutorial)

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# **Example: An Online Boat Store**

- Common to all pages
  - DOCTYPE; head, title, and body tags; style sheet; title border
    - · Content goes directly in template
  - Header
- Common to some pages (potentially changeable)
  - Search box
  - Footer
    - Content goes in separate files that are loaded via ui:include within ui:define
- Unique to pages
  - Title text
  - Body
    - Content goes directly inside ui:define in client files



# Template File (Top) (/templates/eboats-template.xhtml)

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# Template File Cont. (Header) (/templates/eboats-template.xhtml)

```
<a href="welcome.jsf" class="white">Home</a>
    
 <a href="products.jsf" class="white">Products</a>
    
 <a href="services.jsf" class="white">Services</a>
    
 <a href="contact.jsf" class="white">Contact&nbsp;Us</a>
<a href="cart.jsf" class="white">My Cart</a>
    
 <a href="logout.jsf" class="white">Logout</a>
    
 <a href="help.jsf" class="white">Help</a>
 ...
```

# Template File Cont. (Body) (/templates/eboats-template.xhtml)

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# Footer File 1 (/snippets/footer-full.xhtml)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
    xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<div align="center">
    <a href="welcome.jsf">Home</a> |
    <a href="contact.jsf">Contact</a> |
    <a href="privacy.jsf">Privacy</a>
</div>
</ui:composition>
```

This footer is included in most, but not all, pages that use eboats-template.xhtml. The welcome page uses an abbreviated footer that does not include welcome.jsf (since the user is *already* on welcome.jsf).

A later part of this tutorial will discuss the problems that would happen if this snippet were to be included in pages that were in subdirectories instead of at the top level of the Web application: the relative URLs would no longer work. The style sheet and image in the top-level eboats-template.xhtml file have similar problems. In a few slides from now, we'll improve this example to include fixes for those problems.

### Footer File 2

(/snippets/footer-no-home.xhtml)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
    xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<div align="center">
    <a href="contact.jsf">Contact</a> |
    <a href="privacy.jsf">Privacy</a>
</div>
</ui:composition>
```

This is the same as the previous slide except for the omission of the link to the home page.

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# The Search Box Snippets

#### Goal

- Have various versions of the Web search box for different search engines (Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.)
- Avoid repeating the local-search box and most of the formatting

#### Solution

- Make a general search menu template
- Use that template for each of the search-engine specific entries

### Difference from previous template examples

- The search menu is not a full xhtml file, so it should not contain DOCTYPE, <a href="https://www.ehead">httml</a>, <a href="https://www.ehead">head</a>, <b dots; etc.
  - So, just use a snippet, and enclose it in ui:composition

# Search Box Template (Top) (/templates/search-box-template.xhtml)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
    xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<div align="center" >
<font color="white">Search Site</font>
<form action="siteSearch">
    <input type="text" name="query"/><br/>
    <input type="submit" value="Search"/>
  </form>
                                               Although this is a template file, the client
file that uses it will be a snippet file
                                               (which in turn will be included in another
                                               page), not a top-level page. So, the
                                              main tag is <ui:composition...>, not
                                               <html...>
```

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# Search Box Template (Bottom) (/templates/search-box-template.xhtml)

# Google Search Box (/snippets/google-search-box.xhtml)

This file is both a snippet (which will be included in another page) and a client file (which uses a template). This idea of composing templates out of other templates is very powerful. An upcoming section discusses composite components, which are even more powerful.

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# Bing Search Box (/snippets/bing-search-box.xhtml)

This is the same as the Google search box except for the URL of the action and the title of the button.

# Yahoo Search Box (/snippets/bing-search-box.xhtml)

This is the same as the previous search box except for the URL of the action, the name of the input element, and the title of the button.

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# Putting it Together: Client File 1 (/welcome.xhtml)

# Client File 1 Continued (/welcome.xhtml)

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## **Client File 1: Result**



# Client File 2 (/tankers.xhtml)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
    xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets"
    template="/templates/eboats-template.xhtml">

<ui:define name="title">
    Eboats Oil Tankers!
</ui:define>

<ui:define name="menu">
    <ui:define name="menu">
    <ui:define name="menu">
    <ui:define src="/snippets/yahoo-search-box.xhtml"/>
</ui:define>
```

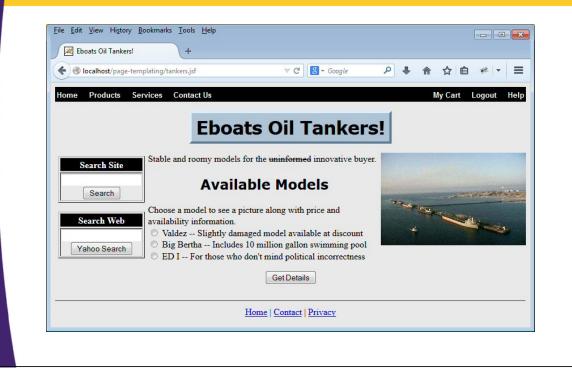
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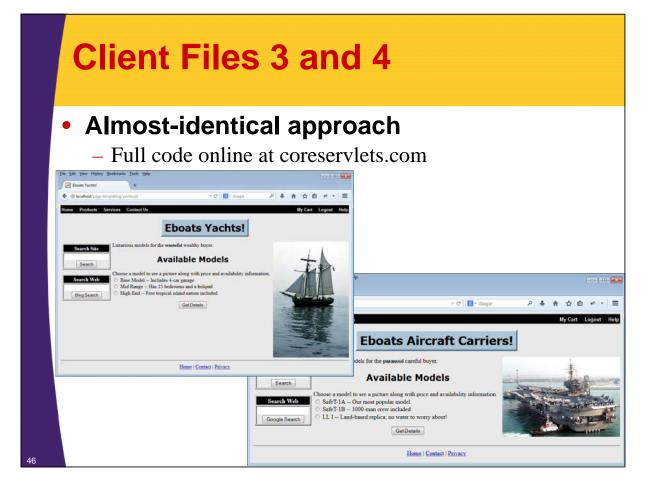
# Client File 2 Continued (/tankers.xhtml)

```
<ui:define name="body">
<img src="./images/yacht.jpg" alt="Yacht" align="right"/>

Luxurious models for the <s>wasteful</s> wealthy buyer.
<h2>Available Models</h2>
Choose a model to see a picture along with price and availability information.
... (more body content)
</ui:define>
<ui:define name="footer">
<ui:defin
```

## **Client File 2: Result**







# Handling Relative URLs in Templates



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# Problems with Previous Example

- Issue
  - Templates and snippets used simple relative URLs
- Example
  - Suppose client file was in subdir/client.xhtml, accessed with http://host/context-root/subdir/client.jsf
    - · All relative URLs would refer to subdir
  - Hypertext links
    - <a href="welcome.jsf"> would now refer to http://host/context-root/subdir/welcome.jsf
  - Images
    - <img src="./images/yacht.jpg"> would now refer to http://host/context-root/subdir/images/yacht.jpg
  - Style sheets
    - link ...href="./css/styles.css"/> would now refer to http://host/context-root/subdir/css/styles.css
  - JavaScript files
    - Not used in this example, but would have similar problems

# Solutions (Relocatable Resources)

### Hypertext links

- Use <a href="#{request.contextPath}/blah.jsf">
  - Or <h:outputLink value="#{request.contextPath}/blah.jsf"/>

#### Images

- Put in images folder under "resources" and use<h:graphicImage name="blah.jpg" library="images"/>
  - Can also use <h:graphicImage url="/images/blah.jpg"/>
    for context-independent ref to images outside resources folder

#### Style sheets

Put in css folder under "resources" and use<h:outputStylesheet name="blah.css" library="css"/>

### JavaScript files

- Put in scripts folder under "resources" and use <h:outputScript name="blah.js" library="scripts" target="head"/>

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# Reminder – h:head and h:body

- Plan ahead: <u>always</u> use h:head and h:body
  - Never just <head> and <body> (so JSF can find regions)

#### Reasons

- f:ajax
  - This tag automatically inserts scripts, and can't find the place to insert unless you use h:head and h:body
- h:outputStylesheet
  - <h:outputStylesheet> does not have to be in the head, so JSF needs to be able to find the head to insert the final output (<link>) that loads the style sheet.
- h:outputScript
  - Again, <h:outputScript> does not have to be in the head, so JSF needs to be able to find the head (if you use target="head") or body (if you use target="body") to insert the final output (<script>) that loads the JavaScript file

## **Hypertext Links: Relative URLs**

### Prepend #{request.contextPath}

- Unlike images, style sheets, and scripts, JSF has no builtin way to build context-relative links.
- However, it is easy to do so yourself

### Examples

- <a href="#{request.contextPath}/blah.jsf">
- <h:outputLink value="#{request.contextPath}/blah.jsf"/>
  - Assume that your context root is /my-context. Then, both
    of the above build <a href="/my-context/blah.jsf">

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# **Images: Relative URLs**

### Use h:graphicImage with name and library

- JSF 2.0 added the concept of resource folders. You make a folder literally called "resources", then make subfolders inside (you can choose the name of the folders inside).
  - For "library", give the name of the images subfolder
  - For "name", give the image filename
- This has two advantages beyond just context-relative URLs: versioning, localization, and resources in the classpath
- Or, use <h:graphicImage url="/foo/bar.jpg"/>
  - Outputs <img src="/my-context/foo/bar.jgp"/>. This is a holdover from JSF 1.x. Resources are better in most cases.

### Example

- <h:graphicImage name="blah.gif" library="images"/>
  - Outputs <img src="..."/>, where src refers to JSF page that outputs /my-context/resources/images/blah.gif

# **Style Sheets: Relative URLs**

### Use h:outputStylesheet with name & library

- Again, make "resources" folder with subfolder inside
  - For "library", give the name of the CSS subfolder
  - For "name", give the filename of the stylesheet
- It is not necessary to put <h:outputStylesheet> in the head
  - This makes it easy for components or included pages to refer to the style sheets they need. The real reference will come out in the head, and if there are multiple uses of h:outputStylesheet in the same page (e.g., from two included pages), it will build only one ref in main page

### Example

- <h:outputStylesheet name="blah.css" library="css"/>
  - Outputs link type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="..." /> where href refers to JSF page that outputs /my-context/resources/css/blah.css

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# **Scripts: Relative URLs**

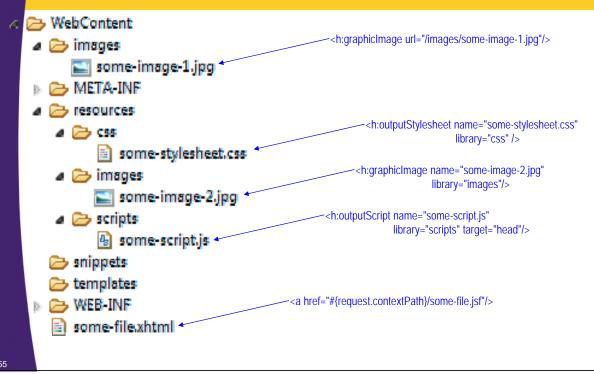
### Use h:outputScript with name & library

- Again, make "resources" folder with subfolder inside
  - For "library", give the name of the JavaScript subfolder
  - For "name", give the name of the JavaScript file
- It is not necessary to put <h:outputScript> in the head
  - As with style sheets, this makes it easy for components or included pages to refer to the scripts they need. Again, if the tag is used multiple times, only one ref to the script appears in the real page.
  - If you omit target="head", script appears at current location instead of in head. body and form are also legal, but rare, options.

#### Example

- <h:outputScript name="blah.js" library="scripts" target="head" />
  - Outputs <script type="text/javascript" src="..." /> in head, where src refers to page that outputs /my-context/resources/scripts/blah.js

# **Example: Referring to Files from Templates or Components**



# Example: yacht-template.xhtml (Top)

```
<!DOCTYPE ...>
<a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"</a>
    xmlns:h="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/html"
    xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets">
<h:head>
<title><ui:insert name="title">Default Title</ui:insert></title>
<h:outputStylesheet name="styles.css" library="css"/>
<h:outputScript name="jquery.js" library="scripts"/>
<h:outputScript name="jquery-setup.js" library="scripts"/>
</h:head>
<h:body>
                                                            The pushbutton on the next slide uses jQuery to highlight bullets.
                                                            jQuery is explained in a separate tutorial at coreservlets.com, but the point is that this page needs a context-path-relative way to load the
<div align="center">
                                                            JavaScript files and the stylesheet
<h1 class="title">
   <ui:insert name="title">Title</ui:insert>
</h1>
<h2>Some of our Yachts</h2>
```

# Example: yacht-template.xhtml (Continued)

```
Small YachtMedium Yacht
<h:graphicImage name="small-yacht.jpg" library="images"/>
<h:graphicImage url="/images/medium-yacht.jpg"/>
The top form is better for new apps, but the bottom form is supported for backward compatibility with facelets in JSF 1.x.
<h2>Benefits</h2>
<div id="benefits">
 <ui:insert name="benefits">
   List of benefits of our yachts goes here.
   ul>Benefit 1...ul>
 </ui:insert>
</div>
<input type="button" id="highlight-button"
      value="Highlight Benefits"/>
```

# Example: yacht-template.xhtml (Continued)

```
<div align="center">
  <a href="#{request.contextPath}/welcome.jsf">Home</a> |
  <a href="#{request.contextPath}/contact.jsf">Contact</a> |
  <a href="#{request.contextPath}/privacy.jsf">Privacy</a> </div> </div> </h:body></html>
```

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# Example: yacht-client1.xhtml (in "dir1" subfolder)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
   xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets"
   template="/templates/yacht-template.xhtml">
 <ui:define name="title">Yacht Page 1</ui:define>
 <ui:define name="benefits">
  ul>
   <b>Inexpensive.</b> At least half our yachts
     sell for under $200 million.
   <b>Easy to operate.</b> Base models
     require only a dozen well-trained
     crew members.
   <b>Convenient terms.</b> We take cash,
     credit cards, or precious gems. No
     inconvenient IRS reporting for those
     paying in cash.
  </ui:define>
</ui>
```

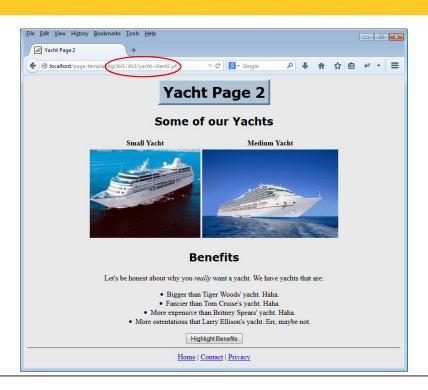
# Result: yacht-client1.jsf



# Example: yacht-client2.xhtml (in "dir1/dir2" subfolder)

```
<ui:composition xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
   xmlns:ui="http://xmlns.jcp.org/jsf/facelets"
   template="/templates/yacht-template.xhtml">
 <ui:define name="title">Yacht Page 2</ui:define>
 <ui:define name="benefits">
  Let's be honest about why you <i>really</i>
   want a yacht. We have yachts that are:
  Bigger than Tiger Woods' yacht. Haha.
   Fancier than Tom Cruise's yacht. Haha.
   More expensive than Britney Spears' yacht. Haha.
   More ostentatious that Larry Ellison's yacht.
     Err, maybe not.
  </ui:define>
</ui:composition>
```

Result: yacht-client2.jsf





# Wrap-Up



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# **Summary**

### Template file

- Directly insert content that will be used by all clients
- Mark replaceable regions with ui:insert

#### Client file

- Use ui:composition to designate template that is used
- Override replaceable regions with ui:define
  - Type in literal HTML/JSF tags
  - Insert snippets with ui:include
- Nothing else
  - Client files can supply content only for named regions from template

### Using relative URLs in templates

- Hypertext links: <a href="#{request.contextPath}/..."/>
- Images: <h:graphicImage name="..." library="..."/>
- CSS: <h:outputStylesheet name="..." library="..."/>
- Scripts: <h:outputScript name="..." library="..."/>

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# **Questions?**

More info-

http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/jsf2/ - JSF 2.2 tutorial

http://www.coreservlets.com/JSF-Tutorial/primefaces/ – PrimeFaces tutorial

http://corporables.com/ \_ ISE 2 PrimeFaces Iava 7 or 8 Jav (Ouery Hardon PESTFINI Woh Sorvices Android HTMLS Sorring Hilbertate Sorviets ISP CWT and other lava FF traini



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