

HOSTADMIN V.3.0

HTML & Members Area Manual

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1. REQUIREMENTS

This manual assumes you have the latest release of HostAdmin installed and configured on your server.

If you have not done so already, purchase/download the latest release of HostAdmin, then follow the steps in the HostAdmin Installation and Configuration Manual.

2. TEMPLATES

HostAdmin uses templates to control the look and feel of your member's area. The HostAdmin installation includes a number of pre-defined templates, which you can manipulate to suite your needs, or you can use them as a model to create your own custom templates.

The most important thing to remember when working with the templates is that HostAdmin uses sessions to track your customers as they go from page to page in the member's area. If you modify the templates or pages, and edit the links so the "session_id" is no longer passed in the link or form, then HostAdmin will not be able to track the customer properly.

This can cause the following issues:

- a) Users may lose their login status and have to re-login.
- b) Affiliate sales and referrals cannot be tracked accurately.

The templates used by HostAdmin also feature Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). CSS will drastically reduce the amount of time required to make site-wide changes to the font sizes and colors, background and foreground colors, and link colors.

2.a Using the Templates

The following steps will walk you through the basic customization of the template HTML, CSS, Headers, and Footers.

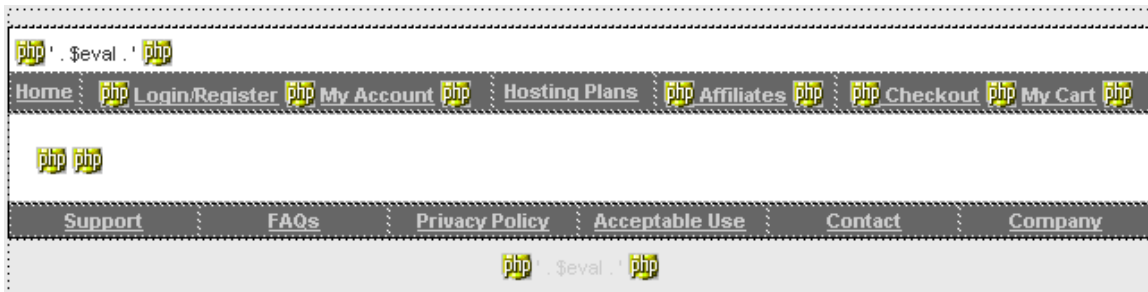
2.a.i HTML

In order to edit the actual HTML layout of a template, you can use any HTML editor, such as FrontPage, [Macromedia Dreamweaver](#) (recommended), or if you are a pure HTML coder, you can use a text editor, such as Notepad.

First, you must determine the current template being used. To do this, refer to Step 5.a.v of the HostAdmin [Installation and Configuration Manual](#).

Next, using your HTML editor, such as Dreamweaver or FrontPage, you can open the template file from your main HostAdmin installation directory. (Example: template_1.html)

If your HTML editor uses a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface, you should see the following HTML Layout:



This is basic template layout; it will load the Header at the top, the Page in the center, and the Footer at the bottom.

Using your HTML editor, you may now proceed to change the settings of this template to match your layout requirements.

For example:

- 1) Add a menu on the left or right instead of the top.
- 2) Add links to other pages on your site.
- 3) Add links to pages outside of your site.
- 4) Add graphic buttons instead of the default text links that are used.
- 5) Change the background color.
- 6) Change the default link colors.

All of these additions and modification will require varying levels of HTML experience. It is beyond the scope of this manual to give a HTML tutorial; we trust that you can use your own skills or retain a professional if need be.

2.a.ii CSS

HostAdmin uses CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to apply site-wide changes to the member's area. By making a few changes to the active template file, you can easily change your font color, size, foreground, and background settings.

Here is a great resource for CSS documentation and help: <http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/>

If you use your HTML editor to view source for this HTML, around line 14, you should see the following code for the CSS:

```
14 <style type="text/css">
15 <!--
16 a:active { text-decoration: none}
17 a:hover { text-decoration: underline}
18 a:link { text-decoration: none}
19 a:visited { text-decoration: none}
20 .main { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 12px; font-weight: normal}
21 .menu { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; font-weight: normal}
22 .field_b { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 11px; color: #000000}
23 .field_t { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 11px; color: #000000}
24 .fields { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 10px; font-weight: normal}
25 -->
26 </style>
```

This code defines the CSS properties; we will explain how to modify them next.

One of the reasons we recommend Macromedia Dreamweaver is because of its built-in support for editing CSS properties, without learning it as a coding language. You can simply open the "CSS Styles" window and make modifications to all the CSS definitions.

Next, we will describe each of the CSS styles, and how HostAdmin uses them:

"a:active" Defines the properties for active links.

Example: The "[click here](#)" link in the image below:

> Account Login

If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

"a:hover" Defines the properties for links when the mouse passes over them.

Example: The "[click here](#)" link in the image below:

> Account Login

If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

"a:link" Defines the properties links.

Example: The "[click here](#)" link in the image below:

> Account Login

If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

"a:visited" Defines the properties for previously visited links.

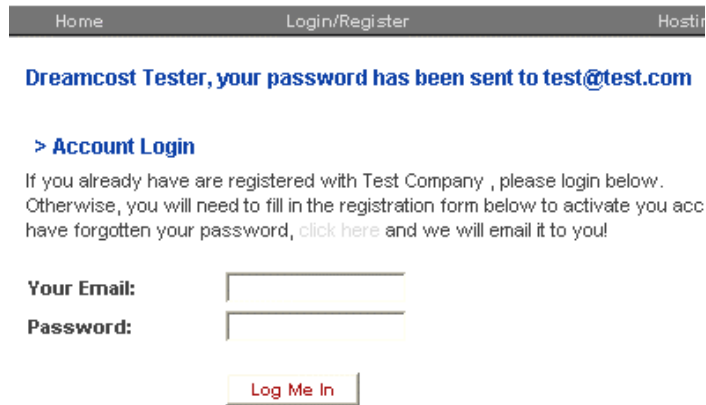
Example: The "[click here](#)" link in the image below:

> Account Login

If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

.main Defines the properties for

Example: “Dreamcost Tester, your password has been sent...” as below.



The screenshot shows a navigation bar with links for Home, Login/Register, and Hosting. Below the bar, a blue link reads "Dreamcost Tester, your password has been sent to test@test.com". A section titled "> Account Login" contains instructions: "If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below. Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you acc have forgotten your password, click here and we will email it to you!". The form includes labels for "Your Email:" and "Password:" with corresponding input fields, and a "Log Me In" button.

.menu Defines the properties for

Example: The upper and lower menus, as displayed below.



The screenshot shows a navigation bar with four links: Home, Login/Register, Hosting Plans, and My Cart.

.field b Defines the properties for the font, font color, font size, and background color of the checkout and cart tables.

Example: The shopping cart, checkout, and hosting plan tables.



The screenshot shows a table with a header "Test Plan" and a button "Order Now". The table content includes the text "Cost: \$10.00 Billed Monthly." and "This is a test hosting plan".

“.field t”

Defines the properties for the font, font color, font size, and background color text tables.

Example: The dark text below the “> Account Login” in the image below.

> Account Login

If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

Your Email:

Password:

“.fields”

Defines the properties for the font, font color, font size, and background for the field objects and buttons.

Example: The email, password fields, and the “Log Me In” button below.

> Account Login

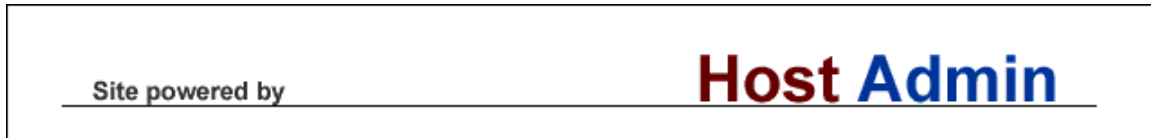
If you already have are registered with Test Company , please login below.
Otherwise, you will need to fill in the registration form below to activate you account. If you have forgotten your password, [click here](#) and we will email it to you!

Your Email:

Password:

2.a.iii Headers

By default, this is the HTML header displayed in the HostAdmin member's area:

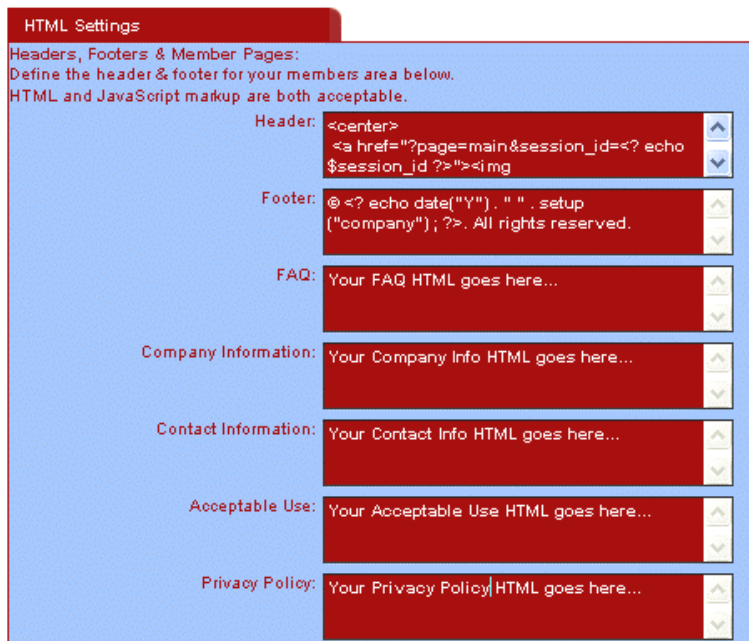


You can easily modify the header to display your own logo, links, HTML, Flash, JavaScript, etc.

To modify the header, login to your HostAdmin admin area, and go to:

ADMINISTRATION > HTML CUSTOMIZATION

You will see the following forms:



HTML Settings

Headers, Footers & Member Pages:
Define the header & footer for your members area below.
HTML and JavaScript markup are both acceptable.

Header:

Footer:

FAQ:

Company Information:

Contact Information:

Acceptable Use:

Privacy Policy:

Insert the HTML code that you want to be displayed as your header into the "Header" field.

Then enter your super user password at the bottom of the page and click the "update" button.

2.a.iv Footers

By default, this is the HTML footer displayed in the HostAdmin member's area:

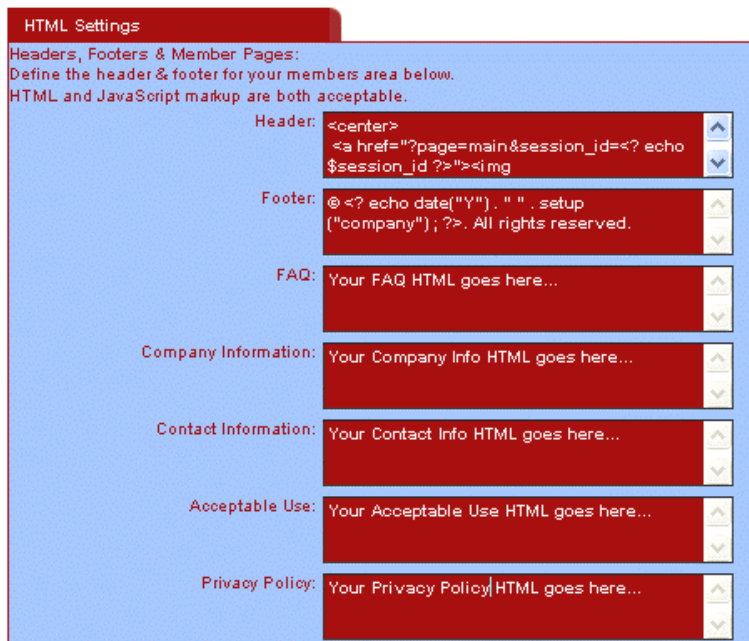
© 2003 Test Company. All rights reserved.

You can easily modify the footer to display your own customized HTML if you wish.

To modify the footer, login to your HostAdmin admin area, and go to:

ADMINISTRATION > HTML CUSTOMIZATION

You will see the following forms:



The screenshot shows the 'HTML Settings' form. It has a blue header and a light blue background. The form contains several text input fields, each with a label on the left and a text area on the right. The 'Header' field contains the code: `<center>
<a href=?page=main&session_id=<? echo $session_id ?>"></img`. The 'Footer' field contains the code: `@ <? echo date("Y") . " " . setup ("company"); ?>. All rights reserved.`. The other fields are labeled 'FAQ:', 'Company Information:', 'Contact Information:', 'Acceptable Use:', and 'Privacy Policy:', each followed by the text 'Your [label] HTML goes here...'. Each text area has a small blue arrow pointing up and a small green arrow pointing down on its right side.

Insert the HTML code that you want to be displayed as your footer into the "Footer" field.

Then enter your super user password at the bottom of the page and click the "update" button.

2.b Creating Templates

You may want to create your own custom template, instead of customizing one of the existing templates.

If so, you need to be sure the links and PHP code included on your template are just like the existing templates.

If not, some of the sessions may be lost, or links may not work correctly.

If you have questions about creating the links properly, refer to step 4.

You will also need to define the CSS styles as explained in step 2.a.ii, or the font colors and sizes on the pages will not be set correctly.

3. Pages

Each time HostAdmin loads a page, it is actually loading the template first, then including the page define in the URL or POST.

For example, in order to load the account page, you use a link that looks like this:

<http://www.domain.com/hostadmin/?page=account>

HostAdmin then looks for the page named "member_account.html" in the main installation directory.

Some pages, such as the "account" page, require that the user is logged in before access to view the page is granted. In these cases, you will pass another variable called "next_page" to let HostAdmin know what page to load after the user logs in. For example:

http://www.domain.com/hostadmin/?page=account&next_page=account

3.a. Editing Existing Pages

If you want to edit an existing page, you may do so using a HTML editing tool, such as FrontPage or Dreamweaver.

To determine the proper file to open, look at the "page=???" included in the URL or POST.

You then open the "member_???.html" page from the main HostAdmin directory with your HTML editor to make the desired modifications. (Where "???" is the name of the page)

3.b Adding Pages

If you want to add a page that can be called from within HostAdmin, you would determine a good name for the file. For the purpose of the example, the name of the file will be "page1".

You then create the file with your HTML editor, and save it as "member_page1.html".

You can then display this page in HostAdmin by creating a link like this:

<http://www.domain.com/hostadmin/?page=page1>

HostAdmin will know to look for the file named "member_page1.html".

4. LINKS

An important part of implementing HostAdmin into your website is the ability to link from other pages/sites to the various pages and function in HostAdmin.

In all these examples, you must replace <http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/> with the actual URL to your HostAdmin location.

Also, you will want to include the following in the url:

`session_id=<? echo $session_id ?>`

Example:

[http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=main&session_id=<? echo \\$session_id ?>](http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=main&session_id=<? echo $session_id ?>)

This will ensure that the user is tracked correctly.

4.a Home

Links to the HostAdmin main home page:

<http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/>

4.b Register

Links to the HostAdmin registration forms:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=account&next_page=account

or

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/ha3/?page=new_account

4.c Login

Links to the HostAdmin login page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=account&next_page=account

4.d Password Reminder

Links to the password reminder page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=email_password

4.e Logout

Logs out the user and returns them to the main page:
<http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?action=logout>

4.f View Hosting Plans

Links to the Hosting Plans listing:
<http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=subscriptions>

4.g Adding Domains & Hosting to the Cart

Check a domain for availability:
http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_2&desired_domain=domain.com

Add a domain to the cart for registration only:
[http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3&D_Y\[0\]=Y&D_C\[0\]=register.com](http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3&D_Y[0]=Y&D_C[0]=register.com)

Add a domain to the cart for registration and hosting:
[http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3&D_Y\[0\]=Y&D_H\[0\]=XXX&D_C\[0\]=register.com](http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3&D_Y[0]=Y&D_H[0]=XXX&D_C[0]=register.com)
(Where XXX = the ID of the hosting plan to use)

Add a domain to the cart for hosting only:
http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3&action=transfer_domain&transfer_domain=domain.com

4.h View Shopping Cart

Links to the HostAdmin shopping cart page:
http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_3

4.i Checkout

Links to the HostAdmin final checkout page:
http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=signup_4&next_page=signup_4

4.j Support

Links to the HostAdmin support page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=service&next_page=service

4.k Support

Links to the HostAdmin FAQs page:

<http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=static&content=faq>

4.l Privacy Policy

Links to the HostAdmin Privacy Policy page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=static&content=privacy_policy

4.m Acceptable Use

Links to the HostAdmin Acceptable Use page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=static&content=acceptable_use

4.n Contact

Links to the HostAdmin support page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=static&content=contact_info

4.o Company

Links to the HostAdmin support page:

http://www.yourdomain.com/hostadmin/?page=static&content=company_info

5. FORMS

Using forms will allow you to collect data from your users on pages or sites outside of HostAdmin. It is vital that you implement forms properly; passing the wrong data or excluding required data will cause problems. This could result in lost sessions or error messages.

The examples below are intended to display the proper HTML code you can include in pages outside of HostAdmin, whether it is on a remote site, or just another portion of your site.

In all the examples below, you must change the following line:

<http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/>

To the actual URL where HostAdmin is installed on your server.

5.a. Login

Display the form to login the user and display their main account details page:

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  Email      <input type="text" name="login_email" size="10">
  Password:  <input type="password" name="login_password" size="15"> <br>
             <input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Log Me In">
             <input type="hidden" name="page" value="account">
             <input type="hidden" name="next_page" value="account">
             <input type="hidden" name="action" value="login">
</form>
```

5.b. Logout

Logs out the current session so nobody can access an account if they find another user's session id.

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  <input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Log Me Out">
  <input type="hidden" name="action" value="logout">
</form>
```

5.c. Password Reminder

This form will allow your customers to enter their email address to be reminded of their password. HostAdmin will send the password on file for the email address specified.

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  Your Email:
  <input type="text" name="email" size="15">
  <input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Remind Me">
  <input type="hidden" name="action" value="email_password">
  <input type="hidden" name="page" value="account">
</form>
```

5.d. Account Registration

Start the account registration process from anywhere. The account validation settings will still apply, as defined in the HostAdmin Installation Manual, step 5.c.

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  <BR>Email:
    <input type="text" name="email" size="32">
  <BR> Password:
    <input type="text" name="password" size="32">
  <BR> Name:
    <input type="text" name="name" size="32">
  <BR> Address:
    <input type="text" name="address" size="32">
  <BR> City:
    <input type="text" name="city" size="32">
  <BR> State:
    <input type="text" name="state" size="32">
  <BR> Zip:
    <input type="text" name="zip" size="32">
  <BR> Company:
    <input type="text" name="company" size="32">
  <BR> Phone:
    <input type="text" name="phone" size="32">
  <BR> Fax:
    <input type="text" name="fax" size="32">
  <BR><input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Register">
    <input type="hidden" name="page" value="account_validate">
    <input type="hidden" name="next_page" value="account">
</form>
```

5.e. Domain Whois Search

Check the availability of a domain and allow users to add available domains to their cart for purchase.

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  Domain Name:
  <input type="text" name="desired_domain" size="32">
  <BR><input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Check Availability">
  <input type="hidden" name="page" value="signup_2">
</form>
```

5.f. Domain Transfer

Add a domain to the shopping cart so the customer can select a hosting plan and complete the checkout/purchase process.

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">
  Domain Name:
  <input type="text" name="transfer_domain" size="32">
  <BR><input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Transfer Domain">
  <input type="hidden" name="page" value="signup_3">
  <input type="hidden" name="action" value="transfer_domain">
</form>
```

6. SESSIONS

HostAdmin can track users by two methods:

- 1) A Cookie (Use must have this enabled in their browser to work)
- 2) A unique session id passed in each URL or FORM.

If your implementation of HostAdmin links away from the HostAdmin members area, and you want HostAdmin to remember the visitor when they return to the HostAdmin area so they do not need to login again, you will need to include the unique session id on your non-HostAdmin pages.

For example, if you create a link on one of your HostAdmin pages to a 'Help' section of your website, and you want HostAdmin to recognize your user when he returns:

- 1) Your user must have cookies enabled (no way to enforce this)
- 2) You will have to include a session id in all your URLs or FORMs in the 'Help' section of your website.

6. Including Sessions in Links

Example code for including the session id in a URL:

```
?session_id=<? echo $session_id ?>
```

So the entire code for your URL would look something like this:

```
<a href="http://domain.com/page.php?session_id=<? echo $session_id ?>&action=logout">Click Here!</a>
```

6. Including Sessions in Forms

Example code for including the session id in a FORM:

```
<form name="form" method="post" action="http://yourdomain.com/hostadmin/">  
  <input type="hidden" name="session_id" value="<? echo $session_id ?>">  
</form>
```