

25. Creating a Template for Distribution

Creating A Stylesheet

Web developers may want to distribute templates they have created. Distributable templates (called stylesheets) can be installed on a client's machine using the iNETstore Store Creation Wizard.

Distributional stylesheets should contain these parts:

- All required html, ehtml and template files.
- All required images.
- Database (TBD and TBI) files.
- Store preview image (preview.bmp).
- Readme file in RTF format.
- layout.ini file

Creating Database Files

Data files are stored in the 'database' directory of a stylesheet. There are two types of data files:

TBI: Files with the .tbi extension are database index files that define the structure of a table. For example, itm.tbi defines the structure of the item table.

TBD: These files contain sample data that is to be inserted into a table during the store creation process. For example, itm.tbd contains sample item data.

To automatically create data files, follow these steps:

- Create a store and modify the design as required.
- Carry out the first step of the send to server process. iNETstore will automatically create data files for each table in your store. The files will have the format of ITMstorename.tbi and ITMstorename.tbd. For example, if your store is called bookshop, the files will be named ITMbookshop.tbi, ITMbookshop.tbd, etc.
- You will need to manually delete the 'storename' part from the file name. For example, change ITMbookshop.tbi to ITM.tbi, ITMbookshop.tbd to ITM.tbd, CTGbookshop.tbi to CTG.tbi, etc.
- Done. iNETstore will now recognise these files and use them during the store creation process.

Layout File

If you have customised the data entry screen using the Layout Manager, the database directory should also contain a file called layout.ini.

Store Preview Image

Each stylesheet should also contain a preview image in BMP format. This is normally a screenshot of the store. The BMP image should be called preview.bmp located in the stylesheet root directory. It should be 342 pixels wide and 289 pixels high.

Readme File

A file called readme.rtf in the root directory of the stylesheet should contain a brief description of the template. This is shown during the template selection process when the create store wizard is run. We recommend that you use WordPad (which comes with Microsoft Windows) to create this RTF file.