Table of Contents

PatternSkin Customization **1**
First Read: How to modify PatternSkin templates 1
The template approach 1
The topic template approach (using VIEW_TEMPLATE) 2
Reference: pattern skin template INCLUDE tree 2
Logo 2
How can I change the web logo? 2
How do I set a site-wide logo? 3
My logo does not fit the top bar 3
I want to change the white space above and below the logo 3
Top bar 3
The search box won't find topics in other webs 3
I want to change the height of the top bar 4
I want to set or change the top background image 4
I want to have the web color in the top bar 4
I want to remove the Jump and Search boxes from the top bar 4
I want to hide the top bar 4
Left bar 5
I want to hide the side bar 5
Buttons 5
I want to hide the edit buttons from certain users 5
I want to remove the History button from the bottom 5
I want to put the bottom links as buttons at the top 5
Other page parts 6
I want to insert text outside of the topic content 6
I want to place the form at the top 6

PatternSkin Customization

Guidelines how to create and customize page templates. For styling your Foswiki using stylesheets, see PatternSkinCssCookbook.

First Read: How to modify PatternSkin templates

Everything you see on the common 'view' page is written by the `view` template. For pattern skin this file is `/templates/view.pattern.tmpl`.

We describe two approaches to override this template:

1. By creating a custom skin file in the `templates` directory
2. By creating a custom topic template

Which approach is best?

- If you want to change the appearance for a lot of pages or even site-wide, the template approach is the easiest.
- If you want to change the appearance of a single topic, or a set of topics, use a topic template.

The template approach

To change templates you will need shell access. If you don't have this read on below in The topic template approach.

The quickest way to change the view template would be to simply change the text in the template. A safer way - strongly recommended, because it will survive a Foswiki update - is to create your own custom skin. That may sound like an awful lot of work, but in reality a skin may be as much as 1 file that consists of only a few lines of code.

Example
Let's say you want to simplify the bottom toolbar and remove all links except for "More topic actions". You would need to target `%TMPL:DEF{"topicactionbuttons"}%`, which is located in `view.pattern.tmpl`.

The steps you would need:

1. Think up a name for your skin. Let us use `myskin` for now.
2. Create a new (empty) view template file in `/templates` called `view.myskin.tmpl`.
3. In `view.myskin.tmpl` you write:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}%
%TMPL:DEF{"top:topicactionbuttons"}%%TMPL:P{"more_link"}%%TMPL:END%
```

4. For testing, view any topic and append to the topic name: `?cover=myskin`. You should see an effect now.
5. To make the changes visible on all pages, go to Main.SitePreferences (to keep DefaultPreferences intact) and write:

```
* Set COVER = myskin
```

or write

```
* Set SKIN = myskin,pattern
```

Test by appending `?cover=myskin` to the url.

The topic template approach (using VIEW_TEMPLATE)

Template overrides can be written in a topic, a so-called *topic template*. Topic template names end with `ViewTemplate`, for instance `BlogPostViewTemplate`.

Call this template by setting `VIEW_TEMPLATE`:

```
* Set VIEW_TEMPLATE = BlogPostView
```

- Note that you don't use the `Template` extension now
- You can make this setting hidden by writing this in the Settings screen: go to More and then Topic Settings

We can use the same example as above. In the topic you want to use as view template, for instance `OnlyMoreView`, write:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"top:toolbarbuttons"}%%TMPL:P{"more_link"}%%TMPL:END%
```

You can also test this by appending `?template=OnlyMoreView` to the url.

Reference: pattern skin template INCLUDE tree

The `view` script invokes the `view` template:

```
view
    foswiki
        css
        viewtopbar
            %SYSTEMWEB%.WebTopBar
        viewsidebar
            %WEB%.WebLeftBar
        viewtopicactionbuttons
        viewbottombar
            %SYSTEMWEB%.WebBottomBar
```

Logo

How can I change the web logo?

By default the logo at the top left of each web points to the image with name `logo.gif` that is attached to each web's WebPreferences.
The preference settings that cause this behavior are defined in DefaultPreferences.

Redefine your custom preference settings in Main.SitePreferences (to keep DefaultPreferences intact):

```
    * Set WEBLOGONAME = logo.gif
  * Set WEBLOGOIMG = %PUBURLPATH%/%BASEWEB%/%WEBPREFSTOPIC%/%WEBLOGONAME%
```

```
  * Set WEBLOGOURL = %SCRIPTURLPATH{"view"}%/%BASEWEB%/%HOMETOPIC%
  * Set WEBLOGOALT = Home
```

There are 2 ways to change the logo in a web:

Using logo.gif:
Create a new image named `logo.gif` and attach it to the web's WebPreferences topic. PatternSkin's stylesheet assumes the logo is 40px high. More about that later.
You can also upload the image with FTP to `/pub/YourWeb/WebPreferences/`.
Copy the above instructions ("Redefine your custom preference settings") and insert your logo name. **Using a new filename:**
Attach whatever image and attach it to the web's WebPreferences topic. Then add to the WebPreferences (under *Custom web preferences*):

```
      * Set WEBLOGONAME = your-logo-name.gif-or-png
```

Copy the above instructions ("Redefine your custom preference settings") and insert your logo name.

How do I set a site-wide logo?

There are a bunch of site-wide logo preference settings in Main.SitePreferences: `WIKILOGOIMG`, `WIKILOGOURL` and `WIKILOGOALT`. To change only the web logo image to site-wide, in Main.SitePreferences set:

```
    * Set WEBLOGOIMG = %WIKILOGOIMG%
```

My logo does not fit the top bar

See I want to change the height of the top bar

I want to change the white space above and below the logo

Change the table style in topic WebTopBar?. The default top padding is 11px.

Top bar

The search box won't find topics in other webs

In WebTopBar? you can find the line:

```
      <input type="hidden" name="web" value="%BASEWEB%" />
```

To search all webs, write:

```
 <input type="hidden" name="web" value="all" />
```

To search a couple of webs, for instance the webs Main and System, write:

```
 <input type="hidden" name="web" value="Main,System" />
```

See also: Search macro

I want to change the height of the top bar

This information has moved to PatternSkinCssCookbook

I want to set or change the top background image

The image at the top is called "header art" - commonly the top image found on blog sites. The image that is displayed by default is set by the preference `WEBHEADERART`, defined in DefaultPreferences.

Redefine your custom preference settings in Main.SitePreferences (to keep DefaultPreferences intact):

```
    * Set WEBHEADERART = %PUBURLPATH%/%SYSTEMWEB%/PatternSkin/Foswiki_header.gif
  * Set WEBHEADERBGCOLOR = somehexcolor (no quotes, for example: #ffffff)
```

You can also set `WEBHEADERART` per web, by setting the preference in the Web's WebPreferences.

I want to have the web color in the top bar

Redefine `WEBHEADERBGCOLOR` in Main.SitePreferences (to keep DefaultPreferences intact):

```
    * Set WEBHEADERBGCOLOR = %WEBBGCOLOR%
```

I want to remove the Jump and Search boxes from the top bar

If you have localization enabled, you will also see a language dropdown box at the far right.

You can remove these items from WebTopBar?.

I want to hide the top bar

Using templates:

The view template is populated with page elements using template inclusions:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}%
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"viewtopicactionbuttons"}%
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"viewtopbar"}%
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"viewsidebar"}%
```

Each included template draws a part of the screen.
Omit `%TMPL:INCLUDE{"viewtopbar"}%` to hide the top bar.

Another approach is to clear the contents of module `topbar` with an empty definition. Using either a template or a topic template, write in your custom template:

```
 %TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"topbar"}%%TMPL:END%
```

and add:

```
 %TMPL:DEF{"topbardimensions"}%#patternTopBar, #patternClearHeaderCenter, #patternClearHeaderLeft
  height:0px; }%TMPL:END%
```

Using style sheets:
See PatternSkinCssCookbookNoTopBar

Left bar

I want to hide the side bar

Using templates:
Omit `%TMPL:INCLUDE{"viewsidebar"}%` to hide the side bar, or in a custom template clear it using
```
%TMPL:DEF{"sidebar"}%%TMPL:END%
```

Using style sheets:
See PatternSkinCssCookbookNoLeftBar

Buttons

I want to hide the edit buttons from certain users

It may defy the wiki-ness of your Foswiki installation, but in certain circumstances it could be useful to hide the edit buttons from users that are not logged in, for instance for clients that have gotten viewing rights only.

Using either a template or a topic template, 'empty' `top:toolbarbuttons` and `topicaction` by writing:
```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"top:toolbarbuttons"}%%TMPL:END% %TMPL:DEF{"topicaction"}%%TMPL
```

In the user page of WikiGuest, set the cover to
```
    * Set COVER = customer
```

By default this topic is editable only by Wiki admins.

I want to remove the History button from the bottom

All action links and buttons are defined in `viewtopicactionbuttons.tmpl`. The bottom history link is defined in DEF `action_revisions`
```
%TMPL:DEF{"topicactionbuttons"}% %TMPL:P{"action_activatable_edit_or_create"}% %TMPL:P{"action_a
```

To hide that link, In a custom skin view template `view.myskin.tmpl` empty `action_revisions` by replacing it with an empty string:
```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"action_revisions"}%%TMPL:END%
```

I want to put the bottom links as buttons at the top

The default definition in `view.pattern.tmpl` is:

```
%TMPL:DEF{"top:toolbarbuttons"}%%TMPL:P{"activatable_edit_or_create"}%%TMPL:P{"activatable_
```

Create a new skin by creating a file `view.myskin.tmpl` in the `templates` directory. Write in it:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"top:toolbarbuttons"}%%TMPL:P{"history_history_link"}%%TMPL:END
```

View any topic with `?skin=myskin,pattern`, or set the `SKIN` preference to `myskin,pattern`.

This will remove the Edit and Attach buttons, and place a History button at the top.

You will probably not just want to have the History button there. Other button include names are:

```
create_topic_link raw_edit_link view_topic_link activatable_attach activatable_edit_or_create mo
```

Other page parts

I want to insert text outside of the topic content

PatternSkin has 2 'buckets' to write additional content to: `contentheader` and `contentfooter`, both defined in `view.pattern.tmpl`. These containers can contain text or html and are placed directly before and after the topic text.

Both modules are wrapped in CSS containers:

- `contentheader` - wrapped in `div` of class `foswikiContentHeader`
- `contentfooter` - wrapped in `div` of class `foswikiContentFooter`

To put contents **before** the main text, use the custom skin approach as described above.
So our custom template contains:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"contentheader"}%This is the text before%TMPL:END%
```

Use the same procedure for contents to be put **after** the topic text:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"contentfooter"}%This is the text after%TMPL:END%
```

I want to place the form at the top

Pattern skin has 2 buckets for the form: `formtop` (form at the top) and `formbottom` (form at the bottom).
The default definition is:

```
%TMPL:DEF{"formtop"}%%TMPL:END% %TMPL:DEF{"formbottom"}%%TMPL:P{"form"}%%TMPL:END%
```

You simply swap the bucket contents. Using either a template or a topic template, write in your custom template:

```
%TMPL:INCLUDE{"view"}% %TMPL:DEF{"formtop"}%%TMPL:P{"form"}%%TMPL:END% %TMPL:DEF{"formbottom"}%%
```