Welcome to the phpCAMALEO tutorial!

This tutorial is intended to help you getting in confidence with Camaleo's environment and to learn how to create your first skin.

To move between the screens click on the green arrows on the bottom left side, just below our friend Camaleo.

Please note that, from now on, I will abbreviate Camaleo with @>

skinMNGR
creating your first skin

This is the first page you will see after you complete the installation.

Text on the screen describe what you need to do to perform each available action. Leaving the cursor over the buttons will show additional information.

The screen is divided into three main areas:

Skins catalog, right below the title

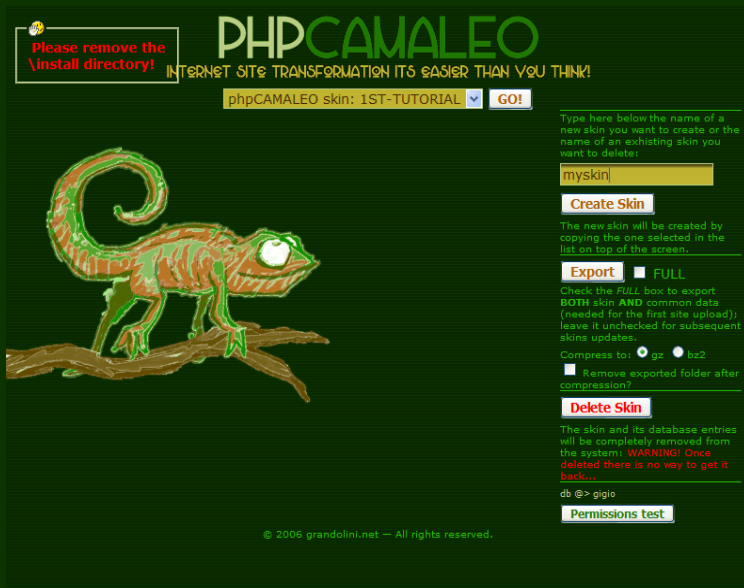Select the skin and click **GO!** to load it.

Skins operations, on the right

On the bottom a note shows you which MySQL database you are actually using (db @> database in use).

System messages, on the bottom just below Camaleo

Each message is shown with its number so that it can be easy referred when localizing a site.

skinMNGR
creating your first skin

I suggest not to edit the original skins so that, if something goes wrong, you can always retrieve the original stuff without the need to reinstall phpCAMALEO.

So, let's start by copying the **1st-tutorial** skin. To do so, select the skin in the skin list:
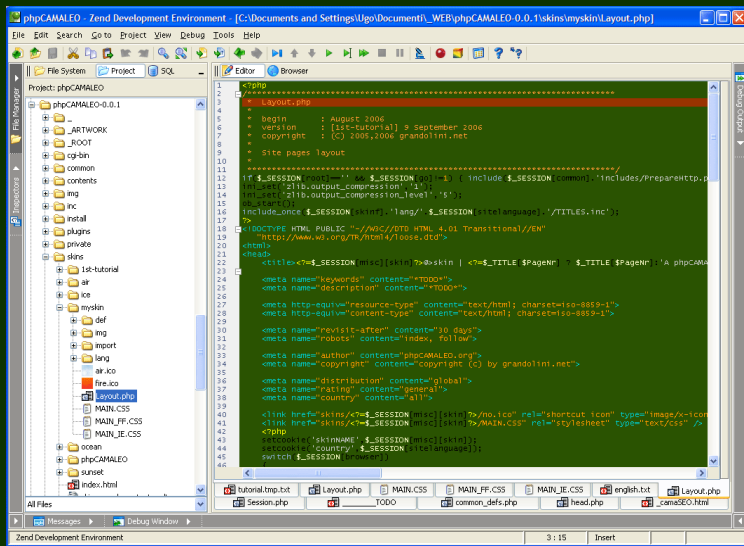

type the name of the new skin:

Click on and wait @> to do the work.

When copying a skin, @> will also take care to copy the configuration entries in the MySQL database and renaming the skin-specific information to reflect the new skin name.

Once the operation is completed you are taken back to the skinMNGR screen.

about
the editor shots

Working on a @> skin requires a text editor to be able to amend your html, php, css, etc. files.

I am happily using Zend Studio 5 so all the editor screen shots in this tutorial are done on that.

Most probably you are using a different editor: the only important issue on this matter, is that your editor is able to properly show code indented with tabs. If not, you can easily fix the problem with a search & replace =)

Now let's go back the tutorial, on the skinMNGR page select the **myskin** entry and click on **GO!**

tutorial-before
A phpCAMALEO skin to assist you with the tutorial

HOME   MY MENU   FAQ   ⊕phpCAMALEO

Last update: 14 September 2006

Welcome!
This skin was created to help you in creating your first site using phpCAMALEO.

© 2006 MYSKIN a phpCAMALEO skin — All rights reserved.
Time taken to build this page: 0.0179 sec.

About Us | ^TOP^

PHP4 POWERED   MySQL POWERED   phpCAMALEO

db @> phpCAMALEO | admin | skins

Simple and clean, we are going to make it a bit more rich in a while.

Please note that some items of the @> skins are only visible when the page is loaded on the production server.

Look at the the bottom line on the right: it's a good idea to know what database you are using and to have a couple of extra links when you design the page, isn't it?

Have you noticed that the phpCAMALEO link in the main menu is preceded by a small world image? This is a way to show that this link is redirecting outside the site. A small JavaScript script takes care to automatically add the image to every (!) link pointing outside the site on the page.

Now let's have a look at the @> directories structure...

about
the skins directories structure

If are not aware about the @> directory structure, it's time to get a look at it as you need to know where to locate the files we are going to edit.
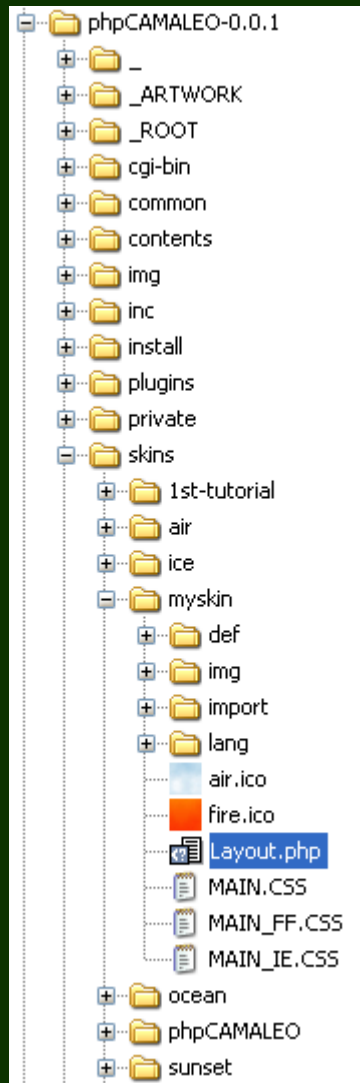
Skin files are located in the:

[root]\phpCAMALEO-*.*.*\skins

directory as shown on the image (where *.*.* is the version number).

If you followed the instructions, you should be able to locate the \myskin directory.

Now open the **Layout.php** with your editor and edit the comment to reflect the name of the skin, change [1st-tutorial] with [myskin].

You may also update the date even if, in this case, is not that important.

```
1   <?php
2   /*******************************************************************
3    *   Layout.php
4    *
5    *   begin        : August 2006
6    *   version      : [1st-tutorial] 9 September 2006
7    *   copyright    : (C) 2005,2006 grandolini.net
8    *
9    *   Site pages layout
10   *
11   ******************************************************************/
12  if($_SESSION[root]=='' && $_SESSION[go]!=1) { include($_SESSION[common].'inclu
13  ini_set('zlib.output_compression','1');
14  ini_set('zlib.output_compression_level','5');
15  ob_start();
16  include_once($_SESSION[skinf].'lang/'.$_SESSION[sitelanguage].'/TITLES.inc');
```

adding a couple of links
in the secondary menu

Search for the following string:

<!-- footer table -->

You should see something very similar to this:

```
129  </table>
130  <!-- footer table -->
131  <table width="100%" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0">
132      <tr><td colspan="2"><hr id="line" /></td></tr>
133      <tr>
134          <td><img src="img/trasp.gif" border="0" width="350" height="1" /><br /
135          <td align="center" valign="middle"><font id="sml1">
136              <a href="LoadPage.php?page=aboutus">About Us</a> |
137              <a href="#top">^TOP^</a>
138              </font>
139          </td>
140      </tr>
141      <tr><td colspan="2" ><hr id="line" /></td></tr>
142  </table>
143  <!-- 3rd pty links table -->
144  <table cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" border="0">
```

Please note that the code you see may be a bit different!

Add a couple of lines as shown in the next image:

```
129  </table>
130  <!-- footer table -->
131  <table width="100%" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0">
132      <tr><td colspan="2"><hr id="line" /></td></tr>
133      <tr>
134          <td><img src="img/trasp.gif" border="0" width="350" height="1" /><br /
135          <td align="center" valign="middle"><font id="sml1">
136              <a href="Contact.php">Contact</a> |
137              <a href="LoadPage.php?page=privacy">Privacy</a> |
138              <a href="LoadPage.php?page=aboutus">About Us</a> |
139              <a href="#top">^TOP^</a>
140              </font>
141          </td>
142      </tr>
143      <tr><td colspan="2" ><hr id="line" /></td></tr>
144  </table>
```

Last update: 14 September 2006

our first site using phpCAMALEO.

Contact | Privacy | About Us | ^TOP^

db @> phpCAMALEO | admin | skins

about
contact & privacy

Nothing special you would say. Well, while the privacy page is a simple static one, the contact page can be useful to avoid publishing your email address on the site and start getting spam, junk and who knows what else the future will gift us!

One of the nice things Camaleo provides is that, to add a contact page, and few other commonly used pages, you simply need to add the link on your skin layout: Camaleo will then automatically provide your skin with all the necessary code.

In fact, even a simple form like the contact page, has some checks to perform before letting the visitor send his email. So, from now on, you can concentrate on your site specific needs and let Camaleo helping you on all the secondary features.

Skins are based on CSS, meaning you will simply change the look of the common pages by changing some values in the skin's CSS styles.

The privacy page content is actually a template Camaleo provides you to help you speeding up your work.

Now it's time to add a structured menu...

adding
a structured menu

In the **Layout.php** editor widow search for the following string:

<!-- menu -->

We are going to change lines 102 to 106:

```
95    <!-- menu -->
96    <tr>
97        <td colspan="2" id="bgcol0" style="border-top:3px solid #042442; border-bo
98            <table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0">
99                <tr class="menu_tab">
100                    <td class="menu_tab"><?php
101                                if($PageNr=='welcome')     { ?>HOME<?
102                    <td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='mymenu') {
103                        ?>MY MENU<?php
104                    }
105                    else {
106                        ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=mymenu">MY MENU</a><?php
107                    } ?></td>
108                    <td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='faq')        { ?>FAQ<?p
109                    <td class="menu_tab"><a href="http://phpcamaleo.org" target="_
110                    <td class="menu_tab"><img src="img/trasp.gif" border="0" width
```

The $PageNr variable holds the name of the page shown. Pending its value, the original code shows 'MY MENU' as a string or as a link:

```
<td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='mymenu') {
    ?>MY MENU<?php
}
else {
    ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=mymenu">MY MENU</a><?php
} ?></td>
```

Let's change the labels and let know Camaleo what page we want to load when we click on the link:

```
<td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='stmenu1') {
    ?>STRUCTURED MENU<?php
}
else {
    ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=stmenu1">STRUCTURED MENU</a><?php
} ?></td>
```

adding
a structured menu

Now copy and paste the following code after line 111:

```php
<?php if($PageNr=='stmenu1' ||
        $PageNr=='submnu1.1' ||
        $PageNr=='submnu1.2' ||
        $PageNr=='submnu1.3')
{
    ?><tr class="menu_tab"><td colspan="1"></td><td class="menu_tab" colspan="4"><?php
    if($PageNr=='submnu1.1') {
        ?>SUB MENU1<?php
    }
    else {
        ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.1">SUB MENU1</a><?php
    }
    ?> &gt; <?php
    if($PageNr=='submnu1.2') {
        ?>SUB MENU2<?php
    }
    else {
        ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.2">SUB MENU2</a><?php
    }
    ?> &gt; <?php
    if($PageNr=='submnu1.3') {
        ?>SUB MENU3<?php
    }
    else {
        ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.3">SUB MENU3</a><?php
    }
    ?></td></tr>
    <tr class="menu_tab" height="5px"><td></td></tr><?php
} ?>
```

Well, this is not my preferred formatting but it better fits this layout =)

adding
a structured menu

Here is the code showing all the modifications:

```
97    <td colspan="2" id="bgcol0" style="border-top:3px solid #042442; border-bottom:3px solid
98        <table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0">
99            <tr class="menu_tab">
100               <td class="menu_tab"><?php
101                                    if($PageNr=='welcome')    { ?>HOME<?php }
102               <td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='stmenu1') {
103                   ?>STRUCTURED MENU<?php |
104               }
105               else {
106                   ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=stmenu1">STRUCTURED MENU</a><?php
107               } ?></td>
108               <td class="menu_tab"><?php if($PageNr=='faq')       { ?>FAQ<?php }
109               <td class="menu_tab"><a href="http://phpcamaleo.org" target="_blank">phpCAMAL
110               <td class="menu_tab"><img src="img/trasp.gif" border="0" width="200" height='
111           </tr>
112       <?php if($PageNr=='stmenu1' ||
113               $PageNr=='submnu1.1' ||
114               $PageNr=='submnu1.2' ||
115               $PageNr=='submnu1.3')
116           {
117           ?><tr class="menu_tab"><td colspan="1"></td><td class="menu_tab" colspan="4"><
118           if($PageNr=='submnu1.1') {
119               ?>SUB MENU1<?php
120           }
121           else {
122               ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.1">SUB MENU1</a><?php
123           }
124           ?> &gt; <?php
125           if($PageNr=='submnu1.2') {
126               ?>SUB MENU2<?php
127           }
128           else {
129               ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.2">SUB MENU2</a><?php
130           }
131           ?> &gt; <?php
132           if($PageNr=='submnu1.3') {
133               ?>SUB MENU3<?php
134           }
135           else {
136               ?><a href="LoadPage.php?page=submnu1.3">SUB MENU3</a><?php
137           }
138           ?></td></tr>
139           <tr class="menu_tab" height="5px"><td></td></tr><?php
140       } ?>
141   </table>
```

adding
a structured menu

As you can see, even while navigating through the submenu items, you always know where you are in the menu structure:

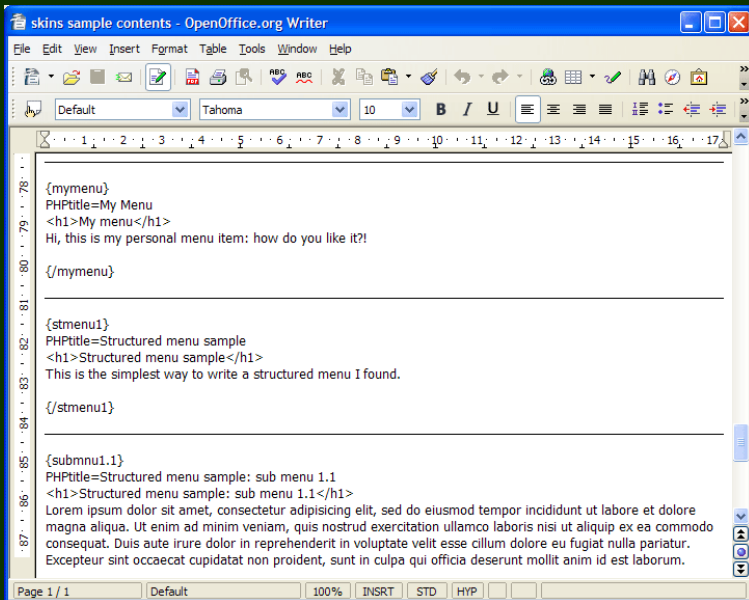It's now time to see how site contents are handled by Camaleo.

Site contents are conveniently stored in a unique document. Browse the \skin directory to locate a file named: **skins sample contents.odt**

If you are still not using OpenOffice (.ODT) you will also find an .RTF and a .TXT version in the same directory.

Now open the **skins sample contents** document using the file format that better fits your system...

As you can notice, pages contents are divided by specific tags. For example, the structured menu main page, looks like this:

{stmenu1}
PHPtitle=Structured menu sample
<h1>Structured menu sample</h1>
This is the simplest way to write a structured menu I found.
{/stmenu1}

This tutorial was made to let you get into some confidence with Camaleo thus I am not going into deep details here.

All you need to know for the moment is that skin page contents are included between tags and anything between a close and the subsequent open tag is considered a remark: this is helpful to keep notes or contents handy while waiting someone else approval.

On the other side, what is between a {margarita} and a {/margarita} tags will become the content of a page called 'margarita'. You can then refer to the 'margarita' page in a link as you did for the structured menu page.

One more thing: the line starting with *PHPtitle=* tells Camaleo to use the contents after the = sign between the page *<title>* tags. Camaleo is also looking to help with SEO optimization as our recent readings revealed that is a good thing to have a title consistent with page contents if you like your site to be at the top positions of the search engines.

editing
site contents

Search for: {stmenu1}

And edit the contents as follow:

{stmenu1}
PHPtitle=Structured menu sample
<h1>Structured menu sample</h1>
This is the simplest way to write a structured menu I found.

Editing site contents with phpCAMALEO is soooo easy!!
{/stmenu1}

Save the file and leave its window open.

Check contents of the: **\skins\myskin\import** directory, open the
english.txt file.

It's a plain ASCII text file, your code editor should open it without
problems.

Switch to the contents editor, select all text and copy it.

Switch back to english.txt, delete its contents then paste.
Doing this you will loose any useful formatting (I usually highlight text
that need further modifications), but these formatting are not needed in
the site code.

Save english.txt

editing
site contents

Now switch to the browser window. Reload the page and you will see a page similar to this one:


```
Hi, one or more pages are changed...
The page you required will be automatically loaded in 30 seconds, if you are in a hurry press
the  ENTER  button.

Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/welcome.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/license.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/faq.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/aboutus.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/privacy.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/nojsff.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/nojsie.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/nojs.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/mymenu.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/stmenu1.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/submnu1.1.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/submnu1.2.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/submnu1.3.txt
Writing @> c:/documents and settings/ugo/documenti/_web//phpCAMALEO/skins/myskin/lang/eng/TITLES.inc

***END OF JOB ***
```

This page is showing you that, as the english.txt file is changed, all site contents are actually rebuild. Contents in English are placed in the skin \lang\eng subdirectory.

To see the resulting page you can wait a while or, if in a hurry, press the enter key (or even press the spacebar).

editing
style sheets

Now that you have seen how easy is to edit a phpCAMALEO site contents, let's have a look at how colors and the other visual aspects of a skin are handled.

@> keeps all the possible page formatting rules where they should be: in a CSS file.

Actually you will find three CSS files in each skin directory: MAIN.CSS, the main style control center; MAIN_FF.CSS, styling that will only be used when showing the page in FireFox; MAIN_IE.CSS, styling for Internet Explorer (IE).

You may ask yourselves why Camaleo treats style sheets this way. Well, I discovered that font sizes in FireFox and IE are rendered differently. So, a font size of 90% on FireFox looks bigger on the screen than a 90% font size on IE. There are many other differences that made my times really hard, but the font size issue can be easily solved this way.
If you, like me, are paying a lot of attention even to the details, you will find this feature useful.

You should also note that it is WARMLY suggested to keep in the browser dependent files, ONLY code related to font sizes. Doing this you will not need to edit 3 files each time you change the color of a font or the background image of another item (that can happen several times while refining the site layout).

With you preferred code editor open the: **MAIN.CSS** file (located in the skin directory, \myskin in our example).

editing
style sheets

As usual it will be a good habit to change the name on line 2 to the skin name you are using. I also suggest to change that in the browser related files. In this tutorial you can simply forget it.

```
 1  /*---------------
 2  |  1st-tutorial  |
 3  ---------------*/
 4
 5  /*--------- Main ---------*/
 6  body { font-family:monospace; font-size:medium; color:#042442; background:url(img/bg-no.jpg) #f
 7
 8  a { text-decoration:none; }
 9  a:link, a:visited { color:#042442; border-bottom:1px solid #920202; }
10  a:hover { color:#920202;   border-bottom:1px solid #042442; }
11
12  a.ext { padding-left:14px; background:url(../../img/ext-link.gif) center left no-repeat; }
13  a.ext:hover { background-image:url(../../img/ext-link-hover.gif); }
14  a.img { border:0px solid;  text-decoration:none; }
15
16  .menu_tab { font-weight:bold; padding:0px 12px 0px 12px; }
17  .menu_tab a { text-decoration:none;  border:0px; border-bottom:1px solid #920202; }
18  .menu_tab a:link, .menu_tab a:visited { color:#920202; }
19  .menu_tab a:hover { color:#ffffff; background:#042442; cursor:pointer; border-bottom:1px solid
20  .menu_tab a.ext { padding-left:14px; background:url(../../img/ext-link.gif) center left no-repe
21  .menu_tab a.ext:hover { background:url(../../img/ext-link-hover.gif) center left no-repeat #920
22
23  p { margin:0px; }
24  p.rev, #rev { font-weight:normal; color:#ffffff; background:#042442; }
25  p.sml { font-size:75%; }
26
27  img { border:0px; }
28  form { padding:0px; margin:0px; }
29  .code { color:#4f2d05; background:#920202; padding:10px; font-size:12px; width:470px; }
30
31  #color0, #sml0, #copyright { color:#042442; }
32  #color1 { color:#920202; }
33  #color2, #sml2 { color:#ffffff; }
34  #color3 { color:#1f527f; }
35
36  #bgcol0 { background:url(../../img/sq_white.gif); } /* sq_ltblue.gif || sq_orange.gif */
37
38  #err { color:#ffffff; background:#920202; border-bottom:3px #042442 solid; }
39
```

Line 6: change **bg-no.jpg** to **bg-air.jpg**
Line 36: change **sq_white.gif** to **sq_ltblue.gif**

Save the file and then reload the page.

editing
style sheets

If you do not get the following look, it most probably mean that your old CSS is still in the browser cache.

No problem with that: press [CTRL][R] to force FireFox to reload the cached contents (or press [CTRL][F5] if you are using IE).
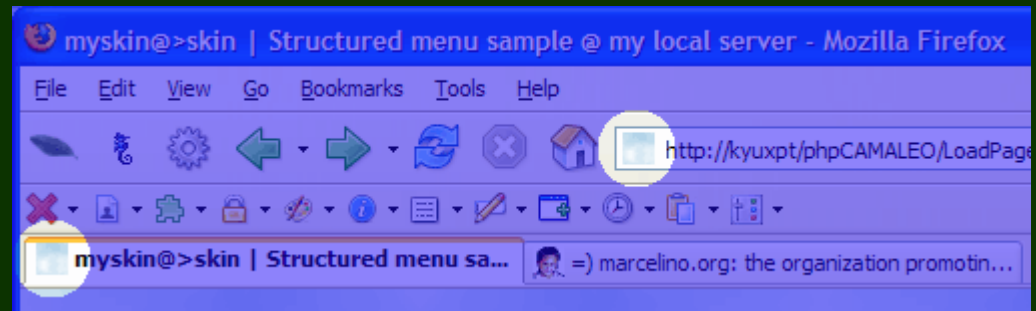
editing
site icon

Some visual items are located in the page code. This is the case of the site icon, at the moment properly shown on FireFox (and Mozilla) browsers. If you use FireFox (or Mozilla) or if you care for visitors that will use it when seeing your site, in the Layout.php page:

```
40    <link href="skins/<?=$_SESSION[misc][skin]?>/no.ico" rel="shortcut icon" type="image/x-icon
```

replace **no.ico** with **air.ico**
I find the icon very useful, specially when I have several tabs opened on different sites:

The tutorial is about to finish, before leaving let me show you one more thing. How easy it can be to test how the site could look when you are in the creative phase, studying the visual aspect.

In Layout.php replace **logo-air.gif** with **logo-fire.gif**

In MAIN.CSS replace **sq_ltblue.gif** with **sq_orange.gif**
and **bg-air.jpg** with **bg-fire.jpg**

Reload the page: a much hotter look!

Skins supplied are meant to be used as a starting point when you design your site.

Colors schemes aside, I hope you will find useful to have a left menu skin, called ICE

ICE
A phpCAMALEO skin to assist you with the tutorial

HOME
STRUCTURED MENU
FAQ
phpCAMALEO

Last update:
16 September 2006

Welcome!
This skin was created to help you in creating your first site using phpCAMALEO.

Have you had a look at the documentation?
If not, you should consider to do it right now. There you can find some useful information you will need to get the best benefits when using phpCAMALEO. Using the step-by-step tutorial will guide you in completing your first site.

Editing site contents
To change the site contents you need to edit the [root]/skins/[skin-dir]/import/english.txt file.
Note: [root] is the root directory where you installed phpCAMALEO (eg. c:\Programs\Apache Group\Apache\htdocs\); [skin-dir] in the name of the skin folder you are using.

You can also find an easier to edit format in:
[root]/skins/skins sample contents.odt Please note OpenOffice (.odt) is actually my better choice, in the same folder you will find also other popular formats.

© 2006 ICE a phpCAMALEO skin — All rights reserved.
Penguins & igloo are used with permission by Everaldo Coelho
Time taken to build this page: 0.0264 sec.

Contact | Privacy | About Us | ^TOP^

PHP4 POWERED   MySQL POWERED   phpCAMALEO

db @› phpCAMALEO | admin | skins

Skins supplied are meant to be used as a starting point when you design your site.

Colors schemes aside, I hope you will find useful to have a top menu skin, called OCEAN

ocean
A phpCAMALEO skin to assist you with the tutorial

HOME   STRUCTURED MENU   FAQ   phpCAMALEO

Welcome!
This skin was created to help you in creating your first site using phpCAMALEO.

Have you had a look at the documentation?
If not, you should consider to do it right now. There you can find some useful information you will need to get the best benefits when using phpCAMALEO. Using the step-by-step tutorial will guide you in completing your first site.

Editing site contents
To change the site contents you need to edit the
[root]/skins/[skin-dir]/import/english.txt file.
Note: [root] is the root directory where you installed phpCAMALEO (eg.
c:\Programs\Apache Group\Apache\htdocs\); [skin-dir] in the name of the skin folder you are using.

You can also find an easier to edit format in: **[root]/skins/skins sample contents.odt**
Please note OpenOffice (.odt) is actually my better choice, in the same folder you will find also other popular formats.

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PHP4 POWERED   MySQL POWERED   phpCAMALEO

© 2006 OCEAN a phpCAMALEO skin, fishes are used with permission by Alexander Draude — All rights reserved.
Last update: 16 September 2006, Time taken to build this page: 0.2718 sec.

db @> phpCAMALEO | admin | skins

Skins supplied are meant
to be used as a starting point
when you design your site.

Colors schemes aside, I hope
you will find useful to have a
right menu
skin, called SUNSET

Thank you for your time!

For further info please stay in touch at the Camaleo official site:

http://phpcamaleo.org