

Instructions for using the Welcome page templates

This document describes how to use and modify the Welcome page template for your information center.

Templates, samples, and the cascading style sheet (CSS)

There are two types of templates. One type is for an information center that contains information for a single product or brand. The other is for an information center that contains information for multiple products that belong to different brands. Use the appropriate template as a starting point for creating your Welcome page(s).

Similarly, there are two samples: one for the single-brand Welcome page and one for the multi-brand Welcome page. The samples use actual WebSphere product information to illustrate the types of information that you should include in your Welcome page.

Two cascading style sheets are also included: `welcome.css` and `welcome_nl.css`.

General rules

Because the Welcome page is primarily a collection of links to related information, adhere to these rules when coding your lists of links:

- Use a maximum of three links for any single section of the Welcome page. If you need to provide more than three links, add a “More” link after the third item. The “More” link can display any expanded content.
- If you have two or three list items for a particular category, use an unordered list; for a single item, use a plain paragraph tag.

Correct:

Information roadmaps:

- Installer’s roadmap
 - Administrator’s roadmap
 - Programmer’s roadmap
- More

Incorrect:

Information roadmaps

- Installer’s roadmap
- Administrator’s roadmap
- Programmer’s roadmap
- User’s roadmap

Correct:

Information roadmap:

- Installer’s roadmap
- Administrator’s roadmap

Incorrect:

Information roadmap

- Installer’s roadmap

Correct:

Information roadmap
 Installer’s roadmap

Modifying the template

1. Select the appropriate template for your information center.

Use the single-brand template if your information center contains information for a single product or for several products that all belong to the same brand family.

Use the multi-brand template if your information center contains information from several products that belong to different brand families.

The Welcome page for multi-brand information centers is intended to provide significant information about the *total* solution. Use the right-hand column of the multi-brand template to provide links to the single-brand Welcome pages of the individual products that comprise the solution.

For example, if your multi-brand information center contains information for a solution that consists of four products, you will need to create five Welcome pages: a multi-brand Welcome page that serves as the entry point for the information center, and four single-brand Welcome pages that contain information specific to the four products included in the information center.

2. For Bi-directional languages only, change the style sheet definition from:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="welcome.css" />
```

to:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="welcome_nl.css" />
```

3. Provide a title and an H1 heading. The title and H1 heading that you choose should match and should be sentence style.

- For single-brand information centers, use the following naming convention:
Welcome to the IBM *Product* information center
- For multi-brand information centers, use “Welcome to the IBM software information center.”

4. Directly under the H1 heading, provide a brief introductory paragraph that describes the information contained within your information center. For example:

The IBM *Product Name* Information Center contains all the information that you need to install, configure, maintain, and use IBM *Product Name* on your *Platform Name* system.

5. Populate the **Getting started** section.

The Getting started section is the first H2-level section of the Welcome page. It consists of four possible H3-level sections: **What's new**, **Highlights**, **Information roadmaps**, and **Tutorials and demos**. The **What's new**, **Highlights**, and **Information roadmaps** sections are required. If you don't currently have content for these sections, you should create content. The **Tutorials and demos** section is optional but recommended.

6. Populate the **Service and support** section.

The Service and support section is the second H2-level section of the Welcome page. It consists of a series of H3-level sections that provide links to significant service and support information. You can include as many or as few sections as you need, but try to limit the H3 sections that you use to: **Articles**, **Downloads**, **Education**, **Redbooks**, **Resources for learning**, **Samples**, **Third-party information**, and **White papers**. List the sections in alphabetic order.

7. Use the **Navigating and searching information** and **Navigating by keyboard** sections as they appear in the template.