# Creating a JSP from a Generation Template in Web Content Publisher

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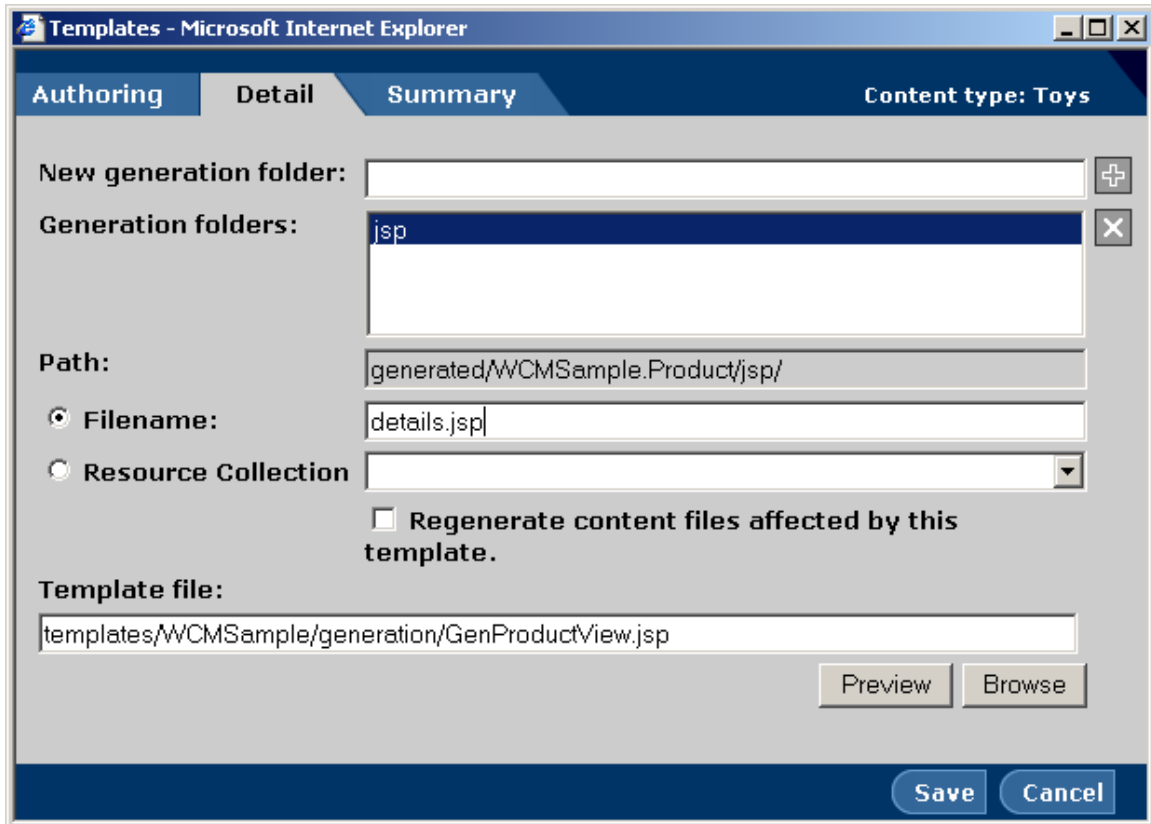June 2002

## Abstract

Web Content Publisher manages structured content as well as file-based content. You can convert structured content to a file by applying generation templates. Generation templates allow you create any type of file using either .jsp or .xsl source files. This paper presents an example use of a JSP™ generation template to generate JSP files.

## Generation templates

Generation templates are associated with a content type within a project through the Templates window in Web Content Publisher. The window is launched when you select a content type on the Content tab and click the Templates button.



On the Details tab of the Templates window, each generation folder is assigned a name, file name, target, and template file. The file name can be anything. Only the extension of the name is used for the generated file created by the template. The extension should reflect the content intended by the template—in this case, .jsp. Templates themselves can be either JSP or XSL, either of which could generate any type of markup language including JSP and XSL.

**Hello world**

The trick to creating a JSP from a JSP is to handle the `<% %>` tags so that they are not interpreted by the JSP compiler processing the template itself. For example:

```
<%
   out.println( "<% out.println(\"Hello, world!\"); %>" );
%>
```

This code will not work because the `<% %>` within the `println()` method would be interpreted by the JSP compiler, causing a compile error.  You could change it to the following, however:

```
<%
   out.println( "<" + "% out.println(\"Hello, world!\"); %" + ">" );
%>
```

Once the template is processed by Web Content Publisher, it will output the following to the generated file:

```
<% out.println("Hello, world!"); %>
```

## Current date and time

The same technique works as well for generating more complicated JSP code. For example, the following JSP generation template will show the current date and time whenever the resulting generated JSP file is invoked.

```
<%
    out.println( "<" + "%" );
    out.println( "java.util.Date today = new java.util.Date();" );
    out.println( "out.println( today.toString() );" );
    out.println( "%" + ">" );
%>
```

The above code will generate the following to the generated JSP file:

```
<%
java.util.Date today = new java.util.Date();
out.println( today.toString() );
%>
```

For additional information about developing and using generation templates with Web Content Publisher, see the Web Content Publisher Help System.

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