

Templates: **Advanced templating with 'user' statements in templates**

Requirements: Install of Mambo Open Source (4.5)
 Modification of a template
 Modification of modules.php in Administrator

Credits: Nick Designer and various contributors to mamboserver.com

Preamble

One of the great new features of MOS 4.5 from a template designers' point of view is the ability to segment and position content within a template. An extended feature of this is the ability to add user defined areas in your template by using statements like:

```
<?php mosLoadModules ( 'user3' ); ?>
```

So now, you can group user statements in target areas of your template and create custom modules with images or text to occupy those areas.

I used the user definable elements when making up the template for a recent client. Let's say you have an area on your template that you want to put a different image into for each page, like a header graphic.

First, modify the modules.php file in administrator to allow for your new user statements. Starting on line 166, add as many arrays as you need to this statement:

```
// build the order lists to be used to make the javascript arrays
```

```
    // hard code options for now  
    $orders2 = array();  
    $orders2['left'] = array();  
    $orders2['right'] = array();  
    $orders2['top'] = array();  
    $orders2['bottom'] = array();  
    $orders2['inset'] = array();  
    $orders2['user1'] = array();  
    $orders2['user2'] = array();
```

Just add more arrays to this code, incrementing the user value by 1 each time:

```
    $orders2['user3'] = array();  
    $orders2['user4'] = array();  
    $orders2['user5'] = array();
```

Next, create the target area in the template, let's say we have an area 760px by 200px for an image bar. Now add the php code for user insertions for our added user values like this:

```
<?php mosLoadModules ( 'user3' ); ?>  
<?php mosLoadModules ( 'user4' ); ?>  
<?php mosLoadModules ( 'user4' ); ?>
```

These would go into your target area side by side, and you would add as many as you need, so if you wanted to display 5 images for 5 sections of your website, you would add 5 user include statements.

Now, next we have to create the custom modules that will be associated with the user statements. Create new modules (by modifying an existing module file and xml installation file) for each of your images, embedding the image into each module file. Make sure the path to the image in the module file is correct and corresponds to where you upload the image files to (media, images or wherever).

Upload and install each module to your MOS 4.5 installation, then modify each module so that you change the position that the module appears in the template. For example;

```
mod_home_image.php ---> Home Page Image ---> user1  
mod_articles_image.php ---> Articles Page Image ---> user2
```

and so on. The trick is to then change the pages that each image displays on to the one that matches the image graphic, so your home page image would only want to display on your Home page, and your articles image would only want to display on your articles page and so on. This way it will appear as if each image is occupying the same space on each page, which is exactly what it is doing, but only because the other user values are excluded for that page.

Of course you can apply this to various areas on your template and have groups of dynamic user statements like this:

```
Area 1 -- header has user 1-5  
Area 2 -- announcement has user 6-11  
Area 3 -- footer has user 12-17
```

etc. Perhaps this can be improved on in many ways but this is the way I did it and it works fine, will make public the URL of the site when it's done..