6 Creating projects from templates

From the Information Manager, you have the option of creating a new project from existing files, from the Site Maker wizard, or from predefined templates, using the Template wizard. This chapter discusses using and configuring the Template wizard.

Creating a project

To create a new project from one of several templates:

- Choose New Project from the Information Manager File menu, and then choose From Template... from the sub-menu.

The HoTMetaL PRO Template wizard is launched. This wizard guides you through the process of creating a new project. Descriptions of what you are creating appear below the choices you make in each screen.

First, you are asked whether you want to create a new, blank project or create a project from the templates. If you choose New Project by clicking on the radio button, and then click on Next >> , a new project with a blank document called *index.htm* is created, and the template wizard jumps directly to the screen that asks where you want to save the file (see the next page).

If you choose Templates by clicking on the radio button and click on [Next >>] , the Templates screen appears, and you are prompted to choose from the following Categories:

- Company Web Site -- Style 1
- Company Web Site -- Style 2
- Personal Web Site -- Style 1
- Personal Web Site -- Style 2 (Animated)
- Company Intranet

A description of the new project templates appears in the Description section, and a graphic of the template's file structure appears on the right hand side of the dialog box. Select whichever option you want by clicking on the radio button, then click on [Next>>] .

These categories can be customized by editing the Template wizard configuration file (see this page).

Once you have chosen which template you want to base your project on and clicked on [Next>>] , a dialog box appears, asking you where you would like your project to be created. Select the appropriate folder, click on [Finished] , and your project templates will be copied to that location.

The site will be opened as a new project in the Information Manager. You can now begin to edit the documents that were created from the template using the HoTMetaL PRO Editor in order to insert your own content.

Configuring the Site Template wizard

After using the HoTMetaL PRO Information Manager for some time, you may want to configure the template wizard so that it generates the kind of sites that you use often. This section gives you instruction on how to do that.

This wizard is configured by the file *sitetmpl.hpt*, which is located in the HoTMetaL PRO folder. You can modify this file if you want to use your own configuration for the new project wizard.

The *sitetmpl.hpt* file is an SGML file conforming to the following DTD:

```
<!ELEMENT BODY - - (CAT_INFO)+>
<!ELEMENT CAT_INFO  - - (CAT_INFO)*>
<!ATTLIST CAT_INFO
```

```
SHORT   CDATA  #REQUIRED
LONG    CDATA  #REQUIRED
DIR     CDATA  #IMPLIED
HOMEPAGE CDATA #REQUIRED
IMG     CDATA  #REQUIRED >
```

There is a sample at the end of this section. You can create this file with an SGML editor such as SoftQuad Author/Editor, or with a text editor. If you use a text editor, be careful to use the correct markup syntax.

Using the configuration file

An element called BODY (that is, the tags <BODY> and </BODY>) surrounds the contents of the file.

Each template category in the Categories section of the template wizard's initial dialog box corresponds to a CAT_INFO element that is directly nested inside BODY.

You can specify information about a template category using the *attributes* of the corresponding CAT_INFO element.

If you are editing the *sitetmpl.hpt* with a text editor: the attributes are contained in the <CAT_INFO> start-tag, between the element name and the closing '>', as in the example below). Each attribute specification consists of an attribute name, assigned to a value enclosed in double quotes, using an equals sign. For example:

```
SHORT="Sample Projects and Templates"
```

The attributes of CAT_INFO are used as follows:

- SHORT – The label that appears in the Categories list in the template wizard dialog.
- LONG – The long description of the template category in the template wizard dialog. The description can contain line breaks and blank lines.
- DIR – The folder where the files that constitute this template are kept. When the template is opened, all of the files in this folder (and its subfolders) will be copied to the destination folder.
- HOMEPAGE – The 'index page' or starting point for the template files. This page is used as the index page when the Information Manager builds a project based on the chosen template.

- IMG – An image representing the template, displayed on the right side of the template wizard dialog box.

The DIR, HOMEPAGE, and IMG can be specified with absolute or relative paths, but *not* with URLs. A relative path for DIR or IMG is relative to the HoTMetaL PRO folder; a relative path for HOMEPAGE is relative to the DIR location.

Each template category can have an arbitrary number of levels of sub-categories. Sub-categories are displayed in the template wizard by choosing a category and then clicking on the Next>> button in the initial dialog box. If a template category has no sub-categories (that is, the corresponding CAT_INFO has no nested CAT_INFOs), clicking on Next>> displays a dialog for choosing the destination folder, into which the chosen template and its auxiliary files will be copied.

To give a category one or more sub-categories:

- Nest one or more CAT_INFO elements inside the CAT_INFO element corresponding to the *current* category.
- Delete the DIR attribute value in the *current* category's CAT_INFO element.
- Configure the sub-category by setting its attribute values as described above.

Sample configuration file

Here is a sample *sitetmpl.hpt* file that defines one category with three sub-categories.

```
<BODY>
<CAT_INFO SHORT="Sample Projects and Templates"
LONG="Collections of HTML documents designed to be used as
templates in creating a corporate intranet."
IMG="template\core\filelist.bmp">

<CAT_INFO SHORT="Corporate Pages"
LONG="Corporate homepage and other company-wide documents."
DIR="template\core\"
HOMEPAGE="index.htm"
IMG="template\core\corp.bmp">
</CAT_INFO>
```

```
<CAT_INFO SHORT="Sample HR Department"
LONG="HR Homepage and associated projects. Includes
workgroup pages plus HR department documents."
DIR="template\humanres\"
HOMEPAGE="index.htm"
IMG="template\core\hr.bmp" homePage="index.htm">
</CAT_INFO>

<CAT_INFO SHORT="Sample Finance Department"
LONG="Finance Homepage and associated projects.  Includes
workgroup pages plus Finance department documents."
DIR="template\account\"
HOMEPAGE="index.htm"
IMG="template\core\account.bmp">
</CAT_INFO>

</CAT_INFO>
</BODY>
```