

## Styling Your Joomla! Site

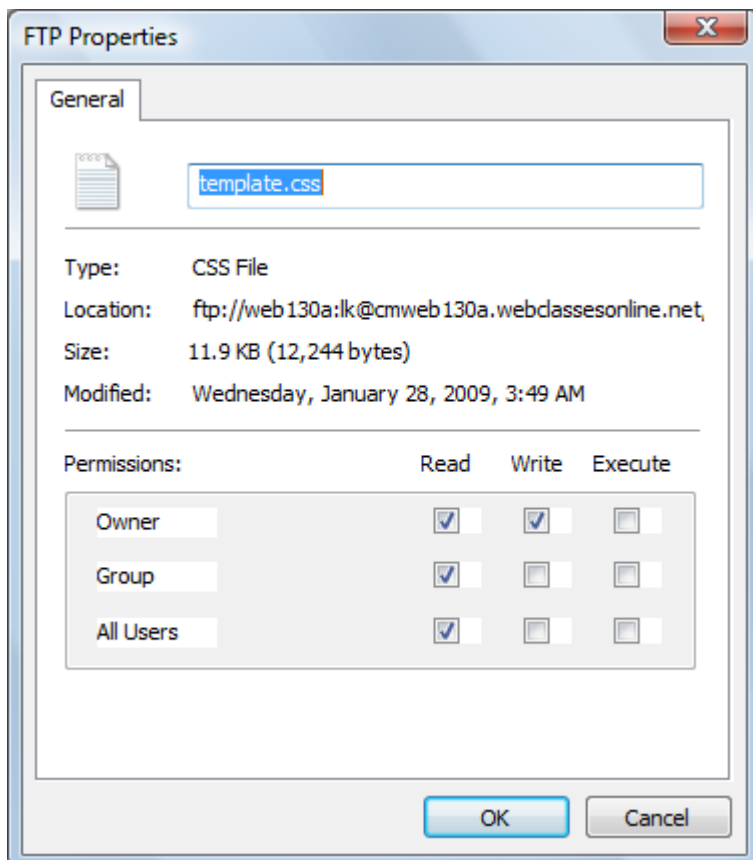
As we saw earlier, there are a multitude of templates available to use for your Joomla! site. However, sometimes the banner might not be what you would want to use for your site, or perhaps you need to tweak the colors, or perhaps there are things that are not quite in the right spot.

If you know html and css, in addition to tweaking someone else's template, you can create your own. Even if you are not that familiar with html and css, however, you can still make a few simple modifications.

If you are more advanced in html and css knowledge, then chapter 9 in your book talks you through creating a template. For our purposes, though, I will walk you through some simple modifications that you can do even if you are not that familiar yet with coding.

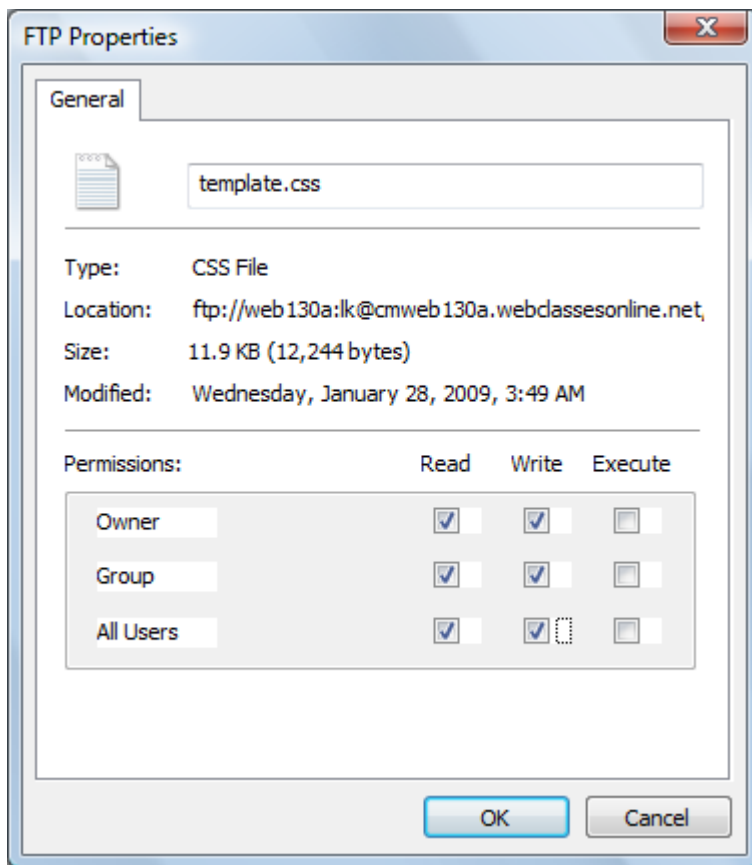
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**\*\*NOTE\*\*** You may have noticed if you have played around in the Template Manager that when you click on the template name, there are buttons that allow you to "edit HTML" and "edit CSS", and in some cases there may be parameters that show up to modify, depending on your template. I generally prefer to follow the procedure that I detail below to modify my template instead (i.e., copying the template folder you want to modify to your local computer, giving it a new name, modifying it, and then re-uploading.) However, if you would like to edit the template using the buttons, keep in mind that you need to make sure it is not currently selected as default, and if it says it is not writable you will need to log into ftp (procedure to get into ftp follows), find the folder where the template is stored, find the file you are trying to change, right click on it, and then select properties. This will bring you to a screen that looks like this:



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Change it so that all the boxes in the write column are checked:



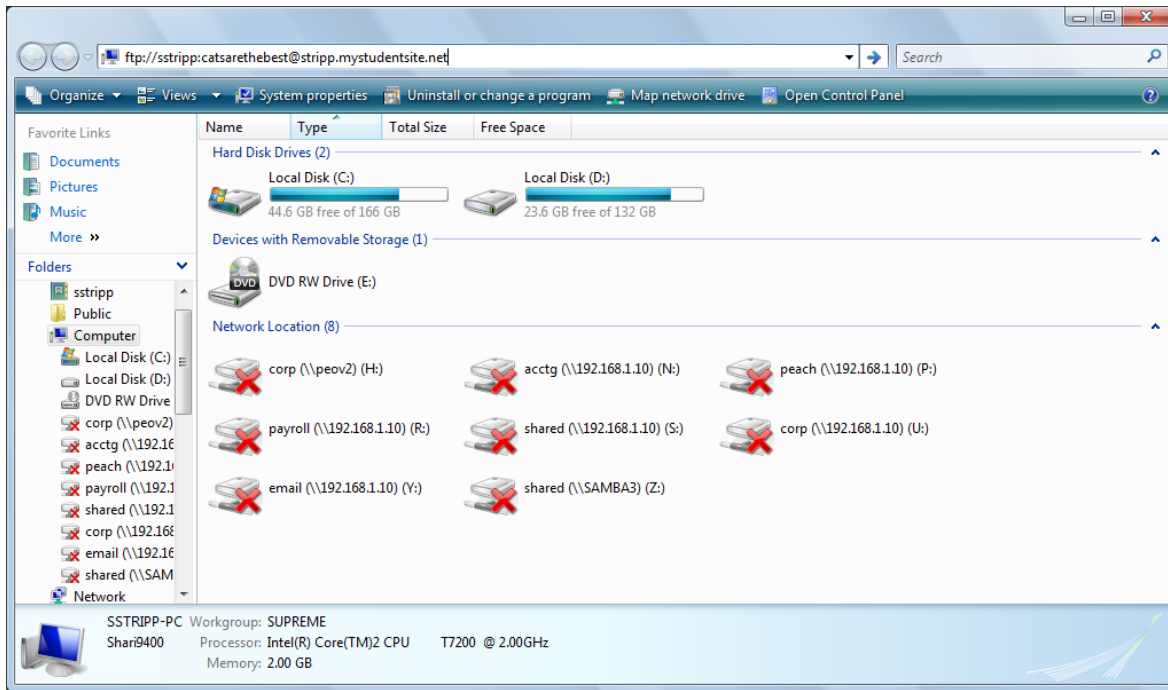
Then click OK. Then get back into the Joomla! administration panel and make your desired changes. Once you have made the changes, **BE SURE TO GO BACK INTO FTP AND CHANGE THE PERMISSIONS BACK THE WAY THEY WERE.** If you don't, ANYONE could change that file, which is a huge security exposure.

Or, you can use the procedure I've outlined below.

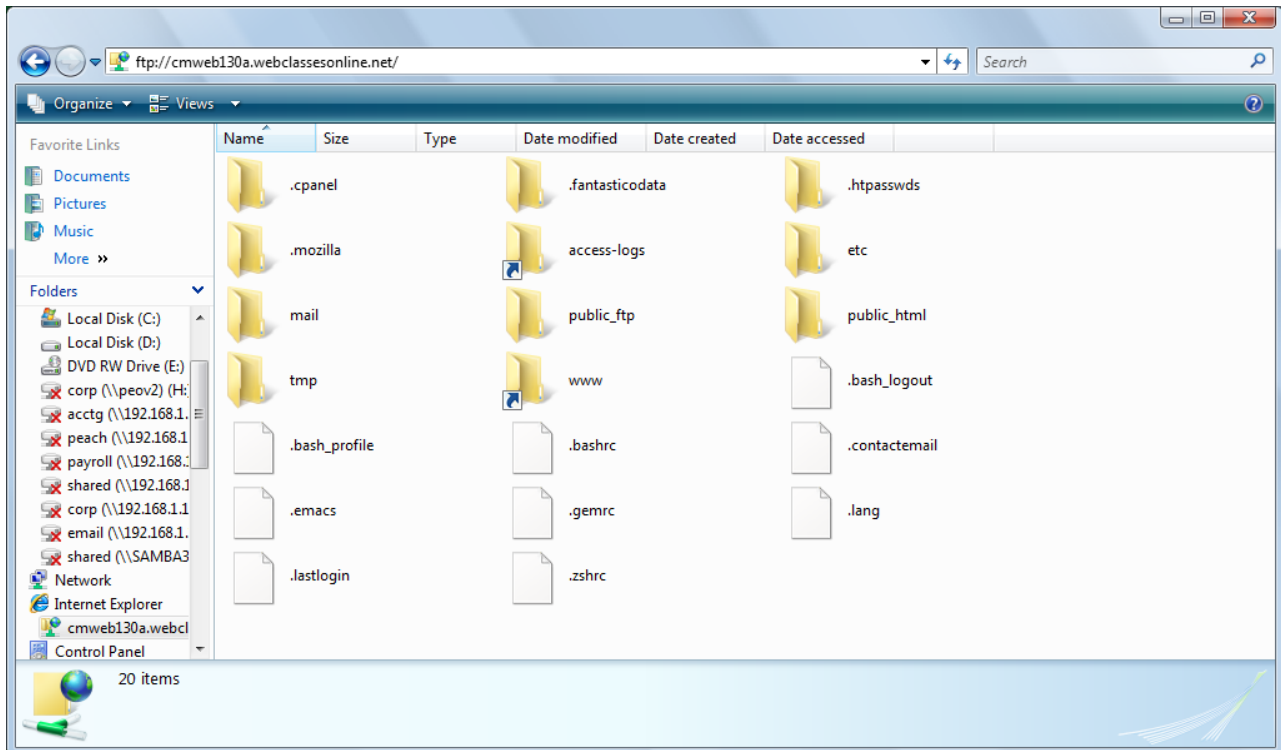
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1. The first thing to do to change your template is to make a backup of it and change the name. So, in essence, you will not be modifying the existing template directly, but will instead be creating your own template based on a template someone else has created. This leaves the original template intact in case you need to go back to it. To do this, on your local machine open My Computer (or Computer, if you have Vista or later versions of Windows). (This will be either an icon on your desktop or, if it is not there, open the start menu and it should be in the right hand column listing).
  2. In the address bar of My Computer, type the following, using the username and password that you requested for your ftp account:

<ftp://username:password@firstinitiallastname.mystudentsite.net>

For example:



3. This should bring you to a screen similar to the one below:



4. Double-click on the `public_html` folder, then double-click on the directory of the Joomla installation you want to modify (for example, in our class, the folder is probably named `joomla`).

5. In your Joomla folder you should see a folder called "templates". Double click on it.
6. The templates folder, you will see folders that contain all the templates that are currently available for your site. Click once on the folder of the template you want to modify, and drag it over to your desktop (or if you wish, open up another instance of My Computer and navigate to a folder where you want to save the template you want to modify, and drag the template folder into that.)
7. Right-click on the folder you just saved on your computer (on your computer, not in the ftp window) and select "rename". Name it something that has meaning to you; I just renamed mine to be "sharitemplate".
8. Double-click on the renamed folder to get into it. You should see a file called "templateDetails.xml". Right click on this file and choose "open with" and choose "notepad" as the program to open it.
9. You will see lines that look like:

```
<name>KP_Night_City</name>
```

```
<version>1.0.0</version>
```

```
<creationDate>December 11th 2008</creationDate>
```

Modify the name of the template to match EXACTLY what you named the folder. If you want, you can also put in a different version number and/or creation date. So for example:

```
<name>sharitemplate</name>
```

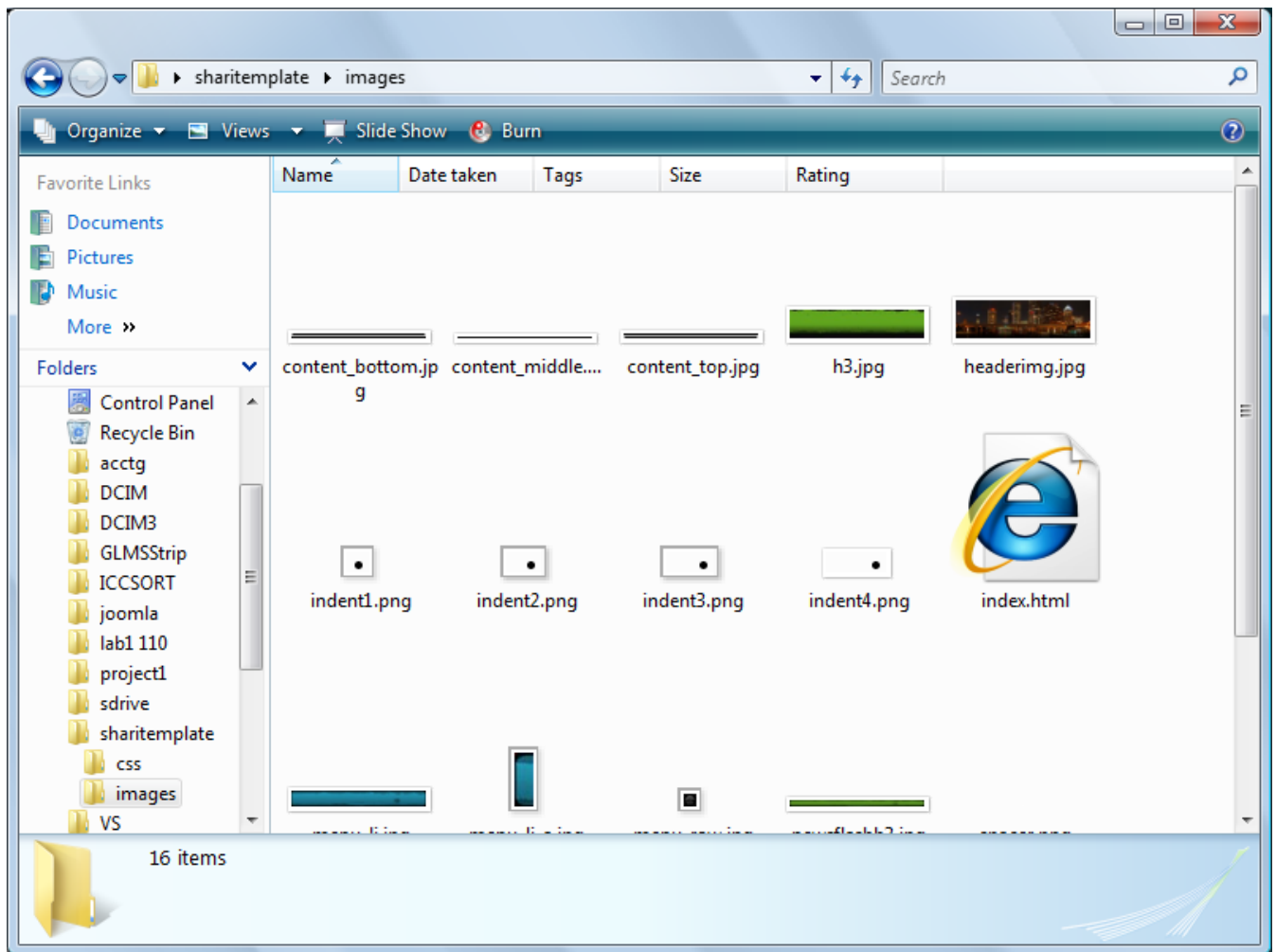
```
<version>1.0.0</version>
```

```
<creationDate>February 25, 2009</creationDate>
```

Do not modify anything else.

Save the file and close it.

10. If you double-click on the images folder, you will see all of the images used in that template. If you wish to modify any of the images, DO NOT rename them since if you do the other template files will be unable to find them. Instead, save the images you would like to use in their place with the same file name. For example, when I go into my images folder, I see this:



Perhaps I like the template, but just want to change the header image. To do this, I would open up the headerimg.jpg into an image editing program by right-clicking on it and choosing "open with" and then selecting the image editing program of my choice.

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**\*\*Side note\*\***

In my case, I chose Adobe Photoshop. If you do not have a good image editing program, one to look at would be Adobe Photoshop Elements. It is very full featured and only costs around \$60. Adobe Photoshop is nice, but much more expensive (if you decide to go the Adobe Photoshop route, be sure to compare the pricing of just Photoshop to how much it would cost for one of the Adobe software suites. Generally for just a little more money, you will get a ton more programs, so it is better to buy one of the suites.) If you do not have an image

editor on your computer and do not want to purchase one at this time, you can either come into the open lab to do this assignment, or do a search on the internet for "free image editor". There are several available.

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11. Once I have the image open in my image editor of choice, I can modify it as I wish. I may wish to erase what is there and paste in an image that I have made, or make other modifications to it. By modifying what is there, I can be sure that I keep the image the same size as the original. Use caution when resizing; since the template was designed around the image being a certain size, if you change the size too much it may cause problems with your template layout.

In my case, I erased the picture that was on the banner and then pasted another picture in its place.

If you need help modifying your image, I would suggest coming into open lab as it is much easier to demonstrate in person.

Once you are done modifying the image, save it with the same file name it originally had.

12. Modify any other pictures you need to change (if there are any).
13. Now we may want to modify the background color or the font color, or some other color on the site. Colors are controlled through the CSS (Cascading Style Sheet) file. Navigate back to the main template folder, then double-click on the folder called "css". Inside the css folder, you may see several different css files, depending on how the author of your template decided to style the site. For example, there may be a css file just for the menus. The tricky part of this is figuring out where you need to make your changes. For most templates, though, the template.css file is probably a good place to look for all of the main colors for your site. Right-click on this file and select "copy", then right-click in a blank white spot in the css folder and select "paste". This will create a copy of the template.css, which will allow you to go back to the original if you accidentally mess up your modifications.
14. Now right-click the template.css file and open with notepad.
15. Teaching you css is beyond the scope of this class. However, to make the simple change of changing the font color or background color for the site, the line you are probably looking for is one that starts with the word body. For example, it may look something like:

```
body{color:#626262; background-color: #000000; font:11px/1.3em Verdana,Tahoma,Arial,sans-serif; margin:0; padding:0;}
```

the color is the text color for the site, and background-color is the background color of the page. If you are not familiar with web color codes, you can look up the code for the color you want at <http://www.lynda.com/resources/hexpalette/hue.html> (the top number in the color box is the web color code).

Change the colors to whatever you would like, and save the css file.

16. If you want to change the footer on your page, go back to the main template folder and right-click on index.php, then open with notepad. Be careful making modifications to this file unless you understand what you are doing; if you plan on making extensive changes, be sure to save a backup copy FIRST so that you can go back to the

original if you mess yours up. However, if your template includes a section at the bottom for the footer similar to this:

```
<div id="footer">  
  
    Copyright &copy; 2008 your sitename. Allrights reserved.  
  
        | <a href="http://www.kepriportal.com" target="_blank">KepriPortal</a>  
  
    |  
  
    <div id="validation"></div>  
  
</div>
```

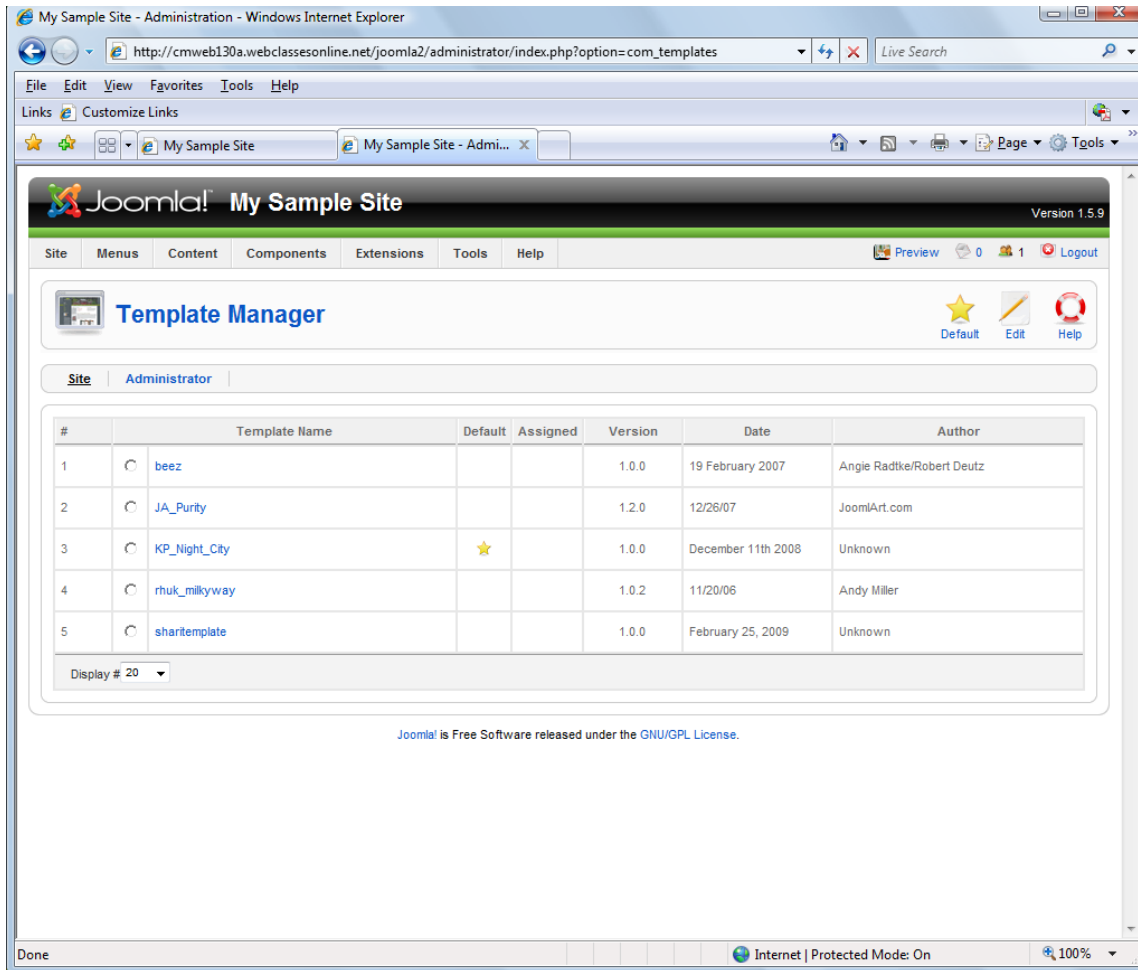
Then it is fairly easy to modify it to be whatever you would like it to say; for example:

```
<div id="footer">  
  
    Copyright &copy; 2009 Shari's web page. Allrights reserved.  
  
        | <a href="http://www.kepriportal.com" target="_blank">Design based on  
template created by KepriPortal</a>  
  
    |  
  
    <div id="validation"></div>  
  
</div>
```

After making any changes, Save the file.

17. Now upload the whole template folder to your site by dragging the folder on your desktop over to the ftp window and dropping it in a white space. Make sure you are in the templates folder when you drop it in.
18. Open a browser window and get into the administration portion of your Joomla! site.

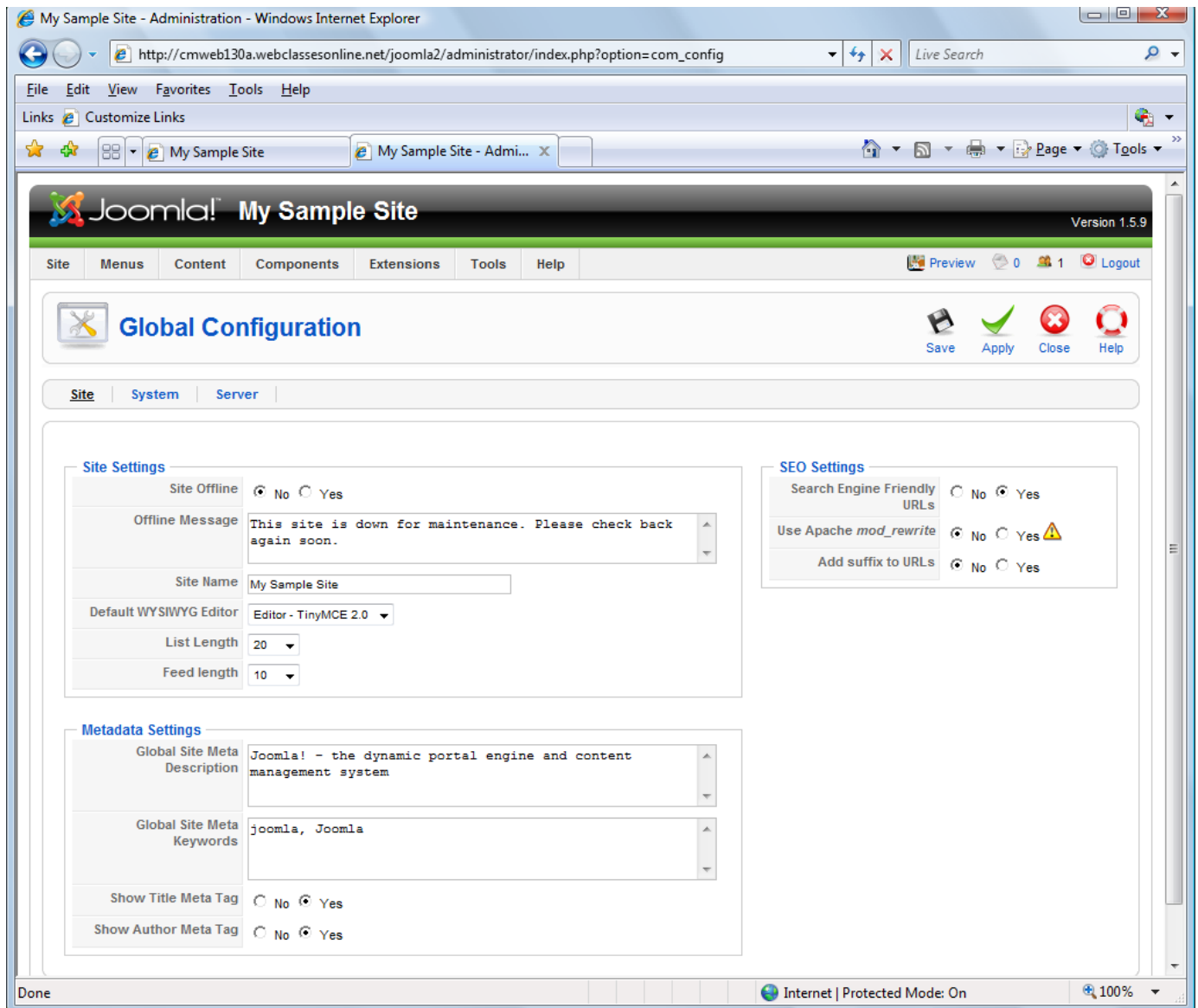
19. Click on the Extensions menu, then template manager. This should bring you to a screen like this:



20. You should see the template you just created in the list. Click on the radio button next to it, then select "default" from the menu choices in the upper right corner. The star in the default column should now be next to your template.

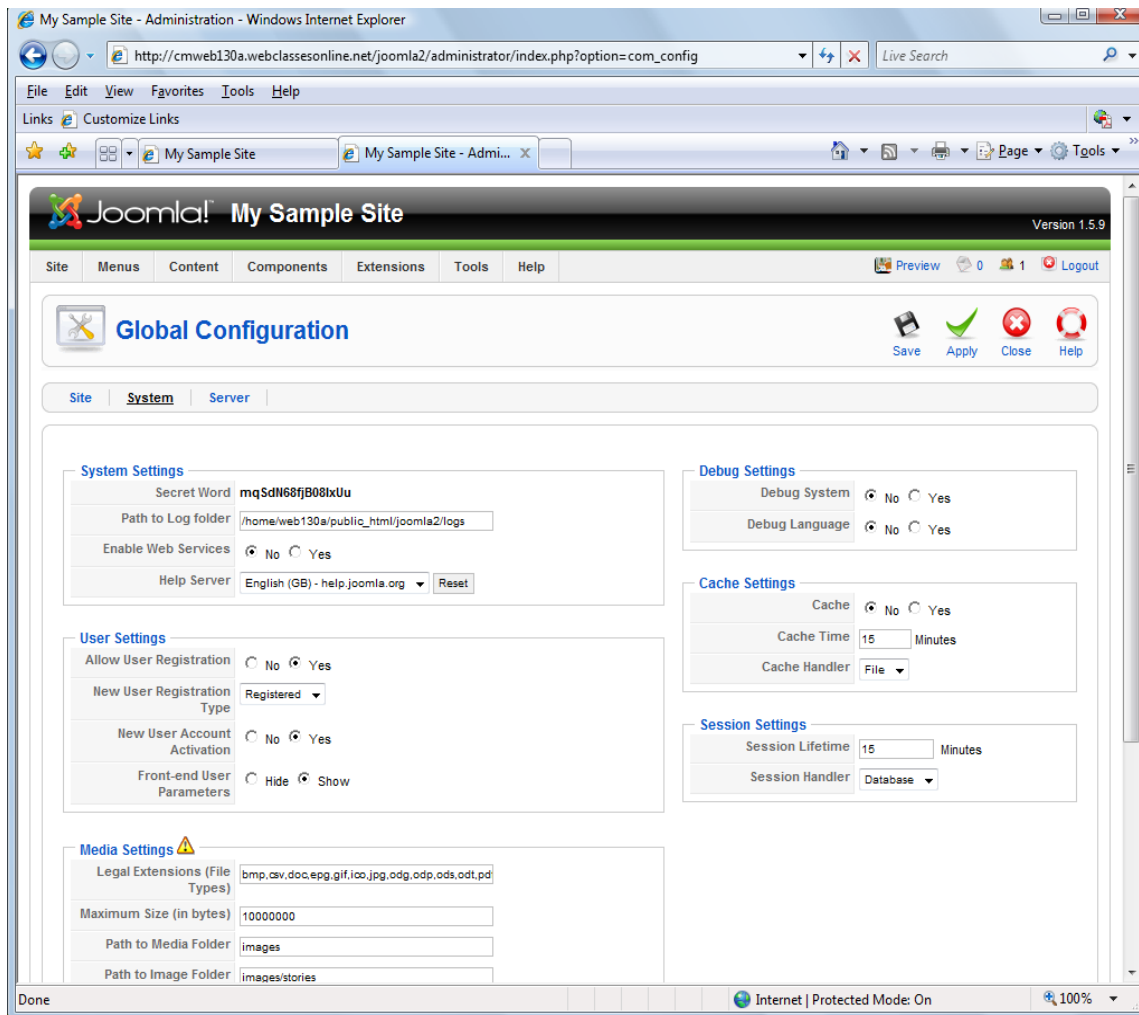
21. Now open a different browser window and navigate to your Joomla! site to see the changes.

22. Another setting that you may want to change is your site name, which probably says something like `stripp.mystudentsite.net`. To do that, go back into your administrator panel, and choose the Site Menu, then click on "Global Configuration". This will bring you to a screen like this:



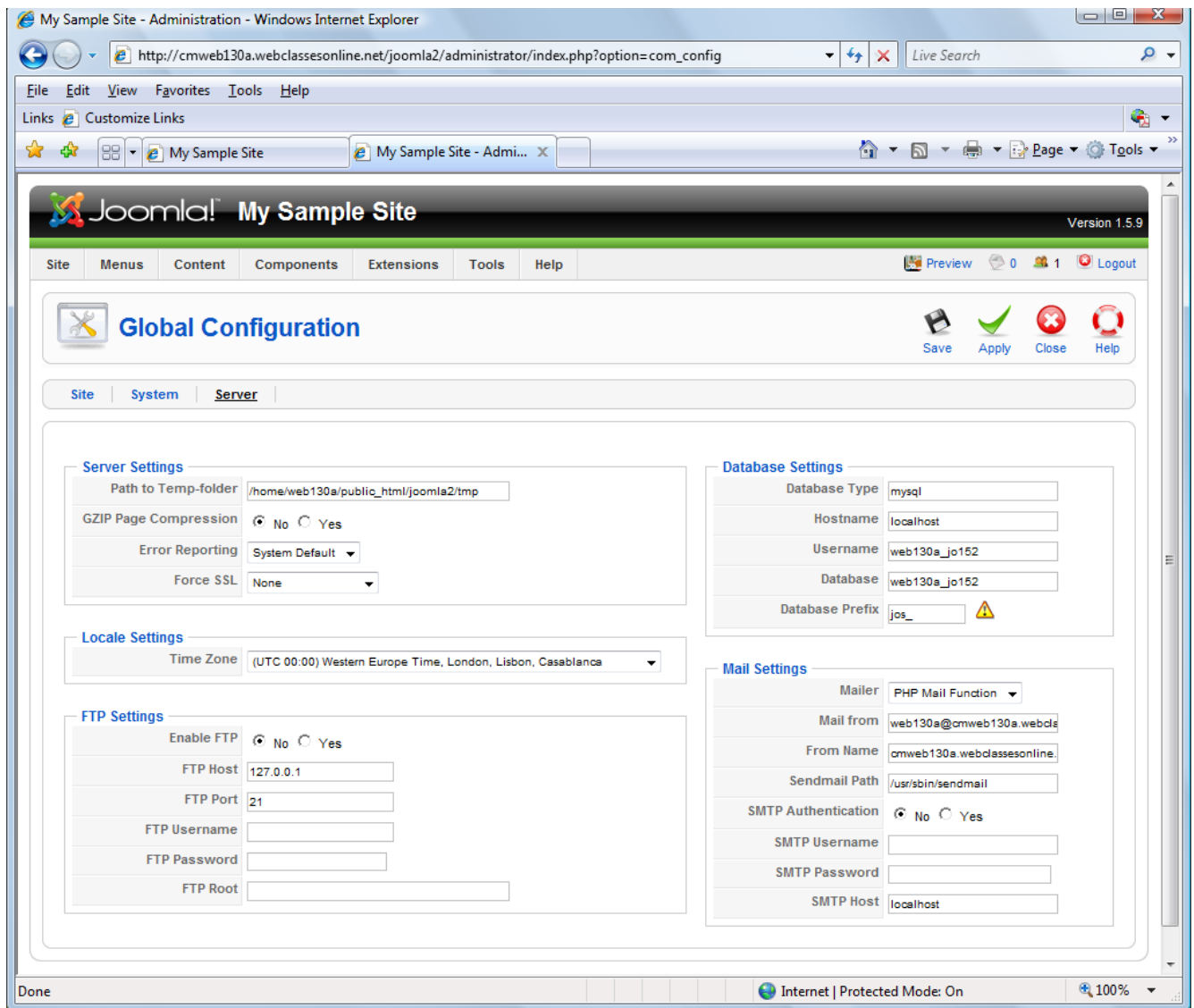
Change the site name over in the left column where it says "Site Name". While you are on this page, you would also want to put in an appropriate description for your site under "Global Site Meta Description" (the meta description is what will show up in search engines as a description of your site, so you want it to sound good), and you probably also would want to put in any keywords or phrases that you think would be appropriate to help people find your site under the "meta keywords" box. You can choose yes or no on the "show author meta tag", it is up to you.

Now click on the System link. This will bring you to a screen like this:



We do not need to change anything here, but I wanted to point out that this is where you would turn the ability to have users register on and off.

Now click on the Server link. This will bring you to a screen like this:



While we are in this screen, change the time zone to match your current time zone.

This is also the screen where you could change the default site administrator e-mail address and "from name" if you needed to.

Be sure to click the Save button to save your changes.

Another place you may want to explore is the Components menu. Components are extensions that are included in the default installation of Joomla!. If you decide to try one, be aware that there is a help menu available by clicking the "help" icon in the upper right corner.

Also, do not forget that to modify your front page (i.e., tell it which articles should show up), you do that by going to the article manager and selecting changing the icon in the front page column next to the article to be checked yes for the front page.

This concludes our discussion of styling your Joomla! site. If you decide to be more adventurous and want to modify your template further (or create your own), there are some excellent resources available at <http://docs.joomla.org/Developers> (look under templates). If there is something that you wish to change on your template and you are not sure how, please contact me and I will see what I can do to help. ☺