2011

USER GUIDE
Modifying User Interface with CSS

Code On Time applications rely exclusively on Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) to provide all presentation elements of generated web applications with colors, fonts, backgrounds, borders, paddings, margins, and other embellishments.

Here is a typical screen that you will find in an application generated with the default theme.

Welcome **admin**, Today is Wednesday, January 12, 2011 | My Account | Logout | Help

MyCompany

| Home | Customers ▾ | Employees ▾ | **Categories ▾** | Customer Demographics | Region ▾ | Reports ▾ | Membership | **Site Actions ▾** |

Home > Categories > Products

Products

About

This page allows products management.

See Also

- Home
- Customers
- Employees
- Customer Demographics
- Region
- Reports
- Membership

This is a list of products.

| ▾ Quick Find 🔍 | 📇 New Products | Actions ▾ | Report ▾ | | | | | View: **Products ▾** |

Product Name	Supplier Company Name	Category Name	Quantity Per Unit	Unit Price	Units In Stock	Units On Order	Reorder Level	Discontinued
Chai	Exotic Liquids	Beverages	10 boxes x 20 bags	$18.00	39	0	10	No
Chang	Exotic Liquids	Beverages	24 - 12 oz bottles	$19.00	17	40	25	No
Aniseed Syrup	Exotic Liquids	Condiments	12 - 550 ml bottles	$10.00	13	70	25	No
Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning	New Orleans Cajun Delights***	Condiments	48 - 6 oz jars	$22.00	53	0	0	No
Chef Anton's Gumbo Mix	Tokyo Traders	Confections	36 boxes	$21.35	0	0	0	Yes
Grandma's Boysenberry Spread	Grandma Kelly's Homestead	Condiments	12 - 8 oz jars	$25.00	120	0	25	No
Uncle Bob's Organic Dried Pears	Grandma Kelly's Homestead	Produce	12 - 1 lb pkgs.	$30.00	15	0	10	No
Northwoods Cranberry Sauce	Grandma Kelly's Homestead	Condiments	12 - 12 oz jars	$40.00	6	0	0	No
Mishi Kobe Niku	Tokyo Traders	Meat/Poultry	18 - 500 g pkgs.	$97.00	29	0	0	Yes
Ikura	Tokyo Traders	Seafood	12 - 200 ml jars	$31.00	31	0	0	No

«Previous | Page: **1** 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | Next » | Items per page: **10**, 15, 20, 25 | Showing **1-10** of **77** items | Refresh

If you load your application in *Internet Explorer* browser, press F12 to bring up the *Developer Toolbar* and select *Disable | CSS* option on the toolbar then the page will looks similar to the following screen shot.

| Help
Welcome **admin**, Today is Wednesday, January 12, 2011 | My Account | Logout
History | Permalink _____ _ _
MyCompany
HomeCustomersEmployeesCategoriesCustomer DemographicsRegionReportsMembership
Site Actions

▪Home > Categories > Products
Products
About   This is a list of products.
This page allows products Quick Find _____   New ProductsActionsReportView:Products
management.   Search bar goes here.
See Also
Home
Customers
Employees

Customer Demographics

Region

Reports

Membership

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Aniseed Syrup	Exotic Liquids	Condiments	12 - 550 ml bottles	$10.00	13	70	25	No
Chef Anton's Cajun	New Orleans Cajun							

As you can see the page is "black on white" with a few blue links and lacks any style. This allows for total customization of the user interface. You may choose to follow the route of complete user interface customization from scratch or add incremental enhancements to the existing themes provided by Code On Time.

Here is how you can proceed with minor enhancements.

Activate *Developer Toolbar* window and select *Disable|CSS* one more time to enable the stylesheets in the browser window.

Click on the "arrow" icon of the Developer Toolbar and inspect any column in a data row of the grid view. If the selection rectangle does not show up when you move the mouse pointer over the page then click the "arrow" again to turn the selection mode off and hit "refresh" icon. Try selecting the UI element on the page again. This is needed if you have activated the toolbar and then interacted with the page in the browser. The toolbar will not be aware of the changes produced by AJAX scripts.

The screen shot shows a thin blue box around the cell in the first row of the *Products* grid in *Category Name* column. The*Developer Toolbar* on top of the browser shows the HTML corresponding to the selection. Three CSS classes *Cell*, *CategoryID*, and*StringType* and assigned to the table cell.

We will change the presentation of *CategoryID* field column to occupy 200 pixels horizontally.

Open you project in Visual Studio or Visual Web Developer. Select the folder *~/App_Themes/MyCompany* and add the new CSS stylesheet item to your project. "MyCompany" is the default namespace of Code On Time projects. If you have changed the namespace of your project then choose the corresponding folder in the *Solution Explorer*.
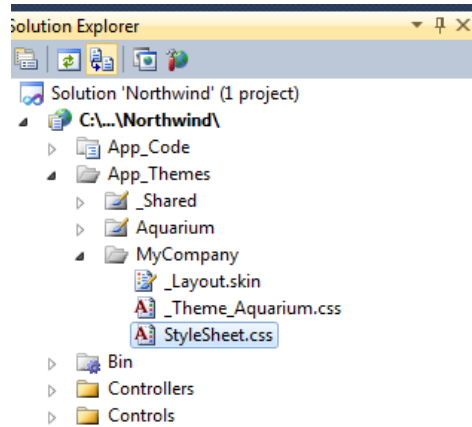
Enter the following CSS rule into the stylesheet.

```
.Cell.CategoryID
{
    width: 200px;
}
```

Run the project and refresh the contents of the browser window. The third column *Category Name* of the grid view is now substantially wider.
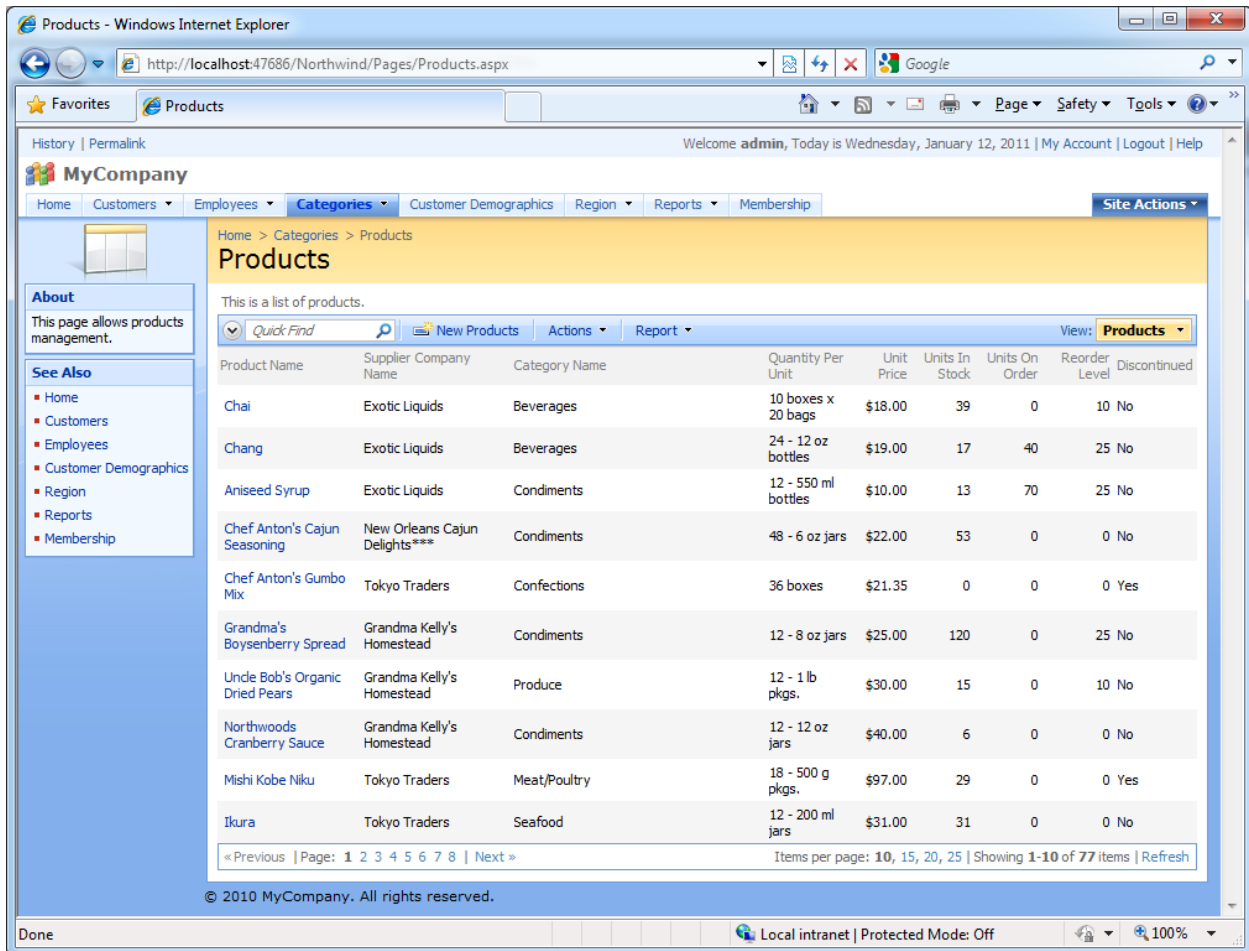
Use similar techniques to alter other elements of the user interface in your Code On Time applications.

Notice that sometimes your own CSS rules will come into conflict with the rules of core theme. Use the word "!important" right after the value of the CSS property as shown in the following example.

```css
.Cell.CategoryID
{
    width: 200px !important;
}
```