FmPro Migrator - How to Convert FileMaker Pro Layouts to HTML

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Introduction



Intro - Layout to HTML Procedure

This document provides an explanation of the steps required to convert FileMaker Pro layouts to HTML files using FmPro Migrator Developer Edition.

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This Layout to HTML conversion procedure assumes that the database tables and data have already been converted into a SQL database. This document doesn't attempt to duplicate the individual PDF manuals which cover the migration process for tables, data and relationships.

This procedure does provide information about gathering info about layouts, relationships and value lists from the FileMaker Pro source database along with detailed info about post-migration tasks.



Step 1



Step 1 - Importing Relationships & Value Lists

Pre-Import Tasks

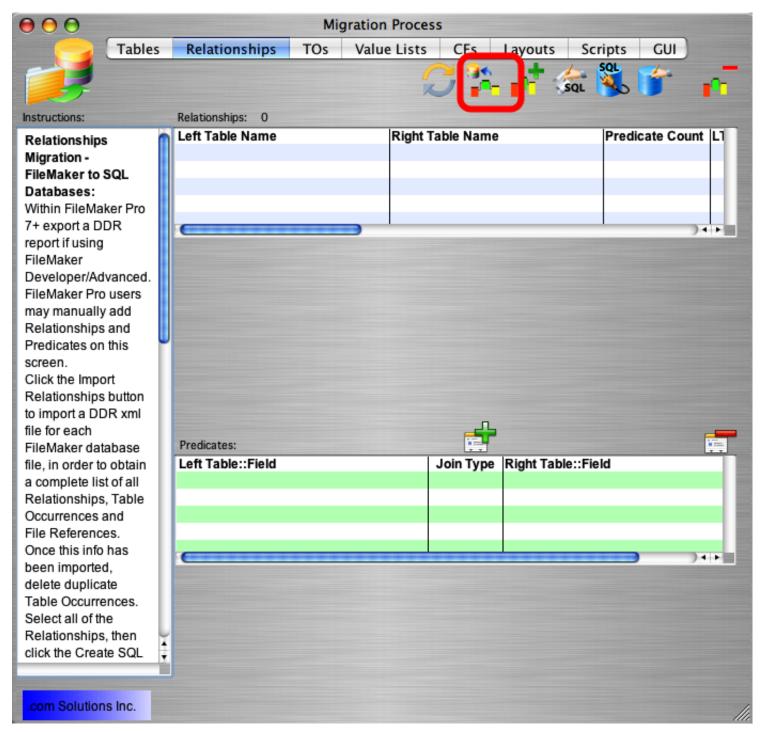
exporting the DDR XML file.

Prior to importing Relationships, Value Lists, and Custom Functions into FmPro Migrator Developer Edition, export a DDR XML file from the source FileMaker Pro database.

Note: This feature requires the use of FileMaker Pro Advanced/Developer, version 7 or higher. When creating the DDR, select to export all of the database objects into the DDR XML file. If the source database is a FileMaker Pro 2,3,4,5 or 6 file - upgrade the file to FileMaker 7+ prior to



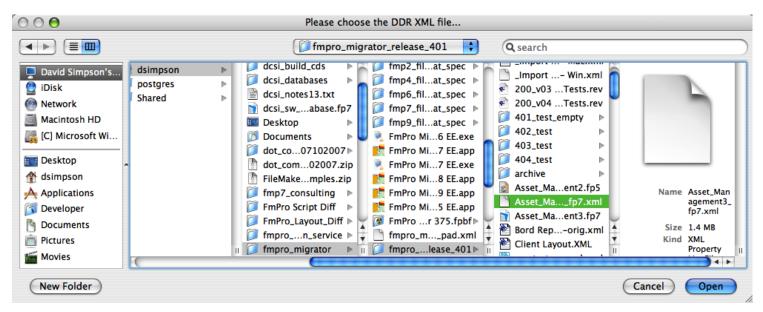
Step 1 - Import Relationships & Value Lists



Click the Import Relationships button to import Relationships, Value Lists and Custom Functions from the DDR XML file for the source database.



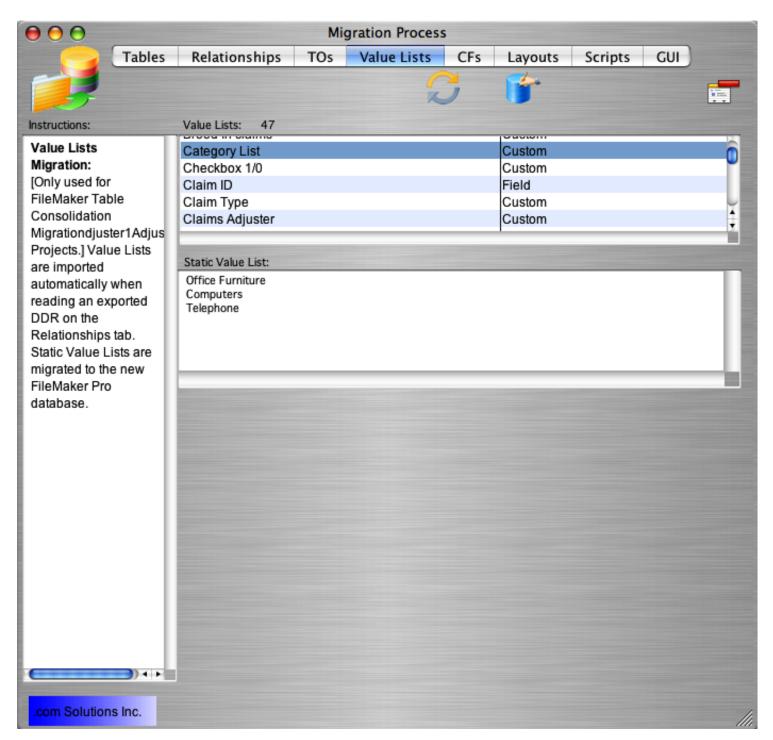
Step 1 - Select DDR XML File



The relationships will be imported from the DDR file and added to the list of relationships on the Relationships tab. TOs, value lists and custom functions will also be imported from the DDR XML file at the same time, and displayed under the Value Lists and CFs tabs in the Migration Process window.



Step 1 - List of Value Lists



Clicking the Value Lists tab shows the list of value lists which were imported from the DDR XML file. The Custom Value Lists displayed in this list will be used by FmPro Migrator to create drop down lists on the HTML files where they are used. The relationships and custom functions are not used in the





creation of the HTML files.



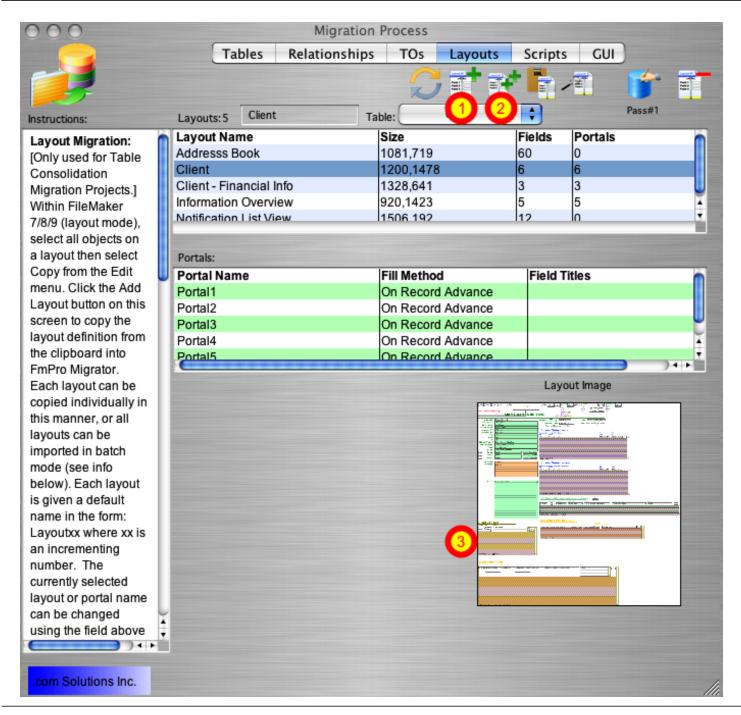
Step 2



Step 2 - Importing Layouts

FmPro Migrator Developer Edition supports the importing of layouts individually from the clipboard or in batch mode by using QuicKeys(MacOSX)/WinAutomation(Windows).

Step 2 - Layouts Tab



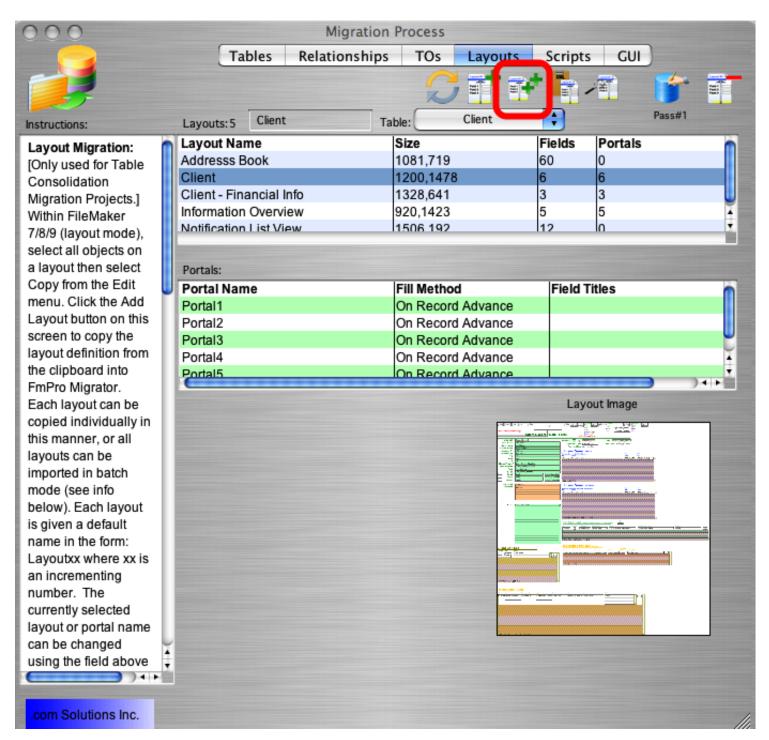


The Layouts tab provides an interface for managing layouts during a migration project. Layouts can be captured from FileMaker either one at a time [1] or in batch mode [2].

Clicking on a layout in the list displays details for the layout, including a [3] thumbnail version of the layout image.



Step 2 - Click Import All Layouts Button



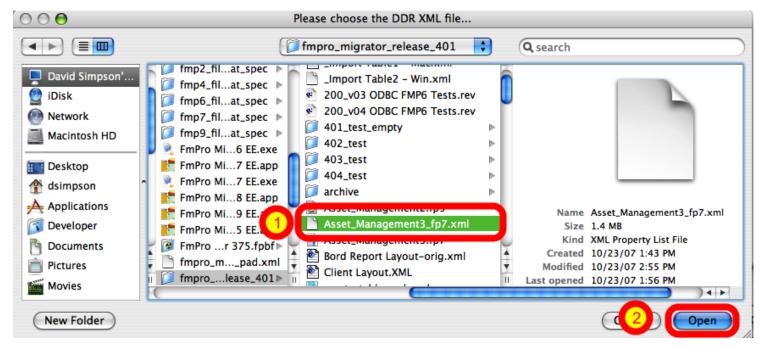
The Import All Layouts button starts the automated process of importing all of the layouts from the FileMaker database which is currently open. Open the source FileMaker Pro database file which you are migrating, then click the Import All Layouts button.



Repeat the following steps to import layouts from additional source database files.

Once all of the layouts have been imported from each source database file, they should be reviewed to determine if there are any layouts having duplicate names. Manually rename any duplicate layouts within the list of layouts. A thumbnail image of each layout and the Display Records From: TO are available on the Layouts screen in order to assist the developer when identifying each layout.

Step 2 - Select the DDR XML File

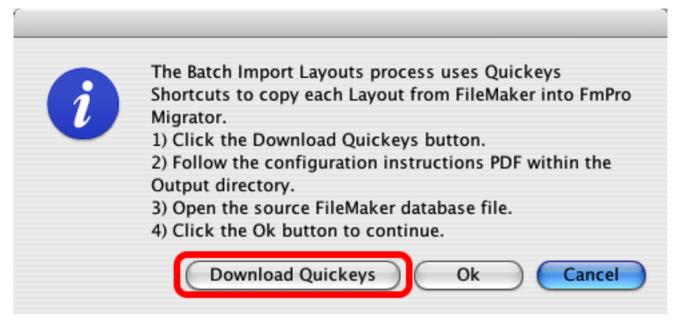


FmPro Migrator needs to read the table occurrence associated with each layout from the DDR XML file which was previously exported.

Select the DDR XML file, then click the Open button.



Step 2 - Click Download QuicKeys Button (Mac OS X) - [1st Time Setup Step]



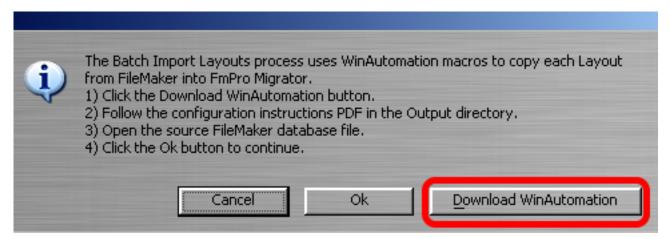
The Download QuicKeys dialog is displayed by FmPro Migrator on Mac OS X. Click the Download QuicKeys button if you don't already have QuicKeys 3.03 (or higher) installed on Mac OS X.

Click this download button even if you do have QuicKeys installed, because clicking this button triggers FmPro Migrator to create the FmPro Migrator QuicKeys Installation.pdf and FmPro Migrator QuicKeys Shortcuts - Mac.qkexport files within the output directory. Whenever the QuicKeys Shortcuts have been updated within FmPro Migrator, you will need to click on this button in order to extract the latest shortcuts from FmPro Migrator for installation on your computer.

Follow the instructions within the FmPro Migrator QuicKeys Installation.pdf file to import the QuicKeys shortcuts from the FmPro Migrator QuicKeys Shortcuts - Mac.qkexport file into QuicKeys and set up the QuicKeys variables. These QuicKeys shortcuts use 10 QuicKeys variables which must be created manually prior to using the shortcuts.



Step 2 - Click Download WinAutomation Button (Windows) - [1st Time Setup Step]



The Download WinAutomation dialog is displayed by FmPro Migrator on Windows. Click the Download WinAutomation button if you don't already have WinAutomation 1.2.0.622 (or higher) installed on Windows.

Click this download button even if you do have WinAutomation installed, because clicking this button triggers FmPro Migrator to create the <u>FmPro Migrator WinAutomation Installation.pdf</u> and <u>FmPro Migrator WinAutomation Jobs.zip</u> files within the output directory. Whenever the WinAutomation Jobs have been updated within FmPro Migrator, you will need to click on this button in order to extract the latest versions of these jobs from FmPro Migrator for installation on your computer.

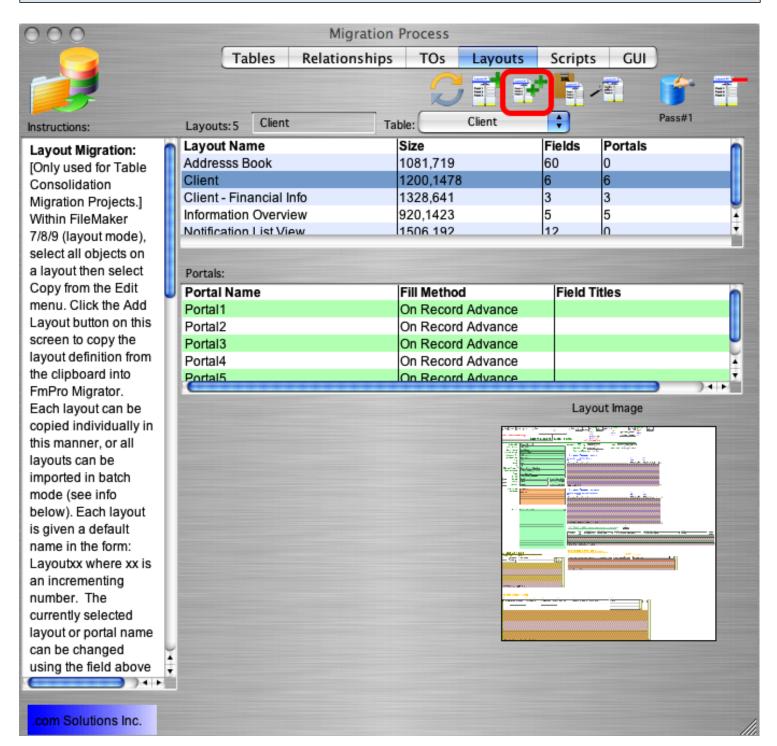
Follow the instructions within the FmPro Migrator WinAutomation Installation.pdf file to import the WinAutomation jobs from the FmPro Migrator WinAutomation Installation Jobs.zip file into WinAutomation.

Step 2 - Start WinAutomation Console Application (Windows) - [1st Time Setup Step]

The WinAutomation Console application will install and startup the WinAutomation Service the first time it is launched. You may close the WinAutomation Console after importing the WinAutomation jobs.



Step 2 - Click the Copy All Layouts Button (2nd Time)



Select the DDR XML file, then click the Ok button on the Batch Import dialog.

FmPro Migrator will then use the QuicKeys/WinAutomation shortcuts to drive the FileMaker user



interface in the same manner as a user would manually copy each of the Layouts from FileMaker Pro into FmPro Migrator.

Step 2 - Controlling Batch Capture Mode



FmPro Migrator takes over the computer's keyboard/mouse when controlling FileMaker Pro to capture or create layouts in FileMaker Pro. If you need to cancel the process while it is running, click the Done button at the bottom of the Layouts tab.



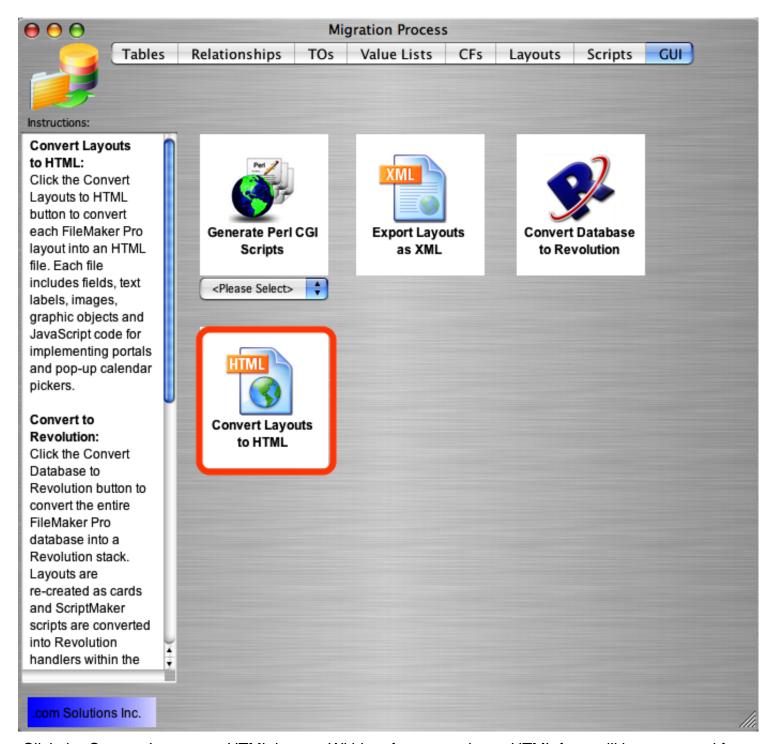


Step 3



Step 3 - Generate HTML Files

Step 3 - Click Convert Layouts to HTML Button

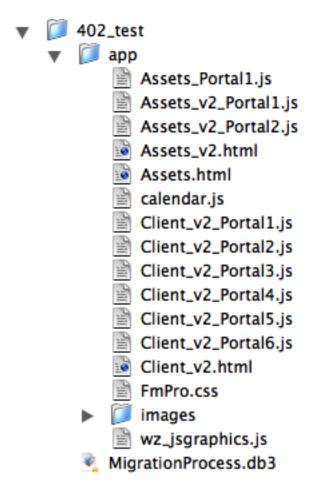


Click the Convert Layouts to HTML button. Within a few seconds, an HTML form will be generated for



each FileMaker Pro layout within a new /app directory inside FmPro Migrator's previously selected output directory.

Step 3 - Generated HTML Files List



An HTML file is created for each FileMaker Pro layout, along with a JavaScript file for each portal and images which have been extracted from each layout.

Layout images are converted into PNG, JPG or GIF files and stored unduplicated within the /images subdirectory. If a particular image such as a company logo image is used on multiple layouts, it is stored only once within the /images directory. Changing the one single copy of this image file will automatically affect the displayed image on every HTML file where it is referenced.

The open source Walter Zorn VectorGraphics library wz_jsgraphics.js JavaScript file is used for drawing lines, circles/ovals, rectangles and rounded rectangle objects on the web page.



The open source calendar.js JavaScript file is used for displaying a calendar picker for any field which had a drop down calendar configured within the original layout.

The _Portal.js files are used to implement an ExtJS Data Grid for each layout portal. [ExtJS software must be licensed separately for commercial projects, please see the http://www.extjs.com/products/license.php page for more info.]



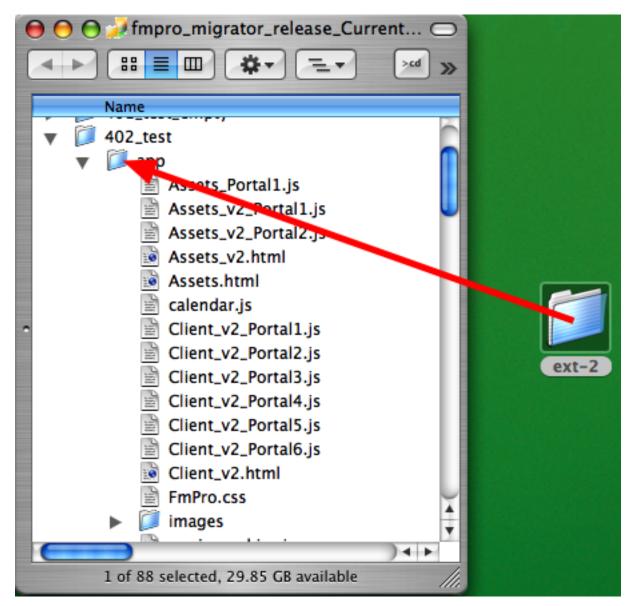


Post-Migration Tasks



Post-Migration Tasks - HTML File Editing

Download & Install ExtJS



Download and install ExtJS 2.2.1 or higher within the /app folder.

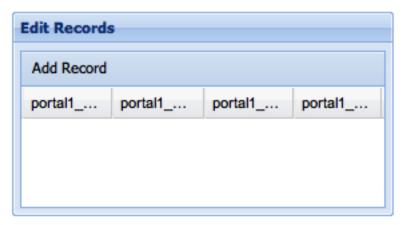
The ExtJS JavaScript library is used to display a JavaScript Data Grid object in place of the original FileMaker Pro portal object.

Note: The ExtJS library is available at no charge for open source projects, but a license needs to be purchased for use in commercial development projects.





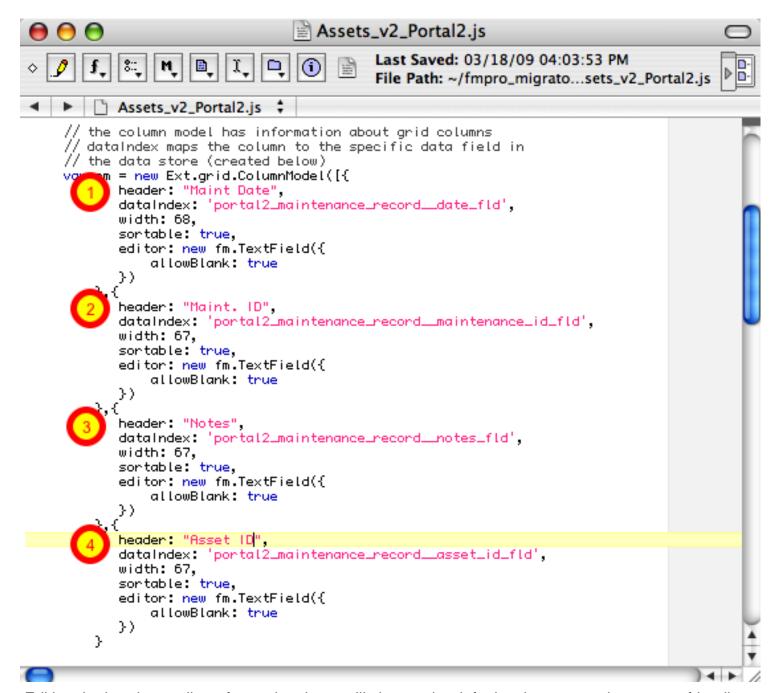
ExtJS Data Grid Customization - Default Display



By default, FmPro Migrator generates ExtJS compatible JavaScript files utilizing the portal field names as data grid column headers.



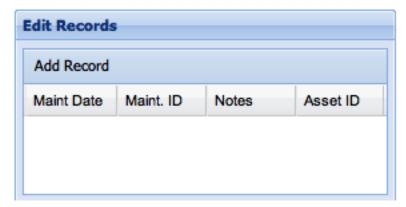
Editing the Assets_v2_Portal2.js File



Editing the header: attribute for each column will change the default column name into a user-friendly column header. The columns for this portal have been renamed to read: Maint Date, Maint. ID, Notes and Asset ID.



ExtJS Data Grid Customization - Updated Column Headers



Save the changes to the .js file and refresh the browser display to see the updated Data Grid.

Additional changes will also need to be made within each Data Grid .js file in order to implement loading of the data from a database server, in place of the default behavior which loads data from an xml file.

ExtJS Data Grid - Vertical Size

The ExtJS Data Grid takes up more vertical space than the original layout portal. An ExtJS Data Grid needs to be at least 120 pixels tall in order to be useful. It is generally easier to move objects around on the original FileMaker Pro layout to accommodate this extra vertical space. Once the changes have been made to the original layout, copy the changed layouts back into FmPro Migrator and re-generate the HTML files again.



DateTime Picker Display





Each FileMaker Pro date field configured with a drop down Calendar, is configured with a calendar icon and a link to the Calendar.js JavaScript DateTime Picker, written by TengYong Ng.

DateTime Picker Icon - with Overlapping Rectangle Graphic



The Walter Zorn JavaScript VectorGraphics library (wz_jsgraphics.js file) is used for drawing rectangles, circles/ovals and lines on the background of the HTML web page in order to duplicate the equivalent functionality within the FileMaker Pro layout. However some FileMaker Pro layouts utilize background objects like rectangles behind the fields of the layout, as shown in this screenshot. When a graphic object like the yellow colored rectangle is drawn behind a field having the calendar icon, the calendar icon image is not visible as it is covered up by the rectangle.

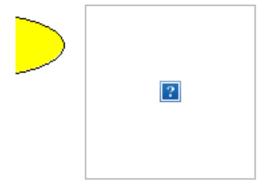


DateTime Picker icon - with Rectangle Graphic Moved

Acquired < <d< th=""><th>ate Purchased>></th><th colspan="2">Depreciated <<depreciation>></depreciation></th></d<>	ate Purchased>>	Depreciated < <depreciation>></depreciation>	
Purchased		In Service	
From			
Cost			

One way to work around the display issue with these two objects is to move or resize the yellow background rectangle as shown in this screenshot.

Layout Images Stored as Reference





On this sample layout, the bottom icon is displayed twice on the same layout when viewed within FileMaker Pro. But the top icon is only stored as a reference to the original file and is not actually embedded within the original layout. For this reason, the image is not extracted or available for display



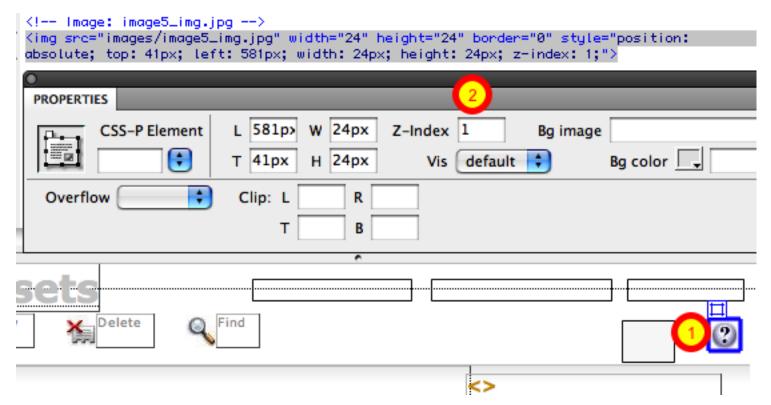
on the web page. Therefore, if images are not displayed on a particular web page, check to make sure that the original layout image wasn't stored as a reference. For any missing images, the layouts should be modified to embed the images within the layout, then re-copy the layouts into FmPro Migrator and re-generate the HTML files.

Overlapping Image & Graphic Objects - Web Browser View



Within a web browser, this circular object appears to be missing the image object which should be displayed within the circle. The circle is being drawn with the JavaScript VectorGraphics library, and it is covering the circular graphic image which should be displayed within the circle.

Overlapping Image & Graphic Objects - Dreamweaver Design View



Within the Dreamweaver design view, the underlying graphic image can be seen, because the JavaScript VectorGraphics library is not being run within design view. Once the graphic image has



been selected (1), open the properties window and set the Z-index to 1 (2).

Overlapping Image & Graphic Objects - Updated Web Browser View



Once the HTML file changes have been saved by Dreamweaver, refresh the web browser window, or switch to Dreamweaver's Live View mode to see the changes. The image now shows up and the gradated image below the purple line has also been changed to display over top of the drawn image of the purple line.

Even though the image now shows up, the drawn circle is now covered up under the ? image graphic image. For situations of this type, it would be better to draw the entire object within a graphics program and paste the finished graphic onto the FileMaker Pro layout.

Text Labels with Multiple Sizes/Styles



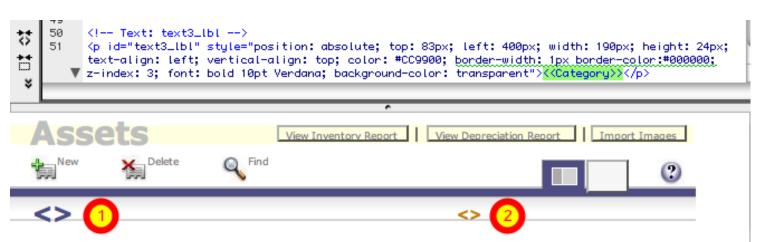
Text labels having multiple font, sizes or text styles will be rendered with the 1st text style read from the FileMaker Pro layout XML description of the object. If a section of the text is supposed to be displayed as a smaller sized font, the text will overflow to the next line.



Text Labels with Multiple Sizes/Styles - Adjusted Size Font Tag

Adding an additional HTML tag resizes the trailing portion of the text to match the original FileMaker Pro layout text.

FileMaker Pro Layout Merge Fields



Merge fields don't have a direct correlation to an HTML object. Since merge fields are enclosed within <<>> characters within layout text objects, each of these objects are reproduced as incompletely displayed HTML objects within the HTML document. One potential alternative would be a PHP statement which would display information at the specified location on the web page. However putting multiple fields together allowing the text to flow in the same manner as the merge field in the original



layout would require additional work.

Printable Web Graphics

```
jg_doc.setPrintable(false); // set to true if web page needs printed
jg_doc.purnt(); // draws directly onto the web page
}

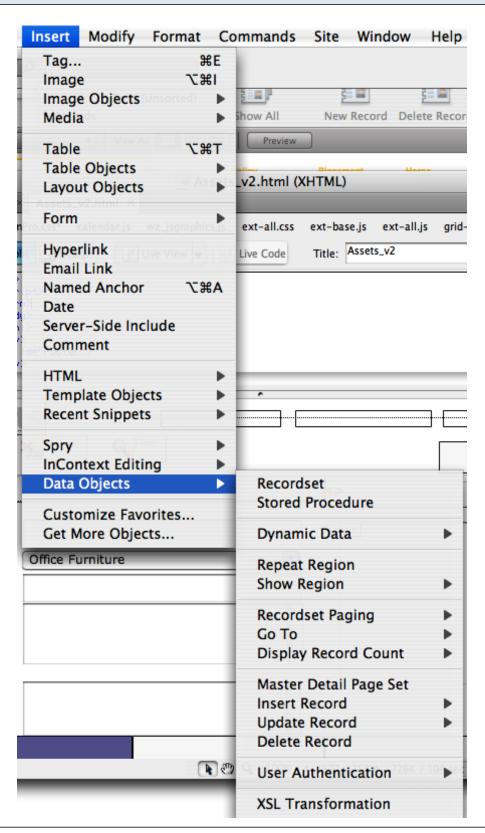
var jg_doc = new jsGraphics(); // draw directly into document
fmProGraphicsFunction();

//-->
</script>
```

Each HTML file which contains FileMaker Pro line, circle/oval and rectangle graphic objects will include a JavaScript function named fmProGraphicsFunction. This function uses the JavaScript VectorGraphics library (wz_jsgraphics.js file) to draw these objects on the background of the HTML page. In order to improve performance, the setPrintable(false) function is executed by default. If all of the web page objects need to be printed to a printer, this function should be changed by passing the true parameter to the setPrintable() function.



Database Objects





Dreamweaver CS4 (and many other tools) provides dynamic data objects to enable the development of database backed websites. These features are documented in the Dreamweaver manual and are beyond the scope of this manual.

Unsupported Layout Objects

There are a few layout objects which are not supported during the HTML conversion process:

Tab Control - The Tab Control functionality can be duplicated by making multiple copies of the layout containing the Tab Control, and laying out the elements of each tab on a separate layout. This is the same technique which was utilized within FileMaker Pro database layouts prior to the inclusion of the Tab Control feature, introduced with FileMaker Pro 8.

Field Tab Order - The XML definition of a FileMaker Pro layout does not include field tab order information. To set a specific tab order for fields contained within the form, add the tabindex HTML tag for each field using an HTML editor.

Rounded Rectangle Objects - Rounded Rectangle objects are drawn by the JavaScript Vectorgraphics library as regular rectangles, similar to the way they are displayed by the FileMaker Pro Instant Web Publishing feature. If the display of rounded rectangle objects is critical to the look of the resulting HTML page, these types of objects should be replaced with graphic images pasted directly onto the FileMaker Pro layout.

Object Z-index (stacking order) - The XML definition of a FileMaker Pro layout does not include object stacking order (z-index) information. FmPro Migrator automatically assigns z-index values for each object according to the following table:

[Lower numbers are at the bottom of the stack, covered up by objects with a higher z-index value.]

Object Type	<u>Z-index</u>	
Text Label	5	
Button	4	
Field	3	
Field - Calendar	3	
Menu	3	
Checkbox	3	





Radio Button 3
Portal 2
Line 1
Rectangle 1
Oval/Circle 1

Graphic Image none (0)