

ALT-TAB: Better APEX Tabs

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Director & Co-Founder

sumnēva

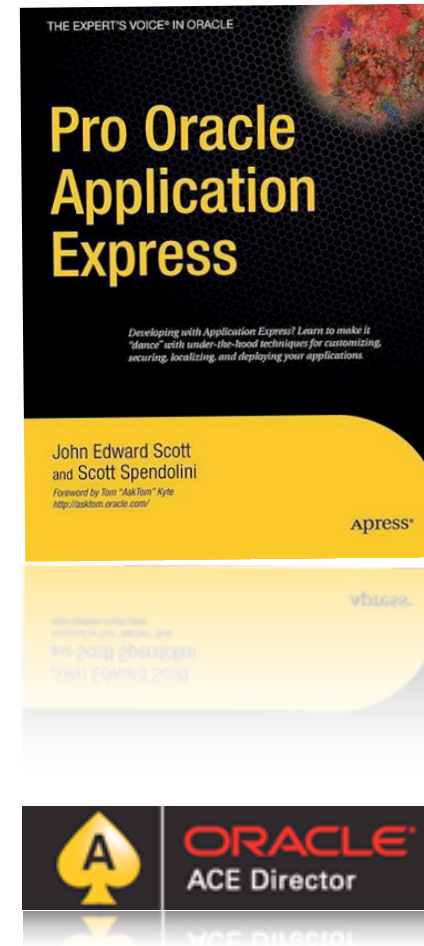
Application Success

Welcome

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

- **Scott Spendolini**

- scott@sumneva.com
- @sspendol
- Ex-Oracle Employee of 10 years
 - Senior Product Manager for Oracle APEX from 2002 through 2005
- Founded Sumner Technologies in October 2005
- Co-Founded Sumneva in January 2010
- Oracle Ace Director
- Co-Author, [Pro Oracle Application Express](#)
- “Scott” on OTN Forums



ABOUT SUMNEVA

- Specializing in Oracle Application Express

- **Training**

- Instructor Led On-Site or Online
- Private & Public

- **Consulting**

- Anything APEX-related

- **Solutions/Products**

- sumnevaSERT
- sumnevaFramework



AGENDA

- Overview
- Alternative Tabs
 - jQuery UI
 - CSS Dropdown Menu Framework
- APEX 4.0 UI Changes
- Summary

APEX 4.0 UI Changes

NEW APEX 4.0 THEMES

- Several new themes included in APEX 4.0
- Total of 20 Interchangeable Themes

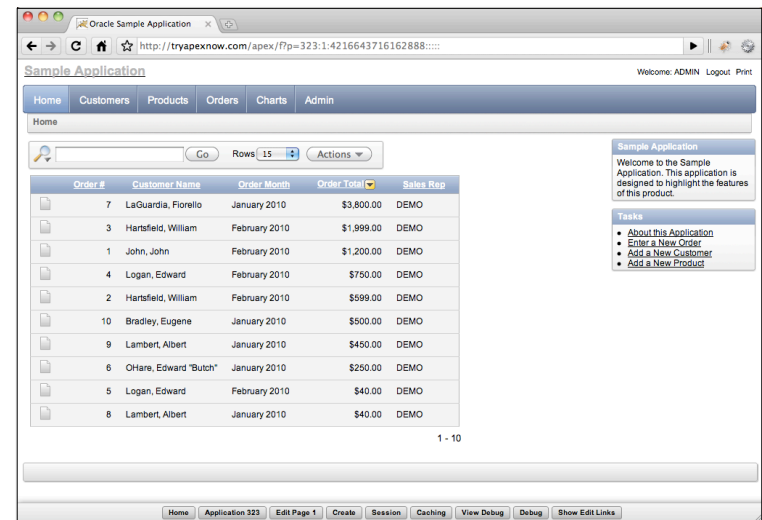
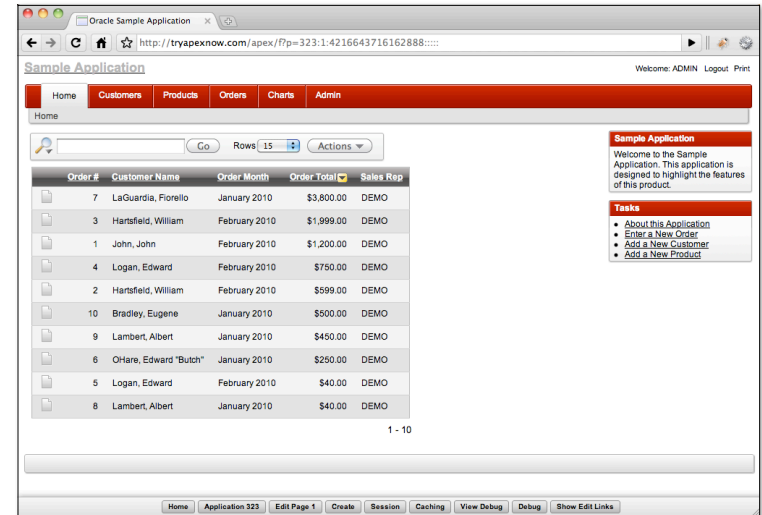
The screenshot displays the 'Theme 1 - Red' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Home, Customers, Products, Orders, Charts, Admin, Theme Testing Application, and RDS. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Products. A secondary navigation bar contains 'Show All', 'Products', 'Customers', and 'Orders'. The main content area is titled 'Products' and features a search bar with a 'Go' button and an 'Actions' dropdown menu. Below the search bar is a table with the following data:

Stock #	Product	Description	Availability	Category	Price
1	3.2 GHz Desktop PC	All the options, this machine is loaded!	Y	Computer	1200
2	MP3 Player	Store up to 1000 songs and take them with you	Y	Audio	199
3	Bluetooth Headset	Hands-Free without the wires!	Y	Phones	40
4	PDA Cell Phone	Combine your cell phone and PDA into one device	Y	Phones	250
5	Portable DVD Player	Small enough to take anywhere!	Y	Video	500

To the right of the product list is a 'Comments' section with a text area, a 'Date' input field, and 'Reset' and 'Apply' buttons. Below the product list, there is a second, partially visible table with similar columns and data.

THEMES

- All new themes are DIV-based
- Only 5 are IE6 Compatible
- Denoted by the * next to their names
- Most themes have been “cleaned up” to better meet standards and/or to fix bugs



BACKWARD COMPATIBILITY

- Five Themes still use **HTML tables** for their layout
 - Ensures compatibility with **older browsers**
 - **Table-friendly themes** include:
 - Theme 13
 - Theme 15
 - Theme 16
 - Theme 18
 - Theme 20

NEW FEATURES IN APEX 4.0 TEMPLATES

- “Embedded” Regions
 - Can now easily have a Region within another Region
 - Part of the Region properties

DIV-BASED LAYOUT

- Most of the new APEX 4.0 Themes use a **DIV-based layout model**
- What is a DIV?
 - A container for blocks of content
 - More practical than **TABLEs** for overall design
 - Can and do still use **TABLEs** for row/column reports
 - Easier to manipulate & manage with JavaScript/jQuery

DIVs

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

STRUCTURE OF AN APEX 4.0 TEMPLATE

- Each page is made up of several DIVs
 - header
 - tabs
 - topbar
 - messages
 - body
 - footer
- Each DIV has sub-DIVs
 - And those DIVs may also have sub-DIVs

HEADER

The screenshot displays an Oracle APEX application interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows 'localhost:8080/apex/f?p=158:1:1168601594262922:::'. The application header includes a navigation menu with 'Home', 'Customers', 'Products', 'Orders', 'Charts', and 'Admin'. Below the menu, the 'Home' page is active. The main content area features a 'My Orders' section with a search bar and an 'Actions' dropdown. A table lists orders with columns for Order #, Customer Name, Order Month, Order Total, and Sales Rep. To the right, there are two sidebars: 'Sample Application' with a welcome message and 'Tasks' with a list of links. The footer contains a navigation bar with buttons for 'Home', 'Application 158', 'Edit Page 1', 'Create', 'Session', 'Caching', 'View Debug', 'Debug', and 'Show Edit Links'.

Sample Application

Welcome: ADMIN [Print](#) [Logout](#)

Home Customers Products Orders Charts Admin

Home

My Orders

Q- Go Actions ▾

Order #	Customer Name	Order Month	Order Total	Sales Rep
7	LaGuardia, Fiorello	May 2010	\$3,800.00	DEMO
3	Hartsfield, William	May 2010	\$1,999.00	DEMO
1	Dulles, John	June 2010	\$1,200.00	DEMO
4	Logan, Edward	May 2010	\$750.00	DEMO
2	Hartsfield, William	May 2010	\$599.00	DEMO
10	Bradley, Eugene	April 2010	\$500.00	DEMO
9	Lambert, Albert	April 2010	\$450.00	DEMO
6	OHare, Edward "Butch"	May 2010	\$250.00	DEMO
5	Logan, Edward	May 2010	\$40.00	DEMO
8	Lambert, Albert	April 2010	\$40.00	DEMO

1 - 10

Sample Application

Welcome to the Sample Application. This application is designed to highlight the features of this product.

Tasks

- [About this Application](#)
- [Enter a New Order](#)
- [Add a New Customer](#)
- [Add a New Product](#)

Home Application 158 Edit Page 1 Create Session Caching View Debug Debug Show Edit Links

TABS

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled 'Oracle Sample Application'. The address bar displays 'localhost:8080/apex/f?p=158:1:1168601594262922::::'. The page header includes 'Sample Application' and a welcome message for 'ADMIN' with links for 'Print' and 'Logout'. A navigation bar contains tabs for 'Home', 'Customers', 'Products', 'Orders', 'Charts', and 'Admin'. The 'Home' tab is active, showing a 'My Orders' section with a search bar and an 'Actions' dropdown. Below is a table of orders with columns for Order #, Customer Name, Order Month, Order Total, and Sales Rep. To the right, there are two sidebars: 'Sample Application' with a welcome message and 'Tasks' with a list of links. At the bottom, a footer bar contains buttons for 'Home', 'Application 158', 'Edit Page 1', 'Create', 'Session', 'Caching', 'View Debug', 'Debug', and 'Show Edit Links'.

Sample Application

Welcome: ADMIN [Print](#) [Logout](#)

Home Customers Products Orders Charts Admin

Home

My Orders

Q- Go Actions ▾

Order #	Customer Name	Order Month	Order Total	Sales Rep
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1 - 10

Sample Application

Welcome to the Sample Application. This application is designed to highlight the features of this product.

Tasks

- [About this Application](#)
- [Enter a New Order](#)
- [Add a New Customer](#)
- [Add a New Product](#)

Home Application 158 Edit Page 1 Create Session Caching View Debug Debug Show Edit Links

TOPBAR

The screenshot displays an Oracle APEX application interface. At the top, the browser address bar shows the URL `localhost:8080/apex/f?p=158:1:1168601594262922:::`. The application title is "Sample Application" and the user is logged in as "ADMIN". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Customers", "Products", "Orders", "Charts", and "Admin".

The main content area is titled "My Orders" and features a search bar with a "Go" button and an "Actions" dropdown. Below the search bar is a table of orders:

Order #	Customer Name	Order Month	Order Total	Sales Rep
7	LaGuardia, Fiorello	May 2010	\$3,800.00	DEMO
3	Hartsfield, William	May 2010	\$1,999.00	DEMO
1	Dulles, John	June 2010	\$1,200.00	DEMO
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5	Logan, Edward	May 2010	\$40.00	DEMO
8	Lambert, Albert	April 2010	\$40.00	DEMO

Below the table, the text "1 - 10" indicates the current page range. To the right of the table, there are two sidebars: "Sample Application" with a welcome message and "Tasks" with a list of links: "About this Application", "Enter a New Order", "Add a New Customer", and "Add a New Product".

At the bottom of the application, there is a footer with navigation buttons: "Home", "Application 158", "Edit Page 1", "Create", "Session", "Caching", "View Debug", "Debug", and "Show Edit Links".

BODY

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `localhost:8080/apex/f?p=158:1:1168601594262922:::`. The page title is "Sample Application" and it displays a welcome message for "ADMIN" with links for "Print" and "Logout". A navigation menu includes "Home", "Customers", "Products", "Orders", "Charts", and "Admin". The "Home" page is active, showing a "My Orders" section with a search bar and an "Actions" dropdown. Below this is a table of orders with columns for Order #, Customer Name, Order Month, Order Total, and Sales Rep. To the right, there is a "Sample Application" welcome message and a "Tasks" list with links for "About this Application", "Enter a New Order", "Add a New Customer", and "Add a New Product". At the bottom, there are buttons for "Home", "Application 158", "Edit Page 1", "Create", "Session", "Caching", "View Debug", "Debug", and "Show Edit Links".

Order #	Customer Name	Order Month	Order Total	Sales Rep
7	LaGuardia, Fiorello	May 2010	\$3,800.00	DEMO
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FOOTER

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Oracle Sample Application" with the URL "localhost:8080/apex/f?p=158:1:1168601594262922::::". The main content area features a search bar and a table of orders. The table has columns for Order #, Customer Name, Order Month, Order Total, and Sales Rep. The sidebar on the right contains a welcome message and a list of tasks.

Order #	Customer Name	Order Month	Order Total	Sales Rep
7	LaGuardia, Fiorello	May 2010	\$3,800.00	DEMO
3	Hartsfield, William	May 2010	\$1,999.00	DEMO
1	Dulles, John	June 2010	\$1,200.00	DEMO
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1 - 10

Welcome to the Sample Application. This application is designed to highlight the features of this product.

Tasks

- [About this Application](#)
- [Enter a New Order](#)
- [Add a New Customer](#)
- [Add a New Product](#)

Home Application 158 Edit Page 1 Create Session Caching View Debug Debug Show Edit Links

PAGE HEADER

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html lang="&BROWSER_LANGUAGE." xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"
xmlns:htmldb="http://htmldb.oracle.com" xmlns:apex="http://apex.oracle.com">
<head>
  <title>#TITLE#</title>
  <link rel="icon" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">
  <link rel="shortcut icon" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#favicon.ico" type="image/x-
icon">
  #HEAD#
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#themes/theme_4/css/theme_4_0.css"
type="text/css" />
  <!--[if IE]><link rel="stylesheet" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#themes/theme_4/css/
theme_4_0_ie.css" type="text/css" /><![endif]-->
  <!--[if IE 6]><link rel="stylesheet" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#themes/theme_4/css/
theme_4_0_ie6.css" type="text/css" /><![endif]-->
  <!--[if IE 7]><link rel="stylesheet" href="#IMAGE_PREFIX#themes/theme_4/css/
theme_4_0_ie7.css" type="text/css" /><![endif]-->
</head>
<body #ONLOAD#>
<!--[if lte IE 6]><div id="outdated-browser">#OUTDATED_BROWSER#</div><![endif]-->
>
#FORM_OPEN#
```

PAGE BODY

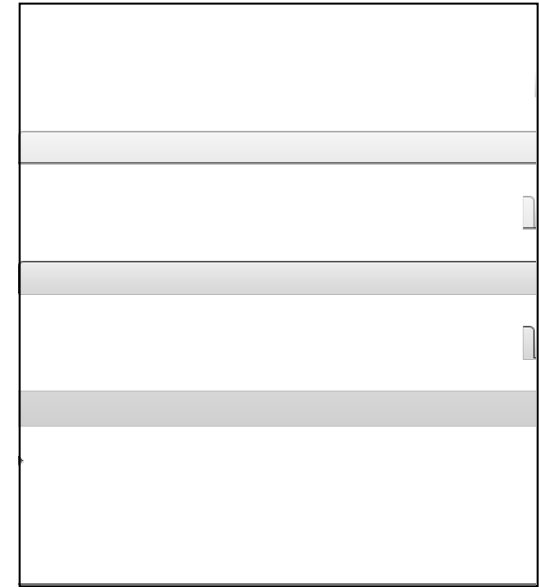
```
<div id="header">
  <div id="logo"><a href="#HOME_LINK#">#LOGO##REGION_POSITION_06#</a></div>
  #REGION_POSITION_07#
  <div id="navbar">
    <div class="app-user">#WELCOME_USER#</div>
    #NAVIGATION_BAR#
    #REGION_POSITION_08#
  </div>
</div>
<div id="tabs">
  <div class="frame">
    <div class="bg">
      <div class="tab-holder">
        #TAB_CELLS#
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
<div id="topbar">#REGION_POSITION_01##REGION_POSITION_04#</div>
<div id="messages">#SUCCESS_MESSAGE##NOTIFICATION_MESSAGE##GLOBAL_NOTIFICATION#</div>
<div id="body">
  <table class="tbl-body" cellspacing="0" cellpadding="0" border="0" summary="">
    <tbody>
      <tr>
        <td class="tbl-main" width="100%">#REGION_POSITION_02##BOX_BODY#</td>
        <td class="tbl-sidebar">#REGION_POSITION_03#</td>
      </tr>
    </tbody>
  </table>
</div>
```

PAGE FOOTER

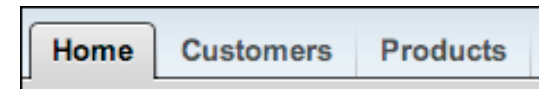
```
<div id="footer"><div class="content">
  #REGION_POSITION_05#
  <div id="customize">#CUSTOMIZE#</div>&nbsp;
</div></div>
#FORM_CLOSE#
</body>
</html>
```

SPRITE MAPS

- **Sprite Maps** consolidate several smaller images into one large image
- Faster to load one larger image vs. several smaller images
- Only a **portion of the image is displayed** on the page
- Controlled by CSS **background-position** attribute



Tabs Sprite Map Image



Actual Tabs

Sprite Maps

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

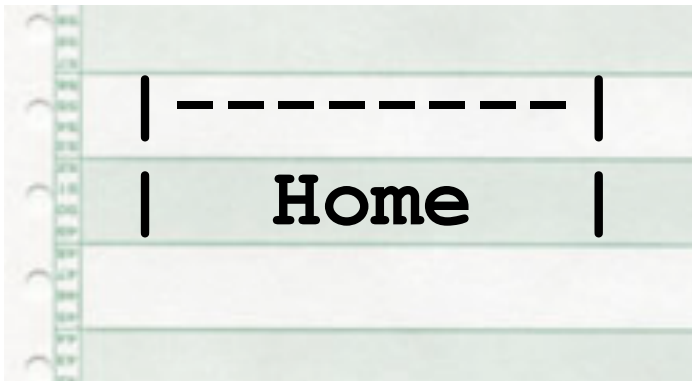
Tabs

HISTORY OF TABS



HISTORY OF TABS

- The first tab was developed in 1962 by IBM & DARPA
 - Data was stored on over 2,000 punch cards
 - Took over 3 hours just to load
 - Used all 16KB of RAM
- End Result:



HISTORY OF TABS

- Tabs have been a **common navigational device** since the early days of **client-server** applications
- Once HTML-based applications became popular, it wasn't long before the tab followed
- **Most web sites** today - both large & small - **make some use of tabs** in one way or another
- Google, Amazon, Twitter, Facebook, Yahoo, etc.



AMAZON.COM CIRCA 1999

- When Amazon.com launched in **1995**, it didn't look very good
- At least not by today's standards
- It also didn't have any tabs
- As did many sites of that time period



Welcome to Amazon.com Books!

*One million titles,
consistently low prices.*

(If you explore just one thing, make it our personal notification service. We think it's very cool!)

SPOTLIGHT! -- AUGUST 16TH

These are the books we love, offered at Amazon.com low prices. The spotlight moves **EVERY** day so please come often.

ONE MILLION TITLES

Search Amazon.com's [million title catalog](#) by author, subject, title, keyword, and more... Or take a look at the [books we recommend](#) in over 20 categories... Check out our [customer reviews](#) and the [award winners](#) from the Hugo and Nebula to the Pulitzer and Nobel... and [bestsellers](#) are 30% off the publishers list...

EYES & EDITORS, A PERSONAL NOTIFICATION SERVICE

Like to know when that book you want comes out in paperback or when your favorite author releases a new title? Eyes, our tireless, automated search agent, will send you mail. Meanwhile, our human editors are busy previewing galleys and reading advance reviews. They can let you know when especially wonderful works are published in particular genres or subject areas. Come in, [meet Eyes](#), and have it all explained.

YOUR ACCOUNT

Check the status of your orders or change the email address and password you have on file with us. Please note that you **do not** need an account to use the store. The first time you place an order, you will be given the opportunity to create an account.

AMAZON.COM CIRCA 2000's

- However, its UI quickly evolved over the years
 - As the site expanded, so did the number of tabs used:



AMAZON.COM TODAY

- Today, Amazon.com opts for a **navigation list** on the left side **in lieu of tabs** on its home page

The screenshot displays the Amazon.com homepage. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation list with categories such as Books, Movies, Music & Games, Digital Downloads, Kindle, Computers & Office, Electronics, Home & Garden, Grocery, Health & Beauty, Toys, Kids & Baby, Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry, Sports & Outdoors, and Tools, Auto & Industrial. The 'Electronics' category is expanded, showing sub-categories like TV & Video, Home Audio & Theater, Camera, Photo & Video, Cell Phones & Accessories, Video Games, MP3 Players & Accessories, Car Electronics & GPS, Home Appliances, and Musical Instruments. The main content area features a large advertisement for the Kindle, highlighting it as the '#1 Bestselling Product on Amazon' with a 4.5-star rating and 14,000+ reviews. Below the ad is a yellow 'Order now' button. To the right of the Kindle ad, there are three promotional banners: one for Amazon's Clothing Store offering a chance to win \$1000, one for 'Actual Adversary' pay phrase, and one for UGG boots. The top of the page includes the Amazon logo, a search bar, and navigation links for 'Your Amazon.com', 'Today's Deals', 'Gifts & Wish Lists', and 'Gift Cards'. The top right corner features a 'FREE 2-Day Shipping' notice and links for 'Your Account' and 'Help'.

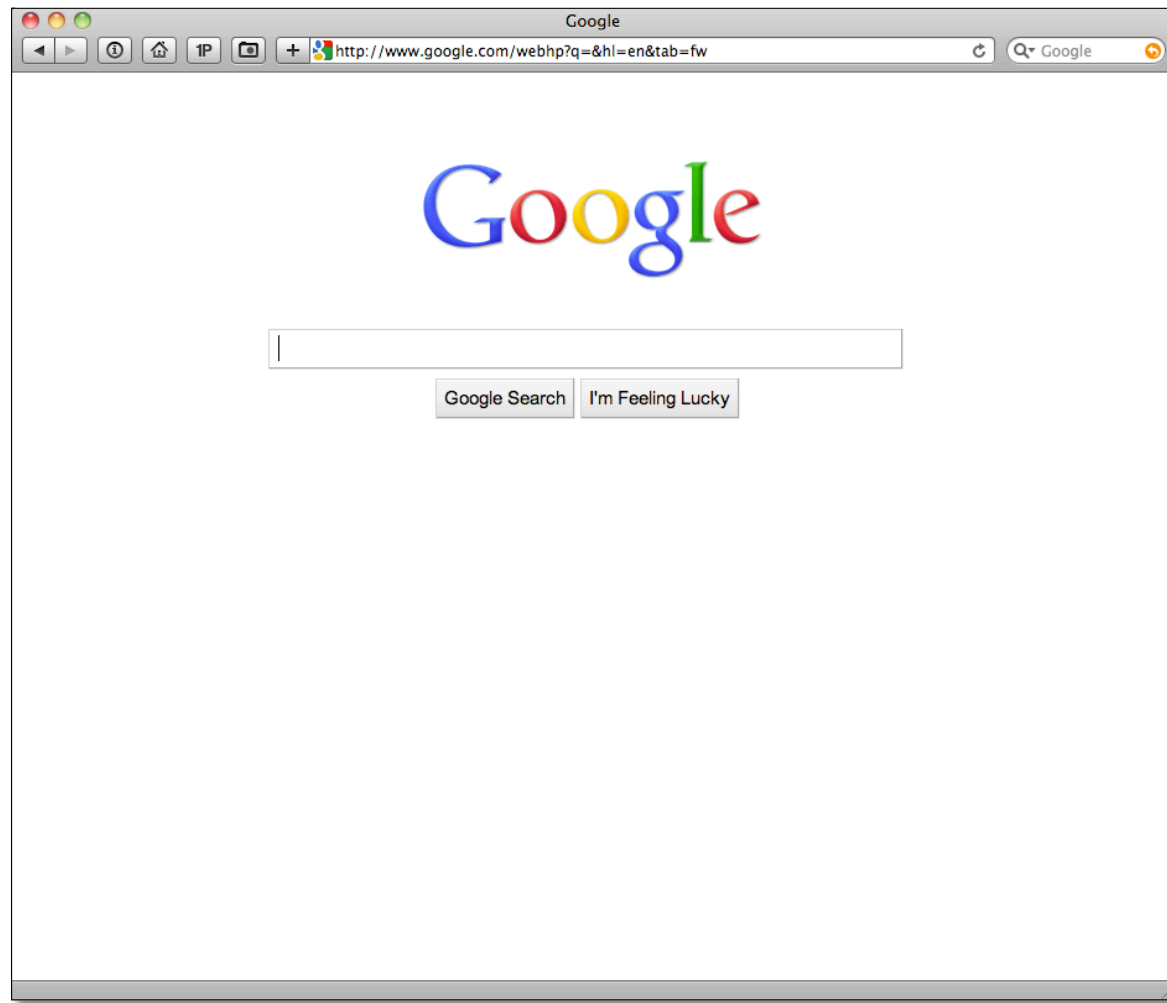
AMAZON.COM TODAY

- Once you select a department, you will see a subtle line of **sub-navigation tabs**

The screenshot shows the Amazon.com homepage with the search bar set to "Electronics". A red circle highlights the sub-navigation tabs below the search bar, which include: Home Audio & Theater, All Electronics, Brands, Bestsellers, Speakers, Receivers, Home Theater Systems, Multiroom, Headphones, and Deals. The "All Electronics" tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a "warehouse deals" banner and a "Home Audio & Home Theater" section featuring a Logitech advertisement. To the left, there is a "Browse" sidebar with "Hot Links" and "Top Audio Brands". To the right, there are promotional boxes for "Shop and Save on A/V Accessories" and "Our Top 10 Deals in Headphones Right Now".

GOOGLE'S TABS

- Simplicity + Consistency > Complexity



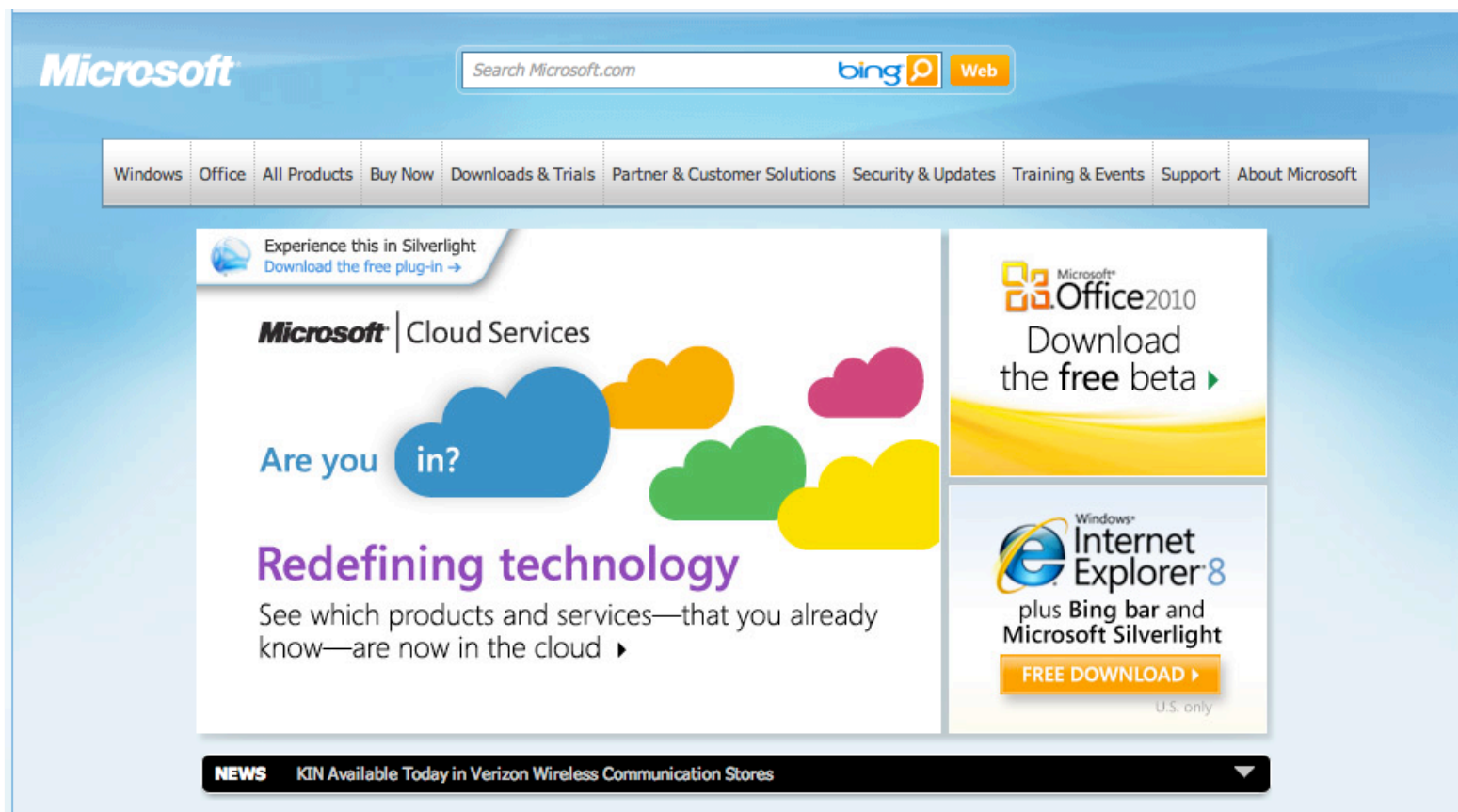
APPLE'S TABS

- (Simplicity + Consistency) * Style > Complexity



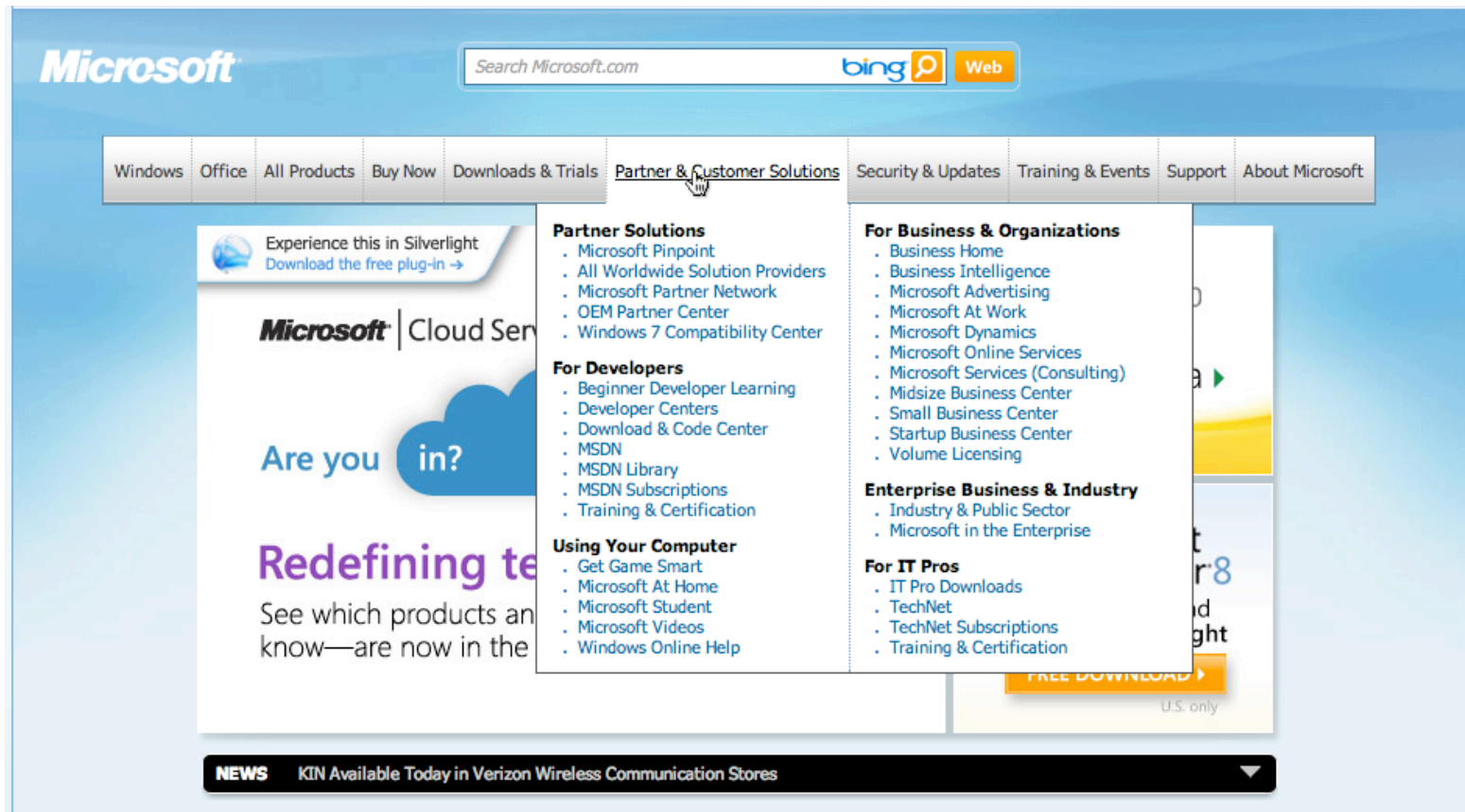
MICROSOFT'S TABS

- Simplicity + Consistency > Complexity



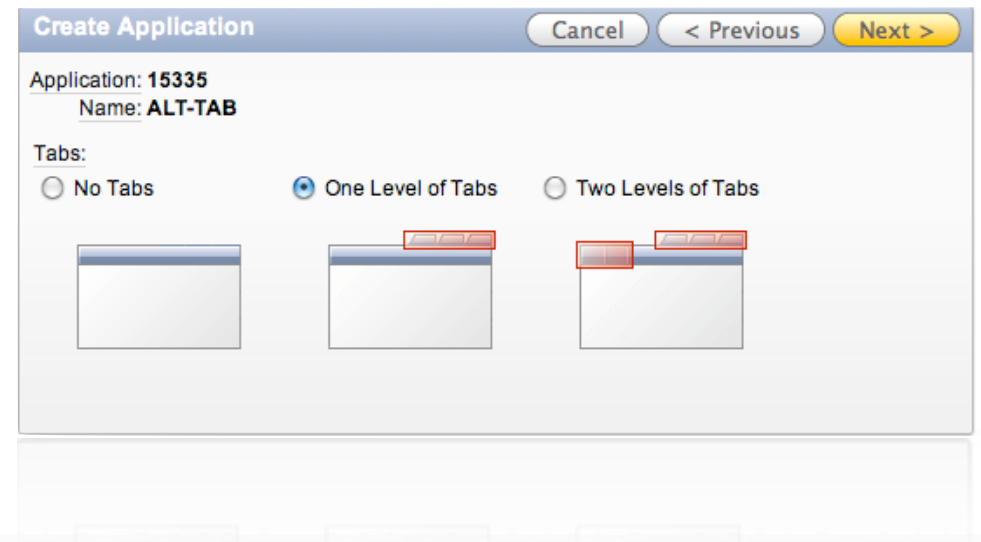
MICROSOFT'S TABS

- Simplicity + Consistency + Complexity = 0



APEX & TABS

- Almost every APEX application ever written makes use of some form of tabs
- Why is this so?
 - **Default option** when creating an application
 - Tabs are a **de-facto** navigation control
 - “**Easier**” to use than other types of navigation controls
 - **Why Not?**



APEX BUILT-IN TABS

- APEX's tab mechanism has **changed little** over time
 - Almost the same in **APEX 4.0** as it was in **HTML DB 1.6**
- APEX provides support for **no, one** or **two** levels of tabs
- **Overall UI** used to make up tabs is **in need of a refresh**
 - APEX 4.0 helps, but the underlying infrastructure is the same



PC LOAD LETTER

- To say that APEX's built-in tabs are frustrating to use would be a vast understatement...



UPSIDE DOWN

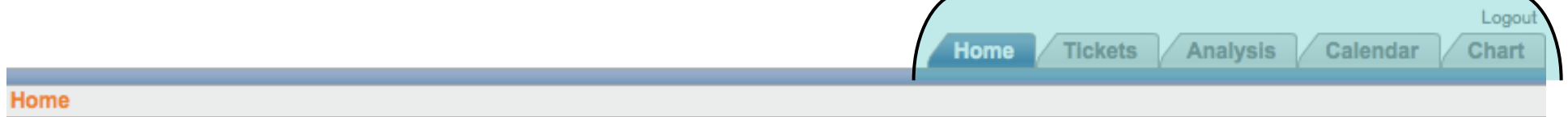
- **One-Level APEX** tabs - the most common type - are actually created **upside-down**
- What seem to be the **Parent Tabs** are actually something called the **Standard Tabs**
- Which is another name for **Detail Tabs**
- All **Standard Tabs** will have a **pseudo-tab** as their Parent or Master tab
- Thus, you're essentially **creating orphaned tabs**
- Very confusing when converting from one to two levels of tabs, as you need to create new master or parent tabs

UPSIDE DOWN

One Level of Tabs

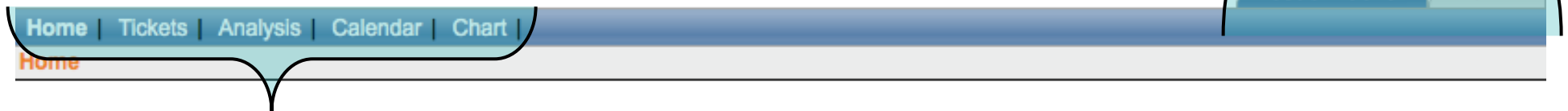
Pseudo Parent Tab

Standard Tabs



Two Levels of Tabs

Parent Tabs



Standard Tabs

APEX TAB DEFICIENCIES

- Several things have to line up just right for tabs to work properly:
 - Correct **Page Template** must be selected
 - **Tab** must be current for the corresponding **Page**
 - **Page** must be mapped to the corresponding **Standard Tab Set**
 - **Standard Tab** must be mapped to the corresponding **Standard Tab Set**
 - **Standard Tab** must map to the corresponding **Parent Tab Set** or **Pseudo Parent Tab Set**

APEX TAB DEFICIENCIES

- APEX uses a **JavaScript** function **to submit the page** when tabs are clicked
 - **APEX 3.2:** `doSubmit (' TabName ') ;`
 - **APEX 4.0:** `apex . submit (' TabName ') ;`
- Deficient for a couple of reasons
 - JavaScript was **required for basic navigation**
 - Issue with some mobile devices
 - **Google would not follow or index** the tab's links
 - Harder to get a site indexed

GETTING FRUSTRATED

~~Working~~

with APEX Tabs

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

APEX 4.0 TAB ENHANCEMENTS

- **Little has changed** in the way tabs are implemented in APEX 4.0
 - Still just as confusing
- There are a couple new reports and several new regions that attempt to make tabs easier to use
 - Found under **Shared Components > Tabs**

Tabs Edit Standard Tabs Edit Parent Tabs Utilization History

Click on a tab name to make a tab current. Once you select a tab you will be able to change that tab's properties.

Selected Pseudo Parent Tab: **TS1**

Select Standard Tab: **Home**

Tab Current for Page: **1-Oracle Sample Application**

Tab also Current For Pages: **15**

						TS1	Add
Home	Customers	Products	Orders	Charts	Admin	Add	

1

Oracle
Sample
Application

15

About this
Applicati

Tabs

This page displays a graphical representation of the Tabs defined in your application.

Use Standard Tabs to link users to a specific page. A Parent Tab functions as a container to hold a group of Standard Tabs. Parent Tabs give users another level of navigation as well as a sense of place within the application.

Click **Add** in the upper row to add Parent Tabs. Click **Add** in the lower row to add Standard Tabs.

Parent Tab Tasks

No parent tabs exist.

Standard Tab Tasks

- o Rename Standard Tab Set
- o Resequence display order
- o Associate Page(s) with selected Standard Tab
- o Create New Standard Tab
- o Create New Standard Tab Set

APEX 4.0 TABS MANAGEMENT PAGE

Tabs
Manage Tabs
Edit Standard Tabs
Edit Parent Tabs
Conditional Display
Utilization
History
Manage Tabs

Show All Tabs Tab Display

Tabs

This application has 3 tabs organized into 1 tab sets, and has defined 0 parent tabs.

Tab Set: TS1

Tab: Home

Page 1. Home - *Default Page* (1)

Tab: Tab 1

Page 2. Tab 1 - *Default Page* (1)

Tab: Tab 2

Page 3. Tab 2 - *Default Page* (1)

Tab Display:

- 1 - This page will show one level of tabs
- 2 - This page will show two levels of tabs
- 0 - No tabs, this page will not display tabs
- * - Page template supports two level tabs, however standard tab does not identify a parent tab set.

Pages with no tabs:

101

Tab Display

A standard tab will display on a page if all of the following conditions are true.

- The page identifies a **Standard Tab Set**.
- The **Tab Entry** identifies the page as the **Tab Page**, or the **Tab Also Current For Pages**.
- The page's **Page Template** is capable of displaying **Standard Tabs**.
- The tab entries **display condition** do not prevent tab from displaying
- The tab entries **Authorization Scheme** does not prevent the tab from being displayed.

A parent tab will display on a page if all of the following conditions are true.

- The page successfully displays a **Standard Tab**.
- The **Standard Tab** identifies the correct **Parent Tab Set**.
- The **Parent Tab** identifies the correct tab set in the **Current on Standard Tab Set** attribute.
- The pages **Page Template** is capable of displaying **Standard Tabs** and **Parent Tabs**.
- The parent tabs **Display Condition** does not prevent the parent tab from displaying.
- The parent tabs **Authorization Scheme** does not prevent the parent tab from displaying.

Page Templates

About Tabs

An application can have pages with no tabs, one level of tabs, and two levels of tabs.

Standard tabs enable you to display only one level of tabs. If you want to display two levels of tabs define both **Parent tabs** and **Standard tabs**.

Standard Tabs

Each standard tab is identified with one or more pages. Each standard tab also defines a tab set.

Parent Tabs

Parent tabs can control the display of standard tab sets. Clicking a parent tab will display the corresponding standard tab, with the default page as the current page.

Tab Sets

Tabs are grouped in collections called a tab set. Each tab must be part of a tab set. A standard tab can have a one-to-one relationship with a page, or a standard tab can be the "current tab" for a number of pages.

Lists

As an alternative to tabs, you can use lists to display tab controls. List templates provide greater control over HTML generation.

Overview

Theme	Sapphire
Pages	4
Pages With Tabs	3
Standard Tab Sets	1

Workspace: SUMNEVA User: SSPENDOL
Application Express 4.0.0.00.40
Language: en | Copyright © 1999, 2010, Oracle. All rights reserved.

TAB SUMMARY

Tabs

This application has 3 tabs organized into 1 tab sets, and has defined 0 parent tabs.

Tab Set: TS1

Tab: Home

Page 1. Home - Default Page (1)

Tab: Tab 1

Page 2. Tab 1 - Default Page (1)

Tab: Tab 2

Page 3. Tab 2 - Default Page (1)

Tab Display:

- 1 - This page will show one level of tabs
- 2 - This page will show two levels of tabs
- 0 - No tabs, this page will not display tabs
- * - Page template supports two level tabs, however standard tab does not identify a parent tab set.

Pages with no tabs:

101

TAB DISPLAY

Tab Display

A standard tab will display on a page if all of the following conditions are true.

- The page identifies a **Standard Tab Set**.
- The **Tab Entry** identifies the page as the **Tab Page**, or the **Tab Also Current For Pages**.
- The page's **Page Template** is capable of displaying **Standard Tabs**.
- The tab entries **display condition** do not prevent tab from displaying
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- The pages **Page Template** is capable of displaying **Standard Tabs** and **Parent Tabs**.
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OTHER DETAILS

About Tabs

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Overview

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OTHER DETAILS

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Parent Tabs

Parent tabs can control the display of standard tab sets. Clicking a parent tab will display the corresponding standard tab, with

Theme	Sapphire
Pages	4
Pages With Tabs	3
Standard Tab Sets	1

Alternative Tabs

jQuery UI

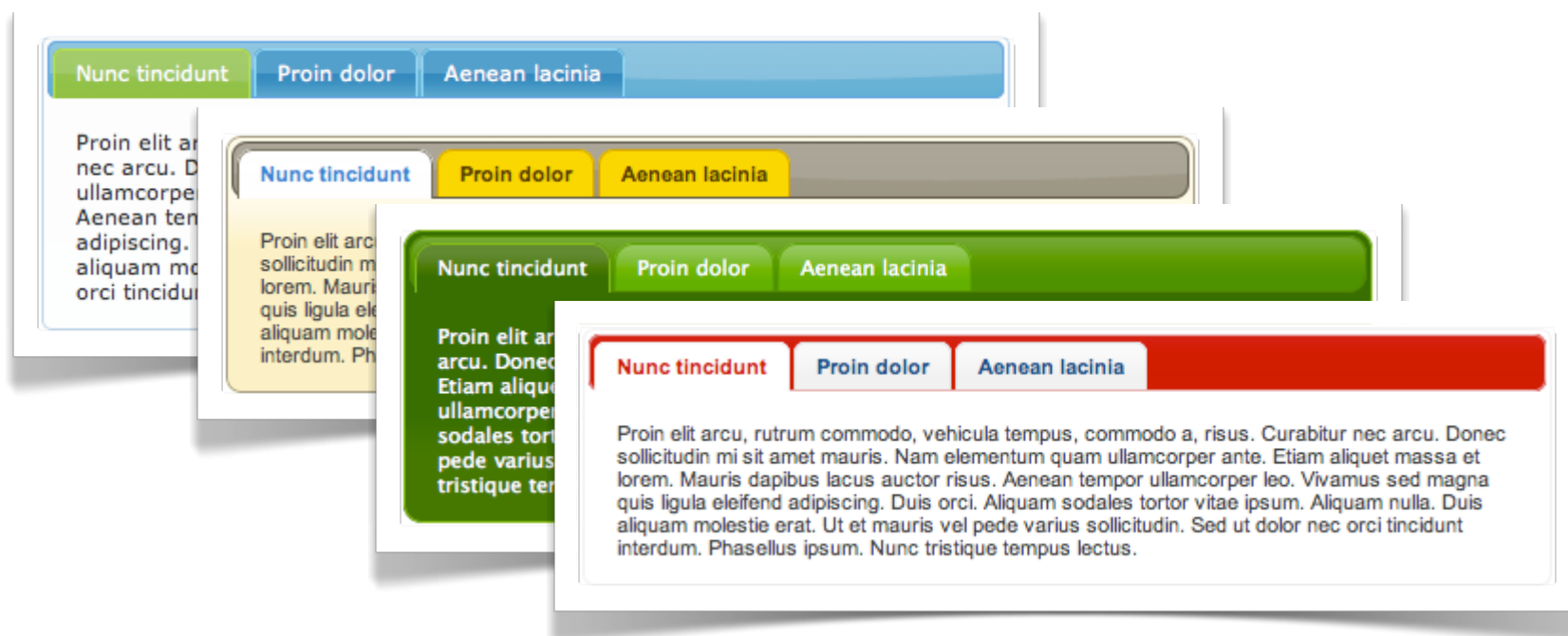
JQUERY UI

- Provides a set of **UI components** that sit on top of jQuery
 - Tabs, Calendars, Widgets, Buttons, Effects, etc.
- **APEX 4.0** will have both **jQuery & jQuery UI** included
 - Can easily be installed to work with APEX 3.x as well



JQUERY UI TABS

- Robust, configurable jQuery UI component that can be styled to match almost any UI theme
- Contain hooks into jQuery to capture all types of events
- Support for loading content via Ajax



JQUERY UI TAB DRAWBACKS

- No easy support for sub-tabs
- Require jQuery & jQuery UI
 - Not an issue with APEX 4.0+
- Involves working knowledge of jQuery & JavaScript to implement
- Must make modifications to existing templates in order to properly integrate
- ***In APEX, jQuery UI Tabs are better suited to hide & show regions; not pages***

JQUERY TABS: GET 'EM WHILE THEY'RE HOT

- Blog entry by Dan McGhan on how to integrate jQuery UI Tabs & APEX
 - Concise, easy to follow steps
 - Takes only minutes to implement
 - **<http://www.danielmcghan.us/2009/07/jquery-tabs-get-while-they-hot.html>**

jQuery UI Tabs

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

CSS Drop-down Menu Framework

Overview

CSS DROP-DOWN MENU FRAMEWORK

- Free framework for CSS-based menus
 - Licensed under **GNU GPL**; donation requested
 - <http://www.lwis.net/free-css-drop-down-menu/>
- **Modular Design** with support for themes
- Easy to **Deploy & Transform**
- **Cross-Browser**
 - Only IE6 requires JavaScript; all modern browsers do not
- **Extremely Lightweight & Fast!**

THEME SUPPORT

- Support for **Themes**
 - Easily modifiable via **CSS**
- Included Themes:
 - General Purpose
 - Flickr
 - NVIDIA
 - Adobe
 - MTV
 - VIMEO



CSS Drop-down Menu Framework

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

The screenshot shows the Sumneva website interface. At the top right, there are links for 'Login', 'Create Account', and an 'ORACLE PARTNER' badge. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Services', 'Products', 'Training', 'Support', 'About', and 'Contact'. The 'Products' menu is open, showing 'Overview', 'sumnevaFramework' (with a sub-menu for 'Free Edition' and 'Enterprise Edition'), and 'AnyChart Integration'. Below the navigation is a banner for 'APEX Classroom Training: Brussels, Manchester (UK), Dallas & Washington, DC' with a 'Learn More' link. A 'sumneva News' section contains three items: 'Listen to Sumneva's John Scott Discuss APEX with Oracle', 'Sumneva Online Support' (with a lifebuoy icon), and 'See Sumneva Present at ODTUG Kaleidoscope in Washington, DC' (with an ODTUG logo).

STRUCTURE VS. STYLE

- All structure & style are completely separated
 - Structure: **HTML**
 - Style: **CSS**
- This approach has a number of benefits
 - Style of a site can **quickly & easily be changed**
 - **Structure** of a site is much **simpler & easier to maintain**
 - Site will be more **Section 508 Compliant**

In general, separating the structure from the style is a good design principle that should be applied everywhere.

Structure

How It Works

- CSS Drop Down Menus simply use an **HTML list** to create the **structure** used for the tabs
 - Simple & Uncluttered
- **Cascading Styles** are then applied to the list to give them their **style** or user interface
 - Developer has **complete control** over the styles used
 - And **never has to modify** the corresponding **HTML**

THE RESULT

- Thus, this HTML Code:

```
<body>
<h1>Simple Horizontal CSS Drop-Down Menu Demo</h1>
<!-- Beginning of compulsory code below -->
<ul id="nav" class="dropdown dropdown-horizontal">
  <li><a href=".">Home</a></li>
  <li class="dir"> ☰ </li>
  <li class="dir"> ☰ </li>
  <li class="dir"> ☰ </li>
  <li><a href=".">Gallery</a></li>
  <li><a href=".">Events</a></li>
  <li><a href=".">Careers</a></li>
  <li class="dir rtl"> ☰ </li>
</ul>
<!-- / END -->
</body>
</html>
```

- When combined with a CSS file or files...

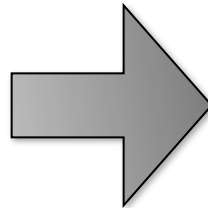
- Yields this Menu:



HTML LISTS

- `` and `` are HTML tags that make up bulleted “**lists**” when rendered on the page
- Each will also **require a closing tag** after its corresponding content

```
<ul>  
  <li>One</li>  
  <li>Two</li>  
  <li>Three</li>  
</ul>
```

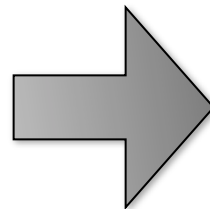


- One
- Two
- Three

MULTIPLE LEVEL HIERARCHIES

- By embedding additional `` tags, we can create a **hierarchical list** with any number of levels:

```
<ul>
  <li>One</li>
  <ul>
    <li>Two</li>
    <li>Three</li>
  </ul>
</ul>
```



- One
 - Two
 - Three

CSS DROP DOWN MENU EXAMPLE

```
<ul id="nav" class="dropdown dropdown-horizontal">
  <li><a href="#">Home</a></li>
  <li class="dir">About Us
    <ul>
      <li><a href="#">History</a></li>
      <li><a href="#">Our Vision</a></li>
      <li class="dir"><a href="#">The Team</a>
        <ul>
          <li><a href="#">Brigita</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">John</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">Michael</a></li>
          <li><a href="#">Peter</a></li>
        </ul>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </li>
</ul>
```

```
<li class="dir">About Us
  <ul>
    <li><a href="#">History</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Our Vision</a></li>
    <li class="dir"><a href="#">The Team</a>
      <ul>
        <li><a href="#">Brigita</a></li>
        <li><a href="#">John</a></li>
        <li><a href="#">Michael</a></li>
        <li><a href="#">Peter</a></li>
        <li><a href="#">Sarah</a></li>
      </ul>
    </li>
    <li><a href="#">Clients</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Testimonials</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">Press</a></li>
    <li><a href="#">FAQs</a></li>
  </ul>
</li>
```

```
<ul>
  <li><a href="#">Enquiry Form</a></li>
  <li class="dir"><a href="#">Map & Driving Directions</a>
    <ul>
      <li><a href="#">Map</a></li>
      <li><a href="#">Driving Directions</a></li>
    </ul>
  </li>
  <li><a href="#">Your Feedback</a></li>
</ul>
```

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
 - [History](#)
 - [Our Vision](#)
 - [The Team](#)
 - [Brigita](#)
 - [John](#)
 - [Michael](#)
 - [Peter](#)
 - [Sarah](#)
 - [Clients](#)
 - [Testimonials](#)
 - [Press](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
- [Services](#)
 - [Product Development](#)
 - [Delivery](#)
 - [Shop Online](#)
 - [Support](#)
 - [Training & Consulting](#)
- [Products](#)
 - [New](#)
 - [Corporate Use](#)
 - [Private Use](#)
 - [Used](#)
 - [Corporate Use](#)
 - [Private Use](#)
 - [Featured](#)
 - [Top Rated](#)
 - [Prices](#)
- [Gallery](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
 - [Enquiry Form](#)
 - [Map & Driving Directions](#)
 - [Map](#)
 - [Driving Directions](#)
 - [Your Feedback](#)

Style

STYLE

- All style definitions are stored in **Cascading Style Sheets** or **CSS** files
- Visual attributes of the list elements, such as:
 - Width
 - Background Color
 - Font & Font Size
 - Margins & Padding

CSS ZEN GARDEN

- Example site which illustrates how the same HTML file can look dramatically different by only changing the contents of the CSS
- Different graphic artists submitted only a CSS file & associated images and the best are on display
- Dramatic illustration as to what can be achieved using only Cascading Style Sheets
- View all of the designs online:
 - **<http://csszengarden.com>**

```
css Zen Garden: The Beauty in CSS Design
http://csszengarden.com/zengarden-sample.html
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en">
  <head>
  <body id="css-zen-garden">
    <div id="container">
      <div id="intro">
        <div id="pageHeader">
          <h1>
            <span>css Zen Garden</span>
          </h1>
          <h2>
            <span>
              The Beauty of
              <acronym title="Cascading Style Sheets">CSS</acronym>
              Design
            </span>
          </h2>
        </div>
        <div id="quickSummary">
          <p class="p1">
            <span>
              A demonstration of what can be accomplished visually through
              <acronym title="Cascading Style Sheets">CSS</acronym>
              -based design. Select any style sheet from the list to load it into this page.
            </span>
          </p>
          <p class="p2">
          </div>
          <div id="preamble">
          </div>
          <div id="supportingText">
          <div id="linkList">
          </div>
          <div id="extraDiv1">
            <span></span>
          </div>
          <div id="extraDiv2">
          <div id="extraDiv3">
          <div id="extraDiv4">
          <div id="extraDiv5">
          <div id="extraDiv6">
        </body>
      </html>
```



CSS DROPDOWN MENUS CSS

- CSS Dropdown Menus requires three CSS files:
 - **dropdown.css**
 - Sets high level element attributes, such as `` & ``
 - **default.advanced.css**
 - References default.css
 - **default.css**
 - Almost all formatting changes made here
- Each of these can be modified as needed to match your graphic design specifications

Integration with APEX

INTEGRATION WITH APEX

- It's fairly **simple to integrate** CSS Dropdown Menus with APEX
 - Done using an APEX **list & custom template**
 - List will contain the **structure** for the tabs
 - Can be as many levels deep as you like
 - Template will be 100% HTML and reference the corresponding CSS files, which contain the **style**
 - The List template will take care of creating the hierarchy automatically

STEPS TO INTEGRATE

1. Create a List

- Add an entry to the list for each tab & sub-tab that you want to include

2. Create a List Template

- Using the CSS Dropdown Menu HTML files as a guide

3. Create a List Region on Page Zero

- May want to alter the page template and use a custom region position for better alignment/control

LISTS: BEST PRACTICES

- Group Pages in blocks of **100** or **1000** based on which “tab” will be current
- Set the Current List Entry attributes as follows:
 - **List Entry Current for Pages Type**
 - **Exists SQL Query**
 - **List Entry Current for Condition**
 - `SELECT 1 FROM DUAL
WHERE :APP_PAGE_ID BETWEEN 600 AND 699`
- Thus, any page from 600-699 will set this tab to the current tab

Creating a List & List Template

D E M O N S T R A T I O N

BEFORE LIST ENTRY

- **List Template Before Rows**

- ```
<link href="/c/css/dropdown/dropdown.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<link href="/c/css/dropdown/themes/default/default.advanced.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<ul id="nav" class="dropdown dropdown-horizontal">
```

# TEMPLATE DEFINITION

---

- **List Template Current**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#" class="currentTab">#TEXT#</a></li>`

- **List Template Current w/Sub Links**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#" class="currentTab">#TEXT# &#9660;</a>`

# TEMPLATE DEFINITION

---

- **List Template Non-Current**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT#</a></li>`

- **List Template Non-Current with Sub List Items**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT# &#9660 ;</a>`

- **ListSub List Template Before Rows**

- `<ul>`

# SUB LIST ENTRY

---

- **Sub List Template Current**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT#</a></li>`

- **Sub List Template Current w/Sub List Items**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT# &#9654 ;</a>`

# SUB LIST ENTRY

---

- **Sub List Template Noncurrent**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT#</a></li>`

- **Sub List Template Noncurrent w/Sub List Items**

- `<li><a href="#LINK#">#TEXT# &#9654 ;</a>`

- **Sub List Template After Rows**

- `</ul></li>`

# AFTER LIST ENTRY

---

- **List Template After Rows**

- `</li></ul>`



---

# Summary

# SUMMARY

---

- APEX's tab mechanism is **dated** and **hard to use**
  - Most applications do, however, use it
- But it's **easy** to **retrofit Lists** to work as tabs
- Implementing new tabs gives your application a bit of **sizzle** that will make it **stand out** among other applications
- While also allowing older browsers to be able to still view your site

sumnēva

---

Application Success

<http://sumneva.com>