



# Geavanceerde UI Technieken voor SharePoint

Michiel van Otegem

Chief Software Architect, BataviaLabs

# Agenda

- SharePoint customization basics
- Theme & Skin basics
- ASP.NET Themes
- Skinning the old fashioned way
- Applying skinning to SharePoint

# Default SharePoint UI Customization

- At site level:
  - Custom site definition
  - Custom site template
  - Custom site theme
  - May require IIS Reset
- At page level: With SharePoint Designer
- At WebPart level: Depends on WebPart

# WebPart UI Customization

- WebParts == WebControls
  - Changes to WebPart UI must be deployed in assembly
- Most layout is done in code
- Only partially customizable with CSS
- Run-time customization only possible by adding logic to SharePoint Tool Pane

# Themes and Skins

- Skin:  
Changeable visual representation of a control
- Theme:  
Consistent look & feel across a site
- Themes & Skins can be set at run-time
- Built-in to ASP.NET 2.0

# ASP.NET Themes in SharePoint

- Does not work out-of-the-box
  - Causes exception
  - Internal page lacks `<head runat="server" />`
- Works when `_layouts` folder is excluded
  - No theming on pages in `_layouts` folder
  - Mainly impacts administrative pages
- Customization at site and WebPart level
- Allows different layouts, because themes can contain multiple skins



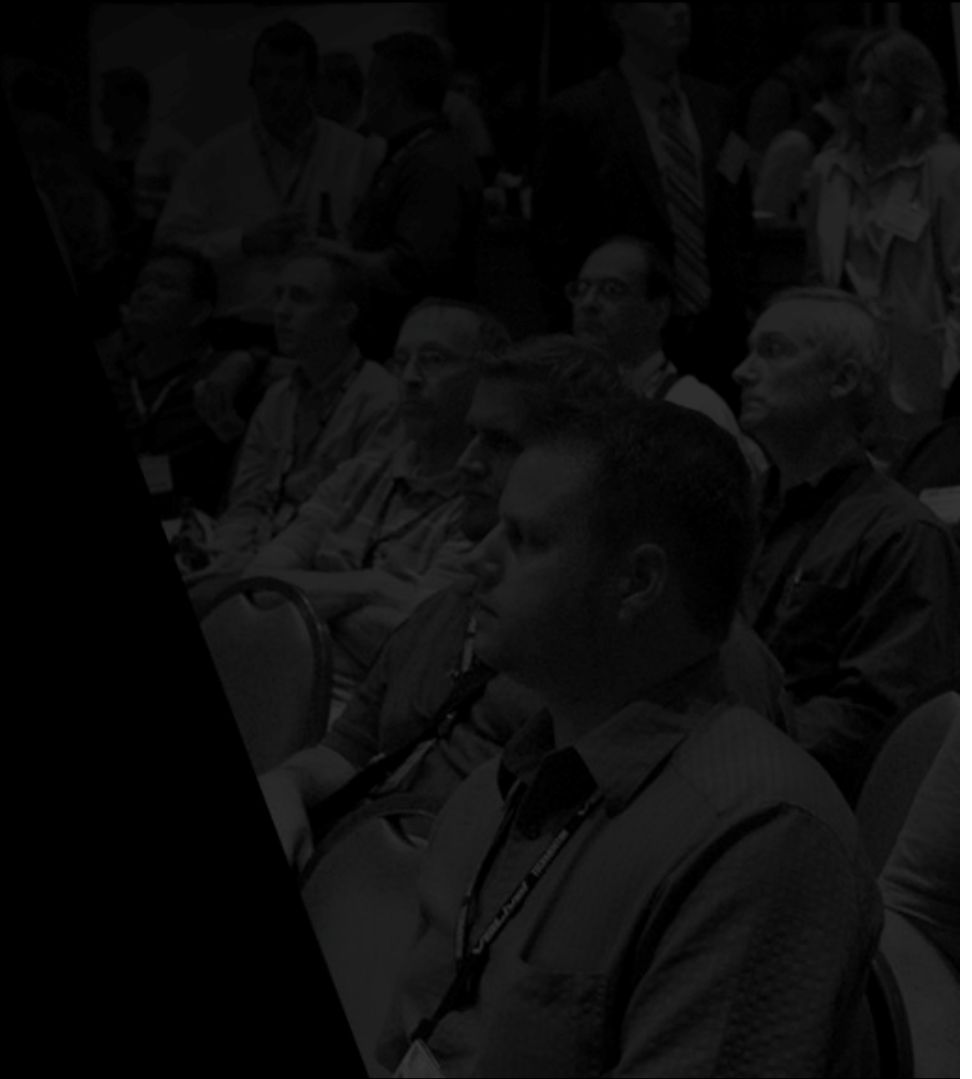
Using ASP.NET Themes in SharePoint

**DEMO**

# Skinning WebControls or WebParts

- Skin is an ASP.NET User Control
- Skin is loaded before control tree is built
- In **CreateChildControls** event child controls are attached to controls in User Control

Basic Skinning  
**DEMO**



## (Dis)Advantages of Skinning

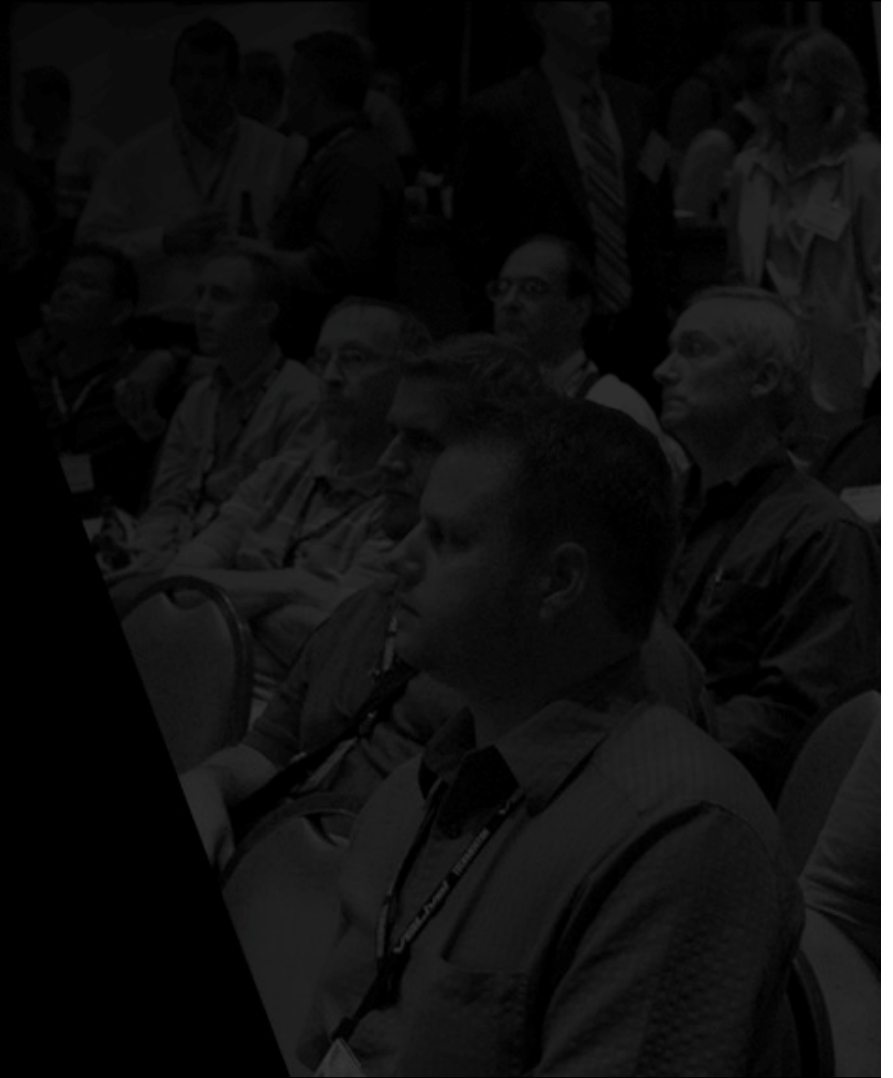
- + Control/WebPart logic separated from UI
- + Skin is easy to create
- + Skin is editable at run-time
- + Skin is editable by application administrator
- **LoadControl, FindControl** bad for performance
- No event wire-up in the skin unless you inherit from skinned control
- Event timing can be troublesome in advanced event based scenario's

# Applying Skinning to SharePoint

- Skins can be placed in document library
  - Folder structure can help with skin selection
  - Skins are editable in document library
- Tool Pane used to select theme/skin
- Base WebPart to provide core functionality
  - Check <http://www.codeplex.com/aspnetlibrary> for a ready-to-use version

Applying skinning to SharePoint

**DEMO**



# Key Take Aways

- Skinning separates logic from UI
  - Makes creating UI easier
  - Simplifies UI code in WebControl/WebPart
- Skinning works well in SharePoint
  - Skins in document library or file system
  - Tool Pane to select theme/skin
- Skinning has some drawbacks

## Call To Action

- Create your own base control  
or
- Use <http://www.codeplex.com/aspnetlibrary>
- Use skinning to provide application administrator with editing capabilities
- Use skinning to simplify UI development



Michiel van Otegem

Email: [michiel@aspnl.com](mailto:michiel@aspnl.com)

Blog: <http://michiel.vanotegem.nl>

**QUESTIONS?**