

# Managing Evolution and Compliance in Web Portals

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## Abstract

Customizability and extensibility are desirable properties of web portals. In particular, the ability to customize the presentation of services in a portal by means of “skins” and “themes” is nowadays a common feature. More innovative portals go beyond skins and themes, by allowing third parties to contribute presentation components. However, highly flexible and uncontrolled customization may lead to breaches of portal policies (e.g. display of advertisements). Also, services exposed through a portal inevitably evolve, and customizations to the portal need to evolve accordingly. Thus, guidelines to enable graceful evolution of presentation components should be enforced.

This talk will discuss the experience of a web portal where a combination of techniques was employed to semi-automatically enforce policies and guidelines on community-built presentation components. The experience shows that the number of manual checks needed to enforce policies and guidelines can be reduced by using automated verification and semantics extraction techniques. Furthermore, the enforced guidelines have allowed the community-built presentation components to better adapt to changes in the portal’s services and data structures.