



VP-ASP Shopping Cart

Design Guide

Version 6.50

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VP-ASP Design Summary

The main interface of VP-ASP 6.50 is controlled by the two template files **shoppage_header.htm** and **shoppage_trailer.htm**

When using a WYSIWYG editor such as Dreamweaver to design your site, it is often a good idea to combine both shoppage_header.htm and shoppage_trailer.htm into one file.

To create the single layout file, perform the following steps:

Open up both shoppage_header.htm and shoppage_trailer.htm in Dreamweaver and switch into code view.

Copy the content of shoppage_trailer.htm and paste it at the bottom of shoppage_header.htm beneath the line `<!-- END OF SHOPPAGE_HEADER.HTM -->`

Save this complete file as tmp_shoplayout.htm

This will allow you to correctly format the site layout in Dreamweaver.

Once you are happy with your layout, you will need to split this back into the two template files shoppage_header.htm and shoppage_trailer.htm to ensure that VP-ASP functions correctly.

To do this, copy from the top of the tmp_shoplayout.htm file down to `<!-- END OF SHOPPAGE_HEADER.HTM -->` and paste this back into your shoppage_header.htm file

Then copy from `<!-- START SHOPPAGE_TRAILER.HTM -->` to the end of the tmp_shoplayout.htm file and paste this back into your shoppage_trailer.htm file.

Colors and fonts are stored in **shop.css** which is located in the stylesheets folder. This file is arranged into sections for the areas within the site that the styles affect.

Table declarations including cell widths, borders and background colors are located in **shop\$colors.asp**.

#header


Your Cart Is Empty

#wrap

HOME ABOUT PRODUCTS FEATURES CONTACT US SEARCH

#nav table #horiz_nav

My Account You are not logged in Login

#utilbar

search this site Search

#left h2

#left

#left ul

Categories

- ▶ Dining
- ▶ Donation
- ▶ Kitchen
- ▶ Living...
- ▶ Office

Currency

Change Currency



American Dollar

Language

Select the language to display the site in:

English

Top Sellers

Featured Products

Information

- ▶ Shipping & Returns
- ▶ Terms & Conditions
- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Contact us

Welcome To My Online Store

Welcome to the VP-ASP Shopping Cart! This is the front page of your new store - you can add and edit your categories and products through the VP-ASP administration. You can also change this text in the Content section of the VP-ASP administration. You can find more information on how to customize your entire store by visiting the Help section of our website at <http://www.vpasp.com/helpnotes>.



	<p>Apple Set Non slip apple peeler.</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$9.99</p> <p>More!</p>
	<p>Donation Please donate to this worthy cause.</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$0.00</p> <p>More!</p>
	<p>Glass Table This glass table will compliment any dining room.</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$200.00</p> <p>More!</p>
	<p>Office Set A desk for all office types</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$0.00</p> <p>More!</p>
	<p>Red Couch This funky red couch will look great in any living room.</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$350.00</p> <p>More!</p>
	<p>Round Table A great casual table.</p>	<p>Our Price: US\$180.00</p> <p>More!</p>

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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1. Changing the Site Layout - Header

The header of the default design consist of two regions – the logo and the mini cart summary.



The overall header is styled in shop.css by the #header class declarations.

1.1 Logo

The logo can simply be replaced by pointing line 30 to the location of your logo:

You will need to update the src, width and height values to correspond to those of your logo.

1.2 Mini Cart Summary

The mini cart summary is by default located to the right in your header.

This functionality is generated by the code:
<%NavigateShowMiniCartRight "short"%>

There is also a "long" option for the mini cart which provides a more in-depth summary of the current contents of the shopping cart. If you wish to use this "long" option, you will likely need to move the mini cart display out of the header, and into the left hand area of the main body.

The extended mini cart summary can be called using the code:
<%NavigateShowMiniCartRight "long"%>

For example, you may want to add this to the left hand menus in your site – this can be achieved with the following code:



```
<h2>Your Shopping Cart</h2>  
<div class="box ac">  
    <%NavigateShowMiniCartRight "long"%>  
</div>
```

2. Changing the Site Layout - Body

The body of the default design consist of a number of regions – the top section contains the horizontal menu, account login details and search bar, whilst the left contains the categories menu, currency and language options, top sellers, featured products and more information.

The overall body layout is styled in shop.css by the #wrap class declarations.

2.1 Horizontal Menu

The horizontal menu is created dynamically through the administration pages and stored as a separate HTML file – editor/horonavbar.html. It is included into your shoppage_header.htm file with the code:

```
<div id="nav">
  <!--START TOP MENU -->
  <!--#include file="editor/horonavbar.html"-->
  <!--END TOP MENU -->
  <div class="cb">&nbsp;  </div>
</div>
```

HOME	ABOUT	PRODUCTS	FEATURES	CONTACT US	SEARCH
------	-------	----------	----------	------------	--------

It can also be customized to suit your own style or colors by modifying the shop.css file.

The horizontal navigation menu is styled by the #nav and table#horiz_nav styles in shop.css.

For example, to change the background color of the menu, simply edit the #nav style – try changing

```
background: white;
to
background: red;
```

You may also want to change the font color, if so try editing the table#horiz_nav td a style – try changing

```
color: #1981b7;
to
color: #FFFFFF;
```

For more information about modifying the horizontal menu, please refer to section 3.18 "Navigation" and section 7.4 "Setting up site navigation" in the VP-ASP 6.50 User Manual.

2.2 Utility Bar

The utility bar consists of the section directly beneath the horizontal menu and contains the login links, welcome note and search box.

This section is defined in shoppage_header.htm between:

```
<div id="utilbar">  
...  
</div>
```



This is styled by #utilbar in shop.css

2.3 Left Hand Side Menus

The left hand side menus contain menus such as the categories menu, currency options, language options, top sellers, featured products and information section. All use the same formatting and are defined in `shoppage_header.htm` between:

```
<td class="vt" id="left">
...
</td>
```

The colors and styles for these side menus can be modified in `shop.css` by changing the values of the `#left` styles.

Eg – to change the background color of each of the headings, locate `#left h2` and change the value of “background”

```
background: #EEE;
to
background: #FF9966;
```

The width of this side menu is also controlled in the `shop.css` file and can be altered by changing the value of:

```
#left {
    /* Styles */
    width: 25%; /* Change to alter width of left column */
}
```

2.3.1 Categories Menu



The categories menu lists the different product categories available in your site.

This is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START CATEGORY MENU -->
...
<!-- END CATEGORY MENU -->
```

The routine to create the categories menu is formatted in the `NavigateShowCategoriesStyLED` subroutine which is located in `shopproductsubs.asp`

The heading is defined by the `#left h2` style, whilst the category listings are defined by `#left ul` in `shop.css`

2.3.2 Currency Details



The currency menu lists the different currencies you allow your customers to shop in. These currencies are defined in your administration pages.

This section is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START CURRENCY MENU -->  
...  
<!-- END CURRENCY MENU -->
```

The routine to create the flag image is the `showCurrencyFlag` subroutine which is located in `shop$db.asp`

The routine to create the currencies drop down is the `Navigateshowcurrencies` subroutine which is located in `shopproductsubs2.asp`

2.3.3 Language Details



The language menu lists the different language your shop can be translated into. To utilize this feature you will need to have downloaded and installed additional language pacs.

This section is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START LANGUAGE MENU -->  
...  
<!-- END LANGUAGE MENU -->
```

The routine to create the language drop down is the `Navigateshowlanguages` subroutine which is located in `shoplanguagesubs.asp`

2.3.4 Top Sellers



The Top Sellers routine is a great little function that displays the most frequently purchased items from your store.

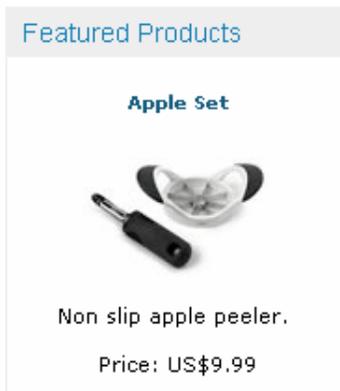
This section is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START TOP SELLERS MENU-->
...
<!-- END TOP SELLERS MENU-->
```

The routine to create the top sellers listing is the `NavigateTopTen` subroutine which is located in `shopproductsubs.asp`.

The layout of each product in the Featured Products section is controlled by the file `tmp_topsellers.asp`.

2.3.5 Featured Products



The Featured Products routine allows you to display a collection of products that you specify in your administration. This is handy if you want to showcase a selection of products.

This section is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START FEATURED PRODUCTS MENU-->
...
<!-- END FEATURED PRODUCTS MENU-->
```

The routine to create the featured products listing is the `NavigateFEATUREDPRODUCTS` subroutine which is located in `shopproductsubs.asp`.

The layout of each product in the Featured Products section is controlled by the file `tmp_topsellers.asp`.

2.3.6 Information Section

Information

- ▶ Shipping & Returns
- ▶ Terms & Conditions
- ▶ Privacy
- ▶ Contact us

The information section is designed to provide you with a secondary navigation menu to information type pages within your site. This can be useful for pages such as News, Shipping Information, Terms and Conditions etc.

This section is defined in `shoppage_header.htm` and bound by the lines:

```
<!-- START INFORMATION MENU-->
```

```
...
```

```
<!-- END INFORMATION MENU-->
```

To create a link to a page on your site, you will need to either modify the links that are already in place, or add your own as such:

```
<li><a href="shopcontent.asp?type=newpage">My New Page</a></li>
```

3. Changing the Home Page.

The home page of your site is editable through the administration pages. To modify the content on the home page, you will need to do the following:

1. Log into your administration page
2. Click on "Occasional Tasks" > "Content" > "View/Edit Content"
3. Click the "Edit" button next to the content item with messagetype "home"

This page allows you to edit the content that exists on the front page of your site. You can use this to upload an image, or edit the text.

To modify the layout of the front page, you will need to modify the template **tmp_default.htm**

This file, contains the following information by default:

```
<table id="al">
  <tr>
    <td id="homecontent" style="overflow:auto">
      <h1>[translate message]</h1>
      
      [translate message2]
    </td>
  </tr>
</table>
[Add_randomproducts]
```

The table id= "al" controls the display of the image and text as shown below:



The [Add_randomproducts] function allows the use of VP-ASP's random product display. For more information on this functionality, please refer to section 3.17.10 "Random Product display" in the VP-ASP 6.50 User Manual

The formatting of the random products that appear on the home page is controlled by the template **tmp_frontpage.htm**

You will need to open this file in an HTML editor to modify the layout of the products.

4. Changing the Product Formatting.

Every individual product record can be formatted using template files.

The display of products on **shopdisplayproducts.asp** is controlled by the **tmp_productformat.htm** file.

You will note when you view this file in an HTML editor that the file consists of a table and declarations wrapped in square brackets.

Any field in the products table can be placed into your template. The field must be surrounded by square brackets, as shown in the following example.

Note: Adding a \$ symbol at the very start of the line in a template tells VP-ASP not to display anything on that line if there is nothing in that field.

For example:

```
<p align=center>
  <a href="shopexd.asp?id=[catalogid]">
$   </a>
  <br /><a href="shopexd.asp?id=[catalogid]">Click here</a>
</p>
```

You cannot place any ASP code in the template files. If you wish to display something in your template that requires more than a lookup of the product table, you will need to develop a special routine that is also surrounded in square brackets.

VP-ASP has a number of these in place by default. Eg [FORMATHYPERLINKS SUB] which generates reviews and tell a friend hyperlinks.

The display of products on **shopexd.asp** is very similar to those displayed on **shopdisplayproducts.asp** except in this instance the template used is **tmp_product.htm**.

You will note that this page must include declarations to load the **shoppage_header.htm** and **shoppage_trailer.htm** files if you wish for the extended description page to retain the look of the rest of your site.

This can be accomplished with the special keywords [ADD_PAGEHEADER] and [ADD_PAGETRILER]. These should be the first and last lines respectively of this file.

For more information about displaying your products using templates, please refer to section 3.16.5 of the VP-ASP 6.50 User Manual.

5. Changing the Category Formatting.

If you want more control over how your categories are displayed, it is possible to replace the default formatting of categories with your own unique HTML using templates. A template can be created using your favorite editor and is simply plain HTML with the addition of some special syntax that tells VP-ASP where it needs to fill in information from the database.

VP-ASP's default categories template is tmp_categories.htm

Any field in the categories table can be placed into your template. The field must be surrounded by square brackets, for example [catmemo] as shown in the following example.

```
<table border="0" cellpadding="2" width="100%" class="tbl_category">
  <tr>
    <td class="ac vt">
      [FORMATIMAGE SUB]
    </td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td class="ac vt">
      [FORMATHYPERLINKS SUB]
      [AddNumberSubCats SUB]
    </td>
  </tr>
  $ <tr><td class="ac vt">[catmemo]</td></tr>
</table>
```

Note: Adding a \$ symbol at the very start of the line in a template tells VP-ASP not to display anything on that line if there is nothing in that field.

For more information about using templates to display categories, please refer to section 3.15.2 of the VP-ASP 6.50 User Manual

6. Changing the Format of Static HTML Generated Files.

It is possible to generate static HTML pages of your categories and products directly from the VP-ASP database, which can be useful in allowing search engines to index your entire product range.

Go to Everyday Tasks > Products > Generate Static HTML from the VP-ASP Administration to generate your pages.

This function uses special templates to generate the overall look of the static HTML pages.

To recreate your site look, you can copy the details from `shoppage_header.htm` and `shoppage_trailer.htm` into `tmp_generateheader.htm` and `tmp_generatetrailer.htm` respectively.

Please note that the `tmp_generateheader.htm` and `tmp_generatetrailer.htm` files cannot have any dynamic code listed in them.

It is often best to view the source of your home page, and copy the code from here into your `tmp_generateheader.htm` and `tmp_generatetrailer.htm` files to ensure that the links for your side category menu and other dynamic items are carried across to your static pages.

The file `tmp_generate.htm` is used to format the display of the individual products. Only fields in the products table can be contained in this file (in the square bracket notation `[cname]`), but it can also include images, descriptions and links to other pages.