

PunBB Skinning Guide

It is very easy to change the style of PunBB. For most people it is simple matter of changing the values in the stylesheet. By far the most time consuming part of the whole process is identifying which styles in the stylesheet relate to the various elements which make up PunBB. That's where this guide comes in. Its sole purpose is to provide a quick cross reference between the styles in the stylesheet and what you see on your screen.

PART 1 - TABLE/BOX ELEMENTS

[Screen Background]

The background colour of the screen outside the board is set by styling the <body> tag. In the stylesheet find the following line (hint, it's the first one)

```
BODY { background-color: #FFFFFF }
```

Now just change the background colour to whatever you like.

The following are illustrations of the main pages of the forum annotated with the names of the corresponding styles in the CSS stylesheet.

[Board Index Page]

My PunBB forum
Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself

[Home](#) :: [User list](#) :: [Search](#) :: [Profile](#) :: [Admin](#) :: [Logout](#)

Logged in as **Admin**.
Last visit: Today 01:08:10

Whitespace = TABLE.punplain

Forum	Topics	Posts	Moderators
Another forum			
New forum	0	0	
Test forum			
Test forum This is just a test forum	2	3	Today 01:07:20 by Admin
New forum This is another test forum	0	0	

Inside/Outside Border = TABLE.punmain

This forum has 2 registered users, 2 topics and 3 posts.
The newest registered user is [Fred](#).
Currently serving 1 registered user and 0 guests.
[Admin](#)

You **can** post replies to topics
You **can** post new topics
You **can** edit your posts
You **can** delete your posts
You **can** delete your topics

[Show new posts since last visit](#)
[Show unanswered posts](#)
[Show your posts](#)
[Mark all forums as read](#)

TD.puncon2
© Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson

Powered by [PunBB](#)
Version: 1.0.1

[Forum Listing Page]

This page is a little more complex than the others so I have included two illustrations to make the labelling as clear as possible.

My PunBB forum
Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.

Home :: User list :: Search :: Profile :: Admin :: Logout

Logged in as **Admin**.
Last visit: Today 01:08:10

My PunBB forum / Test forum **Post new topic**

Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
Another test post	Admin	1	7	Today 01:07:20 by Admin
Test post	Admin	0	29	2003-08-25 03:45:06 by Admin

Pages: 1 **Post new topic**

Jump to
Test forum **TD.puncon2**

Powered by PunBB
Version: 1.0.1
© Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson

Now for the awkward bit. Rather than directly labelling the remaining sections of the page I have indicated which style belongs with each section using pointers.

My PunBB forum
Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.

Home :: User list :: Search :: Profile :: Admin :: Logout

Logged in as **Admin**.
Last visit: Today 01:08:10

My PunBB forum / Test forum **Post new topic**

Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
Another test post	Admin	1	7	Today 01:07:20 by Admin
Test post	Admin	0	29	2003-08-25 03:45:06 by Admin

Pages: 1 **Post new topic**

Jump to
Test forum **TD.puncon1cent**

Powered by PunBB
Version: 1.0.1
© Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson

[Topic Page]

[My PunBB forum](#) / [Test forum](#) / [Another test post](#)

Post reply

Author	Message	Pages: <u>1</u>	TR.punhead
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 4 IP: 127.0.0.1	Blah Blah Blah TR.puncon2		
Today 01:06:51	E-mail Report Delete Edit Quote		
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 4 IP: 127.0.0.1	Yadda yadda yadda TR.puncon1		
Today 01:07:20	E-mail Report Delete Edit Quote		

Pages: 1

[Subscribe to this topic](#)

Post reply

The screenshot shows a forum post editor. At the top is a blue bar with the text "Quick post" on the left and "TR.punhead" on the right. Below this is a section titled "Message" in bold. To the left of the message box are several links: "HTML: off", "BBCode: on", "[img] tag: on", and "Smilies: on". The message box itself is a large white area with a green border and a vertical scrollbar on the right. Below the message box is a row containing the word "Actions" on the left and a "Submit" button on the right. Two red arrows originate from a box labeled "TD.puncon2" and point to the message box and the "Submit" button. Another red arrow originates from a box labeled "TD.puncon1right" and points to the "BBCode: on" link.

[Userlist Page]

User list

TR.punhead

A

B

TD.puncon2cent

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Other

All users

Username	E-mail	Title	Registered	TR.punhead
Admin	TR.puncon2@ilhost.com	Administrator	2003-08-25	4

Pages: 1

[Search Page]

Search		TR.punhead
Keywords	Enter a term or terms to search for. Separate terms with spaces. Use AND, OR and NOT to refine your search. Use the wildcard character * for partial matches.	
TD.puncon1right (Whole Column)	<input type="text"/>	TD.puncon2 (Whole Column)
Author search	Enter the username of the author whose posts you want to search. Use the wildcard character * for partial matches.	
	<input type="text"/>	
Forum	<input type="text" value="All forums"/> ▼	
Search in	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Message text and topic subject <input type="radio"/> Message text only <input type="radio"/> Topic subject only	
Sort/group by	<input type="text" value="Post time"/> ▼ <input type="radio"/> Ascending <input checked="" type="radio"/> Descending	
Show results as	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Topics <input type="radio"/> Posts	
Actions	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

[Search Results]

All pages which show search results including the following

- Search Results
- Posts Since Last Visit
- Unanswered Posts

are the same as the Forum Page

[Registration Page]

Info	TR.punhead
<p>Registering is not required, but it will grant you access to a number of features and capabilities otherwise unavailable. These functions include the ability to edit and delete posts, design your own signature that accompanies your posts. If you have any questions regarding this forum you should ask an administrator.</p> <p>TD.puncon2</p> <p>Below is a form you must fill out in order to register. Once you are registered you should visit your profile and review the different settings you can change. The fields below only make up a small part of all the settings you can alter in your profile.</p>	

Register		TR.punhead
TD.puncon1right (whole column)	Username	Usernames can be between 2 and 25 characters long. <input type="text"/>
	Password	Passwords can be between 4 and 16 characters long. Passwords are case sensitive. <input type="password"/> <input type="password"/> Re-enter password to confirm.
TD.puncon2 (whole column)	E-mail	Please enter a valid e-mail address. You can choose to hide your e-mail address from other users (see below) to keep your privacy. <input type="text"/>
	Timezone	In order for the forum to display times correctly, you must select the timezone you are visiting from. <input type="text" value="00 GMT"/>

[Login Page]

IMPORTANT: You must have cookies enabled to log in. You should also ensure your browser is configured to block cookies

Login		TR.punhead
Username	<input type="text"/>	
Password	<input type="password"/>	
TD.puncon1right (whole column)	<input type="button" value="Login"/>	TD.puncon2 (whole column)
Actions	Not registered yet? Forgotten your password?	

[User Profile Page]

Profile		TR.punhead	Show posts by this user
Username	<input type="text" value="Admin"/>		
Password	Change password		
TD.puncon1right (Whole Column)	<input type="text" value="email@localhost.com"/>	TD.puncon2 (Whole Column)	
	<input type="text"/>		
Realname	<input type="text"/>		
Website	<input type="text"/>		
ICQ	<input type="text"/>		
AOL IM	<input type="text"/>		
Yahoo! Messenger	<input type="text"/>		
Location	<input type="text"/>		
Avatar	<p>An avatar is a small image that will be displayed with all your posts. You can upload an avatar by clicking the link below. The checkbox 'Use avatar' below must be checked in order for the avatar to be visible in your posts.</p> <p>Upload avatar</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use avatar.</p>		

User administration		TR.punhead
TD.puncon1right (Whole Column)	<p>Choose what status this user should have.</p> <p>Administrator <input type="button" value="v"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Update status"/></p>	TD.puncon2 (Whole Column)
Actions	<p><input type="button" value="Delete user"/> <input type="button" value="Ban user"/></p>	

[Table Width & Centring]

The first method is to use the stylesheet. The overall width of the board is set by **TABLE.punmain**. Change the width setting to **width: 80%** and your board only fills 80% of the browser. The board continues to have a dynamic width i.e. it will fill up 80% the browser regardless of screen resolution or browser size. The trouble is the board fills up the left hand side of the browser. The correct way to centre a board for compliant (new) browsers is to set margin to auto. Doing it this way means that the style would be as follows:-

```
TABLE.punmain {  
    border: none;  
    background-color: #606060;  
    width: 50%;  
    margin: auto;  
}
```

The second method, and my preferred method, is to wrap the whole board in another table. First of all ensure that the width in the stylesheet is set to 100%. Open **main.tpl** and find the following line

```
<body{pun_body}>
```

Now add the following immediately after the above

```
<table style="width:80%; margin:auto"><tr><td>
```

Now look for the body closing tag `</body>` and immediately before it add this

```
</td></tr></table>
```

Whichever method you have chosen if you are using a modern browser you should end up with a page that is 80% of the browser width and centred. The only problem is that some older browsers have a problem with `margin: auto`. There is another method which should work in all browsers. Follow the same steps as above only make the outer `<table>` tag as follows

```
<table width="80%" align="center"><tr><td>
```

If you want your table width to be fixed rather than dynamic then, regardless of which method you use, just set the width using pixels rather than a percentage.

If you prefer to control the style of the outer table with your stylesheet then simply create a class in your stylesheet called **.wrapper** and set the width to whatever you like and margin to auto. Then edit **main.tpl** so the wrapping table is as follows

```
<table classs="wrapper"><tr><td>
```

PART 2 - TEXT ELEMENTS

[NORMAL TEXT]

Normal Text in this board means anything that is not a link and not a form element. The only exceptions to this are the board title, the body text in posts and Quoted text all of which I have dealt with below.

Rather than label normal text elements I have coloured them for the purposes of showing which style controls which text elements. The styles and colours are as follows

TD = RED

TD.punhead = YELLOW

TD.punheadcent = PINK

Ignore all blue text as these are links which will be dealt with later. I have only in-

My PunBB forum Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.					
Home :: User list :: Search :: Profile :: Admin :: Logout					
Logged in as Admin. Last visit: Yesterday 01:26:32					

	Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
Another category					
	New forum	0	0		
Test category					
	Test forum This is just a test forum	2	4	2003-08-30 02:56:28 by Admin	
	New forum This is another test forum	0	0		

This forum has 3 registered users, 2 topics and 4 posts. The newest registered user is Adam . Currently serving 1 registered user and 0 guests. Admin		You can post replies to topics You can post new topics You can edit your posts You can delete your posts You can delete your topics
--	--	---

Show new posts since last visit Show unanswered posts Show your posts Mark all forums as read	Powered by PunBB Version: 1.0.1 © Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson
--	--

	Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
	Another test post	Admin	2	88	2003-08-30 02:56:28 by Admin
	Test post	Admin	0	30	2003-08-25 03:45:06 by Admin

Jump to

Test forum



Go

Powered by PunBB

Version: 1.0.1

© Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson

Author	Message	Pages: 1
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5 IP: 127.0.0.1	Blah Blah Blah	
2003-08-30 01:06:51	E-mail	Report Delete Edit Quote
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5 IP: 127.0.0.1	Yadda yadda yadda	
2003-08-30 01:07:20	E-mail	Report Delete Edit Quote

Quick post

Message HTML: off BBCode: on [img] tag: on Smilies: on	<input type="text"/>
Actions	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

User list

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Other All users

Username	E-mail	Title	Registered	Posts
Adam	adam@adam.co.uk	New member	2003-08-30	0
Admin	email@localhost.com	Administrator	2003-08-25	5

Powered by PunBB

Version: 1.0.1

© Copyright 2002, 2003 Rickard Andersson

Info
<p>Registering is not required, but it will grant you access to a number of features and capabilities otherwise unavailable. These functions include the ability to edit and delete posts, design your own signature that accompanies your posts and much more. If you have any questions regarding this forum you should ask an administrator.</p> <p>Below is a form you must fill out in order to register. Once you are registered you should visit your profile and review the different settings you can change. The fields below only make up a small part of all the settings you can alter in your profile.</p>

Register	
Username	Usernames can be between 2 and 25 characters long. <input type="text"/>
Password	Passwords can be between 4 and 16 characters long. Passwords are case sensitive. <input type="password"/> <input type="password"/> Re-enter password to confirm.
E-mail	Please enter a valid e-mail address. You can choose to hide your e-mail address from other users (see below) to keep your privacy. <input type="text"/>
Timezone	In order for the forum to display times correctly, you must select the timezone you are visiting from.

Search	
Keywords	Enter a term or terms to search for. Separate terms with spaces. Use AND, OR and NOT to refine your search. Use the wildcard character * for partial matches. <input type="text"/>
Author search	Enter the username of the author whose posts you wish to search for. Use wildcard character * for partial matches. <input type="text"/>
Forum	<input type="text" value="All forums"/>
Search in	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Message text and topic subject <input type="radio"/> Message text only <input type="radio"/> Topic subject only
Sort/group by	<input type="text" value="Post time"/> <input type="radio"/> Ascending <input checked="" type="radio"/> Descending
Show results as	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Topics <input type="radio"/> Posts
Actions	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>

The size of all normal text is set by **TD**. The default size is 10px though personally I have changed this to 11px.

I am not going to deal with the alignment of normal text for the simple reason that I cannot think of any good reason for changing it; any changes would certainly not improve the appearance of your board.

[Board Title]

The board title is a little tricky. The reason is that its size is set by **.punheadline** which also controls the size of other items on the board. Its colour is set by **TD.punhead**. This set up limits what you can do with the board title. To give you more flexibility Version 1.1 of PunBB will alter the way the board title is handled and I would recommend implementing this change in your own board now.

What you need to do is to create a new class in the stylesheet which called **.puntitle**. The new class should look as follows

```
.puntitle {  
    font-size: 14px;  
    color: #102945;  
    font-weight: bold;  
}
```

You now need to open the **main.tpl** file and find the following line

```
<span class="punheadline">{pun_title}</span><br>
```

Now change it to this

```
<span class="puntitle">{pun_title}</span><br>
```

You will now be able to set the size, colour and font weight of the board title without affecting anything else. You can also change the font if you want to use a different typeface for the board title. The following example gives you a yellow 24px bold italic title

```
.puntitle {  
    font-size: 24px;  
    color: #FFFF00;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    font-style: italic;  
}
```

My PunBB forum
Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.
[Home](#) :: [User list](#) :: [Search](#) :: [Register](#) :: [Login](#)
You are not logged in.

[Posts and Quotes]

The text size of the body text in posts and quoted text is set by **.puntext**. The illustration bellow shows body text and quoted text set at 21px.

Author	Message	Pages: <u>1</u>
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5	Blah Blah Blah	
2003-08-30 01:06:51		E-mail Quote
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5	Yadda yadda yadda	
2003-08-30 01:07:20		E-mail Quote
MeAgain Guest	<div><i>Admin wrote:</i> TD.punquote Yadda yadda yadda</div> <p>This is a quote</p>	
Today 15:27:22		E-mail Quote

You will have noticed that “***Admin Wrote***” it bold and italic. This has been set by the bbcode when posting the quote and not by the stylesheet.

The syle of the quote box is set by **TD.punquote**. You can set the style and colour of the border together with the background colour.

Some users choose to add a signature to their posts. The size of the signature text is set by **.punsignature**.

[LINK TEXT]

Much of the text on PunBB are links. In the default Oxygen style the links are coloured blue and can be seen on the previous pages of this guide.

The colour and text-decoration (bold, italic etc) of most links is set by **A:link, A:visited** in the stylesheet with the change of colour on mouse over being set by **A:hover**. The text size of most links is set by **TD**, that is, it is the same as the default text size for normal text.

There are a few links to which some or all of the above does not apply and it is these that I will deal with next.

The size and text-decoration of some of the links is set by **.punheadline** and in the Oxygen style is 12px bold. The illustration below show which items are set by **.punheadline**. To make it easier to identify the elements in question I have enlarged them.

The diagram illustrates the application of the **.punheadline** CSS class. Orange arrows point from a central box labeled **.punheadline** to the following elements in the screenshots:

- Forum category headers: "New forum", "Test forum", and "New forum".
- User avatars/names: "Admin" in the message list.

Forum	Topics	Posts	Last post	Moderators
Another category				
New forum	0	0		
Test category				
Test forum This is just a test forum	2	3	2003-08-30 01:07:20 by Admin	
New forum This is another test forum	0	0		

Author	Message	Pages: 1
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5	Blah Blah Blah	
2003-08-30 01:06:51		E-mail Quote
Admin Administrator Registered: 2003-08-25 Posts: 5	Yadda yadda yadda	
2003-08-30 01:07:20		E-mail Quote

The size of the names of guest posters is also set by **.punheadline** even though they are not links.

You should note that **.punheadline** also sets the text size and text-decoration of the board title. This is why I recommended that you create a separate class for dealing with the board title.

The closed topics link has its own style. In the Oxygen style this is medium grey changing to light grey on mouse over. The colour is set by **A:link.punclosed**. The colour change on mouse over is set by **A:hover.punclosed**. For identification purposes the closed topics link is illustrated below.

Topic	Author	Replies	Views	Last post
Another New Topic	Admin	0	2	Yesterday 22:23:10 by Admin
Another test post	Admin	2	129	Yesterday 15:27:22 by MeAgain
Test post ← Closed Topic Link				2003-08-25 03:45:06 by Admin

You will have noticed that the board navigation links and the Post New Topic/Reply links are in bold text. This is not set by the style sheet but is set in the HTML segments of the relevant .php file.

PART 3 - FORM ELEMENTS

Form elements on PunBB consist of text entry boxes, submit buttons, checkboxes and selection buttons. I would start off by saying that personally I would not bother trying to make any changes except font size and colour as you browser and/or operating system default will usually look just fine.

There are three styles in the stylesheet which are relevant to form elements.

INPUT, SELECT sets the font and text colour of the following

1. Text input boxes
2. Button text
3. Indicators in checkboxes and radio buttons
4. Text in dropdown lists

TEXTAREA set the font and text colour for the main text boxes where you compose your posts.

FORM sets the outside margin for form elements. By setting the margin to anything above zero the form will become narrower than the other elements on the page. This should not be altered as altering it will definitely not improve the look of your board.

PART 4 - THE GRAPHIC

PunBB has one graphic which is used to indicate new posts. I am not going to give blow by blow instructions how to create this graphic. Rather I would leave you to recreate it in your own way. To assist the illustration shows the graphic blown up to 800% of normal size so you can see how it is constructed. It is a 16x16 pixel .png file with a transparent background. Given the size of the file I would not worry too much about the resolution.



Please be sure to name the graphic according to the name of your new style otherwise PunBB will not be able to find it. For example, if your stylesheet is called Mystyle.css then the graphic should be called Mystyle_new.png. The image file must be placed in the folder /punbb/img.

For those of you who are artistically inclined, you can substitute any graphic you like so long as it is approximately the same size and is named correctly.

PART 5 - THE MENU

[MENU SEPARATORS]

The default menu separator symbol is the pipe symbol and here it is.

[Home](#) | [User list](#) | [Rules](#) | [Search](#) | [Profile](#) | [Logout](#)

You may wish to change the menu separator. I have changed mine to two colons like this.

[Home](#) :: [User list](#) :: [Search](#) :: [Register](#) :: [Login](#)

To change the menu separator you need to edit **common.php**. Look for

```
function generate_navlinks{} (hint, it should be line 325).
```

It is now simply a matter of looking through the function for each instance of the existing separator character and changing it to whatever you want. As far as I can tell you should be looking at lines 329, 339, and 362.

[MENU STYLING]

This is about changing the style of the main navigation menu. There is nothing wrong with the way it is styled at present but some users might like it to be a bit more obvious. What we are going to do is change this

My PunBB forum Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.
Home :: User list :: Search :: Profile :: Admin :: Logout
Logged in as Admin . Last visit: Yesterday 22:16:41

to this

My PunBB forum Unfortunately no one can be told what PunBB is - you have to see it for yourself.
Home :: User list :: Search :: Profile :: Admin :: Logout
Logged in as Admin . Last visit: Today 00:30:13

All that is involved is a relatively simple edit of **main.tpl** and an additional style in the stylesheet. Open main.tpl. After the <body> tag edit it so it looks as follows

```
<table class="punmain" cellspacing="1" cellpadding="4">
  <tr class="punhead">
    <td class="punhead">
      <span class="puntitle">{pun_title}</span><br>
      {pun_desc}
    </td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td class="punmenu">
      {pun_navlinks}
    </td>
  </tr>
</table>

<table class="punplain" cellspacing="1" cellpadding="4">
<tr><td height="10px"></td></tr></table>

<table class="punmain" cellspacing="1" cellpadding="4">
<tr class="punhead">
  <td class="puncon1">
    {pun_status}
  </td>
</tr>
</table>
```


The next step is to edit the stylesheet to create a class called **.punnavbar**. The new class looks like this

```
.punnavbar {  
    background-color: #EEEEEE;  
    font-size: 12px;  
    font-weight: bold;  
}
```

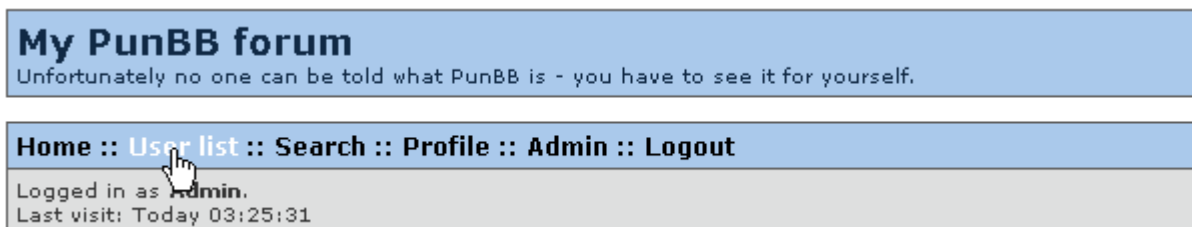
If you want to change the colour of menu text and the colour on mouse over then you need to add a couple of further items to the stylesheet. Here they are

```
.punnavbar A:link, .punnavbar A:visited { color: #005CB1;}  
.punnavbar A:hover { color: #0099DD;}
```

The order these two items appear in the stylesheet is important. The first item should appear after **A:link, A:visited** but before any of the **A:hover styles**. The second item should be inserted with the other **A:hover** styles.

That's all there is to it. Just change the colours, font size and font weight to suit. If you spotted that the board title was also enlarged, this was done using the **.puntitle** class which I recommended previously.

I will leave you to work out how to get the menu to look like this



Now I come to think about it this might be the most useful layout since it leaves you free to do interesting things with the board title like replace it with a graphic logo.

THE END

I could have added more, like how to add graphics or a logo but a halt has to be called somewhere. If anybody has any requests please post them on the PunBB Forum.

I am thinking of adding a Hints and Tips section so if anybody has anything they wish to share please let me know via the PunBB Forum.

If you spot any mistakes, and I am sure there are some, the please let me know.