



BEA WebLogic Portal

Build Your First Portal

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Build Your First Portal

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Preface

Welcome to the Build Your First Portal. In addition to this document, we encourage you to use the following resources, as well.

Finding documentation online BEA product documentation is available on the BEA corporate Web site. From the BEA Home page, click on Product Documentation or go directly to the “e-docs” Product Documentation page at <http://e-docs.bea.com>.

Providing documentation feedback Your feedback on the BEA WebLogic Portal documentation is important to us. Send us e-mail at docsupport@bea.com if you have questions or comments. Please indicate that you are using the documentation for the WebLogic Portal version **7.0**.

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Build Your First Portal

Want to see how easy it is to create a portal with BEA WebLogic Portal? You can use this tutorial to build your first basic portal quickly and easily.

This tutorial is just one example of what you can do with the WebLogic Portal. BEA WebLogic Portal's robust features enable you to easily create and administer portals, portlets, and portlet pages. Your business needs and existing enterprise systems will determine the WebLogic Portal features and processes that you use to build your enterprise portal.

When you finish this tutorial, you can learn more about other approaches for developing and administering portals with BEA WebLogic Portal in the *Development Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/dev/index.htm> and the WebLogic Portal *Administration Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/admin/index.htm>.

This tutorial walks you through the following tasks to help you create a basic portal application:

- [Step 1: Start the Server](#)
- [Step 2: Create A New Portal Site](#)
- [Step 3: Create a Portlet and Make it Visible to the Portal](#)
- [Step 4: Update the Look and Feel of the Portal](#)

Before You Begin: A Note About the Sample Portal

This tour covers some basic portal-building steps using the Sample Portal provided by BEA WebLogic Portal. All steps in this tour assume that you are using the “Typical” installation of the WebLogic Portal on your local computer, which automatically installs the sample, and that your application is running on a Windows operating system.

If you are accessing the application on a remote server, using an atypical installation of the product, or are running the application on a different operating system, some of the paths and instructions provided in this tour may be slightly different. See your administrator if this is the case.

Step 1: Start the Server

Before you begin the steps in the tour you must start the Sample Portal server:

Select Start > Programs > BEA WebLogic Platform 7.0 > WebLogic Portal 7.0 > Portal Examples > Portal Example > Launch Portal Server.

Step 2: Create A New Portal Site

The following section walks you through the steps of creating a simple portal. Once you have created this portal, you can add portlets, pages, and “look and feel” attributes in subsequent steps.

For the purposes of this demonstration, the portal is created in an existing sample domain. For detailed information about creating and setting up new domains, see the *Development Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/dev/index.htm>.

This task contains the following steps:

[Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal](#)

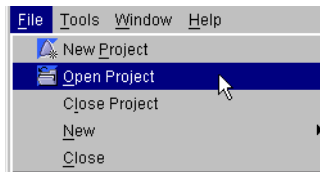
[Step 2B: View New Changes in the Portal Administration Tools and Browser](#)

Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal

To create and deploy a new portal, do the following:

1. Make sure the server is running (see [Step 1: Start the Server on page 2](#)) and launch the E-Business Control Center by selecting Start > Programs > BEA WebLogic Platform 7.0 > WebLogic Portal 7.0 > E-Business Control Center.
2. Once the server is running, choose **File > Open Project** in the E-Business Control Center toolbar ([Figure 1-1](#)).

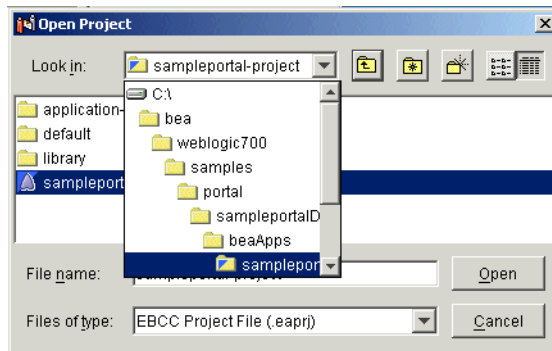
Figure 1-1 Opening the Project File dialog box



3. In the **Look In** drop-down menu of the Project File dialog box ([Figure 1-2](#)), navigate to:

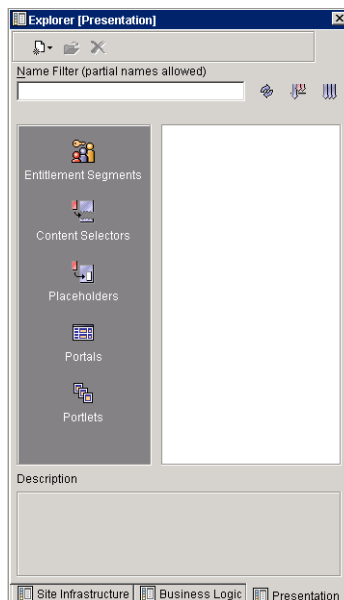
```
<BEA_HOME>\weblogic700\samples\portal\sampleportalDomain\  
beaApps\sampleportal-project\sampleportal-project.
```

Figure 1-2 Opening a Project File



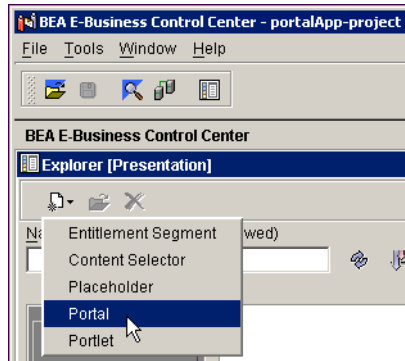
4. Once you have opened the sampleportal project, click the **Presentation** tab at the bottom of the E-Business Control Center Explorer window, as shown in [Figure 1-3](#).

Figure 1-3 Explorer Window with Presentation Tab selected



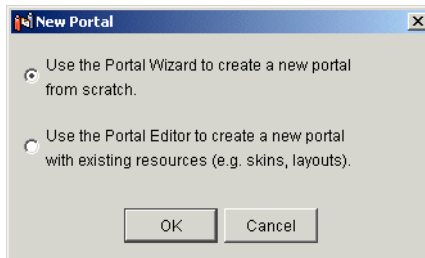
5. Click the **New** icon in the Explorer tool bar and select **Portal**, as shown in [Figure 1-4](#). The Portal Wizard screen appears.

Figure 1-4 Opening the New Portal dialog



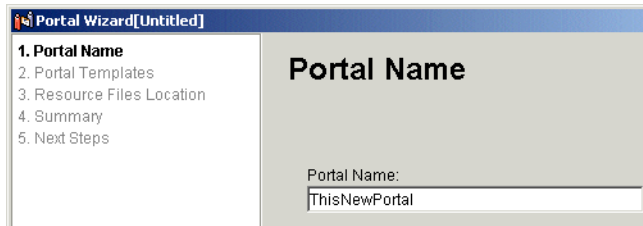
6. Be sure the **Use the Portal Wizard** option is selected, as shown in [Figure 1-5](#), and click **OK**. Portal Name, the first page of the Portal Wizard, appears.

Figure 1-5 Portal Wizard Screen



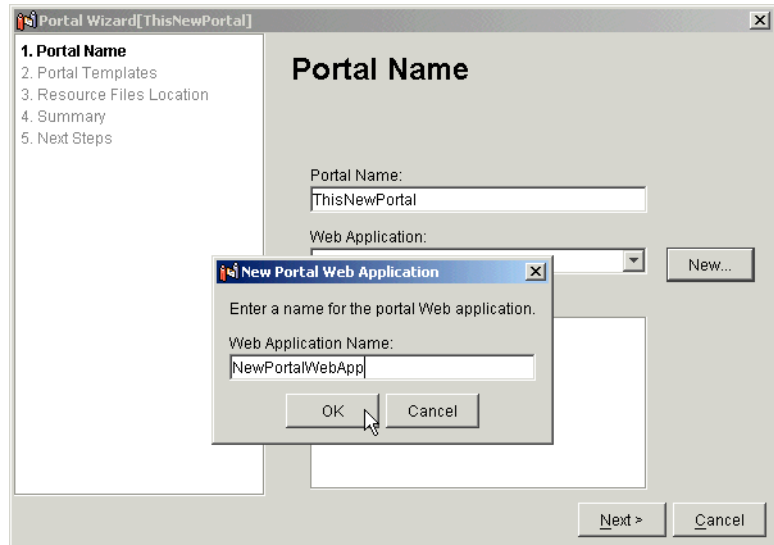
7. Name the new portal, “**ThisNewPortal**”, as shown in [Figure 1-6](#).

Figure 1-6 Portal Name page of the Portal Wizard



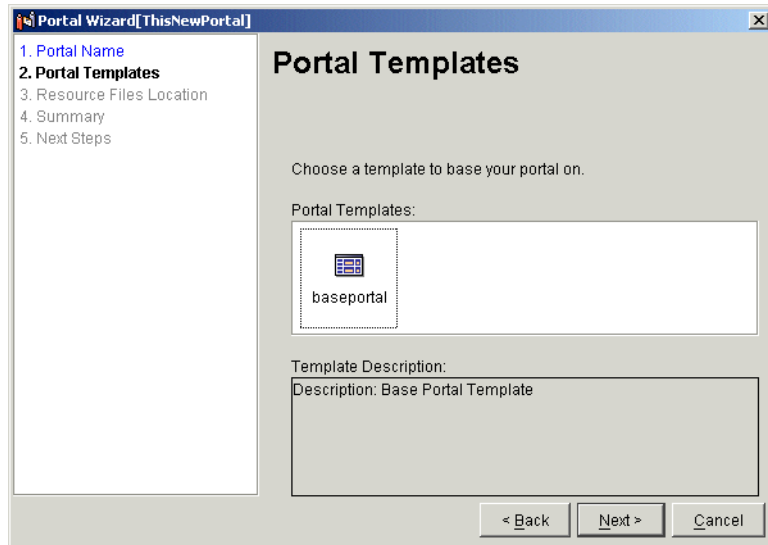
8. Click the **New** button to create a new portal Web application. The Name New Portal Web Application page appears, as shown in [Figure 1-7](#).

Figure 1-7 Name the New Portal Web Application



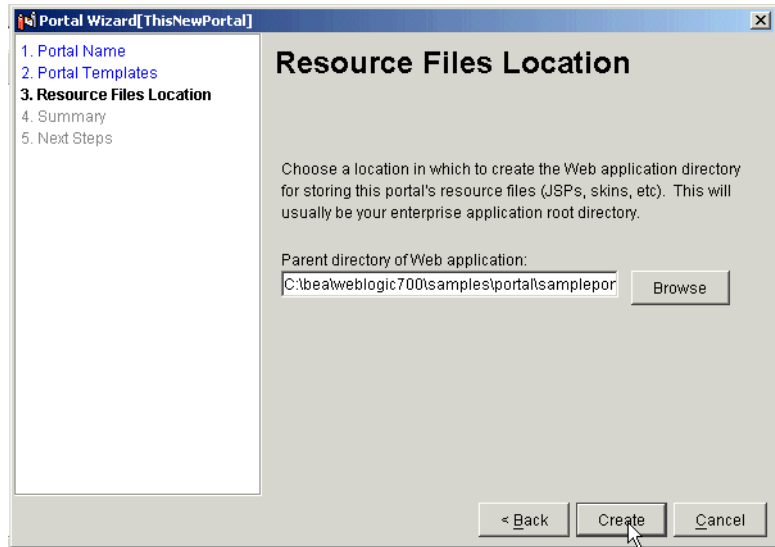
9. Enter **NewPortalWebApp** as the name of the new Web application, then click **OK** to save the new name and close the window.
10. Click **Next**. The Portal Templates window appears, as shown in [Figure 1-8](#).

Figure 1-8 Portal Templates page of the Portal Wizard



11. Select the baseportal template and click **Next**. The Resource Files Location page appears, as shown in [Figure 1-9](#).

Figure 1-9 Resource Files Location page of the Portal Wizard



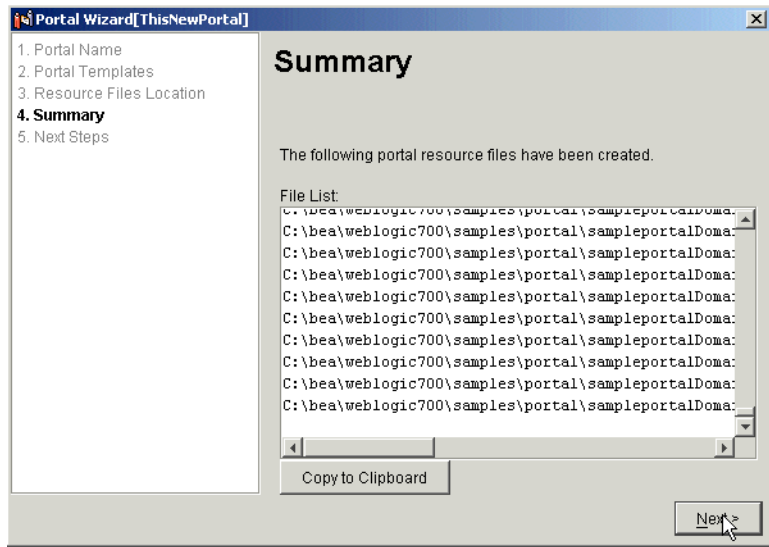
12. Verify that the location for J2EE resources for the new Portal Web Application are as shown:

```
<BEA_HOME>\weblogic700\samples\portal\sampleportalDomain\beaApps\sampleportal.
```

13. Click **Create**.

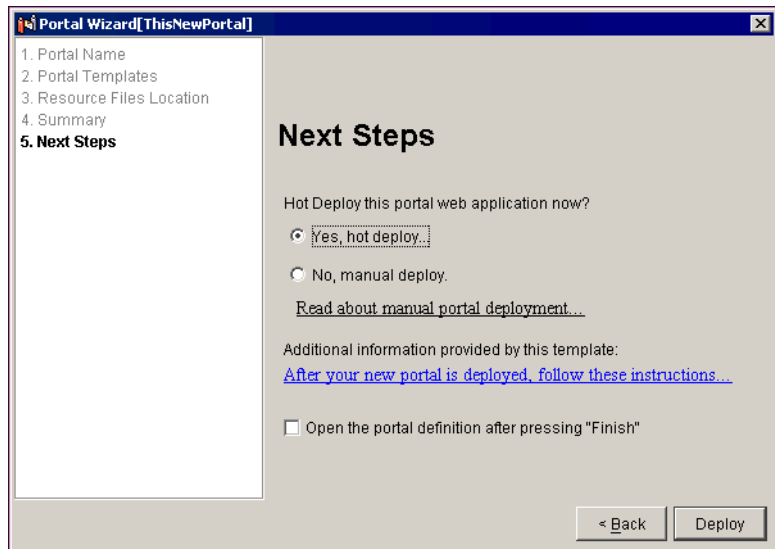
14. The Portal Wizard will create files and list them in the Summary window, as shown in [Figure 1-10](#).

Figure 1-10 Summary page of the Portal Wizard



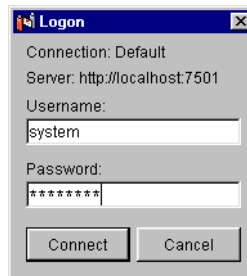
15. In the Summary page, click **Next**. The Next Steps page appears, as shown in [Figure 1-11](#).

Figure 1-11 Next Steps page of the Portal Wizard



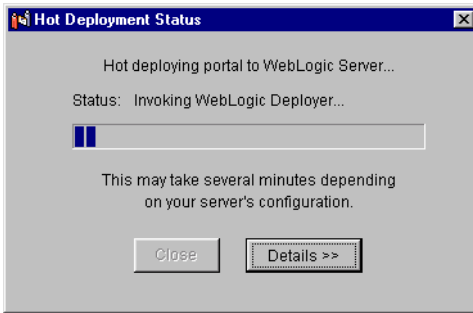
16. To deploy the new portal, select the **Yes, Hot Deploy Now** option and click **Deploy**. You are prompted to log onto the server, as shown in [Figure 1-12](#).

Figure 1-12 Logon prompt



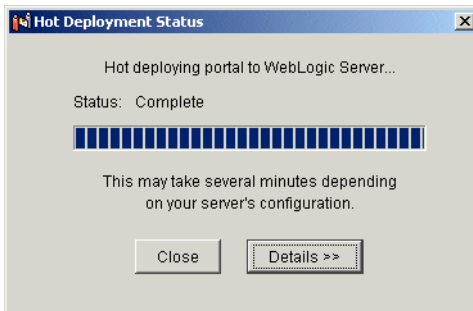
17. Enter the administrator username and password, the default is system/weblogic.
18. The deployment process runs for a few moments, displaying the window in [Figure 1-13](#).

Figure 1-13 Hot Deployment status window



19. Click **Details** if you want to see specific messages about the processes occurring.
20. When the new portal has been deployed successfully, as shown in [Figure 1-14](#), click **Close**. Leave the E-Business Control Center open.

Figure 1-14 Hot Deployment success



Step 2B: View New Changes in the Portal Administration Tools and Browser

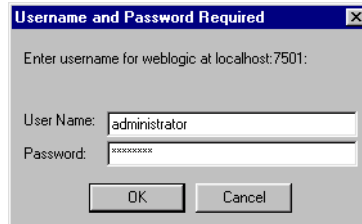
To confirm that the new portal is visible from within the WebLogic Portal Administration Tools:

1. Open the WebLogic Portal Administration Tools by navigating to the following URL:

`http://localhost:7501/sampleportalTools`

The login prompt appears (Figure 1-15)

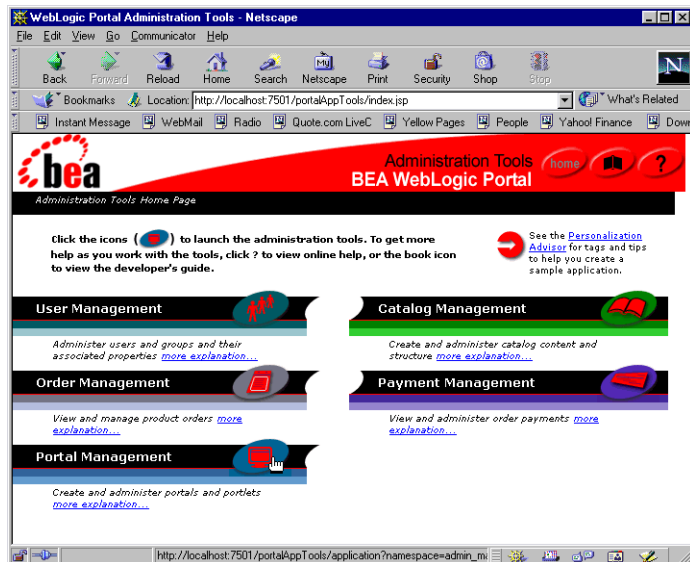
Figure 1-15 Logging Into the Administration Tools



A dialog box titled "Username and Password Required" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It contains the text "Enter username for weblogic at localhost:7501:". Below this text are two input fields: "User Name:" with the value "administrator" and "Password:" with masked characters "*****". At the bottom are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

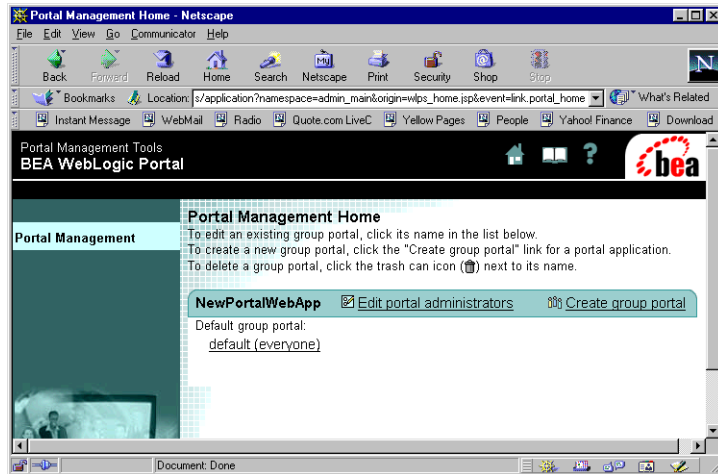
2. Log into the Administration tools, the default username and password is administrator/password.
3. The WebLogic Portal Administration Tools Home page appears (Figure 1-16).

Figure 1-16 Clicking the Portal Management Icon



4. Click the icon in the **Portal Management** heading. The Portal Management page appears, displaying the name of your portal Web application (Figure 1-17).

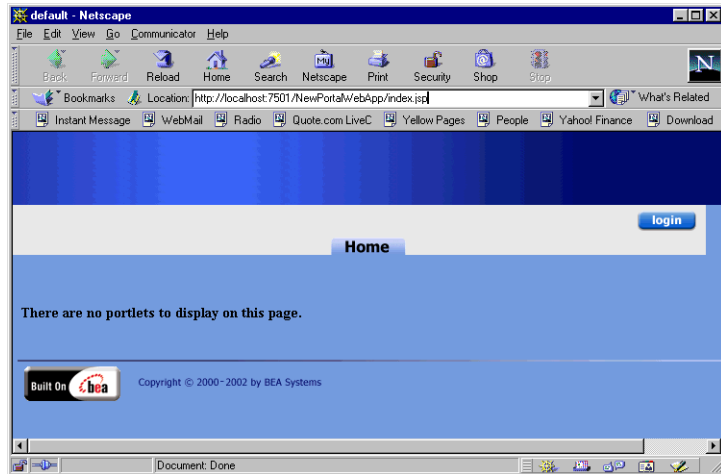
Figure 1-17 New portal as viewed in the Portal Administration tools



5. The new (empty) portal should be visible through your browser, though no content has been placed inside this portal.
6. You can view the portal as a visitor (Figure 1-18) by entering the following URL in your browser:

`http://localhost:7501/NewPortalWebApp`

Figure 1-18 The new portal viewed through a browser



Step 3: Create a Portlet and Make it Visible to the Portal

Portlets are applications or collections of data that are shown within a larger portal. For example, a human resources portal at a large corporation might provide a portlet that allows an employee to log in and view their paycheck information and another portlet that allows them to update insurance information.

This task involves the following steps:

[Step 3A: Create a Portlet](#)

[Step 3B: Make the New Portlet Visible](#)

[Step 3C: View the Results in a Web Browser](#)

Step 3A: Create a Portlet

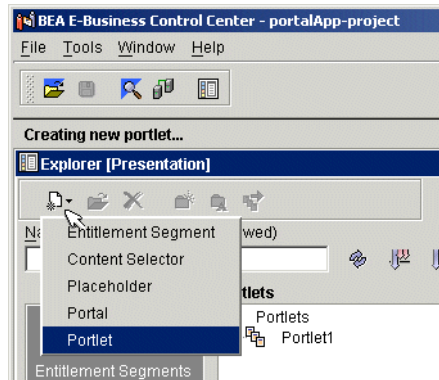
Now that the portal is deployed and running, use the Portlet Wizard to add a new portlet to the portal.

1. In the E-Business Control Center, click the **Presentation** tab.

Note: If you closed the E-Business Control Center, you need to restart it and open the sampleportal project file. See steps 1 through 4 of [Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal on page 3](#) for the procedure.

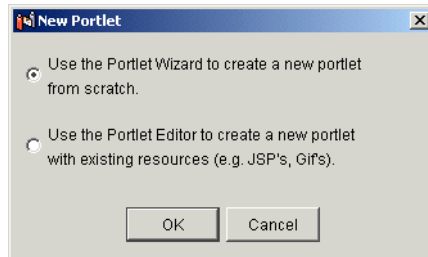
2. Click the **New** icon in the Explorer and select **Portlet**, as shown in [Figure 1-19](#). The New Portlet Wizard window appears:

Figure 1-19 Opening the New Portlet dialog



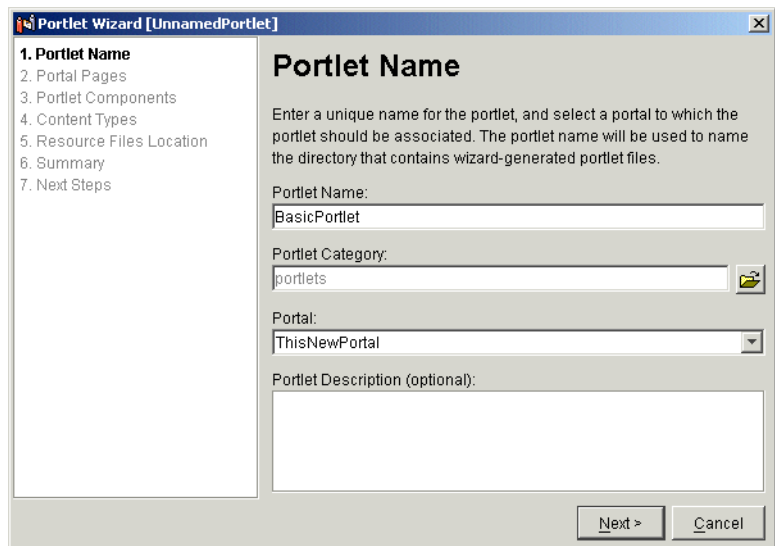
3. Select **Use the Portlet Wizard**, as shown in [Figure 1-20](#), and click **OK**. The first page of the Portlet Wizard, the Portlet Name page, appears.

Figure 1-20 New Portlet wizard window



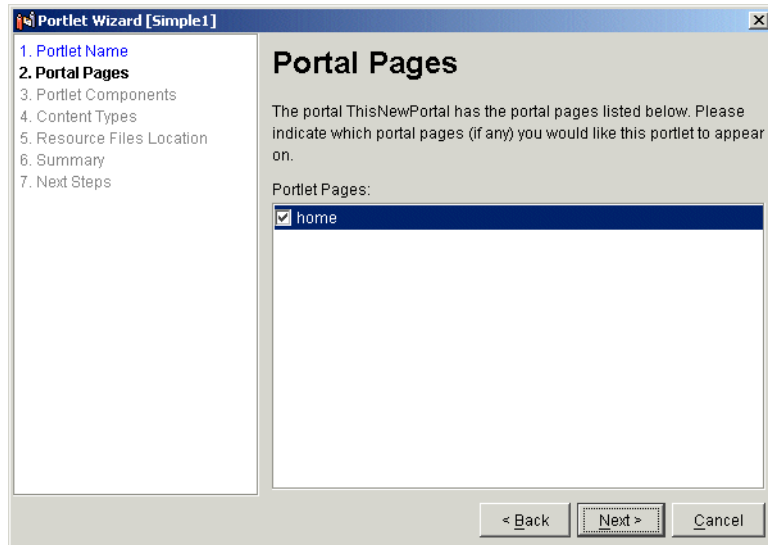
4. Name the new portlet **BasicPortlet**, as shown in [Figure 1-21](#).

Figure 1-21 The Portlet Name page of the Portlet Wizard



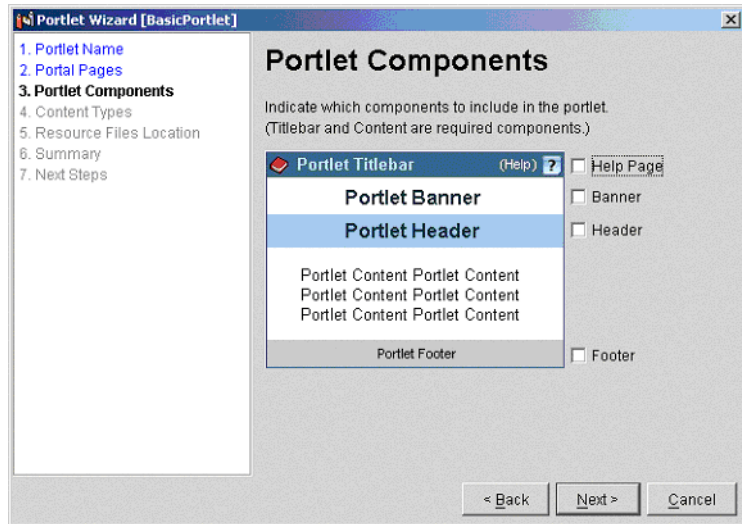
5. Click **Next**, the Portal Pages page appears.
6. Check the **home** portal page to associate the new portlet with that page, as shown in [Figure 1-22](#). This makes the portlet available for administration within that page.

Figure 1-22 The Portal Pages page of the Portlet Wizard



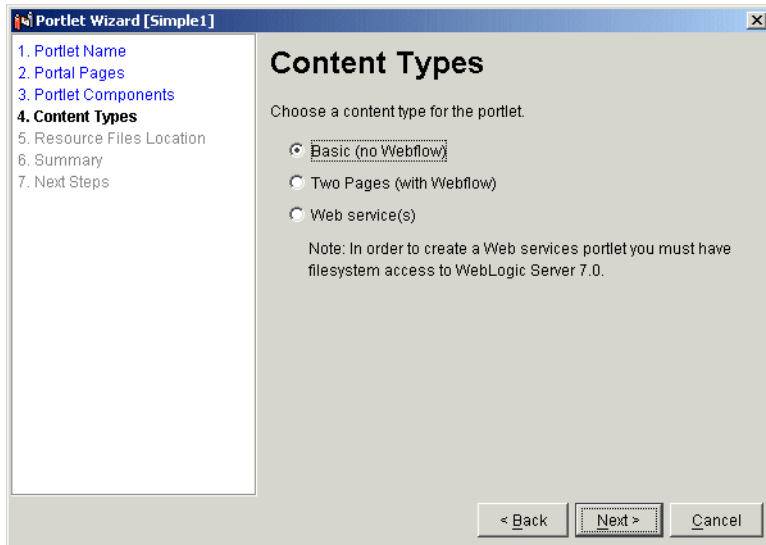
7. Click **Next**, the Portlet Components page in [Figure 1-23](#) shows components you can add to the portlet, such as a header.

Figure 1-23 Portlet Components page of the Portlet Wizard



8. Do not select any additional components, and click **Next**. The Content Types page appears.
9. Select **Basic (no Webflow)** as your portlet content type, as shown in [Figure 1-24](#), then click **Next**.

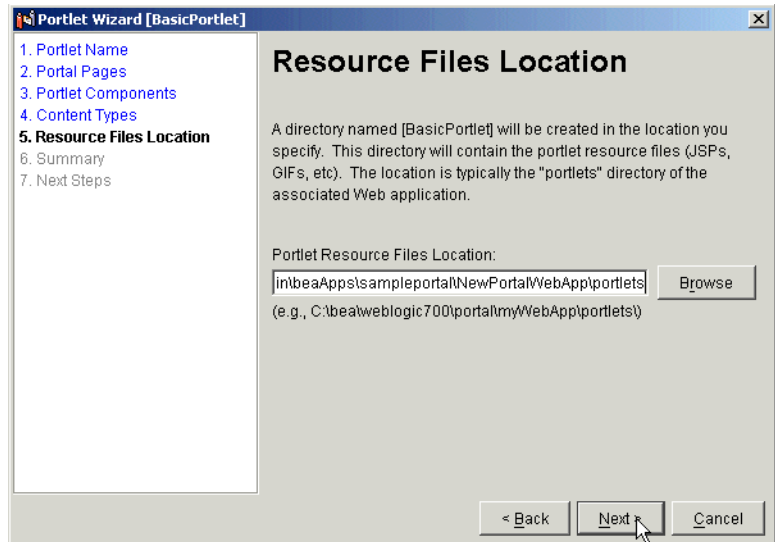
Figure 1-24 Content Types Page of the Portlet Wizard



10. In the Resource Files Location window (Figure 1-25), verify that the path is the following:

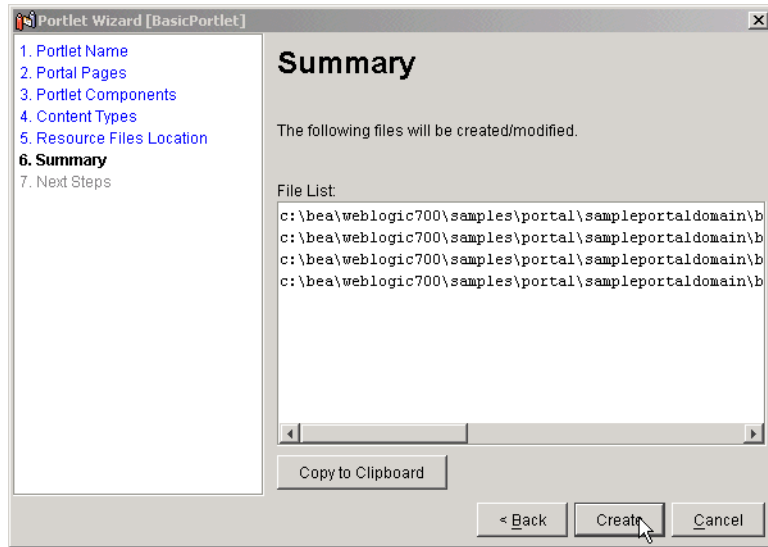
```
<BEA_HOME>\weblogic700\samples\portal\sampleportalDomain\beaApps\sampleportal\NewPortalWebApp\portlets.
```

Figure 1-25 Resource Files Location page



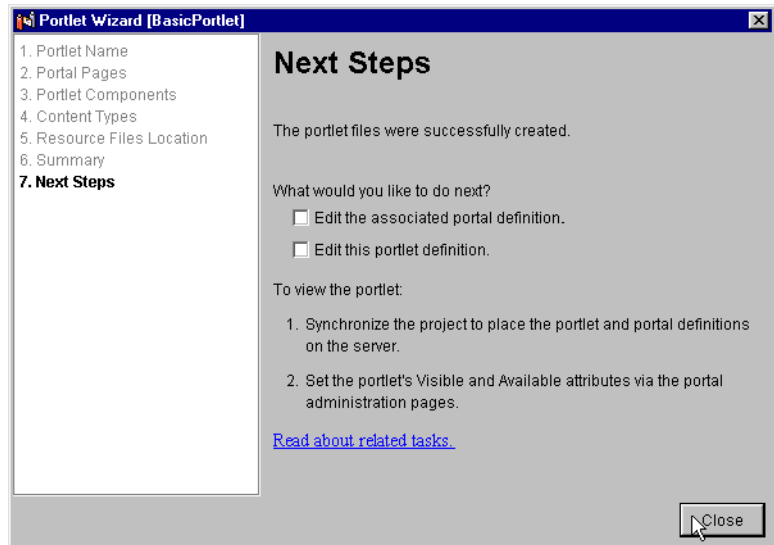
11. Click **Next**. The Summary window, [Figure 1-26](#), shows the files that the Portlet Wizard will create.

Figure 1-26 Summary page of the Portlet Wizard



12. Click **Create**. The Wizard runs for a few moments while it creates the files, then the Next Steps page appears ([Figure 1-27](#)).

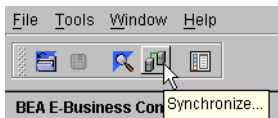
Figure 1-27 Next Steps page of the Portal Wizard



13. Make sure both options are deselected and click **Close**.

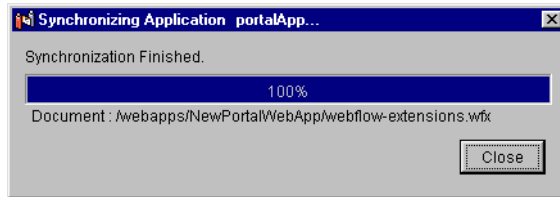
14. Synchronize the portal project. Click the **Synchronize** button on the E-Business Control Center toolbar, shown in Figure 1-28. The Synchronizing Application window appears.

Figure 1-28 The Synchronize button in the E-Business Control Center



15. The E-Business Control Center synchronizes the data you created in the Portlet Wizard. When the message "Synchronization Finished" appears (Figure 1-29), click **Close**. The Reset Campaign States window appears.

Figure 1-29 Synchronization Is Complete



16. In the Reset Campaign States window, click **Cancel**.

To allow a visitor to see this portlet from the browser, it must be designated as visible and available using the WebLogic Portal Administration Tools. You will perform this task in the next step.

Step 3B: Make the New Portlet Visible

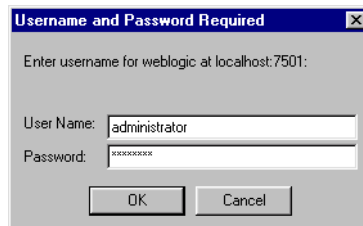
The new portlet is now on the server, but must be made available using the WebLogic Portal Administration Tools.

1. In your Web browser, navigate to the following URL:

<http://localhost:7501/sampleportalTools>.

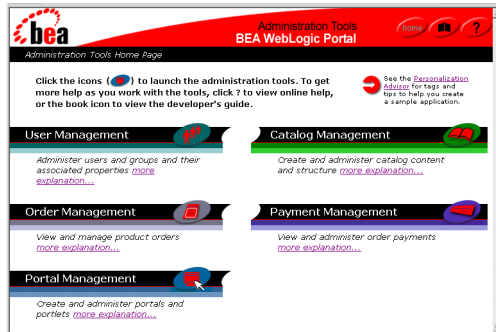
The Logon prompt appears, as shown in [Figure 1-30](#).

Figure 1-30 Logon Prompt



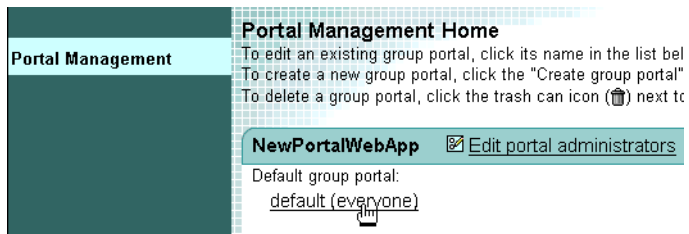
2. Log in, the default username and password is administrator/password. The WebLogic Portal Administration Tools Home page appears.
3. Click the icon on the **Portal Management** bar, as shown in [Figure 1-31](#). The Portal Management Home page appears.

Figure 1-31 WebLogic Portal Administration Tools Home page



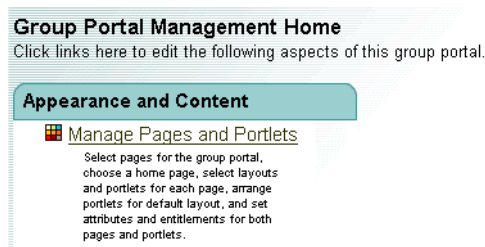
4. In the Portal Management Home page, click **Default Portal**, as shown in Figure 1-32. The Group Portal Management home page appears.

Figure 1-32 Portal Management Home page



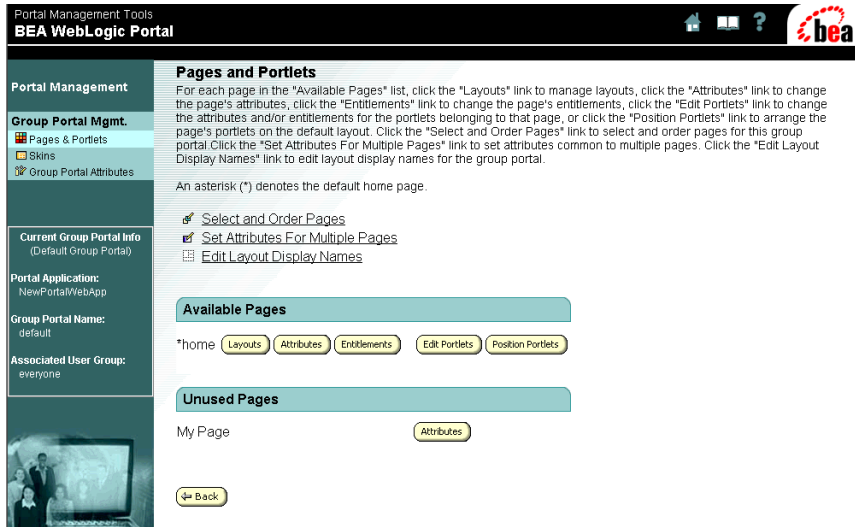
5. In the Group Portal Management Home page, click **Manage Pages and Portlets** (Figure 1-33). The Pages and Portlets page appears.

Figure 1-33 Group Portal Management home



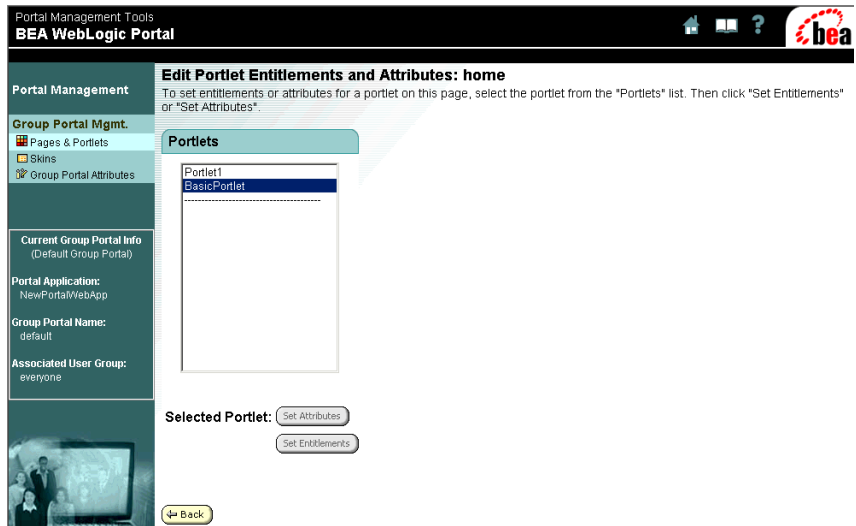
6. In the Pages and Portlets page, locate the page “Home” under Available Pages and click **Edit Portlets** (Figure 1-34). The Edit Portlet Entitlements and Attributes page appears.

Figure 1-34 Pages and Portlets page



7. In the Edit Portlet Entitlements and Attributes page, select the portlet “BasicPortlet” and click the **Set Attributes** button (Figure 1-35). The Set Portlet Attributes page appears.

Figure 1-35 Edit Portlet Entitlements and Attributes page



8. Set the Portlet's attributes to **Visible** and **Available**, as shown in [Figure 1-36](#).

Figure 1-36 Set Portlet Attributes



9. Click **Save**.

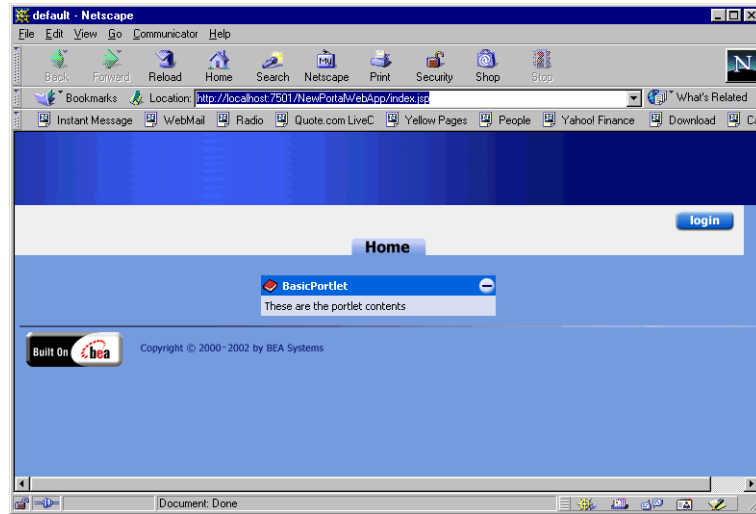
Step 3C: View the Results in a Web Browser

To view the new portlet in a Web browser, do the following:

1. Open a browser and navigate to:
`http://localhost:7501/NewPortalWebApp/index.jsp`.

The result should resemble that shown in [Figure 1-37](#).

Figure 1-37 Viewing the New Portlet



Step 4: Update the Look and Feel of the Portal

In this section of the tutorial, you will add some “look and feel” characteristics to your new portal, such as new *skins* and *layouts* (existing resources that affect the appearance of portals and portlets). This task consists of the following steps:

[Step 4A: Make Skins and Layouts Available for Use in a Portal](#)

[Step 4B: Create the New Page](#)

[Step 4C: Synchronize the Modified Portal](#)

[Step 4D: Add New Skins, Layouts, and Portlets](#)

[Step 4E: View the Modified Portal](#)

Step 4A: Make Skins and Layouts Available for Use in a Portal

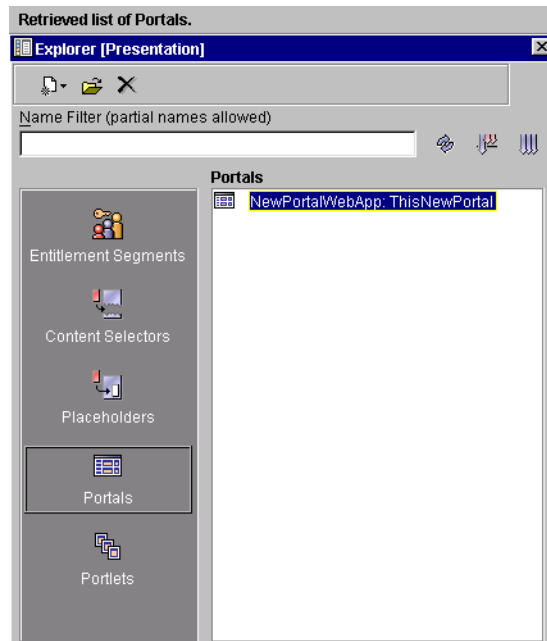
In this step you will make existing skins and layouts available for use in your portal.

1. In the Explorer window of the E-Business Control Center, click the **Presentation** tab.

Note: If you closed the E-Business Control Center, you need to restart it and open the sampleportal project file. See steps 1 through 4 of [Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal on page 3](#) for the procedure.

2. Click the **Portals** icon, and select the Portal you created. In this example, select: “NewPortalWebApp: ThisNewPortal”. (See [Figure 1-38.](#))

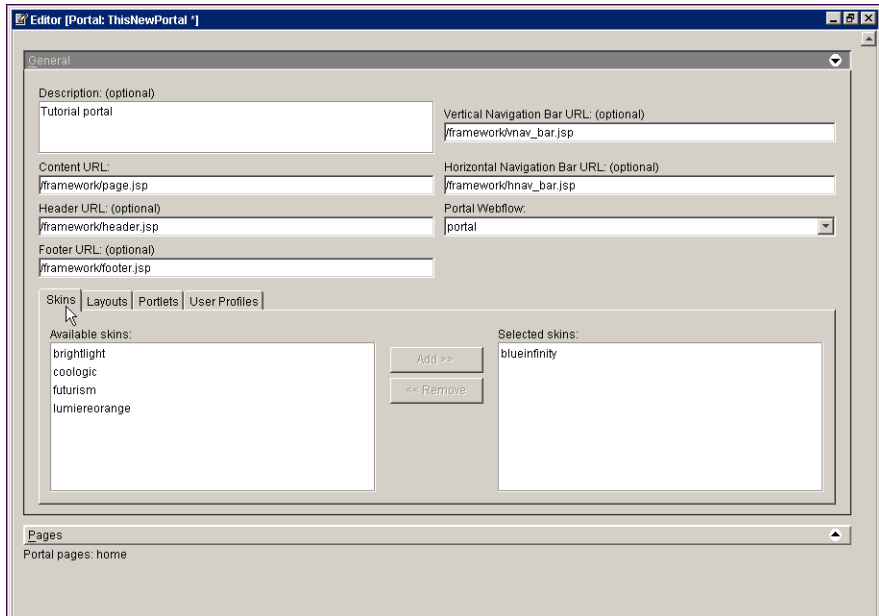
Figure 1-38 Your New Portal



3. Double-click the selected portal. The Editor for ThisNewPortal appears.

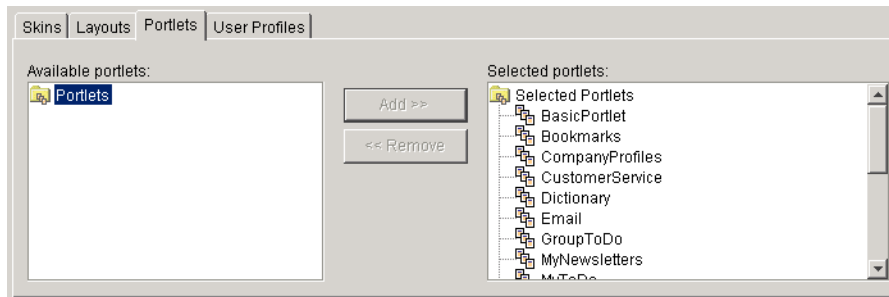
- Click the **General** bar then click the **Skins** tab, as shown in [Figure 1-39](#).

Figure 1-39 Editor for ThisNewPortal



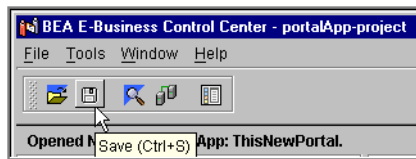
- In the **Available skins** list, select the **coollogic** skin, and click **Add** to move it into the **Selected skins** list.
- Click the **Portlets** tab, the Portlets page appears within the Editor ([Figure 1-40](#)).

Figure 1-40 Select Portlets tab



7. Select the parent folder for all of the portlets, and click **Add** to add all of the available portlets to the **Selected portlets** list as shown in [Figure 1-40](#).
8. Click the **Layouts** tab, select the **fourcolumn** layout, and click **Add** to move it into the **Selected layouts** list.
9. Click the **General** bar to close the General Editor pane.
10. Click the Save icon to save your changes, as shown in [Figure 1-41](#).

Figure 1-41 Save Icon



Note: Keep the ThisNewPortal editor open.

Step 4B: Create the New Page

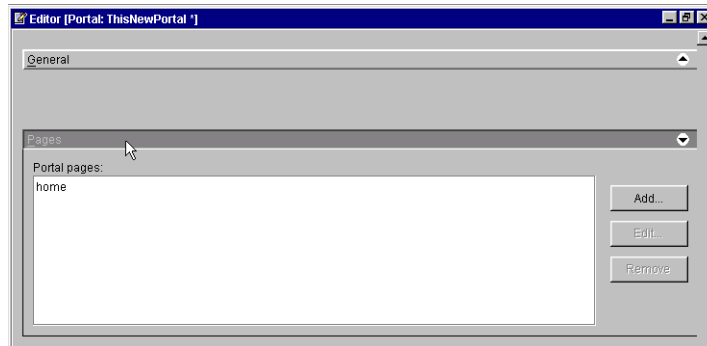
This step assumes you have kept your E-Business Control Center application open after completing the procedures in [Step 4: Update the Look and Feel of the Portal on page 27](#).

Note: If you closed the E-Business Control Center, you need to restart it and open the sampleportal project file. See steps 1 through 4 of [Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal on page 3](#) for the procedure.

To create a new page in the portal, do the following:

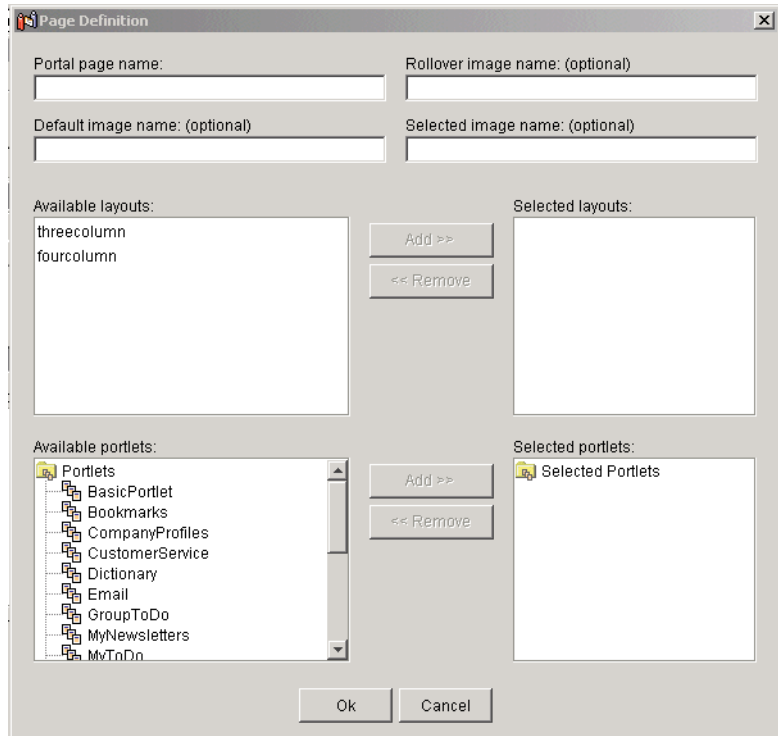
1. Click the **Pages** bar as shown in [Figure 1-42](#). The Pages pane appears.

Figure 1-42 Pages pane of the Portal Editor



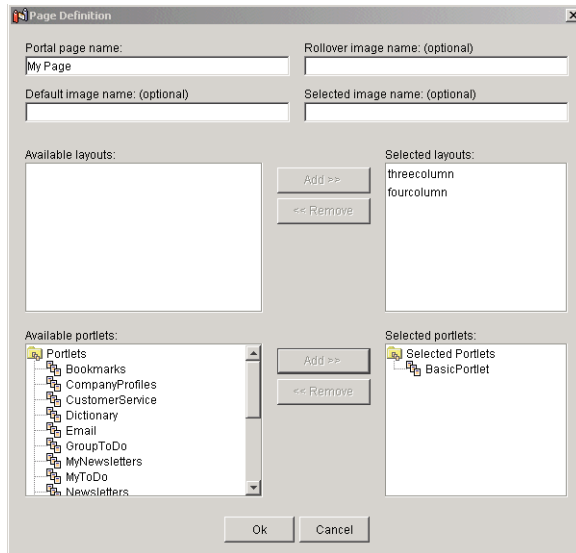
2. Click **Add** in the Pages pane. (You may need to scroll right to access the **Add** button.) The Page Definition window appears ([Figure 1-43](#)).

Figure 1-43 Page Definition window



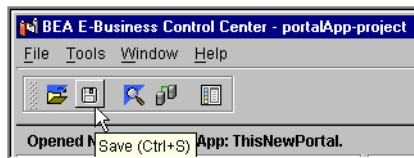
3. In the **Portal page name** field, enter **My Page**.
4. In the Available layouts list, select the **threecolumn** and **fourcolumn** layouts and click **Add** to move them to the Selected layouts list. Selecting more than one layout lets you switch between these layouts later.
5. In the **Available portlets** list, select **BasicPortlet** and use the arrow to move it to the **Selected portlets** list. The BasicPortlet is now available to the portal page “My Page”.
6. Verify that the window looks like [Figure 1-44](#), then click **OK**.

Figure 1-44 Page Definition Page After Making Changes



7. On the E-Business Control Center tool bar, click the **Save** icon as shown in Figure 1-45.

Figure 1-45 Save Icon



Note: Keep the E-Business Control Center Open.

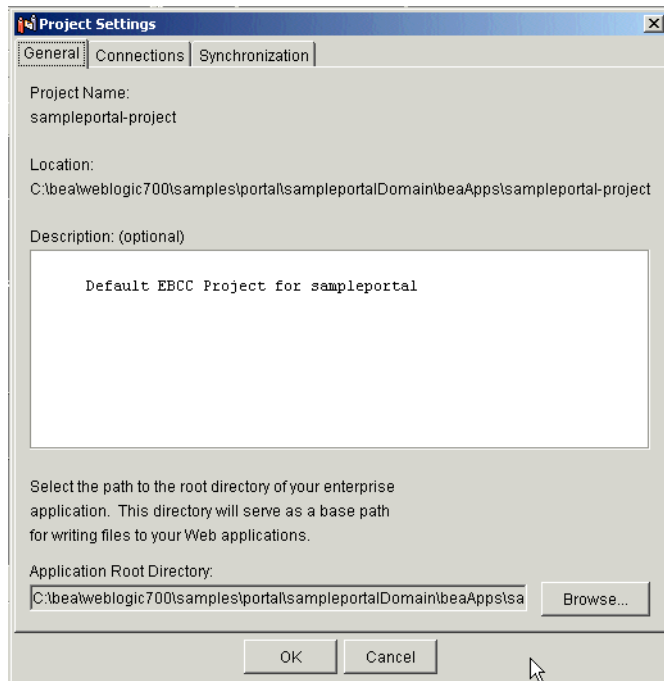
Step 4C: Synchronize the Modified Portal

To use the new portal configuration, you must synchronize the E-Business Control Center data stored on your hard drive to the server.

1. In the E-Business Control Center, make sure your synchronization settings are correct. Choose **Tools > Project Settings**. The Project Settings window appears (Figure 1-46).

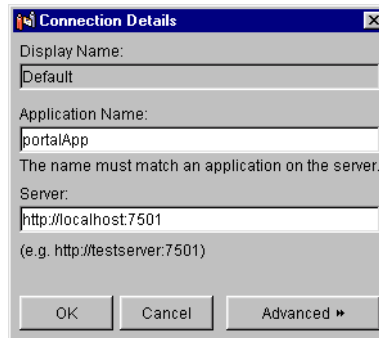
Note: If you closed the E-Business Control Center, you need to restart it and open the sampleportal project file. See steps 1 through 4 of [Step 2A: Create and Deploy the Portal on page 3](#) for the procedure.

Figure 1-46 Project Settings Window



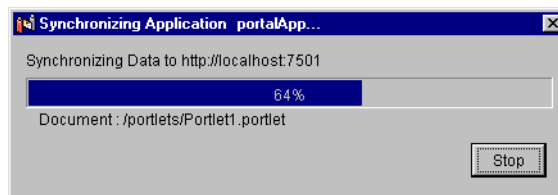
2. Make sure the following project settings are correct:
 - a. On the General tab, make sure your Application Root Directory path is set to <BEA_HOME>\weblogic700\samples\portal\sampleportalDomain\beaApps\sampleportal.
 - b. On the Connections tab, click **Edit Connections**, select the **Default** connection, then click **Edit**. The Connection Details window appears, as shown in [Figure 1-47](#).

Figure 1-47 Connection Details



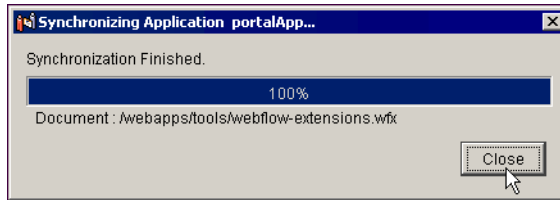
- c. Make sure the **Application Name** field reads “sampleportal”, and that the **Server** field reads “http://localhost:7501”.
- d. Click **OK** in the Connection Details and then the Edit Connections window.
- e. On the Synchronization tab, deselect **Validate the project** and **Show reset options for active campaigns**. Click **OK**.
3. On the E-Business Control Center tool bar, click the **Synchronize** button. The E-Business Control Center will run the necessary processing tasks, as shown in [Figure 1-48](#).

Figure 1-48 Synchronization in Progress



4. When the Synchronizing Application window shows that synchronization is complete, click **Close**, as shown in [Figure 1-49](#).

Figure 1-49 Synchronization Complete



5. Close the E-Business Control Center.

Step 4D: Add New Skins, Layouts, and Portlets

Now that you have modified the portal to include new skins, layouts, and a portal page with a portlet, you will use these resources to make live modifications to the portal with the WebLogic Portal Administration Tools. To make these modifications, you will log in as the portal administrator you created in the previous procedure (**portaladmin** in this example).

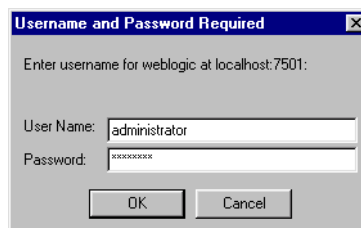
Note: If you did not close your Portal Administration tools previously, click the **Home** icon and skip to [step 3](#).

1. In your Web browser, navigate to the following URL:

`http://localhost:7501/sampleportalTools`

The login prompt appears, as shown in [Figure 1-50](#).

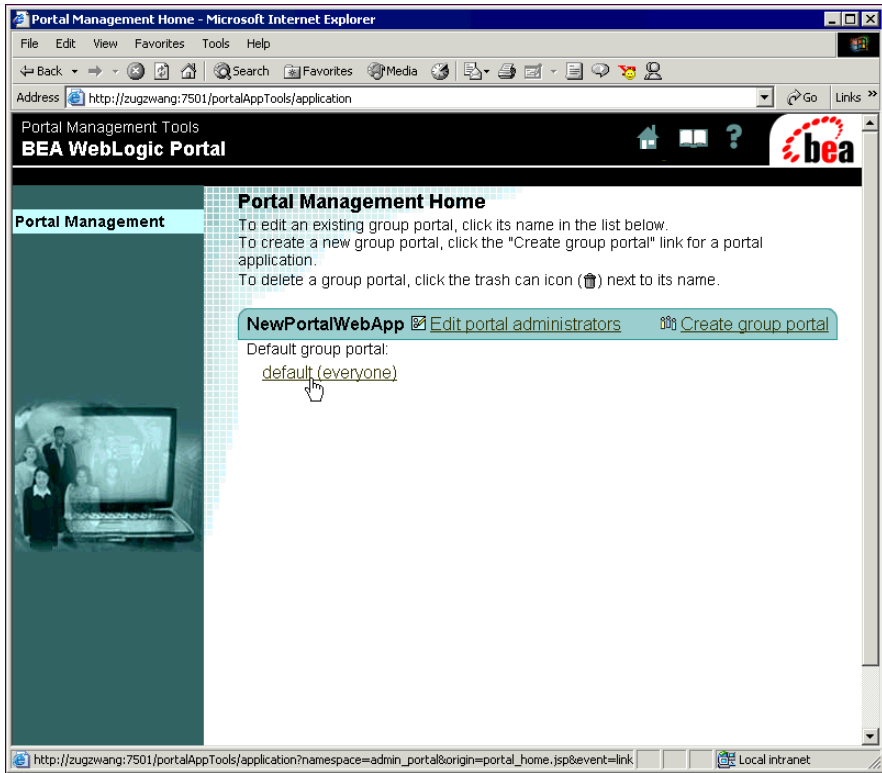
Figure 1-50 WebLogic Portal Administration Tools Login prompt



2. Log in to the tools. The default username and password combination is administrator/password.

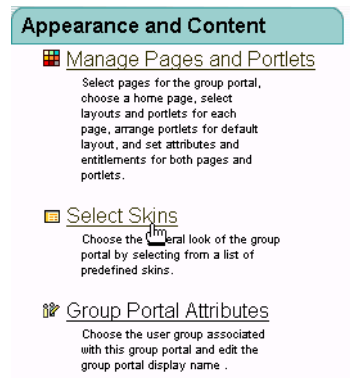
3. In the Administration Tools Home page, click the icon on the **Portal Management** bar. The Portal Management Home page appears (Figure 1-51).

Figure 1-51 Portal Management Home Page



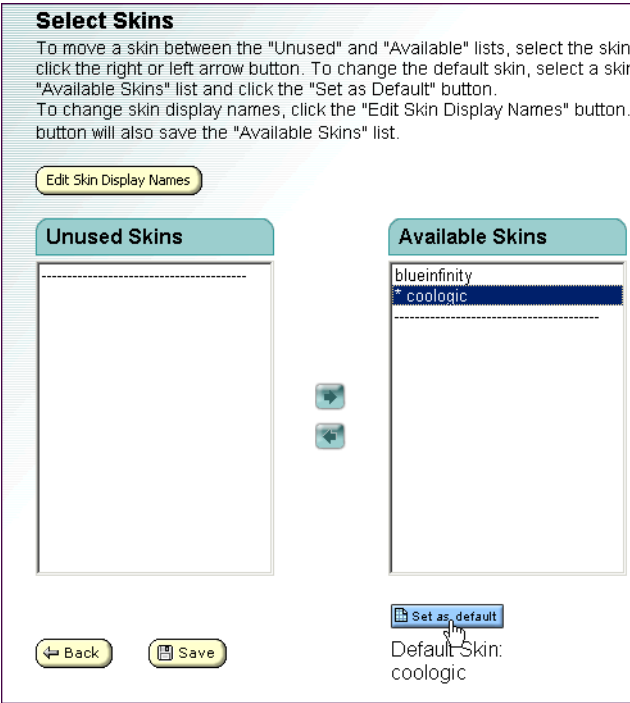
4. On the Portal Management Home page, click **Default Portal**. The Group Portal Management Home page appears (Figure 1-52).

Figure 1-52 Group Portal Management Home page



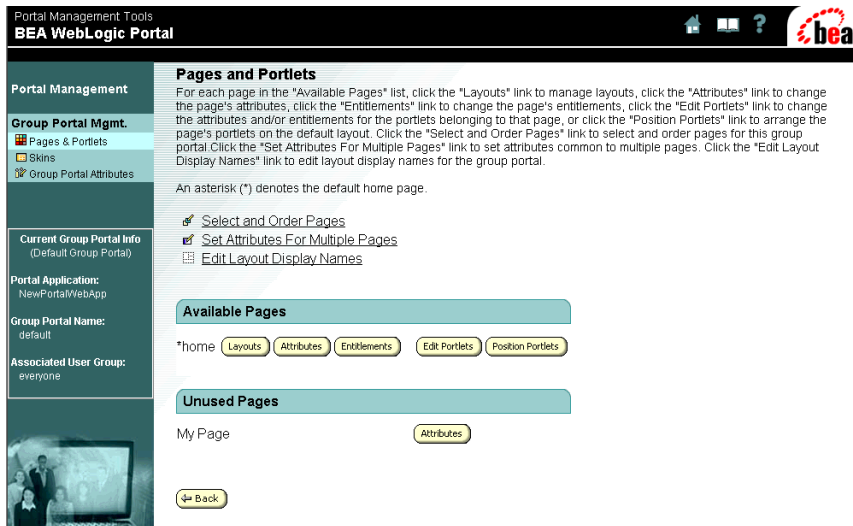
5. Click **Select Skins** (Figure 1-53). The Select Skins page appears:

Figure 1-53 Select Skins page



- On the Select Skins page, in the **Unused Skins** list, move the **coollogic** skin into the **Available Skins** list.
- With **coollogic** selected in the **Available Skins** list, click the **Set as Default** button below the list to make **coollogic** the default skin, as shown in [Figure 1-53](#).
- Click **Save**. You are returned to the Group Portal Management Home page.
- Click the **Manage Pages and Portlets** link.
- On the Pages and Portlets page, locate **My Page** in the **Unused Pages** list and click **Attributes**, as shown in [Figure 1-54](#). The Set Page Attributes window appears.

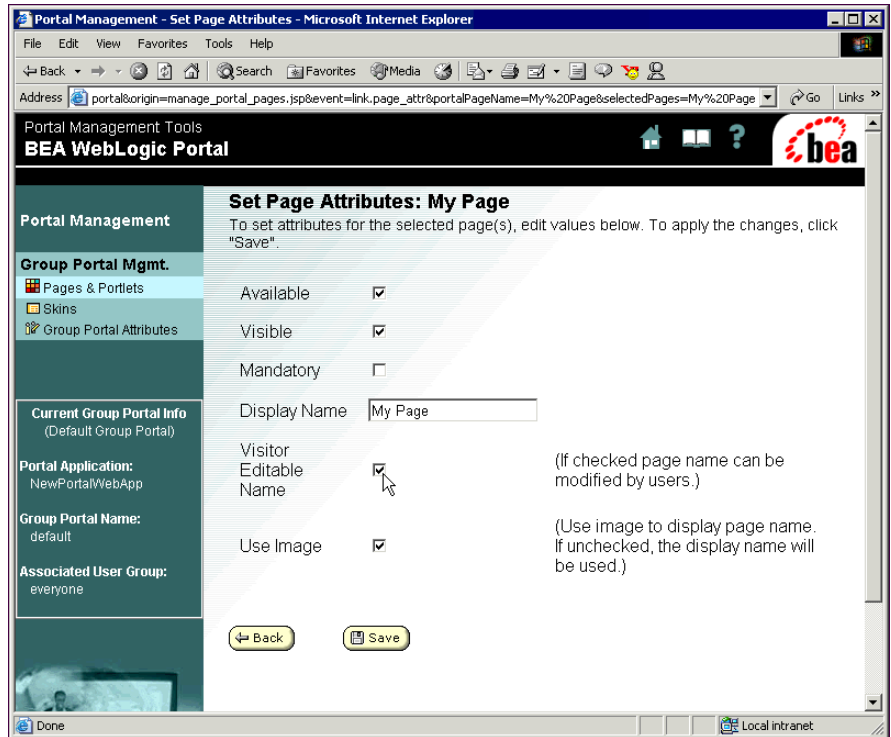
Figure 1-54 Pages and Portlets page



- In the Set Page Attributes window, select the following options, as shown in [Figure 1-55](#).
 - Available:** Check this box to make the page available to the visitor.
 - Visible:** Check this box to make the page visible to the visitor by default.
 - Visitor Editable Name:** Check this box so that the page name can be modified by a visitor when they personalize their portal.

- **Use Image:** Check this box so that an image will be used to display the page name (otherwise, the above display name will be used).

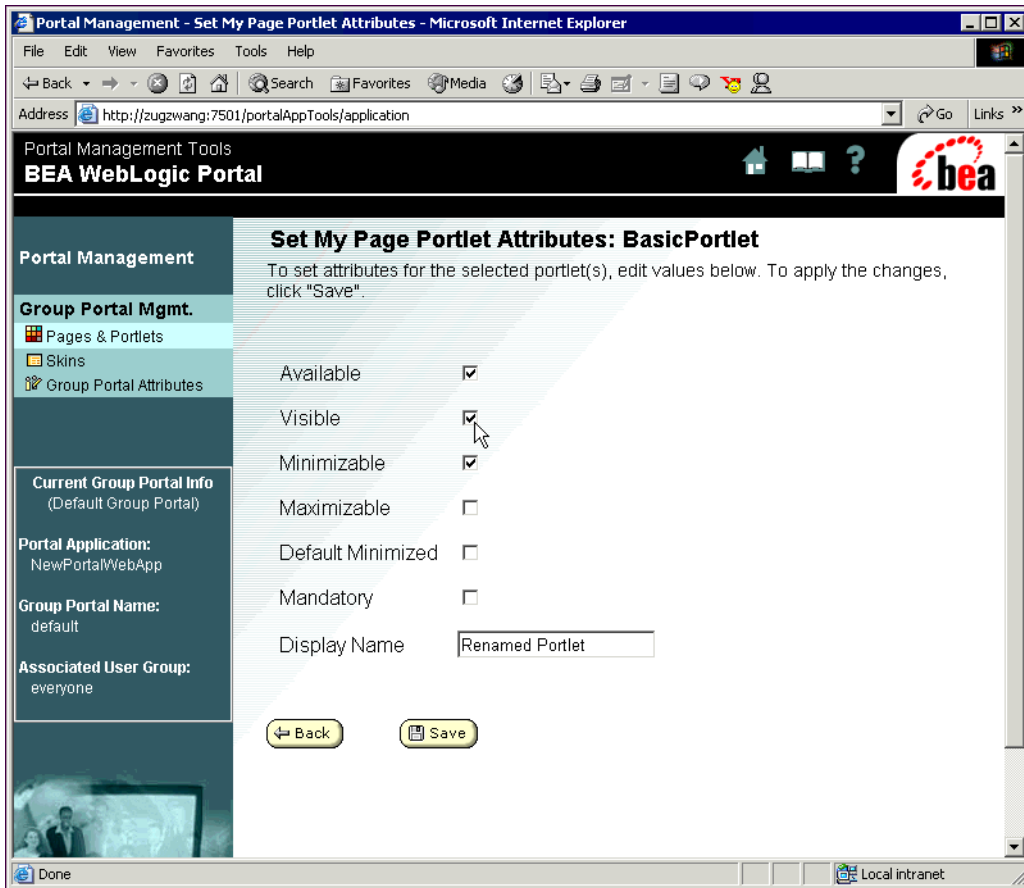
Figure 1-55 Set Page Attributes



12. Click **Save**. You return to the Pages and Portlets page. Notice that **My Page** now appears in the **Available Pages** list.
13. Next to **My Page**, click **Layouts**. On the **Select Page Layouts** page, move **fourcolumn** from the **Unused Layouts** list to the **Available Layouts** list and click **Save**.
14. Next to **My Page**, click **Edit Portlets**. In the **Portlets** list, select **BasicPortlet** and click **Set Attributes**.
15. On the **Set My Page Portlet Attributes** page, set the following options, as shown in [Figure 1-56](#):

- **Available:** Check this box to make the portlet available to the visitor.
- **Visible:** Check this box to make the portlet visible to the visitor by default.
- Change the **Display Name** to **Renamed Portlet**.

Figure 1-56 Set Page Portlet attributes



16. Click **Save**, then click **Back** at the bottom of the next page that appears. You are returned to the Pages and Portlets page.

Step 4E: View the Modified Portal

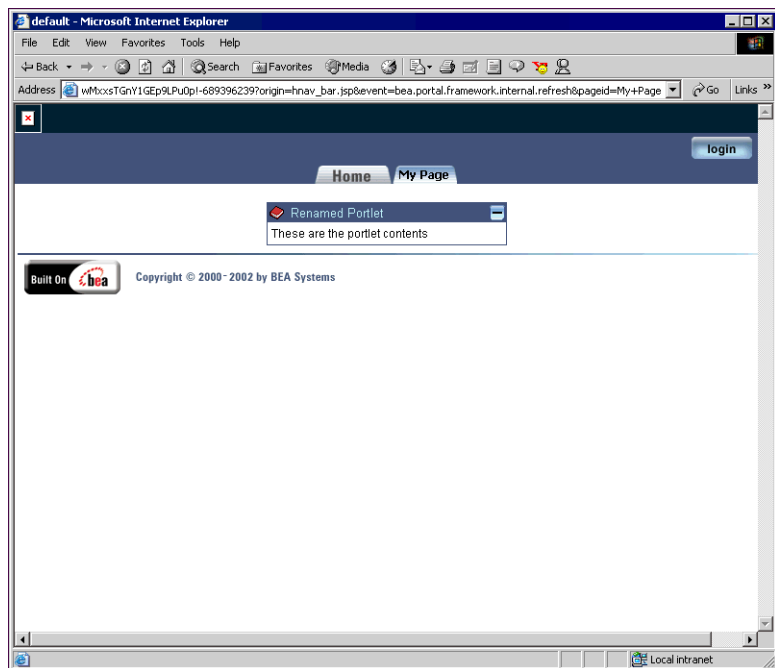
To view the modifications you have just made as a visitor would see them:

In a browser, go to:

<http://localhost:7501/NewPortalWebApp/index.jsp>.

Figure 1-57 shows the modified portal. Click the new “My Page” tab to view the renamed portlet.

Figure 1-57 Viewing the Modified Portal



Congratulations!

You've created your first portal. You have:

- Created and deployed a new portal
- Added a page called **My Page** to the portal
- Added a portlet to the new portal page with a renamed title
- Changed the default skin used in the portal
- Added a layout to the portal page that you can later switch to

Now that you have successfully created a portal and the resources to go with it, you are ready to advance to the other tasks that WebLogic Portal provides:

- Want to learn more about the tools. WebLogic Portal provides to developers, and how to use them? Refer to the *Development Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/dev/index.htm>.
- If you're not a developer but will be assembling portals with WebLogic Portal, you can learn more about how to use the powerful administration tools in the *Administration Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/admin/index.htm>.
- To go back to the main WebLogic Portal documentation page where you started this tutorial, just go to <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/index.htm>. On that page, you can see both the *Administration Guide* and *Development Guide*, as well as other useful information like the *Migration Guide*, supported platforms, and several tours of different aspects of WebLogic Portal.
- Creating a portal site is only a small part of using the WebLogic Portal platform. See the *Administration Guide* at <http://edocs.bea.com/wlp/docs70/admin/index.htm> to learn how you can provide personalized access to the portals by creating group portals for your portal site. This allows for reuse of portal resources that are part of the portal web application and the ability to create role and business-specific portals for your enterprise's internal and external users.

Whether you need to have an internal human resources portal that is accessible from your Intranet or a supplier portal that is accessible from your Internet site

WebLogic Portal can support your enterprise's needs because of its multi-portal architecture.