



BEA WebLogic Portal™

Getting Started with Portal Development

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Getting Started with Portal Development

This document provides an introduction to building portals with BEA WebLogic Workshop Platform Edition.

Before You Begin

These instructions presuppose a successful installation of BEA WebLogic Workshop Platform Edition.

Development Tools for WebLogic Portal 8.1

The development functionality exposed in previous releases has been replaced with WebLogic Workshop. Creating portals and portlets, previewing the application, and packaging the end result for deployment onto a server or cluster - these are all done inside WebLogic Workshop.

Starting the Development Environment

From the Windows Start menu, select **Programs --> BEA WebLogic Platform 8.1 --> WebLogic Workshop 8.1**

This starts the development environment, but does not start the server.

Creating a new Portal

If you have not yet created a portal domain on your development machine, create one with the Configuration Wizard. For instructions, see the Overview of Platform Configuration on the BEA documentation Web site.

1. Create a new portal application. In WebLogic Workshop Platform Edition, choose **File-->New-->Application**.
Performing this step ensures you have a server (config.xml) for your portal application to use.
2. In the New Application window, select **Portal Application** in the right pane.
3. In the Directory field, click **Browse** to set the location of the new application. The application will be created in a subdirectory of the directory you select.
4. Make sure the Name field contains the name of the application. This name will be the application directory.
5. In the Server field, click **Browse** and select the config.xml file for the server (domain) you want to use.
6. The config.xml file is in the portal domain directory you created.
7. Click **Create**. The application directory appears in the Application window. The application contains the WebLogic Administration Portal (contained in Modules/adminPortal.war), a datasync directory (data) for interaction management development, and application-level EJBs and APIs.
8. Create a portal Web project for your application. Right-click the <app_name> directory in the Application window, and choose **New-->Project**.
9. In the New Project window, select **Portal Web Project** in the right pane.
10. In the Project name field, enter the name for the portal Web project. This will be the name of a Web application directory.
11. Click **Create**. The project folder appears in the Application window. The portal Web project contains WebLogic Portal JSP tags, Web-application-level APIs, and default portal framework files.
12. If you have any external projects or files you want to include in your portal application, perform any of the following steps:
 - To import a project, right-click the <app-name> directory in the Application window and choose **Import Project**. In the Import Project window, select the type of project to import, browse to select the project folder, and click **Import**.
 - To import files, such as existing datasync files (User Segments, Campaigns, Placeholders, and so on) or the Workshop Portal Extensions sample portlets to use in your portals, right-click the appropriate directory in the Application window and

choose **Import**. In the Import Files window, select the directory or files you want to import, and click **Import**.

The sample portlets are located in
<BEA_HOME>\<WEBLOGIC_HOME>\samples\portal\portalApp\sampleportal\portlets.
There are other useful sample files throughout the
<BEA_HOME>\<WEBLOGIC_HOME>\samples directory.

You now have the resources and directories for developing interaction management functionality and creating portals to surface applications.

13. To create a portal, right-click the portal Web project folder and choose **New --> Portal**. Enter a filename for the portal (keep the `.portal` extension) and click **Create**.

Previewing a Portal

WebLogic Workshop allows you to preview the current project as you work.

1. In the WebLogic Workshop menu, choose **Portal-->Open Current Portal**.
2. If the server has not been started, you will be asked to start the server. Choose **Yes**.
3. Once the server is started, you can preview the current portal by navigating to the `.portal` file.

Where to Go Next

See the following documents for background information, as well as instructions for managing portals:

- What's New in WebLogic Platform 8.1
- Portal Overview
- Getting Started with Portal Administration
- WebLogic Workshop Help System
- WebLogic Administration Portal Help System

