



Description: This document describes the ReportWorX Web Interface skin system in general and explains how it is possible to create custom skins. It also explains how to integrate ReportWorX into a pre-existing company portal.

OS Requirement: The operating system required is Windows XP/2000/2003.

General Requirement: ReportWorX Standard or ReportWorX Enterprise edition.

What is a skin?

A ReportWorX skin is a combination of images and colors schemas that customize the appearances and functionality of the ReportWorX web interface.

Usually a skin has the appearance of a banner with one or more buttons that link to other pages, but nothing prevents you from creating different kinds of skins such as side-panels or page footers.

Technically speaking, a skin is a combination of HTML elements, images, scripts, and Cascading Style Sheets rendered within a web browser. The skin is loaded from the Web Interface at runtime and is rendered on top of the Web-Interface itself.

Custom skins may help improve the usability of the ReportWorX web interface. They may also help with integrating the ReportWorX functionality within a pre-existent company portal.

A skin exposes functionally through HTML links and buttons. The basic functionality provided by ReportWorX through the skins are “report management”, “report visualization” and “report execution”.

Through the creation of a custom skin, you can hide functionality from the final user as well as expose new powerful functionality, or link to new or pre-existing web sites and portals. You can also create “empty skins”, which hide all the functionality from the user, except the functions that you want to expose.

How do I select my skin?

With ReportWorX Standard and Enterprise you get a set of 18 different skins. To select a skin open the ReportWorX Web Interface and navigate to the **Manage** page by clicking on the **Manage** icon in the banner, as shown in Figure 1.

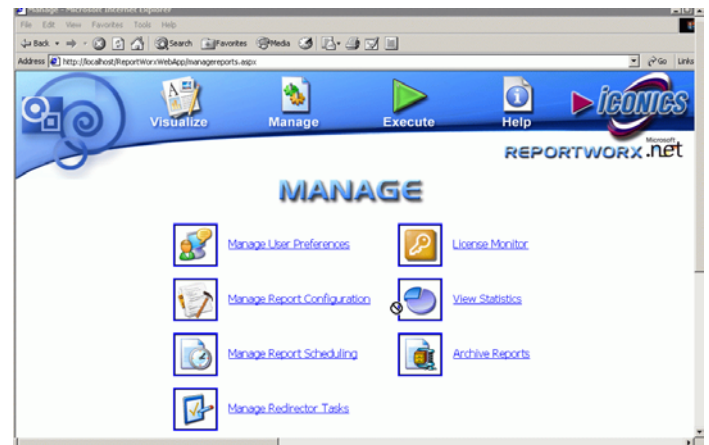


Fig. 1: The Manage Page

Click on **Manage User Preferences** to go to your preferences page (Figure 2).

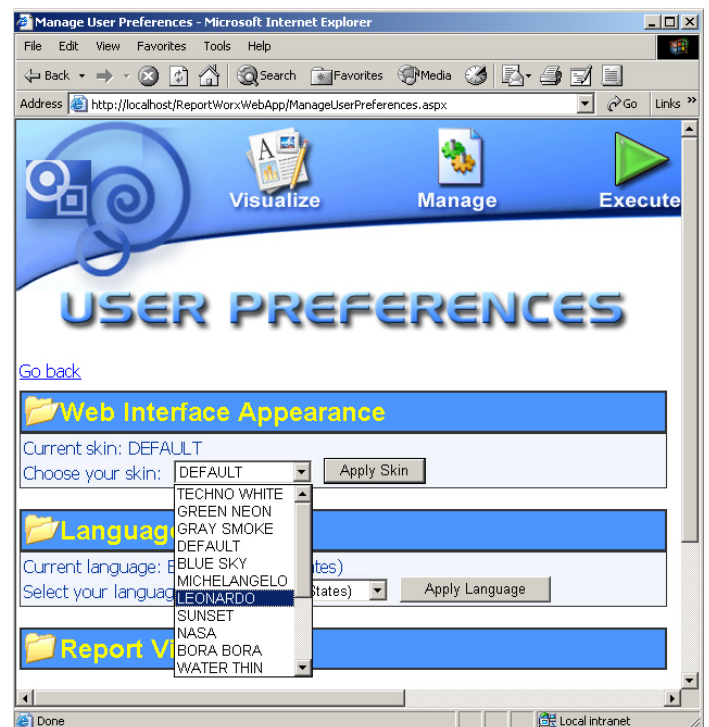


Fig. 2: The User Preferences Page

Now select one of the available skins and click the **Apply Skin** button to apply the selected skin.



Language Support

The ReportWorX Web Interface supports international languages. It is possible to switch in real-time the language of your web interface into German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, French, and all the other languages supported by your ReportWorX installation.

The language can be switched from the **Manage User Preferences** page described in the previous section.

When you switch the language, the whole Web Interface will be re-displayed in the selected language.

Figure 3 below shows the Web Interface in Russian:

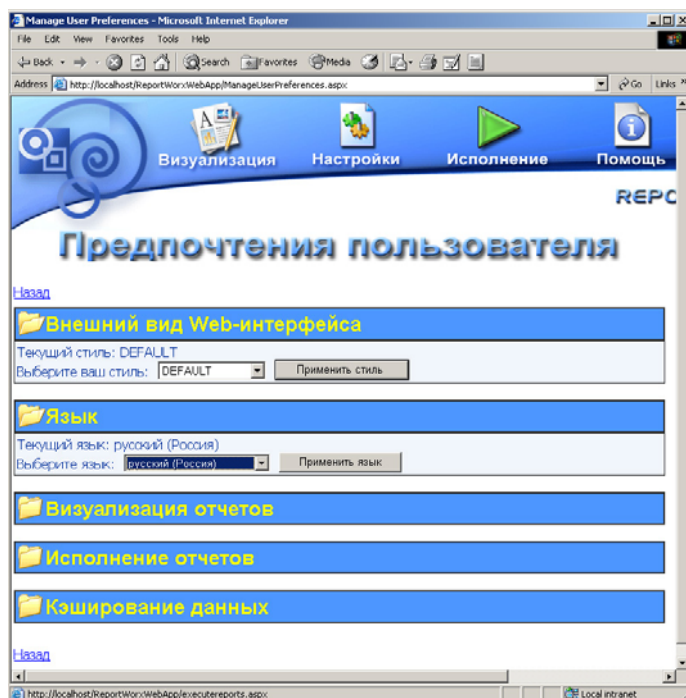


Fig. 3: The Web Interface in Russian

Notice how the banner and the page title are affected from the language switching.

Note: only the “default” skin supports full graphical language switching. For all the other skins the text will change but the banner and the titles of the pages will stay the same.

Manage Your Skin

The list of available skins in the **User Preferences** page reflects the content of the **skins** folder on the web

server. On a standard installation the skin folder is usually located on the following path:

C:\InetPub\ReportWorXWebApp\Skins

If you open this folder you will see several subfolders: there is one folder for each skin. Each folder contains a set of images, HTML, and CSS files that all together make a skin.

The name of the folder reflects the name of the skin, so if you change the names of these folders you will change the name of the skins. For example you can try to rename the folder **Leonardo** into **MyCompany**. If you go back into the **User Preferences** page you will notice that the skin **Leonardo** has disappeared from the list of available skins and a new skin named **MyCompany** has appeared in its place.

If you now try to make a copy of a directory in the **skins** folder you will see a new skin in the user-selectable skins list. For example try to make a copy the directory **birds** and you will see a new skin named **copy of birds** in the user-selectable skins list.

On the other hand, you need to use caution while changing skin names and folders. For example if you delete one of the directories in the **skins** folder, the corresponding skin will disappear forever from the user-selectable skins list.

Also if you rename a skin while using it, the skin system will not be able to load the skin anymore and you may experience some unexpected behavior.

Creating a Custom Skin

Duplicating one skin and changing the name of the skin is quite simple: creating a new skin with your company logo will require some extra work. If you wish to create new skin from the ground up or if you wish to personalize the appearance of the web interface, for example, incorporate your company logo in the ReportWorX Web Interface or integrate the Web Interface in your portal then please read the white-paper “ReportWorX: How to create new skins” for details.