

Overview

Customization of the Lifestyles section of your autos site involves making modifications to the following components:

- Flash component- modifies the lifestyle dropdown box located at the top of the main page.
- Template component- modifies the content and layout of each individual Lifestyle page.

Note: Changes made to the flash component must also be made to the template components for consistency of the lifestyle experience.

Customizing the Flash Component

The index page of mdTransit v2.0 has a flash component at the top of the page that allows a user to pick from one of four lifestyles and sixteen subcategories. The lifestyles presented in the flash component on the index page matches the individual pages found in the Lifestyle section of the site.

All mouse-over text in the flash component can be customized in a file named, ‘prefs.xml’. In addition to editing the text, you can also change the title and position in this file. The ‘prefs.xml’ file is located at:

[Your.mdTransitDomain.com]:/web/[Your.mdTransitDomain.com]/htdocs/flash/main_v1.5/data/

To modify this file, do the following:

1. Backup the existing file to a safe location. This is so you can revert back to it, in case you corrupt the file while editing it.
2. Open the original prefs.xml file using any standard text editor (such as text pad).
3. The modifiable elements are easily identified in the xml. Make any desired changes.
4. Save the file when you are done.

Customizing the Template Component

You can customize both the general look and feel of each lifestyle page, as well as the types of vehicles included in each lifestyle. You can even create new lifestyles if desired.

Look and Feel of the Pages

The individual lifestyle pages are static HTML that are rendered several times a day from templates in the database. They are written to static files to improve overall performance of the site.

The output of these pages is controlled by a cron job on a server configured with command-line Forge. The frequency of the output can be adjusted as necessary.

The text for the different lifestyles can be customized via Template Manager II, in a template called, ‘Lifestyle Preferences’. This template is located in the Template Manager II property that is set up for your build of mdTransit v2.0, under the main mdTransit category.

Logical Grouping of vehicles that compose a “Lifestyle”

Each lifestyle represents a grouping of similar vehicles. The group is determined by several parameters that correspond to vehicle data provided by Edmunds. These parameters include things like:

- minimum seating,
- minimum horsepower,

- maximum horsepower,
- minimum price,
- maximum price, etc.

These parameters are controlled in a template called, 'Lifestyles Settings', located in the Template Manager II under **mdTransit -> your property name**.

After opening the template, read the instructions at the top that tell you how to make changes to the file.