

# Astro-Online Administrators Guide

Once you have installed Astro-Online, you'll want to change the layout of your pages, to offer your services in your own style and layout. Astro-Online offers many ways to change layout and behaviour. Some require technical Java knowledge, others require no more than a little knowledge of HTML and stylesheets. In this first edition of the administrators guide, we will give you an overview of the most important possibilities. In time we'll add more information.

To make the information more accessible, this guide is divided into five chapters:

- 1. Modifying Templates**
- 2. Modifying Stylesheets**
- 3. Modifying Source Code**
- 4. Admin Tool**
- 5. Server Configuration**

The best way to start, might probably be the modification of your templates. In the next step you will most probably also want to modify your stylesheets. Finally, to modify the source code to need to be familiar with Java programming. However, if your aren't, don't feel disappointed, you might probably never need to change any source code at all. However, if you do have specific request which are not supported by your Astro-Online version, please contact us. We like to serve you and other Astro-Online users. Your request might be of interest to other Astro-Online users as well.

The admin tool is still under development. There is a short introduction on this topic. However, everything you can do with the admin tool, can be done in other ways as well. The server configuration is a little more advanced and meant for administrators who want to optimise database access and performance.

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## 1.Modifying Templates

### *1.1.Configuration parameter freemarkerUpdateDelay*

The first thing you need to know about templates, is the existence of an important configuration parameter name **freemarkerUpdateDelay**. After you installation, the value for this parameter should be 0. You can check this either by using the administration tool, or directly in MySQL. If you start working on your templates, it is important to keep the value of this parameter to 0. It is the parameter which influence template caching. The value of this parameter indicates the time in seconds that must elapse before checking whether there is a newer version of a template file. While working on your templates, you want to be able to check the result of your changes immediately, so leave it to 0 for now. Please, keep in mind that you might want to set this parameter to a higher value in a production environment, as it is a way to save resources.

### *1.2.FreeMarker templates*

Astro-Online uses FreeMarker to process its templates. You might want to check the FreeMarker website for more information about this product and learn how to work with it.

Please, check [www.freemarker.org](http://www.freemarker.org) for more information.

### *1.3.Changing templates*

After deploying Astro-Online on your server, look for folder **templates**, which is a sub folder of **WEB-INF**. You'll find a number of sub folders there. The sub folders **admin** and **install** hold the admin and installation templates respectively. Although you need not change these templates, you are free to do so.

You'll also find a third folder called **astroonlinedefault**. This folder holds your Astro-Online web pages. Start modifying these templates, by making small changes. Check the result in your browser, and continue to change your templates until you're happy with your design. Additionally, you might want to change the stylesheets. Please check the next chapter on this topic.

Before you start working on your templates, it might be a good idea to make a copy of the original folder and template files to make sure your have a backup.

Just in case...

When modifying your templates, please keep in mind that Astro-Online uses FreeMarker to process your templates. With FreeMarker you can add far more than just standard HTML code to your templates. If you want to add additional or more complex FreeMarker code to your templates, please check

<http://www.freemarker.org/>

for more information.



## 2.Modifying Stylesheets

The modification of stylesheets is very straight forward. After deploying Astro-Online on your server, look for folder **include**, which is in the same folder as your **WEB-INF** folder. You'll find several stylesheets in this folder:

- **admin.css**  
This stylesheets is used for the admin tool and the installation pages. Although you need not change this stylesheet, you are free to do so.
- **astroonline.css**  
This is the stylesheets which is used by your Astro-Online templates. Modify this stylesheet to design your own look and feel.
- **astroonline.doc**  
This stylesheet is used for the API documentation. Although you need not change this stylesheet, you are free to do so.
- **now.css**  
This stylesheet serves only one single purpose: the design of the **now** page. The now page is shown in an iframe on the home-page. The page is shown in a different style and with different colors. Modify this stylesheet to design your own look and feel.

### *NOTE*

*You can test your now page with the following URL:  
<http://your-server:your-port/your-path/nl/astroonline?id=now>*

*If you test the now page after the default installation, you might see a blank screen. This will be the result of the color setting in the now stylesheet. Please, look at the source code, to check the HTML result of this page.*

There are several javascript files in the include folder as well. This project if open source, so you are free to modify these files. However, keep a copy of the original files, in case you need to go back.

### **3.Modifying Source Code**

If you want to modify the source code, you probably need to have a Java IDE (unless you want to use an editor and ant for example). Astro Share uses Eclipse for Java development, as this tool is open source and offers many features and easy enhancements through plug-ins.

Please feel free to check-out the source code and make modifications as you like. However, always with respect to our license. If you think Astro Share or other Astro-Online users could benefit from your development, please contact us, as we are always interested in ways to improve the quality of our services and products.



## 4.Admin Tool

The admin tool is still under development, and it is actually questionable whether the development of this tool will be continued. Everything which can be done with the admin tool, can be done in other ways as well.

### *4.1.Activation of the Admin Tool*

The admin tool is locked by default. You'll need to unlock it, if you want to use it. You can unlock it, by setting the configuration parameter **webAdmin** to **true** (the value of this parameter will normally be false after a default installation). You'll find this parameter in the table **configuration**. Use one of the many available MySQL tools to change the value, or change it on the command line.

### *4.2.Getting access*

To start the admin tool enter the following URL in your browser:  
<http://your-server:your-port/your-path/admin>

If the admin logon screen does not appear, you'll have to restart the application server. All configuration values are read into memory at startup. To change these values in the run-time environment a restart is needed (or the admin tool...).

The admin logon screen will ask you for your Astro-Online username and password. You have either entered those during the installation process, or clicked on the checkbox to use the default. The default username is **admin** and the default password is **administrator**. If you want to use the admin tool in a production environment, you **MUST** change the password. In that case we advise to change the username as well.

### *4.3.Using the Admin Tool*

Once you are logged on, you'll see a menu with four options:

1. Manage Server Configuration

This option gives you the possibility to check your configuration data. Besides, you can update the configuration data which resides in the database. The same functionality can be achieved with a MySQL tool which offers you the possibility to change table data. If you decide to use

such a tool, look for the table **configuration**.

2. Manage Horoscopes

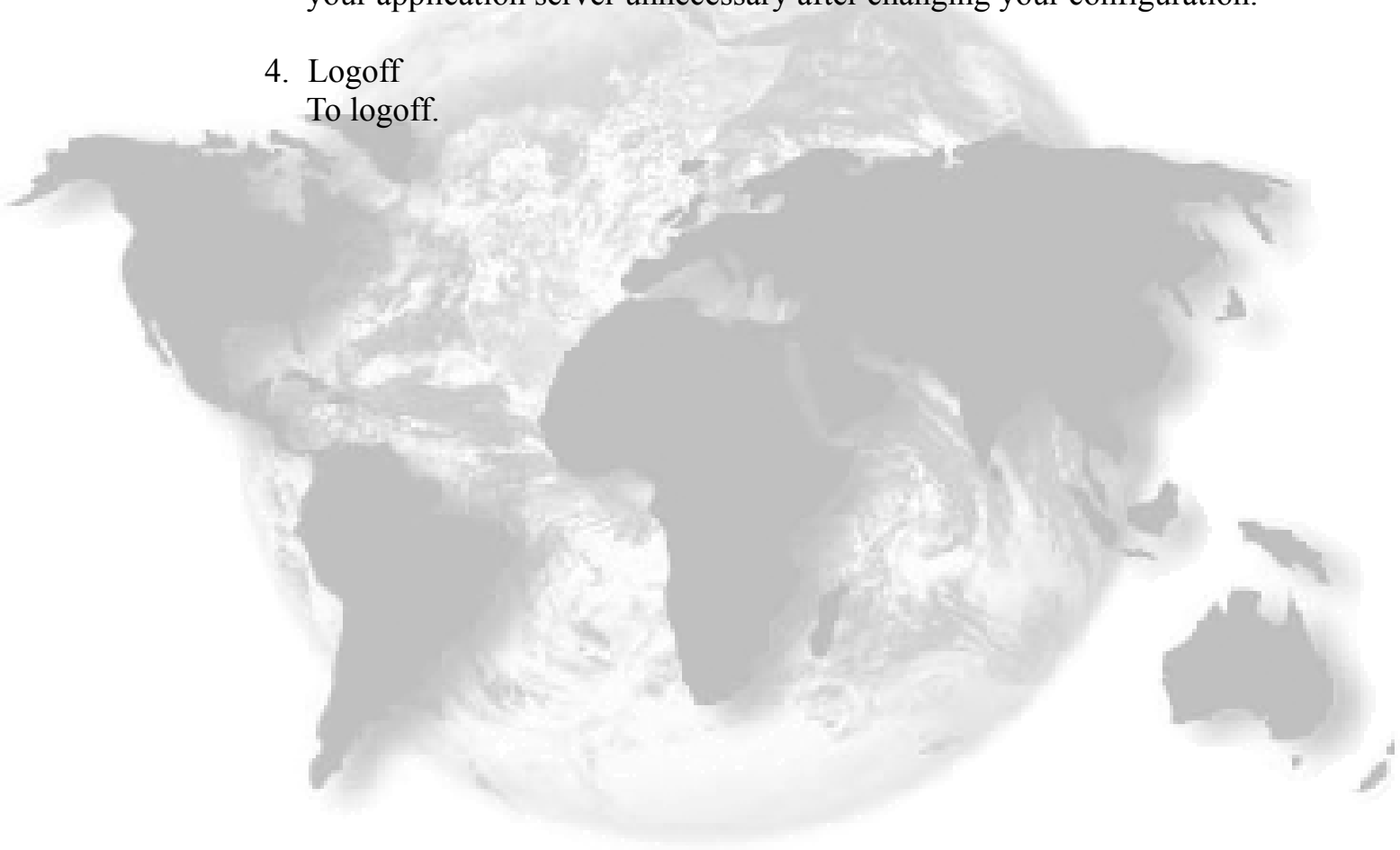
This option gives you the possibility to maintain horoscope data, which resides in the table **installedhoroscopes**. The same functionality can be achieved with a MySQL tool which offers you the possibility to change table data. If you decide to use such a tool, look for the table **installedhoroscopes**.

3. Refresh Server Configuration

With this option, you can clear all cache and force Astro-Online to re-read your configuration from files and database, and make a restart of your application server unnecessary after changing your configuration.

4. Logoff

To logoff.



## 5. Server Configuration

Astro-Online can be configured in the following ways:

- Changing parameters in the **log4j.properties** (file)
- Changing parameters in the **web.xml** (file)
- Changing parameters in the **configuration** table (database)

### *5.1. The log4j.properties file*

Changes in log.properties file, affect the logging functionality. Astro-Online uses log4j, which offers flexibility and easiness of use. Make sure that you have set your log level to error in a production environment, as a lower log level might lead to an extremely large number of log lines and decreased system performance. By default, the log level is set to error. If you are not familiar with log4j, please check the first line of the log4j.properties file. It should be something like this:  
log4j.rootLogger=error,stdout  
where error represent the log level.

### *5.2. The web.xml file*

The web.xml file is used to define the server configuration. This includes application server configuration, as well as database configuration. If you want Astro-Online to use another path or another database, you'll need to change this file.

#### Application Server Configuration

The application server configuration is very straight forward, as Astro-Online uses the standard entries to achieve this kind of configuration. If you are not familiar with application server configuration, check the documentation for your application server for more information.

## Database Configuration

The database configuration is very specific. You'll find the following entries in your web.xml to configure your database:

Entryname	Value
AstroOnlineDatabase	POOL
AstroOnlineDatabaseUrl	jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/astroshare_astroonline?autoReconnect=true
AstroOnlineDatabaseUsername	astroshare
AstroOnlineDatabasePassword	astroonline
AstroOnlineDatabaseMaxActive	50
AstroOnlineDatabaseMaxWait	50
AstroOnlineDatabaseProfile	astroonlinedefault

The first one, AstroOnlineDatabase, is probably the most important one, as the usage of this entry might make the usage of all other entries unnecessary, except for AstroOnlineDatabaseProfile. The default value POOL indicates the usage of the class Pool for connection pooling. The advantage of using this option, is that you can manage your whole Astro-Online database configuration from the web.xml file. Besides, it is easy to implement. The class Pool, uses all the other entries mentioned above to connect to your database.

There is however another way to connect to your database: through JNDI. This option is especially of interest if you plan to deploy several Astro-Online installations on one server. Through JNDI the different installations can share one single database pool, which makes such an installation far more efficient than every single installation using its own database pool. A detailed description of a JNDI installation is beyond the scope of this document. However, for those who are familiar with JNDI the following brief description will hopefully be sufficient to get you on the way.

Step 1) Copy the following files to the lib folder of your application server:

mysql-connector-java-5.1.6-bin.jar	(driver)
naming-factory-dbcp.jar	(pool)
naming-factory.jar	(pool)
naming-resources.jar	(pool)

Step 2) Add the following lines to your your web.xml file:

**<http://www.astro-share.com/>**

```
<resource-ref>
  <description>AstroOnlineDB DataSource</description>
  <res-ref-name>jdbc/AstroOnlineDB</res-ref-name>
  <res-type>javax.sql.DataSource</res-type>
  <res-auth>Container</res-auth>
</resource-ref>
```

Please, write your entry exactly as shown above, as Astro-Online will search for this entry when using JNDI!

Step 3) Add the following lines to your server.xml file:

```
<Context path="/AstroOnline" docBase="AstroOnline"
  debug="5" reloadable="true" crossContext="true">
  <Resource name="jdbc/AstroOnlineDB"
    auth="Container" type="javax.sql.DataSource"
    maxActive="100" maxIdle="30" maxWait="10000"
    username="<your-username>" password="<your-password>"
    driverClassName="com.mysql.jdbc.Driver"
    url="jdbc:mysql://<your-server>:<your-port>/
      <your-database>?autoReconnect=true"/>
```

Please fill in your own values for the variables written between  $\langle \rangle$ . Besides, you might want to change some parameters as well.

### *5.3. Configuration table*

The configuration table holds data, specific for the application. This data can be changed with standard MySQL tools or from the command line. Additionally you can use the admin tool.

Astro-Online needs the web.xml file to be able to connect to the database and find its profile. Besides, the web.xml is used to defined mappings specific for the application server. The log4j.properties file is used to set logging to the desired values. When the application is started, the configuration table is used for installation specific parameters. Once you understand the concept, you should be able to achieve the results you want.

If you have any questions, please check our website for more information. If you still have not found what you're looking for, feel free to contact me: [\*\*ps@astro-share.com\*\*](mailto:ps@astro-share.com)

Good luck and have fun!  
Peter Schulz, Astro Share

