

Menu Connector Page Guide

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Differences between Xerte and Xerte Online Toolkits usage

Xerte Online Toolkits (XOT) and Xerte projects created using the Page Templates type of project, that provide a similar interface to that of XOT, store the data for all the pages in a project in a single xml file. This enables the form offered by the page to provide features not available to standard Xerte projects or the new Xerte Pages projects. Attributes that vary between project environments will be indicated below as being either [XOT only] or [Xerte only].

When using connector pages in a Xerte project be aware that for technical reasons a connector page should not be used as the first page in your project. If you start your project with a Title Page and then use a Connector page as your second page you should have no problems. This is not an issue with XOT projects.

Connector pages

Connector pages provide you with a means of setting up connections between one page in your project and another page in your project. Thus you can now divert the user off the sequential route defined by the order in which you list your pages. New features have been introduced to support the use of connections between pages.

1. In XOT / Page Templates and Xerte Pages projects the learning object now offer an additional option of “Historic” for the Navigation attribute. Selection of “Historic” will provide a “Home” button that takes the user back to the first page of the project and a “Back” button that takes the user back to the previous page visited (rather than to the previous page in the project sequence). The Table of Contents, Progress Indicator, and the sequential Back button are not displayed.
2. Every page now has an attribute “navigation buttons” (either optional or mandatory) which allows the project author to define which navigation buttons are enabled / disabled when that page is displayed to the user.
3. In XOT / Page Templates projects the project Author can select text within a text field and create a “Page Link” by right clicking on the selected text and choosing Page Link from the context menu. This enables any page to operate as a connector page.
4. As a result of the above new features the following Connector pages have been removed from XOT projects, as the new features render them obsolete.
 - a) Redirector Connector
 - b) Tabbed Navigator Connector
 - c) Plain Text Connector

The Menu Connector page

Introduction

The Menu Connector page enables the project Author to easily set up a page that displays a menu of page titles. Each page title is click-able, and clicking on the page title will take the user to that page.

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If a page title is too long to fit into the menu element then it will automatically be shortened to fit.

By default the Menu Connector page will list all the pages in your project. However by setting various attributes of the page it is possible to list either a block of pages from the project by setting a start and end page for the block, or to define a list of specified pages. One way of combining these features would be to create a menu at the start of your project that listed only the first page in each section or chapter of your project (by using a menu of specified pages). Then you could start each section or chapter with a menu that listed all the pages in that chapter or section (by using a Start and End page for your menu that bracketed all the pages in that chapter or section).

Note: Earlier versions of the Menu Connector page enabled the specification of individual pages by entering a list of page IDs into a text box, one per line. This approach is now obsolete and has been replaced by the addition of Menu Page Entry child elements to the form as explained below.

Properties of the Menu Connector Page

Title	Description
Page Title	Displays in the Top Left of the Xerte Screen
Page ID	Unique identifier used by Connector Pages to locate the page [Xerte only]
Optional Parameters	
Auto-play narration	Set whether sound file should play when page loads
Fill Colour	Select a fill colour for the menu items
Fill Colour (Over)	Select a fill colour for the menu items, for when the mouse pointer is over the item.
First Entry Page Title	Select the title of the page from which your menu will start its listing. [XOT only]
First Entry Page ID	Enter the page ID of the page from which your menu will start its listing [Xerte only]
Horizontal Spacing	Adjust the horizontal spacing between menu items
Last Entry Page Title	Select the title of the page after which your menu will stop its listing. [XOT only]
Last Entry Page ID	Enter the page ID of the page after which your menu will stop its listing [Xerte only]
Line Colour	Select the line colour for your menu items.
Line Colour (Over)	Select the line colour for your menu items when mouse-overed
Menu Item Height	Adjust the height of your menu items
Narration	Sound file
Navigation Buttons	Select which navigation buttons you want enabled when this page displays
Output Check List	This only operates if the Learning Object optional parameter “Add Author Support” has been added and is checked. This will then output to the clipboard a report detailing all the pages in your project, their title and

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Title	Description
	page ID. [Xerte only]
Vertical Spacing	Adjust the vertical spacing of your menu items
Child Element	
Menu Page Entry	Use only when you wish to define a list of the pages that will be displayed in your menu. Add a Menu Page Entry for each page to be listed.

Menu Page Entry Properties

Title	Description
Page Title	Displays only in the Page Tree
Select Page From List	Select the Title of the page to be listed [XOT only]
Select Page ID	Enter the page ID of the page to be listed [Xerte only]
Optional Properties	
None	