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JSF Composite Components Where You Want Them

By Roger Keays, 6 July 2012

As Ryan Lubke commented in the Facelets Tags vs Composite Components thread, JSF composite components must be kept in the **/resources** directory in your webapp. This grates against my "**package-by-feature**" style of programming. I want all my related code together thanks.

Fortunately there are two ways to work around this problem.

1. **Symlinks**. Standard Unix symlinks from the resources directory work fine for me. Symlinks tend to be a bit flaky though, so you might prefer to try...

2. **Decoration**. Facelets knows no bounds when it comes to organising your templates. You can use normal Facelets decoration to redirect your xhtml templates under the resources directory to the real implementation:

```
<ui:composition xmlns:ui="http://java.sun.com/jsf/facelets"
                template="/apps/webcore/tags/selectUser.xhtml"/>
```

That's not perfect, but it lets me **keep all my related code together**. To make things a little neater, you can actually use the same namespace for composite components and regular components. Just declare the location of your composite resources directory in the taglib.xml like this:

```
<facelet-taglib>
  <namespace>https://rogerkeays.com/webcore</namespace>
  <composite-library-name>webcore</composite-library-name>
</facelet-taglib>
```

I don't see any reason why composite components should not be able to be added to **taglib.xml**. If I had it my way, the existing Facelets <tag> feature would just look in the tag file for <cc:implementation> and handle it as a composite component if one is found.

In fact, **composite components and tag files should be the same thing**.

About Roger Keays

Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed addressand has leftfootprints on 40-something different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.