
Metro Grid Web Part Installation

Installation:

Add and deploy the WSPs included in the download to your Farm. This is only done once. Use STSADM.exe or PowerShell to install. Installation scripts included in download. See below for more information regarding scripts. After the solutions are added and deployed, navigate to the site where you want to use the product and activate the Site Collection feature (MetroGrid is required, MetroGridImages is optional).

Using STSADM.exe:

- Add the solution to the Farm Solution Gallery:
 - STSADM.EXE -o addsolution -filename "MetroGrid.WSP"
 - STSADM.EXE -o addsolution -filename "MetroGridImages.WSP"
- Deploy the solution:
 - STSADM.EXE -o deploysolution -name "MetroGrid.WSP" -immediate -allcontenturls -allowGacDeployment -allowCasPolicies -force
 - Notice that for MetroGrid.WSP, "-allcontenturls" is used to deploy to all virtual servers in Farm. Alternatively you can deploy to a specific server using "-url http://server_name".
 - STSADM.EXE -o deploysolution -name "MetroGridImages.WSP" -immediate -allowGacDeployment -allowCasPolicies -force
 - Notice that for MetroGridImages.WSP, no "allcontenturls" or "url" is specified, since this solution only adds images to the Hive and adds an empty site collection feature.

Using PowerShell:

- Add the solution:
 - Add-SPSolution "C:\Path\MetroGrid.wsp"
 - Add-SPSolution "C:\Path\MetroGridImages.wsp"
- Deploy the solution:
 - Install-SPSolution -Identity MetroGrid.wsp -Force -GACDeployment -AllWebApplications
 - Notice that for MetroGrid.wsp, "-allwebapplications" is used to deploy to all virtual servers in Farm. Alternatively you can deploy to a specific server using "-WebApplication <name of web application or GUID>"
 - Install-SPSolution -Identity MetroGridImages.wsp -Force -GACDeployment
 - Notice that for MetroGridImages.WSP, no web application is specified, since this solution only add images to the Hive and adds an empty site collection feature.

Configuration/Usage:

- After adding and deploying the WSP Farm Solution, open the site collection in a browser window.
- Open site settings, under site collection administration open site collection features.
- Activate the feature named MetroGridWebPart (at a minimum this feature must be activated to use the Metro Grid Web Part).
- Also, activate the feature named MetroGridImages if you want to use the included 251 grid images. This is optional since you can use your own images or none at all.
- Once activated open any SharePoint page (layout page, wiki page, publishing page, web part page, etc.) and add the MetroGrid Web Part to the page.
 - The web part is saved in the Category named “Amrein Engineering”
 - Note: At this time only one instance of a Metro Grid Web Part can be added to the page.
- Edit web part settings as needed:
 - Grid Square Width: default is 150px (width and height), change to make all the grid square bigger or smaller.
 - Web Part Id: Every time a new tile is added it is saved along with the current web part Id. This way every page can have different tiles. If you want to copy/move the tiles to another page, then add the web part to another page and then copy the Web Part Id. (The default value of the web part Id is actually the internal GUID of the web part when added to page, but can be changed as needed in the web part properties to target different groups of tiles.)
 - Skip Loading jQuery: use this to prevent the web part from loading its included version of jQuery. WARNING: the web part requires jQuery to function and if you disable it then you must load it alternatively in the page (for example by loading jQuery in the master page, a content editor web part (CEWP), another web part). Also, the web part was designed to work with a specific version of jQuery so it may not be 100% compatible with older/newer version of jQuery.
 - Skip Loading jQuery UI: use this to prevent the web part from loading its included version of jQuery UI. See the same warning described above.
- All other actions are available via the web part content itself, not the SharePoint web part properties toolbox.
- Only site/web admins can perform CUD (create/update/delete) actions.
- The following actions are available:
 - Creating new tile:
 - Click the “Add link” hyperlink at the bottom of the web part, which open a jQuery modal dialog window
 - If the Metro Grid Images feature is also activated, you can then a choose an image and size otherwise these options are hidden.
 - You can always override the picture by entering an “alt image url”. As soon as a url is entered the image is rendered below for preview.
 - Choose a tile background color (17 built-in metro colors).

- Enter a label that will appear on the bottom left of the tile (required).
 - Enter a static or relative url (required).
 - Enter a description (required). This appears when you hover over the tile with your mouse.
 - Choose if the link should open in a new window.
 - Click “Save” to finish.
- Editing existing tile:
 - Hover over a tile with your mouse, and click the “gear” icon that appears in the top right corner of the tile.
 - This opens the same jQuery modal dialog window, with all the fields pre-filled.
 - Click “Save” to finish.
- Deleting existing tile:
 - Hover over a tile with your mouse, and click the “gear” icon that appears in the top right corner of the tile.
 - This opens the same jQuery modal dialog window, with all the fields pre-filled.
 - Click “Delete”, and then “OK” to confirm the delete.
- Changing order of tiles:
 - Click and drag a tile to its new location (hold the mouse button down, drag the tile, then let go of the mouse button).
 - The tiles should rearrange themselves as you reorder the tile.
- Whenever a tile is created, updated, deleted, or reordered, a brief notification will display and then fade away. The display says “Updated..”.

Summary:

Like Windows 8? Love the new Metro Grid (or whatever they are calling it now)? Then this is your lucky day! Introducing the new SharePoint Metro Grid web part. A flexible SharePoint web part that provides clickable links in the shape of square tiles. Super easy to configure and customize, just add the web part to a page and click "Add link" to get started. All interaction is AJAXed provided by jQuery and jQuery UI plugins. Compatible with all current versions of SharePoint including 2007, 2010, and 2013. Plus, it doesn't require the paid versions so those of you using the WSS or Foundation versions can take advantage of this web part. Inspired by the new Windows 8 UI and also the SharePoint 2013 Team Site template, this modern tile style is catching on and is a great way to present linked content. It comes with 251 icons available as an optional site collection feature, or use your own images.

A product by Ben Steinhauser, brought to you by B&R Business Solutions, www.bandrsolutions.com.

Technical Specs:

- SharePoint Farm Solution, compatible with SharePoint 2007, 2010, and 2013

- Does not require paid versions of SharePoint, an use WSS 3.0, Foundation 2010/2013
- Uses jQuery and jQuery UI for dragging/sorting grid squares, and modal dialog windows
- 2 Site Collection features included, 1 for metro grid web part, 1 for metro grid tile images
- Uses root web property bag as backend storage of tiles. Saved in content database.

Features:

- Slick jQuery Ajax interaction, including dragging and sorting (using jQuery UI).
- 251 metro like icons included in 7 different square sizes (32px, 48, 64, 80, 96, 112, 128).
- Use your own icons too, by entering image URL (with preview in edit dialog window)
- Choose any image as tile background, which is centered vertically and horizontally and get a high resolution tile instead of a metro-like tile
- Grid can be moved/copied to another page in SharePoint, by editing web part properties on both pages, copy the web part ID.
- jQuery modal dialog window for adding, editing, deleting metro grid tiles
- Easy to use interface for adding and editing grid tiles, with instant feedback of colors, image sizes, background images
- Packaged in two SharePoint Solution packages (WSPs), 2 site collection features:
 - MetroGrid: metro grid web part (without built-in images)
 - MetroGridImages: includes all 251 icons, saved in Layouts folder in Hive, only 4.75MB for all icons. If installed and activated it will add additional edit options to web part modal dialog window
- Metro Grid tiles are resizable, default is 150px (via web part properties)
- Metro Grid tiles automatically wrap to container (divs floated), so use web part properties or page layout to set the width of the metro grid web part (container) to change grid tile layout (ex. 3x3, 4x2, 3x1, etc.)
- Only web/site/site collection admins can create, update, delete, re-arrange grid tiles.
- Can be added to any site in site collection once activated
- Each tile is a link, which can be optimally opened in a new window, click anywhere in the tile to activate link