

What's new in STS v4.3?

Well, some unnoticed bugs have been removed, the infobox template system is now integrated in the package (can be turned off) and few tags have been changed or added to help shops using several languages.

The support forum will continue to be located at the STSv4 forum that can be found here: <http://forums.osCommerce.com/index.php?showtopic=204381>

History:

STS 4.3 by Rigadin (rigadin@osc-help.net).

Infoboxes templates:

- Now included in the release, no need to download a separate package.
- removed debug code and cosmetic changes in boxes class to be osC compliant.
- BUG FIXED: Default infobox template was used around product listing, not really nice looking. productListingBox class reverted back to its original code.
- BUG FIXED: Error message when STS was disabled but not infoboxes templates.
- CHANGED: errorBox class reverted back to its original code, no need of template for errors.
- CHANGED: boxes class now allows using one template for the whole box, instead of 2 (header + content). Still works with 2 templates.
- ADDED: cache for the default templates. No need to read them from file for each box.
- REMOVED module sts_infobox.php from catalog/includes/modules/sts. It was used only to know if infobox templates are enabled.
- CHANGED default module to include the infobox template enable/disable parameter.

General.php:

- BUG FIXED: \$urlcartcontents was same as \$cartcontents. Now includes only the URL to the shopping cart page, like it should.
- CHANGED: several tags to replace image links were useless (images can be placed directly on the template), they have been changed to display an image according to the selected language. The tags are: \$cataloglogo, \$cartlogo, \$checkoutlogo and \$myaccountlogo. More details in the STS documentation.
- REMOVED: 4 tags were defined twice under different names, they have been removed: \$templatepath, \$urlcartlogo, \$urlcheckoutlogo, \$urlmyaccountlogo. More details in the STS documentation.
- ADDED 2 new tags: \$contactlogo to display an image according to language selected and linking to the contact page. \$loginofflogo to display a login or logoff image (depending if customer is logged in or not) according to language selected

and linking to the corresponding login or logoff page.

Class sts.php:

- **CHANGED:** sts_restart_capture and sts_stop_capture methods now return the content of the buffer. This is useful when you want to capture something but do not want to save it as a STS tag automatically, for example when creating tags for a content template. Example: \$pinfo_template['toto'] = \$sts->stop_capture(""); will not save the result in \$sts->template['toto'], saving some time when replacing placeholders by their corresponding value.

Cosmetic or invisible things:

- Tags previously created in sts_footer.php moved to general.php
- sts_footer.php removed from the package.
- Call of sts_display_output.php is now in application_bottom.php

STS 4.2 by Bill Kellum (info@billykellum.com).

- Completely based on STSv4.1 by Rigadin (www.osc-help.net).
If you have kept up with all of the fixes mentioned in the support forum as well as the patches and new modules uploaded onto the contribution site, then you already have version 4.2, without the updated documentation and additional templates of course.
- Integrated all bug fixes and updates to this fine contribution into one seamless package.
- Updated the install notes (this document) as well as the contribution's documentation to make the installation and use of STS 4 more user-friendly.
- Added a new "blank" template with all of the required code for ease of use to create your own STSv4.2 templates from scratch.
- Added install instructions for the "Infobox Templates for STS" contribution as an STS4.2 add-on.

STS 4.2, differences with STS 4.1:

- Updated "includes/modules/sts/sts_index.php" (Rigadin2, May 8, 2006, Index module v1.0.3 for STS4)
- Updated "includes/sts/sts_product_info.php" (Rigadin2, June 5, 2006, Product info module v1.0.6)
- Updated "includes/footer.php" (Rigadin2, July 25, 2006 "Footer Patch")
- Updated "sts_templates" folder from both the "clean_osc" and "upload" folders (cleaned up discrepancies and remains from STS PLUS)
- Bug fix: "index.php_0.html" template for main page will now work as designed.
- Added: A new module parameter to set in admin.
You now have the choice to set STS to look for templates of parent categories.
- Bug fix: The "sts_product_info.php" module does not call the function sts_strip_content_tags anymore when using a content template, because there is

nothing to take away from your content template.

STS 4.1

- Based on STS PLUS 4.0.7 by Rigadin, which is based on STS v3 by Brian Gallagher (www.diamondsea.com).
- Optimization and modularization by Rigadin (rigadin at osc-help dot net)
- Be informed when this contribution is updated: www.osc-help.net

STS 4.1, differences with STS v2 or v3:

- Less code and several improvements so it should be faster.
- All templates are in their own folder, selection of folder is made in admin.
- Folder choice can be overwritten from URL for testing purposes.
- Switch STS on/off from admin. When off, you will see your store like it was before STS installation.
- Debug mode still available from URL, but with a code defined by admin => works like a password.
 - If STS is off, using debug mode from URL will turn it on only for you.
 - Useful for testing without disturbing visitors.
- Use of modules for code specific to some pages (product_info.php for example), parameters accessible from admin (like shipping, payment or order total modules).
- Write own module for checkout, create account or else: easy to share like payment modules.
- Ready for product page caching. Not implemented yet, but doors are open.
- Possibility to avoid sorting a big array (speed optimization), by adding a special char at the end of the placeholders, for example "\$languages" becomes "\$languages#". (Can be different on each template).
- Installation is still very easy, modifications only at beginning and end of some files.
- Possibility to have a template for header/columns/footer like always in addition to a template for the content area. Useful with product_info: main template comes from the category where the product is, while the content itself is defined according to the product_info template.
- All boxes are now also available separately, no need to show specials if you want to show tell a friend box, no need to show best sellers if you want to show product notifications.
- Boxes that should not appear on certain pages will have an empty tag, meaning that customers will not see the placeholder name (try, in v2.x, \$banner without having banner or \$languages in checkout process page, you'll see what I mean).
- Possibility to write php script in the templates, like in STS v3.

- Compatibility mode for templates made for STS v2 or v3

Changes in STS 4.1 from STS PLUS v4.0.7

- UPDATED “class sts.php”: Renewed some parts of the code. Included template file from within the sts class instead of from a separate function, so the template can use \$this-> to access methods and variables from the sts class. Added function add_debug (\$text, \$br=true) that add text to the \$sts->template['debug'] with a line break by default, it helps when you want to debug your store.
- DELETED “sts_column_right.php” as its 1 line of code can be put directly in “column_left.php”.
- UPDATED “sts_footer.php”: There is no need to record the variable “columnright2footer” as it does not contain any usable information. “sts_display_output” is now called from here.
- UPDATED examples in sts_user_code.php.
- UPDATED “sts_display_output.php”: It no longer displays the template variable 'template_html' in debug mode because it makes the page very long and it only represents the source code of the page. For example; you can look at the source code instead.
- UPDATED module “sts_product_info.php v1.0.5” to use templates for products in specific categories. Template “product_info_c32” for products in category ID32 and in sub-categories. Works also for content templates.
- UPDATED “sts_column_left.php” to not show the reviews infobox when on the “product_reviews_info.php” page. The infobox and the page are using the same variable names and it created a mess when the infobox was called before the content of the page. This is a simple workaround. If you want the infobox to display all the time, you have to change the variable names inside the infobox (or inside the script of the page). I have not tested without STS, but I'm pretty sure that the problem is the same, if the reviews infobox is placed in the left column.

STS PLUS

What is STS PLUS?

Chris changed the code so much from STS v3 that he made a different contribution called STS PLUS. STS PLUS seen a lot of improvements and drew a very large following of talented osCommerce users. The latest STS PLUS version is 4.0.7, which happens to be the final release since it came back to STS in April, 2006 as STSv4.1. So, STS 4.1 is an official release of STS.

- STS PLUS 4.0.7 users are welcome to upgrade and should be advised that Chris will no longer update STS PLUS, but has chosen rather to devote his efforts to its successor STS v4.

We would like to thank the original author, Brian Gallagher for giving us such an awesome interface to the osCommerce PHP code (Simple Template System 1.0).

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