

# Velocity Decorators

As of SiteMesh 2.0.2 [Velocity](#) (.vm) decorators are supported.

Here is an example of how such a decorator (e.g. /decorators/main.vm) might look like:

```
#parse ("/includes/decorators/header.vm")
<h2>${title}</h2>
$head

<td valign="top" class="body">
  <div class="header">
    <span class="pagetitle">${title}</span>
  </div>
  $body
</td>
#parse ("/includes/decorators/footer.vm")
```

## Installation

Download [Velocity](#) 1.3.1 or higher and copy it into **WEB-INF/lib**. The SiteMesh distribution comes with **velocity-dep-1.3.1.jar**.

Download [VelocityTools](#) 2.0 and copy it into **WEB-INF/lib**. The SiteMesh distribution comes with **velocity-tools-view-1.1.jar**.

Download [Commons Collections](#) 2.1 or higher and copy it into **WEB-INF/lib**. The SiteMesh distribution comes with commons-collections.jar.

Add the following to **WEB-INF/web.xml** within the **<web-app>** tag:

```
<servlet>
  <servlet-name>sitemesh-velocity</servlet-name>

  <servlet-class>com.opensymphony.module.sitemesh.velocity.VelocityDecoratorServlet</ser
vlet-class>
</servlet>

<servlet-mapping>
  <servlet-name>sitemesh-velocity</servlet-name>
  <url-pattern>*.vm</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>
```

Modify **decorators.xml** to reference a .vm decorator.

A working example is included with the SiteMesh source code distribution under the [src/example-webapp](#) directory.

## Context

VelocityDecoratorServlet puts some things into the context object that you should be aware of:

<b>\$request</b> (from <a href="#">VelocityViewServlet</a> )	The HttpServletRequest object
<b>\$response</b> (from <a href="#">VelocityViewServlet</a> )	The HttpServletResponse object
<b>\$session</b> (from <a href="#">VelocityViewServlet</a> )	The HttpSession object
<b>\$application</b> (from <a href="#">VelocityViewServlet</a> )	The ServletContext object
<b>\$base</b>	request.getContextPath()
<b>\$title</b>	Parsed page title (<title>...</title>)

<b>\$head</b>	Parsed page head
<b>\$body</b>	Parsed page body
<b>\$page</b>	SiteMesh's internal Page object
<b>Anything else</b>	Search for the attribute by that name in the request, session and application scopes