

# NavigationalStateProposal

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Navigational State and Jetspeed Path Proposal

The URL path is a common way to track navigation state.  
Pluto does this, as does Websphere.

Jetspeed has the concepts of folders, and pages.  
Folders contain pages or more folders. A typical tree hierarchy.  
Users can navigate through the portal by specifying folders and pages.  
Jetspeed Folders and Pages also represent navigational state,  
however they are not directly covered by the Portlet specification.

We are proposing specifying the Jetspeed Paths and Folders directly in the  
URL path, not the request parameters.  
This solves the issues of locating the correct page at all times, as long  
as Jetspeed rewrites the URL.  
The Jetspeed URL rewriter must always rewrite the Page into the URL.  
Of course there are still default pages for users, which do not need to be  
in the URL.

Example URLs:

<http://localhost/portal/jetspeed/nfl/afc/chiefs/passing-stats.psml>

where "nfl/afc/chiefs/passing-stats.psml" is the complete path.  
and passing-stats is either a page or folder.  
".psml" helps the profiler figure out that its a page.  
Otherwise it will first look for a page with that name, then a folder.

NOTE: we are not using path pairs

This will introduce problems for other path params that require pairs.  
Most notably, Navigation State.

Navigation State is currently implemented with Pluto-like pairs of parameters.

In order for this to continue to function, we would enhance the path parsing code to find

the end of the path locator and then start parsing.

Navigational state must be written after the folder/page path.

Window Navigational State will be enhanced:

1. abstract all navigational state to use interfaces
2. provide 2 implementations
  1. URL path state
  2. session-based state

note: i don't think its possible to use request params to keep nav state