



# Academus 2.0

## Portal Layout Access Configuration

### Guide



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# 1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to detail the process required to control portal layout changes by portal users. Institutions may choose to restrict portal users from modifying their personal layouts so that the portal administrators have full control over the layouts seen by their users.

Configuration of Academus to prevent users from modifying their layout is a two-step process:

1. The portal database must be modified to prevent users from removing channels and tabs from their layout.
2. Availability of the 'Customize' link (sometimes referred to as the 'Preferences' link) at the top of the portal page must be removed so users cannot add new tabs and channels to their layout, or change their skin selection.

## 1.1 About the Database Modification

In Academus, a user's layout is stored in the database in a table called 'up\_layout\_struct\_aggr'. Currently, the only way to lock down the user layouts is to manually run a SQL script. This script will cause a specified subset of users' channels to become 'immutable' and 'unremovable' (see section 3.0 for the script).

### 1.1.1 Immutable Channels

A channel that has been set as 'immutable' cannot be repositioned in a user's layout. Also, its channel parameters cannot be modified.

### 1.1.2 Unremovable channels

A channel that has been set as 'unremovable' cannot be removed from a user's layout. This setting will remove the delete icon ("X") from the published channel and will gray-out the delete icon from the channel in the user layout area within 'Customize'.

## 1.2 About the Customize Link Modification

In the 'Customize' area a user can make changes to his or her layout (add, remove, or reposition tabs and add, remove, or reposition channels/portlets on those tabs), change skins, change languages, and manage fragments (with proper permissions). The theme controls access to this link, and detailed instructions on how to restrict access to this link can be found in section 4.0. Without access to the Customize functionality, users will not be able to add, remove, or reposition tabs and channels/portlets in their layout, nor will they be able to choose a different skin or language.

## 1.3 Important Notes

It is important to read through this information and understand the process before starting to make modifications to your database or files. If you choose to restrict access to the Customize link, then only users who are in the authorized channel publisher group (refer to the Academus System Administrator Guide for more information on this group) will be able to access the Customize area. If you need assistance during this process, please contact your deployment lead or Academus Customer Support at <http://uniconsupport.custhelp.com>.

## 2.0 Configuring the Database

A SQL script must be customized for your database in order to lock the user layouts. Consequently, a different SQL script must be executed to reverse this action and unlock the user layouts. Please contact your Database Administrator if you have any questions about how these scripts are executed. Examples with an explanation have been provided below.

As with any modifications made to your database, we recommend making a database backup before executing these scripts.

### 2.1 Locking the Database

The following scripts can be used to lock the database and prevent users from moving and removing channels:

#### 2.1.1 Basic Lock Script

```
UPDATE up_layout_struct_aggr SET immutable = 'Y', unremovable = 'Y'  
WHERE user_id NOT IN (SELECT user_id FROM up_user WHERE user_name IN ('admin'));
```

The above script will lock down the channel layout for all users that use a template layout except the 'admin' user template. Academus will read in a user's custom layout, if it exists, before loading a template layout. Users that have already modified their layout will not be affected because their custom layout has already been saved.

#### 2.1.2 Less Restrictive Lock Script

```
UPDATE up_layout_struct_aggr SET immutable = 'Y', unremovable = 'Y'  
WHERE user_id NOT IN  
(SELECT user_id FROM up_user WHERE user_name IN  
( 'admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff'));
```

The above script will lock down the channel layout for all users except for the 'admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', and 'staff' templates. The 'student' template will be locked down, and all users who use the 'student' template and layout will be unable to move or remove channels. All users who draw their layout from the 'admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', or 'staff' templates will not be affected, and any users that have already modified their layout will not be affected.

### 2.2 Unlocking the Database

The following script can be used to unlock the database and allow users to move and remove channels again:

#### 2.2.1 Basic Unlock Script

```
UPDATE up_layout_struct_aggr SET immutable = 'N', unremovable = 'N'  
WHERE user_id NOT IN  
(SELECT user_id FROM up_user WHERE user_name IN  
( 'admin'));
```

The above script will undo the effects of the basic locking script in section 4.1.1. It will allow users that draw from all templates except 'admin' to move and remove channels again. The 'admin' group is not modified in this script because neither of the locking scripts above will affect the 'admin' group. We recommend that you keep the 'admin' template unlocked, but it can be locked if you wish.

## 3.0 Configuring the Customize Link

Clicking on the 'Customize' link brings the user to a configuration area where the user can customize his or her layout (tabs and channels/portlets), choose a skin, choose a language, and manage fragments.

Restricting access to the 'Customize' link will prevent users from having any access to the Customize area and any of the Customize functionality (no layout addition or modification, changing skins, or changing languages).

**Academus must be restarted for these changes to take effect.**

As with any changes made to your portal files, we recommend making a backup of the file(s) before proceeding with your changes.

### 3.1 Restricting Access to the Customize Link

Controlling access to the 'Customize' link is accomplished by modifying the theme XSL files located at:

```
<Tomcat directory>/webapps/portal/WEB-INF/classes/net/unicon/portal/layout/  
AL_TabColumn/academusTheme
```

To lockdown the Customize from all users except those in the authorized channel publisher group (refer to the Academus System Administrator Guide for more information on the authorized channel publisher group):

1. Open the file *institution\_vars.xsl*
2. Locate the variable *lockdownPreferences*
3. Change the variable value from *false* to *true*
4. Save changes to the file
5. Restart Academus

### 3.2 Restoring Access to the Customize Link

To restore access for all users to the Customize link:

1. Open the file *institution\_vars.xsl*
2. Locate the variable *lockdownPreferences*
3. Change the variable value from *true* to *false*
4. Save changes to the file
5. Restart Academus

## Resetting User Layouts

It is possible to reset all user layouts to their default template layout by executing the script provided below. This script is useful if users have created custom layouts and you wish to reset them all back to the template layouts. Please contact Unicon Customer Support or your database administrator if you have any questions about how these scripts work.

As with any modifications made to your database, we recommend making a database backup before executing these scripts.

### 3.3 Custom Layout Reset Script

The script below can be used to clear all users' custom layouts. It will leave the template user layouts intact, and you can insert additional usernames if you wish to preserve additional layouts. Please verify whether or not your default template user names have changed and modify the scripts accordingly. If you wish to leave the custom layout for the user 'unicon', you would modify the "select user\_id from up\_user where user\_name in ..." line in every location it appears in the script to also include the user 'unicon'. Note: the first line of this script is very important and the portal may stop functioning correctly if it is not included. The last block of script will update the skin setting for all users and you should change the 'academus' parameter to the proper default skin name for your portal.

#### 3.3.1 Custom Layout Reset Script

```
delete from up_user_layout_aggr  
where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo',  
'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
update up_user_profile  
set layout_id = null,  
structure_ss_id = null,  
theme_ss_id = null  
where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo',  
'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
update up_user set next_struct_id = null where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where  
user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
delete from up_layout_struct_aggr where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where  
user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
delete from up_layout_restrictions where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where  
user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
delete from up_ss_user_atts where user_id not in (select user_id from up_user where user_name in  
'admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student'));
```

```
update up_ss_user_parm set param_val = 'academus' where user_id not in (select user_id from  
up_user where user_name in ('admin', 'system', 'demo', 'guest', 'faculty', 'staff', 'student')) and  
param_name = 'skin';
```