

Anaconda Prompt Visual Style

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Abstract

This article describes Anaconda Prompt. Anaconda Prompt is the first screen shown after booting up with the install CD/DVD medium. Anaconda Prompt is based on H. Peter Anvin's `syslinux` suite of bootloaders, specifically on the `isolinux` bootloader. The `syslinux` suite and its documentation come inside the `syslinux` package, available through `yum` in the `[base]` repository of CentOS Distribution.

Anaconda is the name of the install program used by CentOS. It is python-based with some custom modules written in C. The anaconda installer works on a wide variety of Linux-based computing architectures (ia32, Itanium, Alpha, S/390, PowerPC), and is designed to make it easy to add platforms.

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Contents

1	Introduction	3
2	Installation	3
2.1	Subversion	4
2.2	Inkscape	4

2.3	ImageMagick	5
2.4	Netpbm	5
2.5	Syslinux	5
2.6	GNU Image Manipulation Program	6
2.7	GNU Core Utilities	6
2.8	L ^A T _E X	6
3	Configuration	6
3.1	Firewall	6
3.2	Subversion Behind Squid	7
3.2.1	Subversion Client Configuration	7
3.2.2	Squid Server Configuration	7
3.3	Working Copy	7
3.4	User Identification	8
3.4.1	Account Registration	9
3.4.2	Account Privileges	9
3.5	Shell Environment	9
3.5.1	Relative Paths	9
3.5.2	Absolute Paths	9
3.5.3	Environment Variable Definition	9
3.5.4	Environment Variable Initialization	10
4	Framework	10
4.1	Identity	10
4.1.1	Designs	10
4.1.2	Export Id	11
4.1.3	Markers	11
4.1.4	Images	12
4.1.5	Color Limitations	12
4.1.6	Color Palettes	12
4.1.7	Models	14
4.1.8	Rendering	14
4.1.9	Issues	15
4.2	Translations	16
4.2.1	Common Translations	16
4.2.2	Specific Translations	16
4.2.3	Translation Path	16
4.3	Manuals	18

4.4	Scripts	18
4.4.1	Rendering	18
4.4.2	Pre-rendering	18
4.4.3	Post-rendering	18
5	Rebranding	20
5.1	Images	20
5.1.1	redhat-logos	20
5.2	Syslinux	21
5.3	Messages Locale	21
6	GNU Free Documentation License	22
6.1	Applicability And Definitions	22
6.2	Verbatim Copying	24
6.3	Copying In Quantity	25
6.4	Modifications	25
6.5	Combining Documents	28
6.6	Collections Of Documents	28
6.7	Aggregation With Independent Works	29
6.8	Translation	29
6.9	Termination	30
6.10	Future Revisions Of This License	30
6.11	How to use this License for your documents	30

1 Introduction

Anaconda Prompt Visual Style is organized inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

2 Installation

This section describes the tools you need to have installed in your CentOS workstation in order to interact with your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository.

2.1 Subversion

Subversion is used to interact with CentOS Artwork Repository.

Subversion is a version control system, which allows you to keep old versions of files and directories (usually source code), keep a log of who, when, and why changes occurred, etc., like CVS, RCS or SCCS.¹

To install Subversion client tools in your workstation you can use the following command:

```
yum install subversion
```

2.2 Inkscape

Inkscape is used to design and render images inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

Inkscape is a GUI editor for Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) format drawing files, with capabilities similar to Adobe Illustrator, CorelDraw, Visio, etc. Inkscape features include versatile shapes, bezier paths, freehand drawing, multiline text, text on path, alpha blending, arbitrary affine transforms, gradient and pattern fills, node editing, SVG-to-PNG export, grouping, layers, live clones, and more.

Note that Inkscape is not inside CentOS Distribution, so you need to configure a third party repository like RPMForge or EPEL to install Inkscape. Installation of a third party repositories inside CentOS Distribution is described in the following URL:

```
http://wiki.centos.org/AdditionalResources/Repositories
```

Once you have configured the third party repository you can install Inkscape using the following command:

```
yum install inkscape
```

¹More documentation about Subversion and its tools, including detailed usage explanations of the svn, svnadmin, svnserve and svnlook programs, historical background, philosophical approaches and reasonings, etc., can be found at <http://svnbook.red-bean.com/>.

2.3 ImageMagick

ImageMagick is used by scripts inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

ImageMagick is a free software suite for the creation, modification and display of bitmap images. It can read, convert and write images in a large variety of formats. Images can be cropped, colors can be changed, various effects can be applied, images can be rotated and combined, and text, lines, polygons, ellipses and Bzier curves can be added to images and stretched and rotated.

To install ImageMagick in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install ImageMagick
```

2.4 Netpbm

Netpbm is used by scripts inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

Netpbm is a toolkit for manipulation of graphic images, including conversion of images between a variety of different formats. There are over 300 separate tools in the package including converters for about 100 graphics formats.

To install Netpbm in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install netpbm{-progs}
```

2.5 Syslinux

The package `syslinux` provides the programs `ppmtolss16` and `lss16toppm` which are used to produce Anaconda Prompt images. The `ppmtolss16` Perl program also includes the file format specification.

Syslinux is a suite of bootloaders, currently supporting DOS FAT filesystems, Linux ext2/ext3 filesystems (EXTLINUX), PXE network boots (PXELINUX), or ISO 9660 CD-ROMs (ISOLINUX). It also includes a tool, MEMDISK, which loads legacy operating systems from these media.

To install Syslinux in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install syslinux
```

2.6 GNU Image Manipulation Program

GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP) is used to manipulate images inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

To install GIMP in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install gimp
```

2.7 GNU Core Utilities

The GNU core utilities are a set of tools commonly used in shell scripts.

To install the GNU core utilities in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install core-utils
```

2.8 L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX is used to create manuals inside CentOS Artwork Repository.

L^AT_EX is a document preparation system implemented as a macro package for Donald E. Knuth's T_EX typesetting program. The L^AT_EX command typesets a file of text using the T_EX program and the LaTeX Macro package for T_EX. To be more specific, it processes an input file containing the text of a document with interspersed commands that describe how the text should be formatted.

To install L^AT_EX in your workstation you can run the following command:

```
yum install tetex-{latex,fonts,doc,xdiv,dvips}
```

3 Configuration

3.1 Firewall

The CentOS Artwork Repository lives on the following URL:

```
https://projects.centos.org/svn/artwork/
```

To reach this location you need to have Internet access and be sure no rule in your firewall is denying this site. Note that the URL uses the SSL protocol (port 443).

3.2 Subversion Behind Squid

Sometimes it is convenient to proxy Subversion client's requests through a proxy-cache server like Squid. In cases like this, the Squid proxy server is in the middle between you and CentOS Artwork Repository. If you want to proxy Subversion client's requests through Squid proxy-cache server, you need to configure your Subversion client and your Squid proxy server to do so.

3.2.1 Subversion Client Configuration

Subversion client needs to be configured to send requests to your Squid proxy-cache server. This configuration takes place in the file:

```
~/.subversion/servers
```

3.2.2 Squid Server Configuration

Squid proxy-cache server needs to be configured to accept the extension methods REPORT MERGE MKACTION CHECKOUT MKCOL. This configuration takes place in the file:

```
/etc/squid/squid.conf
```

specifically in the configuration text described below:

```
# TAG: extension_methods
#     Squid only knows about standardized HTTP request methods.
#     You can add up to 20 additional "extension" methods here.
#
#Default:
# none
extension_methods REPORT MERGE MKACTION CHECKOUT MKCOL
```

3.3 Working Copy

A Subversion working copy is an ordinary directory tree on your local system, containing a collection of files (i.e. Translations, Designs, Manuals, and Scripts). You can edit these files however you wish. Your working copy is

your own private work area: Subversion will never incorporate other people's changes, nor make your own changes available to others, until you explicitly tell it to do so. You can even have multiple working copies of the same project.²

After you've made some changes to the files in your working copy and verified that they work properly, Subversion provides you with commands to "publish" your changes to the other people working with you on your project (by writing to the repository). If other people publish their own changes, Subversion provides you with commands to merge those changes into your working directory (by reading from the repository).

To download your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository in the location `~/Desktop/artwork`, run the following command:

```
svn co https://projects.centos.org/svn/artwork ~/Desktop/
```

The previous command will download lots of files into your workstation. This process may take some time. When finish you are ready to start exploring and improving available works.

3.4 User Identification

At this point you probably have made some changes inside your working copy and wish to publish them. To publish your changes you need to have a registered account with commit privilege in CentOS Artwork Repository.

Note: If you are new in CentOS Artwork Repository it is possible that you can't commit your changes. That is because new registered accounts haven't commit privilege set by default. In order for your registered account to have commit privilege inside CentOS Artwork Repository you need to request it. See section 3.4.2.

²Even this is basically correct, doing so when using CentOS Artowrk Repository can bring some confusion when executing scripts. Actually, only one absolute path can be defined as absolute path for scripts' execution. You can have as many working copies of CentOS Artwork Repository as you want but scripts will be executed from just one working copy absolute path—the one you defined in the variable `CENTOS_ARTWORK_WC`. For more information about this, see section 3.5.

3.4.1 Account Registration

To register a user account inside CentOS Artwork Repository, you need to go to the following URL:

`https://projects.centos.org/trac/artwork/`

3.4.2 Account Privileges

To have commit privileges in CentOS Artwork Repository it is needed that you show your interest first, preferably with something useful like a new or improved design, translation, manual, or script. As convention people working on CentOS Artwork Repository share ideas in the mailing list `centos-devel@centos.org`. If you are interested in joining us go there and express yourself.

3.5 Shell Environment

CentOS Artwork Repository uses scripts to automate tasks. When executing scripts we need to provide their path, relative or absolute.

3.5.1 Relative Paths

Using relative paths makes difficult to call functions from different levels inside the directory structure of your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository.

3.5.2 Absolute Paths

Using absolute paths let us use functions from different levels inside the directory structure of your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository but creates an inconvenient. It forces us to use an unchangable absolute path that people should use to download their working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository in their workstations.

3.5.3 Environment Variable Definition

To avoid forcing a predefined absolute path to store your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository, we decided to define the following environment variable:

CentOS_ARTWORK_WC: The value of this environment variable contains the absolute path used to store your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository in your workstation. This way you can download your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository wherever you want and be sure that scripts inside it execute correctly.

3.5.4 Environment Variable Initialization

As `CentOS_ARTWORK_WC` environment variable defines the absolute path used to execute scripts, it isn't possible to initialize it inside scripts themselves. To initialize the environment variable `CentOS_ARTWORK_WC` we use the personal initialization file (`~/.bash_profile`), executed for login shells.

For example, if you downloaded your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository in the absolute path `~/Desktop/artwork`, then you need to add the following lines to your personal initialization file:

```
CentOS_ARTWORK_WC=~/Desktop/artwork
export CentOS_ARTWORK_WC
```

For changes to take effect you need to logout and do login again.

4 Framework

Anaconda Prompt framework is inside your working copy of CentOS Artwork Repository. Anaconda Prompt framework is organized in the following sections:

4.1 Identity

`trunk/Identity/Themes/$THEME/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/`

Here is where graphic designers provide SVG files with Anaconda Prompt designs and render them as PNG images.

4.1.1 Designs

Anaconda Prompt design is stored inside `'svg/'` directory. The following files are the one you need to change in order to improve Anaconda Prompt Visual Style. To edit these files you can use a vectorial graphic tool like Inkscape.

syslinux-splash.svg: This design is common to each major release of CentOS Distribution by sharing the same artistic motif. This design is unique to each major release of CentOS Distribution by means of CentOS Release Brand.

This design should have the following identity components:

1. The CentOS Release Brand.
2. The CentOS Default Artistic Motif.

Note that all Anaconda Prompt designs are based on the same artistic motif (also known as Theme).³ If you want to improve an existent artistic motif then share your ideas with its author before commit any change up to CentOS Artwork Repository. Doing so is polite and enforce our community feeling.

Otherwise, if you have designed a new Artistic Motif you become its author and surely people will ask you about it.

4.1.2 Export Id

The export id is used inside design templates to define the area that will be exported as PNG image. As convention, we use the word ‘CENTOSARTWORK’ as export id. In Inkscape, you can set the export id to a selected object by pressing Ctrl+Shift+O and filling the appropriate fields.

To know what is the area set as export id, in Inkscape you can press Ctrl+F to find it. If it exist, the object holding the string as id is selected. Sometimes, this can be used to verify the design boundaries.

4.1.3 Markers

The markers are used as replacement pattern to help image translation both in design templates and translation files. When we render images, translation files are applied to design templates to get a PNG translated image as result. In order to have the appropriate translation, markers should match both in design templates and translation files.

Markers used in Anaconda Prompt design templates and translation files are described in Table 1.

³To know more about the artistic motif concept take a look to the document “CentOS Artistic Motif” in trunk/Manuals/Identity/Themes/Motif/Manual.pdf.

Marker	Description
=VERSION=	Major release number of CentOS Distribution.

Table 1: Anaconda Prompt translation markers.

4.1.4 Images

Anaconda Prompt final images are stored inside ‘img/’ directory. Final images are rendered using the `render.sh` script (see section 4.1.8).

4.1.5 Color Limitations

Anaconda Prompt does have color limitations. Initially, Anaconda Prompt images are rendered without color limitation and later they are indexed to 16 colors and converted to LSS16 format, as described in section 4.1.6.

4.1.6 Color Palettes

`turnk/Identity/Themes/$THEME/Palettes/`

Here is where graphic designers define specific theme palettes. In Anaconda Prompt particular case they define the `Syslinux.gpl`, `Syslinux.ppm`, and `Syslinux.hex` palettes.

Syslinux.gpl: The `Syslinux.gpl` palette defines the 16 colors used in Anaconda Prompt 16 colors images. The palette `Syslinux.gpl` is created as described below:

1. Render the final design of `syslinux-splash.png` image.
2. Open the `syslinux-splash.png` image with GIMP and index it to 16 colors using the indexing feature *Generate optimum palette*.
3. With the `syslinux-splash.png` image already indexed to 16 colors, create a palette from it using the GIMP *Palettes* (Ctrl+P) and the *Import Palette ...* feature based on the 16 colors image you already have. The result will be saved in `~/gimp-2.2/palettes/` with the name you specified.

Syslinux.ppm: The `Syslinux.ppm` palette is used by `render.sh` script to index images down to 16 colors automatically. The `Syslinux.ppm` palette

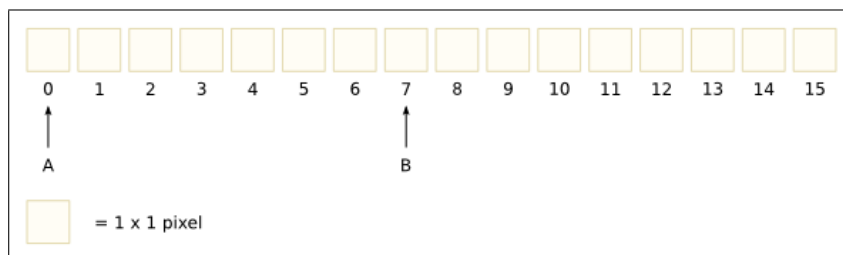


Figure 1: Color position in `Syslinux.ppm` image. Syslinux background color (A) is in the position 0. Syslinux foreground color (B) is in the position 7.

is created using `Syslinux.gpl` palette color information as reference. The palette `Syslinux.ppm` is created as described below:

1. Use GIMP to create a new image with 16 x 1 pixels of dimension.
2. Fill its pixels with the colors specified in the `Syslinux.gpl` palette.
3. Set the appropriate order of colors inside the `Syslinux.ppm` palette. Relevant positions are indices 0 and 7. The index position 0 is the background color, and the index position 7 is the color used for the text printed by `syslinux` itself.

To grant the highest contrast use the darkest color as background, and the lightest one as foreground. The color position inside `Syslinux.ppm` index is described in `syslinux` documentation and illustrated in Figure 1.

Syslinux.hex: The `Syslinux.hex` palette is used by `render.sh` to create the LSS16 image format (`syslinux-splash.lss`). The LSS16 format is the final format used by `syslinux`. The `Syslinux.hex` palette should have the same color information and order that `Syslinux.ppm` do.

To create `Syslinux.hex` create a new plain text file and put the hexadecimal color information and its index position defined in `Syslinux.ppm` palette in just one line. The format used to create `Syslinux.hex` file is `#rrbbgg=i`. Where `#rrggbb=i` indicate that the color `#rrggbb` (hex) should be assigned index `i` (decimal).

Anaconda Prompt images, inside the same artistic motif, have the same visual style and color information. This let us create a common set of `.gpl`, `.ppm`, and `.hex` palettes that can be reused.

Anaconda Prompt image rendering and format conversion is automated using the `render.sh` script. For example if you want to propagate the current Anaconda Prompt image design to a new CentOS major release, let say CentOS 6, you only need to add the appropriate translation path and use the `render.sh` script for it. There is no need to create new palettes or memorize long sequences of commands to do rendering and conversions each time a new major relase comes out. Just add the appropriate translations files and run the `render.sh` script to get what you need.

The predefined set of palettes can be reused as long as Anaconda Prompt image color information remains the same.⁴ If you make changes to the graphic design, change colors or something else that affects color information, you need to redefine the common set of palettes in order to comply the new color information.

4.1.7 Models

`trunk/Identity/Model/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/`

Here is where graphic designers provide SVG files with firstboot design models and render them. A design model is a representative image used to illustrate key components inside a specific design. Design models are frequently used in documentation.

Anaconda Progress design model is shown in Figure 2.

4.1.8 Rendering

To render images you need to execute the `render.sh` script. This script does the appropriate calls and applies translations (see section 4.2) to design templates to create translated images. The `render.sh` script has the following form:

```
./render.sh 'REGEX'
```

The `REGEX` argument is optional. It is used to reduce the amount of images you want to render. It is a posix-egrep regular expression pattern, applied against the translation path.

⁴and it should because the monolithic visual structure the CentOS project is attached to.



Figure 2: Anaconda Prompt design model.

4.1.9 Issues

When creating Anaconda Prompt images some issues were found. They are described below:

Many Different Colors : As more different colors you have on your design, more are the possibilities of increasing the amount of noise in your design after indexing to 16 colors. For example, if you include the actual CentOS symbol in this image, it occupies 3 colors (for the orange, green, violet) in the indexed image which are completely different and non-reusable in the blue toned background image.

The CentOS Symbol : As previously said, if we include the CentOS default symbol in Anaconda Prompt there is a color degradation and a reduction of available colors to use in the 16 colors indexed image.

Some tests were made with variants of CentOS default symbol, but they all were declined because they bring confusion about which is the CentOS default symbol.

It would be very convenient to CentOS visual identity if the CentOS default symbol could be included, *exactly as it is*, in Anaconda Prompt images.

4.2 Translations

trunk/Translations/Themes/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/

Here is where translators locale images. Image localization is defined inside `.sed` files, also known as translation files. Translation files can be common or specific. The given organization of translation files defines the translation path.

4.2.1 Common Translations

Common translation files contain common localization or no localization at all for their related images. They are in the root directory of the translation path. Common translation files create common images for all major releases of CentOS Distribution.

4.2.2 Specific Translations

Specific translation files hold specific localization for their related images. Specific translation files are not in the root directory of the translation path. Specific translation files are inside directories which describe the type of translation they are doing.

4.2.3 Translation Path

Translation path is where we organize common and specific translation files. Translation path is also used as reference to build the path of rendered images inside image directory (see section 4.1.4).

When rendering images, if no REGEX argument is provided to `render.sh`, all translation files in the translation path are read and as consequence one image is rendered for each one of them. The image name is the same name of translation file but with the extension `.png`.

When rendering images, if you want to render one or more, but not all images, you need to look into the translation path and create a regular expression pattern that match the translation path or paths related to the

image or images you want to render. For example if we have the translation path shown in Figure 3 and we want to render the CentOS 5 Anaconda Prompt only, then we can do:

```
./render.sh '5/syslinux-splash'
```

```
trunk/Translations/Identity/Themes/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/  
|-- 3  
|   '-- syslinux-splash.sed  
|-- 4  
|   '-- syslinux-splash.sed  
|-- 5  
|   '-- syslinux-splash.sed  
'-- 6  
    '-- syslinux-splash.sed  
  
4 directories, 4 files
```

Figure 3: Anaconda Prompt translation path.

If we want to render Anaconda Prompt for CentOS 5 and 6 but not for CentOS 4 and 3, then we can do:

```
./render.sh '(5|6)/syslinux-splash'
```

When using REGEX note that pattern is applied to the entire translation path. The regular expression pattern that you use should match it in order to be valid. Otherwise it will fail, and if nothing match the translation path, nothing is rendered. It is not the same to say '5/syslinux-splash' that 'syslinux-splash', the frist expression match but the last one does not.

When using REGEX note that you don't need to specify the file extension. They are removed from translation path before applying the REGEX pattern, so they don't count here.

4.3 Manuals

trunk/Manuals/Identity/Themes/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/

Here is where we prepare the documentation you are reading right now. If you want to help improving Anaconda Prompt Visual Style Manual this is the place you need to go.

4.4 Scripts

4.4.1 Rendering

The rendering process is invoked by the `render.sh` script. Each section, where rendering is automated, has a `render.sh` script inside it. You use the section's `render.sh` script to start a rendering process specific to that section. The work of each section's `render.sh` script is calling a common pre-rendering script which defines the way rendering is performed.

4.4.2 Pre-rendering

trunk/Scripts/Identity/Themes/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/

Here is where Anaconda Prompt pre-rendering script is stored. The pre-rendering script is the first script called when the `render.sh` script is executed by you. In the pre-rendering script you define what translation files apply what design template. You can also configure some post-rendering actions.

4.4.3 Post-rendering

Post-rendering actions are configured in the pre-rendering scripts and defined inside rendering functions to extend their functionality. Post-rendering actions are applied to files, one by one, once they have been rendered. The following are common post-rendering actions you may find:

renderFormats: The `renderFormat` post-rendering action is common to all image rendering. After rendering the PNG image, the `renderFormats` post-rendering action is applied to produce images in specific formats (i.e. `tif`, `ppm`, `pdf`, `xpm`, etc.), using the previous PNG image as base.

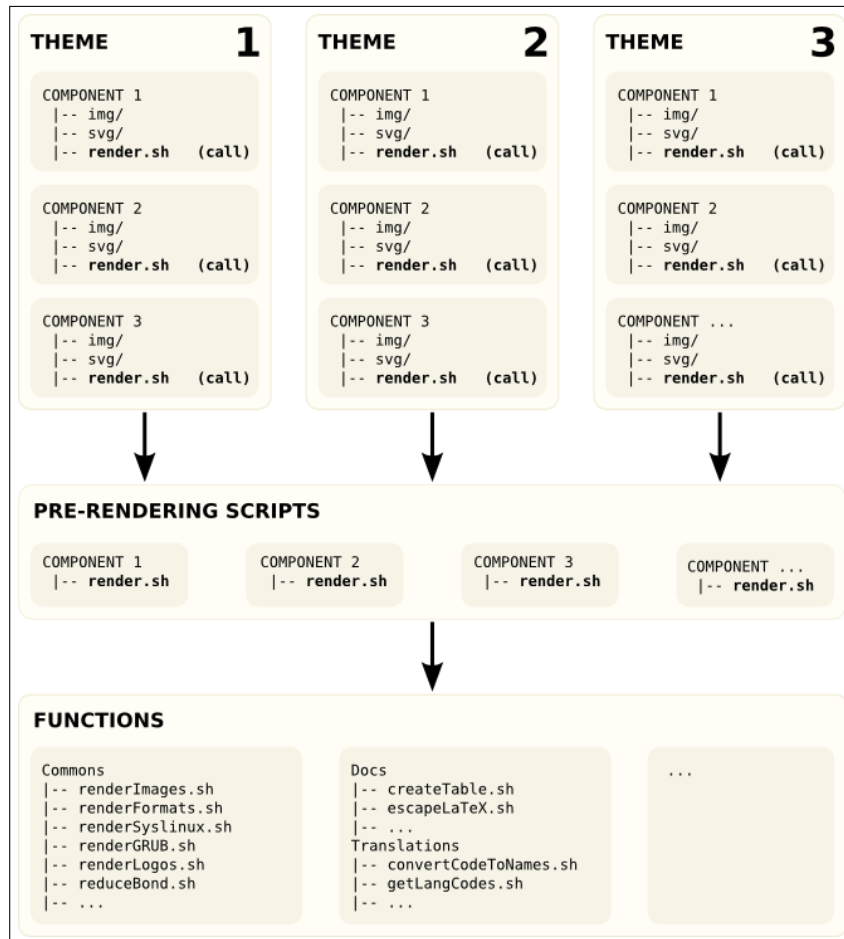


Figure 4: Rendering design model.

renderSyslinux: The `renderSyslinux` post-rendering action is specific to Anaconda Prompt rendering. After rendering the PNG image of your design, the `renderSyslinux` post-rendering action is applied to produce the LSS16 image format, using the previous PNG image as based.

renderGRUB: The `renderGRUB` post-rendering action is specific to GRUB image rendering. After rendering the PNG image of your design, the `renderGRUB` post-rendering action is applied to produce the 14 colors `xpm.gz` file, using the previous PNG image as based.

5 Rebranding

To comply with upstream redistribution policy, the CentOS Project removes all upstream brands and artworks from CentOS Distribution. The CentOS Project has its own brand and its own artwork. The CentOS Brand and CentOS Artwork are what the CentOS Project uses in CentOS Distribution.

The action of removing upstream brands and artworks and add CentOS brands and artworks is what we call rebranding.

CentOS Brands and artworks are organized inside CentOS Artwork Repository. The CentOS Artwork Repository is maintain by CentOS Artwork SIG which is formed by CentOS Community People.

When rebranding use original names as much as possible. Do not rename original file names if you don't need to. To rebrand the original file information, update just the file content using the `'cp'` command or something similar.

5.1 Images

This section describes relation between SRPM packages and image files you need to modify in order to rebrand firstboot artwork correctly.

5.1.1 `redhat-logos`

The `redhat-logos` package contains files created by the CentOS Project to replace the Red Hat “Shadow Man” logo and RPM logo. The Red Hat “Shadow Man” logo, RPM, and the RPM logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Red Hat, Inc.

The following images in `redhat-logos` need to be rebranded respectively:

```
/usr/share/anaconda/pixmaps/  
|-- syslinux-splash.png
```

by the files:

```
trunk/Identity/Themes/$THEME/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/img/$VERSION/  
|-- syslinux-splash-16c.png
```

Once you rebrand the image files inside the SRPM package, you need to rebuild it with the new brand information.

5.2 Syslinux

The syslinux information you need to rebrand is not inside CentOS Distribution itself, but in the medium's filesystem you use to install CentOS Distribution (i.e. CD, DVD, etc.).

The following images need to be rebranded respectively:

```
media:/isolinux/  
|-- splash.lss
```

by the files:

```
trunk/Identity/Themes/$THEME/Distro/Anaconda/Prompt/img/$VERSION/  
|-- syslinux-splash.lss
```

Colors used in syslinux messages are set using color codes around the text you want to remark. Syslinux text's color codes are described in syslinux documentation (see `/usr/share/doc/syslinux-x.xx/syslinux.doc`).

5.3 Messages Locale

Anaconda Prompt doesn't have messages locale. Image translation is done as explain section 4.1, and section 4.2.

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