

GT-BASIC Theme manual

22 January 2022

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Introduction

The gt-basic LimeSurvey 3 GemsTracker integration theme simplifies the use of LimeSurvey 3 and later in conjunction with GemsTracker projects.

It does this by adding theme options that you can configure either for the whole theme or separately for each single survey. These are the options most regularly requested by users.

Acknowledgements

The gt-basic theme use functionality developed for these organizations:

- CP Register & Amsterdam UMC
- Erasmus MC
- Equipe zorgbedrijven
- Hersendata consortium
- Hogeschool Rotterdam
- Ipse de Brugge
- Rijndam Revalidatie

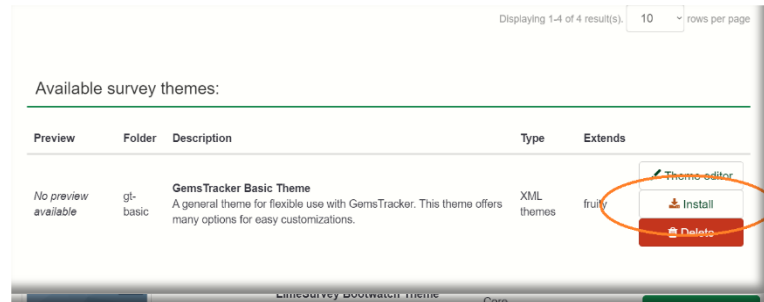
We thank these organizations for their contributions and for making the code freely available under new BSD license.

Installing the gt-basic theme

There are two methods to install the gt-basic, either it comes pre-installed with GemsTracker, or you can download and install the theme yourself. In both cases all you need is the administrative right in LimeSurvey to access and use the Themes page through the configuration menu.

Using a preinstalled version

Always check whether the theme has already been installed¹ – but not activated. Scroll to the bottom of the themes page and check for Available survey themes.



If you see can the theme as in the illustration, just click on the install button, otherwise you can just download and install the theme. However if the theme has been added, you can proceed to the next steps: customizing the theme and making it the default theme.

Downloading and importing

If the theme is not yet available, download the .zip theme file from GitHub:

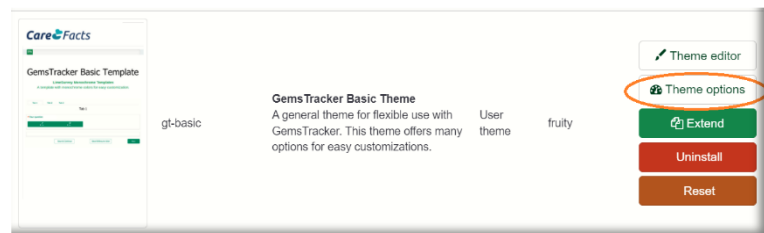
<https://github.com/GemsTracker/ls3-basic-themes/tree/main/downloads>

Next install the template by uploading it on the LimeSurvey themes page. Click on the import button and upload the theme file.

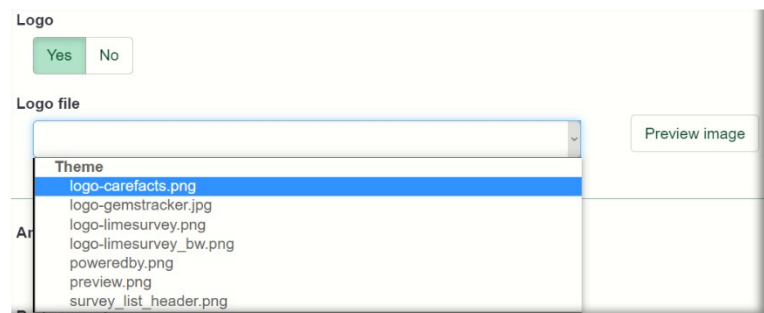
If any error message appears: stay calm and read what it says, e.g. that the theme already exists.

Customizing the theme

After the theme is installed it will appear in the list of installed survey themes, just like all the other themes. You can use the theme options buttons to customize the theme. At the top of this page you will see the **GT Theme options** which we will describe in extensive detail in the rest of this document.



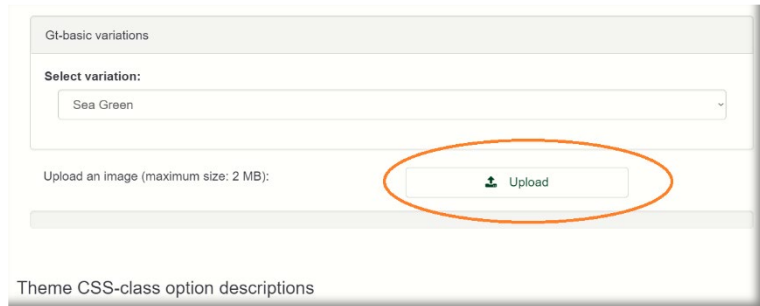
In this section we describe the use of the standard LimeSurvey Fruity theme options to add logo's and choose a colour scheme. Scroll down the options page until you see the **Logo** and **Logo file** options.



¹ Instructions for pre-installing the theme and other technical adaptations can be found in the [README.md](#) of this GitHub project.

As you can see we have provided some default logo's.

You can add **your own logo** to this list using the upload button at the bottom of the screen. You can add several logos here. Only one logo will be the standard logo for this theme, but you can choose to use a different logo by making an extended version of this theme or you can choose a different logo by changing the theme options for a specific survey.

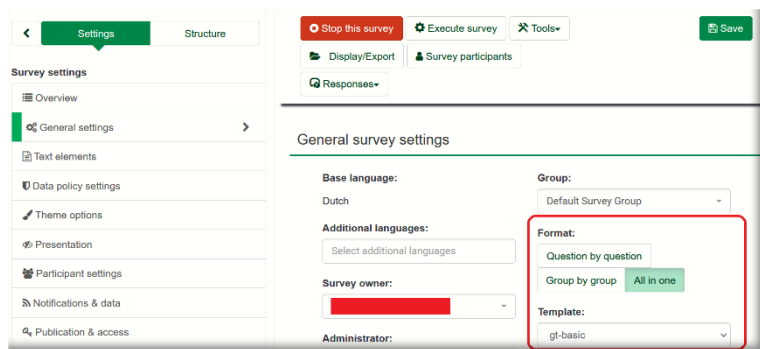


Above the upload button you can also choose to use a default variation. This allows you to choose a **different colour scheme**. Instead of green you can go for red, blue, black, etc...

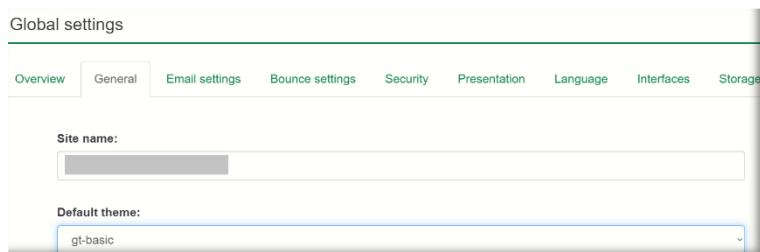
Using the theme

To use the theme you have to set it for each survey. You can do this by opening the survey and choosing General Settings from the navigation menu.

On the right you see where you can choose the theme (here it is called template, because that was what it was called in a previous version of LimeSurvey).

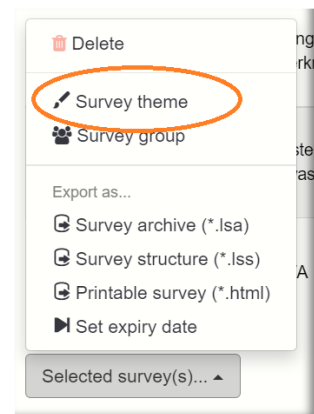


You can also make this theme the default theme for new surveys by changing the Global Settings. (Choose the Configuration menu on top and then under Settings: Global settings.) You find the default theme in the General tab.



This will work for new surveys. You can change the theme for existing surveys one by one, but there is also a bulk theme change option for selected surveys at the bottom of the survey list screen.

Another option is only available if you have access to the database of the installation and can send SQL queries to the database. There are some useful example queries available at [GitHub](https://github.com).



Functionality extended by default

The use of the extended features depends on each feature, but one option is always used by this theme and that is saving and resuming the survey using LimeSurvey.

Saving using GemsTracker

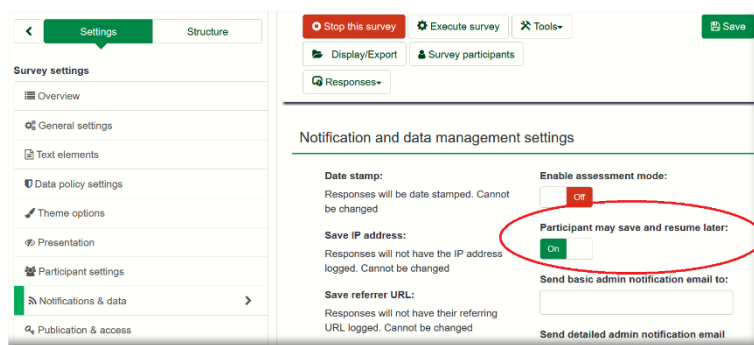
LimeSurvey has its own save & resume function, but the gt-basic theme overrides it's functionality. Instead of a 'Load unfinished survey' and a 'Save' link on the top of the page, the theme shows 'Save & Continue' and 'Save & Resume later' buttons at the bottom of the page. Both of these buttons save the current answers in the database, the Resume later button also returns to the GemsTracker page.



You can turn this on and of by using the **Notification & data** setting: **Participant may save and resume later**. When on the buttons will appear, otherwise they will not be visible.

If a logged in staff member uses the 'Resumes later' button it will just return to the page the staff

member was working on. The behaviour for anyone not logged in (i.e. respondents) is to return to the start page. The functionality then depends on the **Token ask** screen set for the organization, but the default behaviour should be that the respondent either gets a mail automatically on return or at least sees a button allowing the respondent to get that mail.



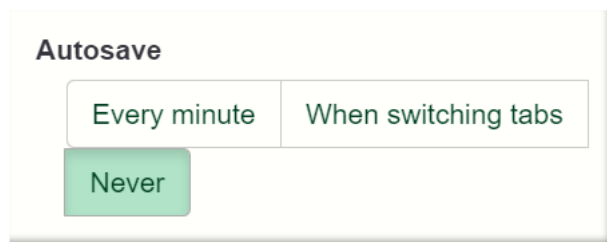
Note: it is not possible to use this theme and use the old LimeSurvey method.

Functionality extended through "Theme options"

All the **Theme options** can be set either at the options of the installed theme itself or be overruled at the survey level by overruling the Theme options there.

Autosave

The theme options allow the setting of autosave. This can be set to every minute, to whenever the user switches a tab or to another application or when the tab is closed. This way the changes of losing data are minimized.



Using the every minute setting should be restricted on very busy servers as it may increase the load.

Yes No Questions

In general LimeSurvey 3 displays a clearer survey than version two, but we disagree on the **Yes No Question** display so we added an option.



Yes No Question display

Selectable circle Button only

Add a selectable circle to Yes No Questions to make clear which button is selected

You can also enable this effect for a single question by setting the **CSS class** of that questions to 'yesno-show-buttons'. (There is no option disable it for a single question.)

Show groups as tab

Some organizations prefer to show all questions in a survey on one page, but then group the question groups in separate tabs.

On the right we see an example of how this will look in a survey. By clicking on a tab the questions of that group – and only that group – become visible. The survey always opens on the first tab, even when resuming later.

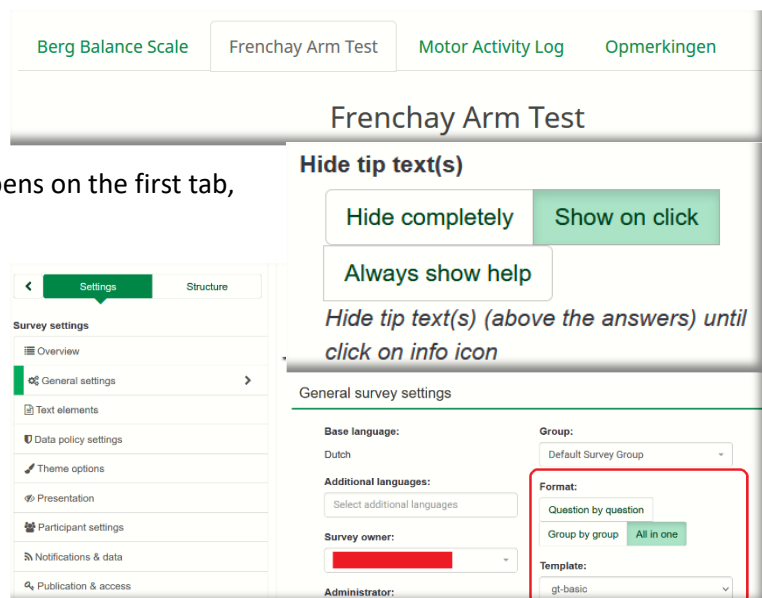
This setting has effect only when under **General settings** of the survey settings the value **Format** is set to **All in one**.

Another requirement is that there actually has to be more than one questions group. If there is only one group, no tabs is displayed.

Show groups as tabs

Yes No

Set format under General settings to All in one!



Hide tip text(s)

LimeSurvey by default generates tip texts containing information on the possible answers to questions. E.g. maximum and minimum number or date values.

These tips can be turned off at the question level by enabling "Hide tip" in the Display section of the question Edit screen.

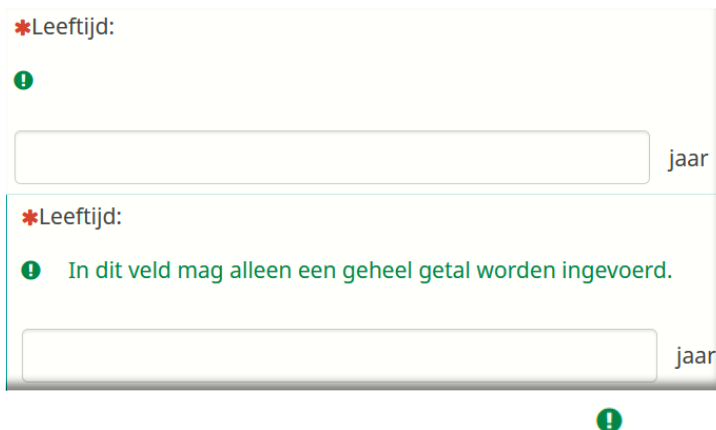
Hide tip text(s)

Hide completely Show on click

Always show help

Hide tip text(s) (above the answers) until click on info icon

This option allows you to hide all tips for all surveys using the theme as well as adding an additional option to show the tips only when the tip icon is clicked.



*Leeftijd:

!

jaar

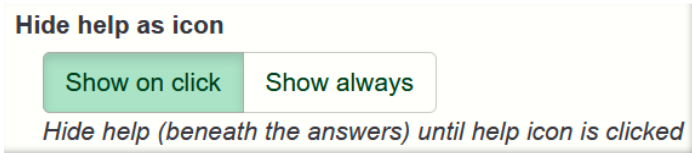
*Leeftijd:

! In dit veld mag alleen een geheel getal worden ingevoerd.

jaar

!

Hide help text



Hide help as icon

Show on click Show always

Hide help (beneath the answers) until help icon is clicked

The resulting output can be seen on the right. In this case the question has both a hidden tip icon and a hidden help icon. Both will become visible separately after clicking each and hidden again after being clicked a second time.

This setting is especially useful for situations where help should be easily at hand for healthcare staff, but where it is also important to keep the survey display as compact as possible.



*Leeftijd:

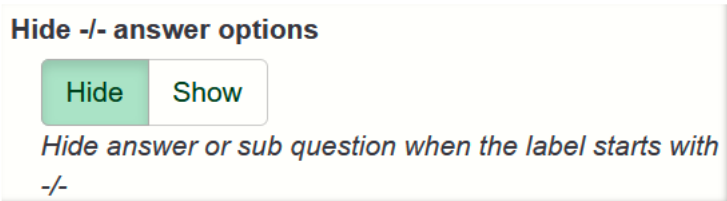
!

jaar

?

Hide -/- answer options

When a survey has been in use a while, it is common for the sub questions and answer options to change over time. Now LimeSurvey often does allow you to add extra answer options, but when you remove an answer option you also remove the semantic meaning (i.e. is the answer label) which is not desirable. Also removing sub questions is not an option.



Hide -/- answer options

Hide Show

Hide answer or sub question when the label starts with -/-

This theme allows you to hide answers and sub questions no longer in use, by prefixing their labels with the text: “-/-”. When this option is enabled these options will be hidden.

Functionality extended through “CSS Question classes”

In LimeSurvey you can add CSS class(es) in the Display options when editing a question. (See the screenshot on the right.) This is a mechanism also used to enable functionality, including enabling some theme options for single questions.

All these options are described at the bottom of the Theme options as well as here.

Array questions

The CSS class **hide-marked-options** activates the hide -/- answer option for a single question.

select-all-buttons add buttons to set a column to the column headers of the array.

Slider questions

Sliders can be set enabled for the Multiple Numeric Question type.

hide-slidernumber hide the numeric slider value while answering.

hide-untouched hide the initial slider pointer position.

Yes No Questions

yesno-show-buttons Add to a single Yes No question if to show a selectable circle for a single question.

The screenshot shows the 'Display' tab of the LimeSurvey question editor. The 'CSS class(es)' field is highlighted with a red box. The field contains a single vertical bar '|'. Other visible options include 'Answer prefix (nl)', 'Answer suffix (nl)' (containing 'jaar'), 'Text input box width' (set to 17%), 'Hide tip' (set to Off), 'Text input size', 'Always hide this question' (set to Off), and 'Relevance help for printable survey (nl)'.