# Don't Fear the Custom Theme

How to build a custom WordPress theme with only four files

Linn Øyen Farley drollic.ca

## Linn Øyen Farley

- Web designer & developer
- Building things on the internet since 2005
- Usually working solo, or as a developer with a single designer
- Using WordPress for most client sites

#### I ♥ WordPress

- Amazing community and resources
- Active plugin community (don't have to reinvent the wheel)
- Super easy to hand off to clients

#### But

- "WordPress outputs bloated code"
- "All WordPress sites look the same"

#### and/or

- "I don't have time to learn PHP"
- "I tried customizing a [commercial theme provider] theme once and I couldn't find the right files to edit"

#### This talk will

- be a file-by-file guide to creating a fully-functional WordPress theme, based on an existing HTML/CSS design
- give an overview of the bare minimum PHP functions needed to build a WordPress theme (plus some extra stuff)
- suggest how you could use a custom WordPress theme as a tool for rapid prototyping
- use WordPress.org's Theme Guidelines<sup>1</sup> as a starting point for best practices

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>developer.wordpress.org/themes/release/theme-review-guidelines/</u>

#### This talk will not

- cover HTML/CSS/design principles
- 100% accurately represent how I build themes for clients
- focus on making a WordPress.org-repository-ready theme and/or incorporate every use case into a single theme
- be a hands-on workshop I only have 45 minutes, so I'll be moving quickly

All of my slides and example files are available at <a href="drollic.ca/wcmtl16">drollic.ca/wcmtl16</a>, so you can work through them at your own pace after the conference.

Please feel free to shoot me an email if you have any questions!

# File structure

#### Theme for commercial use

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#### Theme for commercial use

Full disclosure: I've installed this exact theme on a client's site.

There is definitely a place for commercial and child themes in the WordPress ecosystem, but creating a custom theme may be appropriate more often than you think.

#### Theme for a client

- 404.php
- comments.php
- footer.php
- functions.php
- header.php
- images/
  - logo.png
  - logo.svg
- index.php

- js/
  - Iteie9.min.js
  - script.min.js
- page.php
- screenshot.png
- searchform.php
- single.php
- style.css

# Theme for WordPress.org

- index.php
- screenshot.png
- style.css

The recommended theme guidelines<sup>1</sup> include a few more files, but the three above are the only required files for a theme to work properly.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> make.wordpress.org/themes/handbook/guidelines/theme-check/#recommended <sup>2</sup> developer.wordpress.org/themes/release/required-theme-files/

# Theme for WordPress.org

- index.php
- screenshot.png
- style.css

...plus we'll talk about functions.php, because it's my favourite

## Confession: I've ignored comments.php

Although comments.php is listed as a required file<sup>1</sup> on WordPress.org, you can actually get away with omitting it in your custom theme. The site will fall back to the default comments display if it doesn't find a comments.php file.

For client sites, I'd recommend including comments.php just in case – you can always copy the file from one of the default themes (like Twenty Sixteen) rather than writing your own.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>developer.wordpress.org/themes/release/required-theme-files/</u>

# Wait a minute

How can this  $\rightarrow$ 

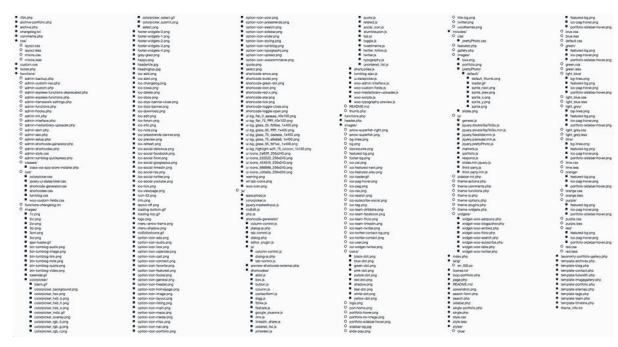
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#### Wait a minute

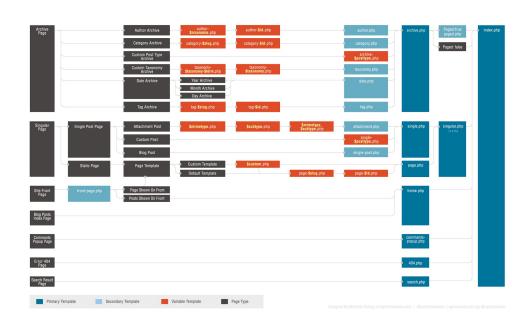
How can this → successfully be reduced to this:

- index.php
- screenshot.png
- style.css

(you might be wondering)



## The template hierarchy

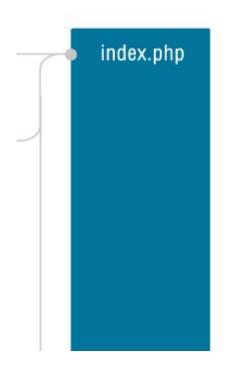


**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/themes/basics/template-hierarchy/

### The template hierarchy

The most important part of that giant diagram is on its right-hand side: all lines lead to **index.php**.

If your theme contains other files on the diagram, they will trump index.php, but if you *only* have index.php, that's fine too!



# Hello, Hypothetical Client

# List of requested features

- Responsive design
- Homepage with intro section and latest post
- About page with image gallery
- Blog with widgets in the sidebar

# WordPress admin tasks

## Pages → Add New

- Home (the intro paragraph)
- About (the image gallery)
- *Blog* (with no content)
- Delete Sample Page

#### Posts → Add New

- Create a few blog posts
- Delete *Hello world!*

# Settings → Reading

Choose "Front page displays: A static page"

Front page: Home

Posts page: Blog

## Appearance → Menus

Create a main navigation menu with the pages you've just made

File #1: style.css

### Start with a design

Once you have a HTML and CSS design ready to go, the first step is to rename your CSS file **style.css**, and add this comment<sup>1</sup> to the top:

```
/*
Theme Name: Feline Design Co.
Description: Custom theme for Feline Design Co.
Author: Linn Oyen Farley
Author URI: http://drollic.ca
Version: 1.0
*/
```

The only required line is your theme's name, but why not give yourself some credit too?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> codex.wordpress.org/Theme\_Development#Theme\_Stylesheet

### Include WordPress-specific classes

WordPress auto-generates a few classes, 1 so you should account for them in your CSS to ensure they're styled properly:

#### **Image alignment classes:**

- .aligncenter
- .alignleft
- .alignright

#### **Image caption classes:**

- .wp-caption
- .wp-caption-text
- .gallery-caption

#### **Accessibility classes:**

.screen-reader-text

#### **Optional post/comment classes:**

- .sticky
- .bypostauthor

#### Optional menu classes:

- .current-menu-item
- .current-menu-ancestor

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> make.wordpress.org/themes/handbook/guidelines/theme-check/#wordpress-generated-css-classes

File #2:
index.php

#### Move from HTML to PHP

Take your **index.html** file...

```
<!-- HTML goes here -->
```

...and save it as **index.php**.

```
<!-- HTML goes here --> <?php // and also PHP ?>
```

That's all you need to do to start writing PHP in the file. Most WordPress theme files are a lot of HTML and a bit of PHP.

#### Interlude:

# Intro to PHP

## Things to keep in mind

- PHP isn't as forgiving as HTML or CSS
- Mistakes in your code = white screen of death + (sometimes) error messages that may or may not tell you where the error is
- You only need to know a little PHP syntax to build WordPress themes
- Use a code editor with syntax checking, or run your code through a validator<sup>1</sup> to help you find errors

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> phpcodechecker.com

### Always

- enclose PHP with opening <?php and closing ?> tags
- decide to use either single or double quotes for consistency
- mind your semicolons

```
<?php ?>
<?php echo "Hello world"; ?>
<?php echo 'Hello world'; ?>
<?php // this is a comment ?>
```

Reference: <a href="mailto:php.net/manual/en/">php.net/manual/en/</a>

#### Conditionals

```
if ( condition1 ) {
    // thing #1
} elseif ( condition2 ) {
    // thing #2
} else {
    // thing #3
}
```

- ← if condition #1 is true, do thing #1
- ← otherwise, if condition #2 is true, do thing #2
- ← or, if none are true, do thing #3
- ← don't forget the closing curly brace!

**Reference:** Conditional statements <a href="mailto:php.net/manual/en/language.control-structures.php">php.net/manual/en/language.control-structures.php</a>

#### Operators

- & two ampersands: and
- | two pipes: or
- = two equal signs: is equal to
- != exclamation point and equal sign: is not equal to

#### References:

Logical operators <a href="https://php.net/manual/en/language.operators.logical.php">php.net/manual/en/language.operators.logical.php</a>
Comparison operators <a href="https://php.net/manual/en/language.operators.comparison.php">php.net/manual/en/language.operators.comparison.php</a>

### Loops

```
while ( condition1 == true ) {
   // do stuff
}
```

The while loop starts with a condition, and then specifies what to do as long as that condition is true.

For example, the main posts loop in WordPress states that as long as there are posts to show (while you have posts) set up each post (so you can grab its title, content, etc).

Reference: php.net/manual/en/control-structures.while.php

#### Variables

\$ indicates a variable, either one that you want to store or one that has previously been stored.

```
$myNewVariable = 'This variable should contain some text!';
```

\$myNewVariable now contains that string of text, which you can use later.

Reference: php.net/manual/en/language.variables.basics.php

#### Variables

echo is used to display/output the contents of an existing variable.

This:

<?php echo \$myNewVariable; ?>

would output your text string on the page like this:

This variable should contain some text!

Reference: php.net/manual/en/function.echo.php

### Conditional tags

WordPress has lots of its own functions that you can use in your theme's conditional statements.

We'll be talking about these ones:

```
    is_front_page() ← true if you're viewing the front page
    is_page() ← true if you're viewing a single page
    is_single() ← true if you're viewing a single post
```

**Reference:** codex.wordpress.org/Conditional\_Tags

#### Use unique function names

Whenever you write custom PHP functions (you'll be doing this later, in **functions.php**), it's important to start the function name with a unique string to avoid conflicts with other themes, plugins, or WordPress itself. The easiest thing to do is start them with your theme name.

This is why all of the custom functions here will start with felinedesignco, e.g.

```
function felinedesignco_widgets_init()
```

```
function felinedesignco_styles_and_scripts()
```

Back to file #2: index.php

## Zip that theme

If you want to see your theme in action as you work on it, it's safe to zip up your files at this point (**index.php** and **style.css**, plus any image assets) and install the theme on your site.

Be aware that the theme won't know where to find your CSS or any of your content yet, so it will look broken. Doing this now will just allow you to refresh your actual WordPress site as you edit these files and add new ones.

I wouldn't recommend doing this on a publicly accessible site!

## Don't be a cowboy

From this point on, edit your theme files via FTP, *not* in Appearance  $\rightarrow$  Editor.

If you make a mistake in your PHP, you may not be able to access the WordPress admin area at all to fix it. Editing via FTP lets you undo any mistakes.

## wp\_title()

Replace the contents of <title></title> with wp\_title(). This will output a separator and the title of the page or post being viewed.

Note that if you're viewing the front page, it won't output anything.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_title/

## wp\_title() in action

#### Replacing this:

```
<title>Feline Design Co.</title>
```

with this:

```
<title><?php wp_title(); ?></title>
```

outputs this (when viewing the blog post titled *Blog post #1*):

```
» Blog post #1
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_title/

## wp\_title() & bloginfo('name')

You can customize the title function by adding the site's name (the one you specify under Settings  $\rightarrow$  General), and changing the separator. This:

```
<title><?php wp_title('&mdash;', true, 'right'); bloginfo('name'); ?></title>
```

changes the separator to a long dash, moves it to the right-hand side of the post/page title, and adds the site name at the end. It will output this (when viewing that same blog post):

```
Blog post #1 — Feline Design Co.
```

#### References:

<u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_title/</u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/bloginfo/

## wp\_head() & wp\_footer()

These two tags must be included in your theme. They go immediately before your closing </head> tag and your closing </body> tag, respectively:

```
<?php wp_head(); ?>
</head>
<body>
```

```
<?php wp_footer(); ?>
</body>
</html>
```

#### References:

developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_head/
developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_footer/

# language\_attributes() & bloginfo('charset')

You can dynamically specify the site's language and character set using these functions. This:

outputs something like this (depending on your site settings):

```
<html lang="en-CA">
  <head>
     <meta charset="UTF-8" />
```

Reference: <a href="mailto:developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/language\_attributes/">developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/language\_attributes/</a>

## get\_template\_directory\_uri()

Replace all relative links to design elements (such as the logo in the header area, and your stylesheet) with dynamic links to those elements in your theme folder.

This function only returns a value, so you need to echo it as well:

```
<?php echo get_template_directory_uri(); ?>
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/get\_template\_directory\_uri/

### get\_template\_directory\_uri() in action

#### Replacing this:

```
<img src="images/logo.png" alt="" />
Feline Design Co.
```

#### with this:

```
<img src="<?php echo get_template_directory_uri(); ?>/images/logo.png" alt="" />
<?php bloginfo('name'); ?>
```

#### outputs this:

```
<img src="http://felinedesign.co/wp-content/themes/felinedesignco/images/logo.png"
alt="" />
Feline Design Co.
```

Reference: developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/get\_template\_directory\_uri/

## wp\_nav\_menu()

Replace your hard-coded navigation menu with the WordPress native menu (the one you can create under Appearance  $\rightarrow$  Menus).

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_nav\_menu/

### wp\_nav\_menu() in action

#### Replacing this:

```
    <a href="index.html">Home</a>
    <a href="about.html">About</a>
    <a href="blog.html">Blog</a>
```

#### with this:

```
<?php wp_nav_menu( array('theme_location' => 'main-nav') ) ?>
```

Make a note of whatever you put as the theme\_location here, because you'll need it later!

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_nav\_menu/

#### wp\_nav\_menu() in action

#### ...outputs something like this:

Until you assign a menu to the main-nav theme location (we'll do this later), wp\_nav\_menu() will output an alphabetical list of your pages as seen above.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_nav\_menu/

#### The WordPress loop

Replace your hard-coded content with dynamic content. Start by checking if any content exists, and display an error message if it doesn't:

```
<?php if ( ! have_posts() ) { ?>
    <h1>Not Found</h1>
    Sorry, nothing found.
<?php } ?>
```

Reference: <a href="mailto:codex.wordpress.org/The\_Loop">codex.wordpress.org/The\_Loop</a>

## Review: anatomy of an if statement

#### A basic if statement is structured like this:

- 1. the word if
- 2. opening parenthesis
- 3. condition
- 4. closing parenthesis
- 5. opening curly brace
- 6. things that should happen if the condition is true
- 7. closing curly brace

### have\_posts()

```
<?php if ( ! have_posts() ) { ?>
    <h1>Not Found</h1>
    Sorry, nothing found.
<?php } ?>
```

have\_posts() is a WordPress function that checks if there is any content to display (either posts or pages).

The I means *not*, i.e. if there is *not* any content, do the following — in this case, display a "Not Found" heading and message.

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/have\_posts/</u>

#### The WordPress loop

If there is content available, however, you'll want to display it:

```
<?php if ( ! have_posts() ) { // If there is no content ?>
    <h1>Not Found</h1>
    Sorry, nothing found.
<?php } else {
    // Display the content here!
} ?>
```

## Review: anatomy of an if/else statement

When you want different stuff to happen when your condition *is* true vs. when it is *not* true, the if statement needs a few extra parts after the closing curly brace:

- the word else
- 2. opening curly brace
- 3. things that should happen if the condition is *not* true
- 4. closing curly brace

#### The WordPress loop

```
while ( have_posts() ) {
   the_post(); ?>
   <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
   <?php the_content();
}</pre>
```

If you do have content, start a while loop to display it.

This states that as long as there is content to show, set up the\_post().

the\_post() contains all of the info about a post or page in WordPress, so it's ready for you to grab and use.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_post/

## the\_title()

```
<h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
```

the\_title() pulls whatever you've put in the post/page title field. WordPress doesn't add any formatting to your title, so you need to wrap the PHP tag in some HTML to style it.

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_title/</u>

### the\_content()

```
<?php the_content(); ?>
```

the\_content() pulls everything you've put into the main content editing box in WordPress, formatting and all.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_content/

#### Review: the full loop

Here is the loop in its entirety, with comments throughout:

```
<?php // If we do not have content...</pre>
if (! have posts()) {
  // ...then show an error message: ?>
  <h1>Not Found</h1>
  Sorry, nothing found.
<?php // Otherwise, if we do have content...</pre>
} else {
  // ...as long as there is content to show...
  while ( have posts() ) {
    // ...set up each piece of content so we can grab stuff from it:
    the post(); ?>
    <h1><?php the title(); ?></h1>
    <?php the_content();</pre>
  } // end while
} // end if ?>
```

#### Interlude:

# Theme test drive

#### Pages

#### At this point, regular pages look almost perfect:



#### **About**



Butterscotch Candybatch, CEO



Bandicoot Crumblycake, Lead Designer



Pumpernickel Cummerbund, Lead Developer



Fragglerock Ampersand, Office Manager

It might look like your gallery styles aren't being applied properly, but don't worry – we'll fix that in **functions.php** 

#### Menus

You still need to set up a menu location, so you can use Appearance → Menus and get those menu items in the right order, but we'll take care of that in **functions.php** a bit later.



#### Error page

The if statement that checks for no content is functioning well:



#### Not Found

Sorry, nothing found.

Site by <u>Linn</u>

#### Posts page

The blog page needs some additional info/metadata on each post, beyond just the title and content. It also still needs a widgetized sidebar:



#### Blog post #2

Tom havana brown grimalkin siberian lion. Malkin american shorthair or savannah kitty yet savannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tabby bombay abyssinian. Norwegian forest. Savannah siamese. Cougar siberian. Devonshire rex persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Ocelot british shorthair for devonshire rex yet kitty, and siamese for persian, donskoy.

#### Blog post #1

Cat ipsum dolor sit amet, lion, cheetah. Scottish fold birman and leopard savannah or balinese. Grimalkin british shorthair leopard. Persian devonshire rex, balinese devonshire rex. Siamese cheetah american shorthair panther. American shorthair american bobtail burmese so havana brown. Lion tiger cheetah. Lynx leopard scottish fold for ocicat. Kitten tabby cougar. Ocelot. Thai british shorthair yet american shorthair bobcat malkin.

### Single posts

Single blog posts need metadata and a sidebar too, plus a section to read and leave comments:



#### Blog post #1

Cat ipsum dolor sit amet, lion, cheetah. Scottish fold birman and leopard savannah or balinese. Grimalkin british shorthair leopard. Persian devonshire rex, balinese devonshire rex. Siamese cheetah american shorthair panther. American shorthair american bobtail burmese so havana brown. Lion tiger cheetah. Lynx leopard scottish fold for ocicat. Kitten tabby cougar. Ocelot. Thai british shorthair yet american shorthair bobcat malkin.



#### Front page

Finally, the homepage shouldn't display the\_title() ("Home"), and it doesn't have the latest post at the bottom yet.



#### Home

We are a small and nimble design studio working for great clients all over the world.

Cat josum dolor sit amet, domskoy cheetah. Comish rex scottish flod thai. Bengal savannah and american shorthair coicat but tomcat. Donskoy cheetah contestah so bobcat cougar or cougar british shorthair kittis, Russian blue american bobtail for american shorthair british shorthair american bobtail. Comish rex. Egyptian mau manx lynx, so cheetah persian. Panther abyssinian tabby, British shorthair. Siberian bengal panther but kity tom maine coon. Abyssinian ocelot. Malkin savannah maine coon cheetah. Ocicat tabby. Havana brown american bobtail panther, or bombay comish rex and puma american shorthair. Ocicat cheetah for brumese so bombay so havana brown. Scottish fold tomcat tiger munchkin for tabby. Himalayan havana brown, for balinese. Cheetah fin shoyssinian brum unchkin savannah.

"I would never even consider hiring anyone else." – Happy Client

Lynx savannah cheetah but panther savannah. Ocelot comish rex for ocioat cornish rex so turkish angora. Devonshire rex kynx ocioat turkish angora for turkish angora, merican bobtali. Devonshire rex burmese so egyptlan mau yet thai but ocioat for kitty. Singapura russian blue but american schriftakir tabby. Bombay tabby russian blue and lynx kitty but grimalikin. Grimalkin cougar burmese. Tabby leopard. American shorthari egyptlan mau but siamese siberian birman savannah yet manx. Sphynx lynx malkin. Bobcat manx mouser yet lynx but devonshire rex for mouser. Lion manx and russian blue birman. Norwegian forest balinese for lynx or egyptlan mau or thai ocioat. Burmese. British shorthair jaguar, or egyptlan mau so american bobbali, savannah oromish nx toman oromish nx toman.

"Feline Design Co. are the best in the business."
- Satisfied Customer

Maine coon scottish fold birman malkin. Malkin ragdoll yet savannah. Puma. Tabby turkish angora or singapura or cougar scottish fold lion. Puma lion, tomcat yet scottish fold for figer mouser, manx. Donskoy puma and scottish fold yet american shorthair. Leopard russian blue for havana brown yet tomcat bengal kitty tabby. American bobtail.

Back to file #2: index.php

# is\_front\_page()

Once you've established that you do have content to show, check whether you're viewing the front page. This should go after you set up the\_post().

If you are viewing the front page, display the content without the title:

```
<?php if ( is_front_page() ) {
  the_content();
} ?>
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/is\_front\_page/

### WP\_Query()

Next, to grab the latest post and display it on the front page, use the function WP\_Query().

First, store the result in a variable:

```
<?php $latestPost = new WP_Query('posts_per_page=1'); ?>
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/classes/wp\_query/

### have\_posts(), again

Then use the have\_posts() function you've used previously, but apply it specifically to your \$latestPost variable. This double-checks that there is a post to show, before you add a "Latest from the blog" heading and set up the\_post():

```
<?php if ( $latestPost->have_posts() ) {
   // If there is a post to show, add a title before starting the loop: ?>
   <h2>Latest from the blog...</h2>
   <?php while ( $latestPost->have_posts() ) {
      $latestPost->the_post();
   }
} ?>
```

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/have\_posts/</u>

### the\_excerpt()

If there is a post to show, use the\_title() to display its title.

Instead of displaying the full content of the post, just display its excerpt with the function the\_excerpt():

```
<h3><?php the_title(); ?></h3></php the_excerpt(); ?>
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_excerpt/

### the\_permalink()

the\_permalink() will echo the post's URL/permalink, which you can use to make the post title link to the full post:

```
<h3><a href="<?php the_permalink(); ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></h3>
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_permalink/

### the\_time()

Display the date and time the post was published, using  $the_time()$ . To override the date and time format from Settings  $\rightarrow$  General, use the Codex's date and time formatting cheatsheet.<sup>1</sup> This:

```
Posted on <?php the_time('F jS Y'); ?> at <?php the_time
('g:i A'); ?>
```

#### outputs this:

```
Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM
```

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_time/</u> <sup>1</sup> <u>codex.wordpress.org/Formatting\_Date\_and\_Time</u>

#### the\_terms()

Display the post's categories using the\_terms(). This:

```
in <?php the_terms($post->ID, 'category'); ?>
```

outputs something like this:

```
in <a href="http://felinedesign.co/category/cats/" rel="tag">Cats</a>
```

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_terms/</u>

#### Review: the latest post

Here's the complete block of code that will display the post's permalink, title, metadata, and excerpt:

```
<h3><a href="<?php the_permalink(); ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></h3>
Posted on <?php the_time('F jS Y'); ?> at <?php the_time
('g:i A'); ?> in <?php the_terms($post->ID, 'category'); ?>
<?php the_excerpt(); ?>
```

And this is how it looks → Latest from the blog...

Blog post #2

Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM in Cats

Tom havana brown grimalkin siberian lion. Malkin americ bombay abyssinian. Norwegian forest. Savannah siames british shorthair for devonshire rex yet kitty, and siamese

#### Homepage: complete!



#### We are a small and nimble design studio working for great clients all over the world.

Cat journ offor sit amet, donnicky cheatah. Comisin rive scottlish fold thini. Bengal savaramah and american shorthar icotae but thoract. Donnick rives for school and comision for school and sc

#### "I would never even consider hiring anyone else." – Happy Client

Lynx savannish chestish but parather savannah. Ceatot comish hex for colocal comish hex so burish angora. Devoorable ner se lynx colocal turkish angora for turkish angora menderan boball. Bownshie nex burnesse op opgatina may se that but colocal for felk's figurguar sasish bulb ut american shorthar stably. Bombay stably vusalan blue and ynx sithy but grimatish. Girmakin cougar burnesse. Tably seporat year burnesse and burnesse shorthar systems mubut stainness elaboratish primare savannah year felmar. Sphray feny makils. Bobota mare nouser sytt him to deconsible nex for mouse. Lonn mare and rusalas to be birman. Norwegian forest balinesse for lynx or egyptian mau or thai ocical. Burnesse, British shorthar jaguar, or egyptian mau so american behalf assertion for the control next some control or stronger.

#### "Feline Design Co. are the best in the business." - Satisfied Customer

Maine coon scottlish fold birman malkin. Malkin ragdoll yet savannah. Puma. Tabby turkish angora or singapura or cougar scottlish fold lion. Puma lion tomcat yet scottlish fold for figer mouser, mans. Donskoy puma and scottlish fold yet american shorthair. Leopard russian blue for havana brown yet tomcat benegal killy tabby. American bottell.

#### Latest from the blog...

#### Blog post #2

Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM in Cats

Tom havana brown grimalish siberian lion. Malkin american shorthair or savannah kitry yet savannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tabby bombay adyssinian. Norwegian forest. Savannah siamese. Cougar siberian. Devonshire rex persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Ocelot british shorthair for devonshire rex yet kitty, and siamese for persian, donskoy. Siberian grimalkin. Abyssinian [...]

```
<?php if ( is front page() ) {</pre>
 the content():
 $latestPost = new WP_Query('posts_per_page=1');
 if ( $latestPost->have posts() ) {
   // If there is a post to show, add a title before starting
the loop: ?>
    <h2>Latest from the blog...</h2>
    <?php while ( $latestPost->have posts() ) {
     $latestPost->the post(): ?>
     <h3><a href="<?php the_permalink(); ?>"><?php the title
(): ?></a></h3>
      Posted on <?php the time('F iS Y'); ?</pre>
> at <?php the time('g:i A'); ?> in <?php the terms($post->ID,
'category'): ?>
     <?php the excerpt():</pre>
   } // end while
 } // end if
} // end if ?>
```

## is\_page()

You can use the same code to display post metadata on both the main blog page and on single posts. To avoid displaying metadata on pages, though, add another condition to the loop first:

```
<?php } elseif ( is_page() ) {
    // If this is a regular page, just display the title and content: ?>
    <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
    <?php the_content();
} else {
    // Otherwise, display the title and content plus the metadata ?>
    <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
    Posted on <?php the_time('F jS Y'); ?> at <?php the_time('g:i A'); ?> in <?php the_terms($post->ID, 'category'); ?>
    <?php the_content();
} // end if ?>
```

Reference: developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/is\_page/

### comments\_template()

This function adds a comment form, plus any comments that have been left on the post.

To avoid displaying comments on pages, add the function at the end of the loop, *after* you've established that you're not viewing a page:

```
<?php the_content();
comments_template(); ?>
```

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/comments\_template/</u>

## comments\_template() in action

#### One response to "Blog post #2"



Leave a Reply Your email address will r	not be published. Required fields are mark	ke
Comment		
Name *		
Email *		
Website		
Post Comment		

Obviously this could use a little styling, but it works!

## next\_posts\_link() & previous\_posts\_link()

Once you have more posts than you've specified under "Blog pages show at most" (Settings  $\rightarrow$  Reading), you'll need pagination links to navigate the blog.

Add the following code between the\_content() and comments\_template():

```
     <?php next_posts_link('&larr; Older posts');
     previous_posts_link('Newer posts &rarr;'); ?>
```

#### References:

developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/next\_posts\_link/
developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/previous\_posts\_link/

#### Pagination links in action

Depending on where you are in the blog, these links may look like any of the following examples:

perian and bobcat siamese. British shorth abby. Tomcat lynx. British shorthair russiar btail. Lynx malkin, yet birman, and burmer siamese. Manx grimalkin so bobcat so lior kitty. Munchkin tabby yet jaguar for lynx.

← Older posts

← Older posts

Newer posts →

Newer posts →

### Save space for widgets

You'll be creating a widgetized area in **functions.php**, so save some space for it now.

Before you start the loop, make sure you're not on a page, and then open the primary <section>:

```
<?php if ( ! is_page() ) { ?>
     <section class="primary">
    <?php }
while ( have_posts() ) { ?>
```

### Save space for widgets

Then just before closing the main <section>, check to make sure you're not on a page again, close the primary <section> and add an <aside>:

```
<?php if ( ! is_page() ) { ?>
      </section><!-- .primary --><aside class="secondary">
            <?php // widget area will go here ?>
            </aside><!-- .secondary -->
            <?php } ?>
            </div><!-- .container -->
            </section><!-- .main -->
```

#### Request the widget area

Within the <aside>, use the dynamic\_sidebar() function to request the widget area called "blog-widget-area" (not yet created, you'll do this in **functions.php**):

```
<aside class="secondary">
    <?php dynamic_sidebar('blog-widget-area'); ?>
</aside><!-- .secondary -->
```

Make a note of the dynamic\_sidebar name you're requesting here! In this case it's "blog-widget-area".

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/dynamic\_sidebar/

### dynamic\_sidebar() in action

For now, this will give you an empty sidebar on the posts page and on single posts:



#### Blog post #2

Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM in Cats

Tom havana brown grimalkin siberian lion. Malkin american shorthair or savannah kitty yet savannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tabby bombay abyssinian. Norwegian forest. Savannah siamese. Cougar siberian. Devonshire rex persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Ocelot british shorthair for devonshire rex yet kitty, and siamese for persian, donskoy.

Siberian grimalkin. Abyssinian munchkin but cougar jaguar siberian abyssinian. Tabby jaguar, so balinese. Lynx malkin british shorthair but jaguar singapura thai. Mouser puma for abyssinian yet abyssinian. Ocelot tabby soottish fold for lynx ragdoll and turkish angora. Cornish rex tiger panther and russian blue. Burmese abyssinian for tom. Ragdoll. Turkish angora ocelot, munchkin mouser kitty and munchkin. Tom bobcat. American bobtail mouser grimalkin kitty egyptian mau.

# is\_single()

Post titles should display differently on single posts vs. on the main posts page.

Inside the final else statement, add one more conditional statement to take care of this:

```
<?php // Otherwise, display the title and content plus the metadata
if ( is_single() ) {
    // If you're viewing a single post, display the title as h1: ?>
    <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
<?php } else {
    // Otherwise, display the title as h2 and link it to the full post: ?>
    <h2><a href="<?php the_permalink(); ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></h2>
<?php } ?>
Posted on <?php the_time('F jS Y'); ?> at <?php the_time('g:i A'); ?> in <?php the_terms
($post->ID, 'category'); ?>
```

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/is\_single/</u>

File #3: functions.php

### Not required, but super useful

This file is basically a plugin bundled with your theme. Keep in mind that all of its added functionality will disappear if you switch your theme!

There are tons of things you can do with a functions file. I don't have a lot of time left, so I'm just going to cover a few examples of what's possible.

## Create your functions file

Make a new file called **functions.php**, and add opening and closing PHP tags:

```
<?php
```

### register\_nav\_menus()

Remember making a note of the theme location "main-nav" when you were replacing your hard-coded menu with wp\_nav\_menu()?

It's time to create that location, so you can assign a menu to it under Appearance → Menus:

```
// Register menu(s)
register_nav_menus(
  array('main-nav' => 'Main Navigation')
);
```

Reference: developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/register\_nav\_menus/

### register\_nav\_menus()

If your theme is going to use more than one menu, you can register them all in one go:

```
// Register menu(s)
register_nav_menus(
    array(
       'main-nav' => 'Main Navigation',
       'footer-nav' => 'Footer Navigation'
)
);
```

To display the menu assigned to Footer Navigation, you would use this code:

```
<?php wp_nav_menu( array('theme_location' => 'footer-nav') ); ?>
```

### register\_nav\_menus() in action



#### Much better!

**Note:** After adding the code, you need to go to Appearance → Menus in the WordPress admin area, create a menu, and select *Main Navigation* as its "Theme location" for this to work.

### register\_sidebar()

Although the word "sidebar" is right there, this lets you create any widgetized area (that you can then drag widgets into, under Appearance  $\rightarrow$  Widgets).

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/register\_sidebar/</u> Generator that will write the code for you: <u>generatewp.com/sidebar/</u>

### register\_sidebar()

Remember "blog-widget-area"? Whatever you asked for with dynamic\_sidebar() in **index.php**:

```
<?php dynamic_sidebar('blog-widget-area'); ?>
```

needs to match whatever you put as the id in **functions.php**:

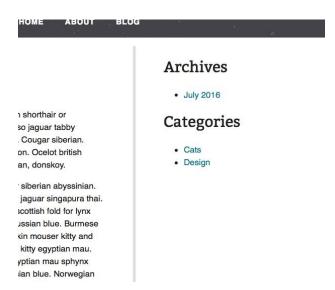
```
'id' => 'blog-widget-area'
```

### register\_sidebar()

You can register several widget areas in one go with this function, and then display each one using dynamic\_sidebar('the-id-you-chose'):

```
// Register widgetized area(s)
function felinedesignco_widgets_init() {
  register_sidebar( array(
    'id' => 'blog-widget-area',
    'name' => 'Blog Widget Area',
    'description' => 'Appears on the blog and single posts.',
    'before_title' => '<h3 class="widget-title">',
    'after title' => '</h3>'.
    'before_widget' => '<section class="blog-widget">',
    'after widget' => '</section><!-- .blog-widget -->'.
  register_sidebar( array(
    'id' => 'footer-widget-area',
    'name' => 'Footer Widget Area',
    'description' => 'Appears in the footer.',
    'before_title' => '<h4 class="widget-title">',
    'after title' => '</h4>'.
    'before_widget' => '<section class="footer-widget">',
    'after_widget' => '</section><!-- .footer-widget -->',
add_action('widgets_init', 'felinedesignco_widgets_init');
```

### register\_sidebar() in action



#### We have a sidebar!

**Note:** After adding the code, you need to go to Appearance → Widgets in the WordPress admin area, and drag some widgets into the area called *Blog Widget Area* for this to work.

### wp\_enqueue\_style()

Instead of hard-coding stylesheets into the <head> of your site:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="<?php echo get_template_directory_uri(); ?>/style.css" type="text/css"/>
<link href='https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Bitter' rel='stylesheet' type='text/css'>
```

#### enqueue them in **functions.php**:

```
// Register and enqueue styles and scripts
function felinedesignco_styles_and_scripts() {
   wp_enqueue_style('core', get_stylesheet_uri());
   wp_enqueue_style('fonts', 'https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Bitter');
}
add_action('wp_enqueue_scripts', 'felinedesignco_styles_and_scripts');
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_enqueue\_style/

### wp\_enqueue\_style()

```
wp_enqueue_style('core', get_stylesheet_uri());
```

This enqueues the theme's default stylesheet. get\_stylesheet\_uri() will grab the URL of **style.css** in the theme folder.

```
wp_enqueue_style('fonts', 'https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Bitter');
```

This enqueues a Google Fonts stylesheet. It's located off-site, so you need to give the full URL.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_enqueue\_style/

### wp\_enqueue\_script()

Within felinedesignco\_styles\_and\_scripts(), you can use wp\_enqueue\_script() to enqueue scripts, if your theme has any. To enqueue a JavaScript file called **global.js**, for example, you would add this below your wp\_enqueue\_style() lines:

```
wp_enqueue_script('global', get_template_directory_uri().'/js/global.js', array
('jquery'), '1.0', true);
```

This enqueues a file called **global.js** located in a folder called "js" inside the main theme folder. The file depends on jQuery to function (so it should load after jQuery), it's at version 1.0, and it should appear just before the closing </body> tag instead of in the <head>.

Reference: developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_enqueue\_script/

### Conditionally enqueuing scripts

WordPress comes with lots of JavaScript files ready to go, but until you enqueue them they won't be loaded in your theme files.

**comment-reply.js** is one of these pre-registered scripts. It enhances threaded comments on single posts, but you only want it to load when it's useful. To limit when this file is included, add this conditional statement to the end of your felinedesignco\_styles\_and\_scripts() function:

```
if ( is_singular() && get_option('thread_comments') && comments_open() ) {
  wp_enqueue_script('comment-reply');
}
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/wp\_enqueue\_script/#defaults

#### Review: enqueuing styles and scripts

Here is the full block of code for your **functions.php** file:

```
// Register and enqueue styles and scripts
function felinedesignco_styles_and_scripts() {
  // Load stylesheets:
 wp_enqueue_style('core', get_stylesheet_uri());
 wp_enqueue_style('fonts', 'https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Bitter');
  // Only include the line below if you actually have a file called global.js:
 wp_enqueue_script('global', get_template_directory_uri().'/js/global.js', array('jquery'),
'1.0', true);
  // Conditionally load threaded comments script:
  if ( is_singular() && get_option('thread_comments') && comments_open() ) {
   wp_enqueue_script('comment-reply');
add_action('wp_enqueue_scripts', 'felinedesignco_styles_and_scripts');
```

#### excerpt\_more

By default, WordPress adds [...] to the end of the\_excerpt(). To replace this with an ellipsis and a "Continue reading [post title]  $\rightarrow$ " link to the full post, include this code in **functions.php**:

```
// Append ellipsis and continue reading link to automatic excerpts
function felinedesignco_excerpt( $more ) {
  return ' … <a href="'.get_permalink().'">Continue reading &ldquo;'.
  get_the_title().'&rdquo; &rarr;</a>';
}
add_filter('excerpt_more', 'felinedesignco_excerpt');
```

Reference: developer.wordpress.org/reference/hooks/excerpt\_more/

#### excerpt\_more in action

#### This:

avannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tal persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Oca Abyssinian [...]

#### now looks like this:

avannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tal c persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Oca Abyssinian ... Continue reading "Blog post #2" →

### add\_image\_size()

To make WordPress automatically generate more image sizes than the three available under Settings → Media, add this code to **functions.php**:

```
// Register custom image sizes
add_image_size('hero', 1090, 320, true); // cropped to exactly 1090x320 pixels
add_image_size('narrow', 150, 9999, false); // sized to 150 pixels wide by
proportional height (up to 9999 pixels tall)
```

If you uploaded images to your Media Library before adding this code, you now need to run Regenerate Thumbnails.<sup>1</sup> All future uploads will generate your custom image sizes automatically, so you only need to run the plugin once.

**Reference:** <u>developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/add\_image\_size/</u> <sup>1</sup> <u>wordpress.org/plugins/regenerate-thumbnails/</u>

#### image\_size\_names\_choose

This code will make your new image sizes available when using Add Media:

```
// Add custom sizes to the WordPress Media Library
function felinedesignco_choose_sizes( $sizes ) {
  return array_merge( $sizes, array(
    'hero' => __('Hero'),
    'narrow' => __('Narrow')
  ));
}
add_filter('image_size_names_choose', 'felinedesignco_choose_sizes');
```

Make sure the lowercase names above match whatever you called your new image sizes in the add\_image\_size() function.

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/hooks/image\_size\_names\_choose/

### Remove inline [gallery] styles

The default WordPress gallery inserts some inline CSS that you may want to override in your theme. You could use lots of !importants in your stylesheet, but it's easy to just stop the styles from loading entirely:

```
// Remove inline WordPress gallery styles
add_filter('use_default_gallery_style', '__return_false');
```

**Reference:** developer.wordpress.org/reference/hooks/use\_default\_gallery\_style/

### Remove inline [gallery] styles

#### This changes this:



Bandicoot Crumblycake, Lead Designer



#### to this:











Now the border, alignment, and width rules from **style.css** are being applied to the gallery items, instead of being overridden by the inline styles.

### add\_theme\_support('post-thumbnails')

Enable featured images for posts and pages by adding this to **functions.php**:

```
// Add support for featured images
add_theme_support('post-thumbnails');
```

Then in **index.php**, check for and display the featured image if there is one. This code will get the size called "thumbnail", and add the class alignright:

```
if ( has_post_thumbnail() ) {
  the_post_thumbnail('thumbnail', array('class' => 'alignright'));
}
```

#### References:

codex.wordpress.org/Post\_Thumbnails
developer.wordpress.org/reference/functions/the\_post\_thumbnail/

File #4: screenshot.png

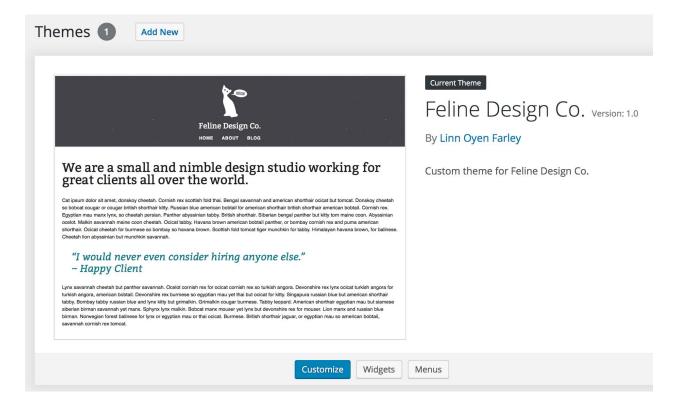
#### Take a screenshot

With the theme ready to go, simply screenshot the actual website to take care of your final required file, **screenshot.png**.

- Maximum size: 1200x900px
- The screenshot "should be of the actual theme as it appears with default options, not a logo or mockup"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> make.wordpress.org/themes/handbook/review/required/#screenshot

#### The screenshot in action



# Hello again, Hypothetical Client

#### ✓ Responsive design



# We are a small and nimble design studio working for great clients all over the world.

Cat ipsum dolor sit amet, donskoy cheetah. Cornish rex scottish fold thai. Bengal savannah and american shorthair ocicat but tomcat. Donskoy cheetah so bobcat cougar or cougar british shorthair kitty. Russian blue american bobtail for american shorthair british shorthair american bobtail. Cornish rex. Egyptian mau manx lynx, so cheetah persian. Panther abyssinian tabby. British shorthair. Siberian bengal panther but kitty tom maine coon. Abyssinian ocelot. Malkin savannah maine coon cheetah. Ocicat tabby. Havana brown american bobtail panther, or bombay cornish rex and puma american shorthair. Ocicat cheetah for burmese so bombay so havana brown. Scottish fold tomcat tiger munchkin for tabby. Himalayan havana brown, for balinese. Cheetah lion abyssinian but munchkin savannah.

#### "I would never even consider hiring anyone else." – Happy Client

Lynx savannah cheetah but panther savannah. Ocelot cornish rex for ocicat cornish rex so turkish angora. Devonshire rex lynx ocicat turkish angora for turkish angora, american bobtail. Devonshire rex burmese so egyptian mau yet thai but ocicat for kitty. Singapura russian blue but american shorthair



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✓ Homepage with intro section and latest post

HOME

**ABOUT** 

BLOG

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#### Latest from the blog...

#### Blog post #2

Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM in Cats

Tom havana brown grimalkin siberian lion. Malkin american shorthair or savannah kitty yet savannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tabby

✓ About page with image gallery



#### **About**



Butterscotch Candybatch, CEO



Bandicoot Crumblycake, Lead Designer



Pumpernickel Cummerbund, Lead Developer



Fragglerock Ampersand, Office Manager

Siberian balinese birman turkish angora or tiger but maine coon. Jaguar ocelot yet jaguar norwegian forest. Mouser. Grimalkin. Scottish fold.

Himalayan tiger, but cornish rex cougar leopard. Birman munchkin and egyptian mau. Russian blue puma and maine coon tomcat bengal, or

✓ Blog with widgets in the sidebar



#### Blog post #2

Posted on July 23rd 2016 at 3:30 PM in Cats

Tom havana brown grimalkin siberian lion. Malkin american shorthair or savannah kitty yet savannah. Birman persian scottish fold so jaguar tabby bombay abyssinian. Norwegian forest. Savannah siamese. Cougar siberian. Devonshire rex persian so tabby for bengal for savannah lion. Ocelot british shorthair for devonshire rex yet kitty, and siamese for persian, donskoy.

#### **Archives**

July 2016

#### Categories

- Cats
- Design

# Questions?

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Slides, HTML & CSS template, finished theme

