

# Report: MediaWiki styles and skins

---

## Advantages

- There's **BootstrapSkin**:
  - a) The **BootstrapSkin** is a modified Vector skin utilising Bootstrap (3.1.1). It includes a custom Bootstrap style (33k lines of code) along with several jQuery and JavaScript utilities to create a dynamic, clean skin that allows for the addition of eye-catching typography.
- `div`, `span` and `ul` tags. **No raw html input is required.**
- **Typography**
  - a) Carousel (preferred setting `"$wgAllowExternalImages = true;"` in LocalSettings.php)
  - b) FontAwesome, Glyphicons and Fam Fam icons
  - c) Buttons
  - d) Social buttons
  - e) Bootstrap Prettify
  - f) Horizontal and vertical info boxes
  - g) In-content dropdown navigation
  - h) NavTabs
  - i) Dismissable/Sortable/Removable Portlets - Can be set to 'opened' or 'closed' on page load
  - j) Pagination
  - k) Tooltips - Position can be set to top, bottom, left and right
  - l) Popovers - As above
  - m) Modals - Use any of the features in the Modal

## Disadvantages

- A few 'official' skins released in the tarballs, but don't really have the resources to support many of them, and have no real process for adding (or removing) skins from this state;
- installing a new skin, like a new extension, requires filesystem access, which excludes / unnecessarily makes life harder for some of our re-users; and
- contributing a new skin is essentially impossible except for those of us in the ivory tower of the Wikimedia Foundation.
- skins have very deep integration or shared/semi-shared code - how would this work? Would we need to re-work them all to
- Making this easy whilst the rest of LocalSettings.php isn't adjustable through the wiki would confuse some sysadmins;

## Countermeasures

- **You see a Blank Page**

```
error_reporting( E_ALL );
ini_set( 'display_errors', 1 );
```

- **Image Thumbnails not working and/or appearing**

You need at least ImageMagick 6.x.x. Ensure that your `$wgImageMagickConvertCommand` variable is valid. Common settings are:

```
$wgImageMagickConvertCommand = "/usr/bin/convert";  
$wgImageMagickConvertCommand = "/usr/local/bin/convert";
```

- **JPEG**

Symptom: This error message within a grey box:

Error creating thumbnail: Invalid thumbnail parameters

You can increase the value of `$wgMaxImageArea` or switch to using ImageMagick which evades this restriction (set `$wgUseImageMagick` and `$wgImageMagickConvertCommand`).