

Themes - WordCamp Kathmandu 2023 Contributions Day

Introduction to WordPress Theme

- A WordPress theme defines the overall design and appearance of the website frontend.
- Theme is responsible for presenting the content but not creating them.
- Theme can control color, typography, layout, spacing and add and customize design elements and components to change the overall look, feel and style of the website.
- A WordPress theme is developed by combining a group of files (style sheets, code, html, json image, videos, graphics, fonts etc) by following some set of rules.

Reference: <https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/getting-started/what-is-a-theme/>

Types of Theme

- **Block Theme**
 - Modern WordPress theme.
 - Templates are composed with blocks.
 - Headers, footers, sidebars, and all areas created and edited with block editor.
- **Classic Theme**
 - Theme before Block theme.
 - Based on customizer and PHP templates.
 - Headers, footers, sidebars, are created using widgets and customizers.

Key Points to Know Before Developing WordPress Theme

- **style.css**
 - Theme name must not use keywords like `WordPress`, `Theme`.
 - Text domain must be mentioned. Example: Text Domain: my-nepal
 - Theme URI and Author URI are optional. If used Theme URI link with the page of theme information and Author URI link with the author personal site or project development site.
 - Avoid using 'wordpress.org' as Theme or Author URI.
 - License and License URI must be included.
 - Versions of themes should be mentioned.
 - Theme Tags should be written.

Example

Theme Name: Name of the theme.

Author: The name of the individual or organization who developed the theme. Using the Theme Author's wordpress.org username is recommended.

Description: A short description of the theme.

Version: The version, written in X.X or X.X.X format.

Requires at least: The oldest main WordPress version supported, written in X.X format.

Tested up to: The last main WordPress version the theme has been tested up to, i.e. 5.4. Only the number.

Requires PHP: The oldest PHP version supported, in X.X format, only the number

License: The license of the theme.

License URI: The URL of the theme license.

Text Domain: The string used for text-domain for translation.

- **readme.txt**
 - 'readme.txt' must contain theme info, license info, changelog , short theme description etc. Reference: <https://make.wordpress.org/themes/2015/04/29/a-revised-readme/>
 - Make sure 'readme.txt' is in the theme root directory.
- **changelog.txt**
 - If changelog is not maintained on 'readme.txt' it can be maintained under the 'changelog.txt'.
- **Screenshot**
 - No logo or mock up, should be of actual theme it appears.
 - Size no bigger than 1200*900px. Any 4:3 image size is accepted.
 - The screenshot must not look like an advertisement. The reviewer can subjectively ask you to change screenshots if they find that it is not appropriate.
- **Images**
 - Images that promote hate or violence or images that show children with recognizable facial or body features are not permitted.
- **Licensing & copyright**
 - Always pay extra attention and make sure that the entire theme is GPL, or GPL-Compatible. This will include fonts, scripts, images, videos etc.
 - Include copyright information for the theme itself.
 - Include license, copyright information, and source for all resources included, such as fonts or images (For assets in the public domain, copyright information is excluded).
 - Provide a list of all resources in one file.
 - All code and design must be your own or legally yours. Cloning of designs is not acceptable.
 - Copyright statements on the front end must only display the user's copyright, not the theme author's copyright.

- **Privacy**
 - Don't phone home without informed user consent.
 - Make any collection of user data “opt-in” only and have a theme option that is set to disabled by default.
 - Documentation on how any user data is collected and used needs to be in the theme readme.txt file, preferably with a clearly stated privacy policy.
- **Accessibility**
 - Skip links
 - Keyboard navigation
 - Links within content and comments must be underlined
- **Code and Security(Sanitization and Escaping)**
 - Prefix
 - There must not be any PHP or JavaScript errors, warnings, or notices.
 - Validate and sanitization.
 - Escaping.
- **Functionality and Features**
 - Just focus on presentation of content and avoid creating content.
- **Plugins**
 - Only recommend plugins that are hosted on WordPress.org
 - Don't include plugin zip and functionalities plugin territory.
- **Naming, spelling, and trademarks**
 - Theme names must not use: WordPress, Theme, Twenty*
 - Spell “WordPress” correctly in all public-facing text: all one word, with both an uppercase W and P
 - No violation of trademarks.
- **Language & internationalization**
 - All theme text should be translatable using theme slug as the text-domain.
 - Example: 'Category:' it's translation ready is `<?php _e('Category: ', 'textdomain'); ?>`
 - Text domain must be mentioned on 'style.css'. It must match with the theme name. If the theme name is “My Nepal” its text domain is 'my-nepal'.
- **Classic themes**
 - Must use default WordPress functions whenever possible.
 - Use a customizer for theme options.
 - Include required template and template functions.
- **Block themes**
 - Include required files: style.css, readme.txt, theme.json, and index.html.
 - Index.html needs to be placed inside a folder called templates.

- **Selling, credits, links, and spam**
 - Themes can include one single front-facing credit link, which is restricted to the Theme URI or Author URI defined in style.css.
 - Themes can also have an additional front-facing credit link pointing to WordPress.org.
 - Themes must not display obtrusive upselling. Themes must not display upselling on the front
 - The theme and its public-facing pages, including theme description, readme files, bundled starter content, and translation files, may not be used to spam.
- **Theme author and theme upload restrictions**
 - Intentionally attempting to exploit loopholes in the guidelines may lead to suspension.

Review Your Theme Before Submitting to WordPress dot Org

- **Theme Unit Test**
 - Install WordPress Importer Plugin & Import test data.
 - https://codex.wordpress.org/Theme_Unit_Test.
- **wp-config.php**
 - Set WP_DEBUG to 'true'

```
define('WP_DEBUG', true);
```
- **Test using Theme check and other plugins**
 - Theme Check
 - Regenerate Thumbnails
 - RTL Tester
 - Monster Widgets
 - Debug bar

Recommendation

- **Backward compatibility**
- **Documentation**
- **Accessibility**
- **Design**
- **Get involved on theme review**

Let's Start Developing Theme

- Theme code and actual developing process

Theme Submit and Review Process

- <https://wordpress.org/themes/getting-started/>