

Theme Structure



Susan Simkins

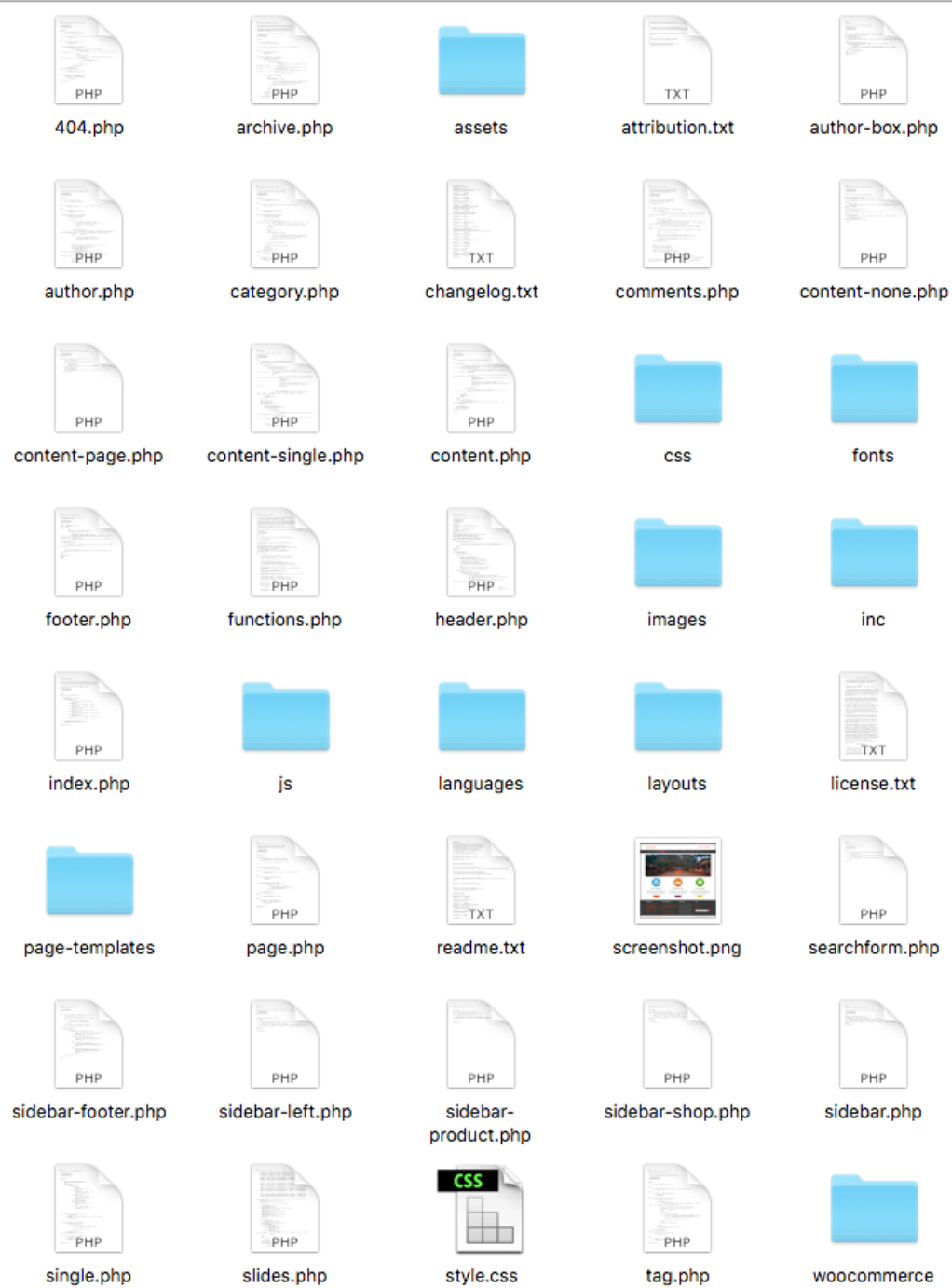
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Understanding Template Files







Oh my.



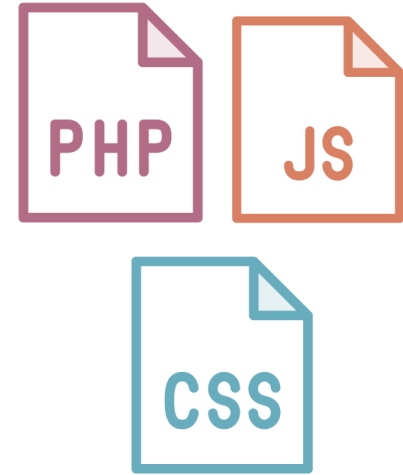
Types of Template Files



Page Templates



Template Partials



Logic, behavior, and presentation



Page Templates

Apply a specific layout to an entire page



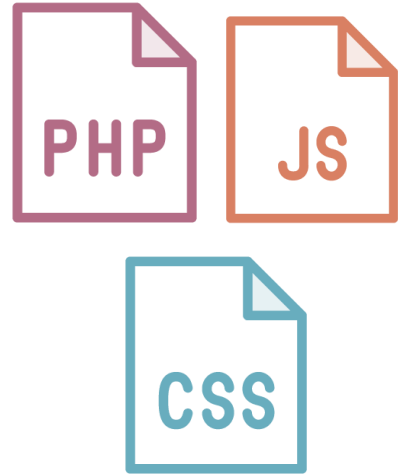


Template Partials

A common template part or module that has its own template file

Called into page templates using template tags like `get_header()`





Function, behavior,
and presentation

Main file is functions.php

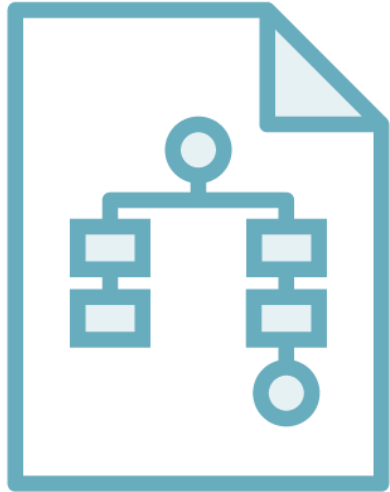
Style.css

Custom files



There is also a clearly defined system for what files are used.





Template Hierarchy

Determines what page template WordPress uses to display a page

Can help you decide what theme files you need



Template Files Overview



Page Templates



index.php

The main template file.



page.php

Used for individual
page templates.



Front Page Templates



home.php

Default front page, shows latest posts.



front-page.php

Used for static front pages.



Post Templates



single.php

Individual post template



archive.php

Template for post archives



category.php

Used for posts of a specific category



tag.php

Used for posts of a specific tag



Template Partials



header.php

footer.php

sidebar.php

comments.php



search.php

date.php

taxonomy.php

attachment.php

image.php

rtl.php

404.php

author.php



There can be infinite variations
of each template file.



Archive-cat.php
Page-contact.php
Single-lady.php



A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and nose. The person has light skin with numerous small, reddish-brown freckles scattered across the nose and cheeks. Their eyes are a striking blue-grey color, with dark, well-defined eyelashes. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the skin and the intensity of the eyes. The overall mood is contemplative and personal.

Do I really need all of these files?



Maybe.



Template Hierarchy



WordPress has a specific
template hierarchy.



1. How does WordPress choose a template file to display a page?
2. What page templates do I need to develop for my custom theme?

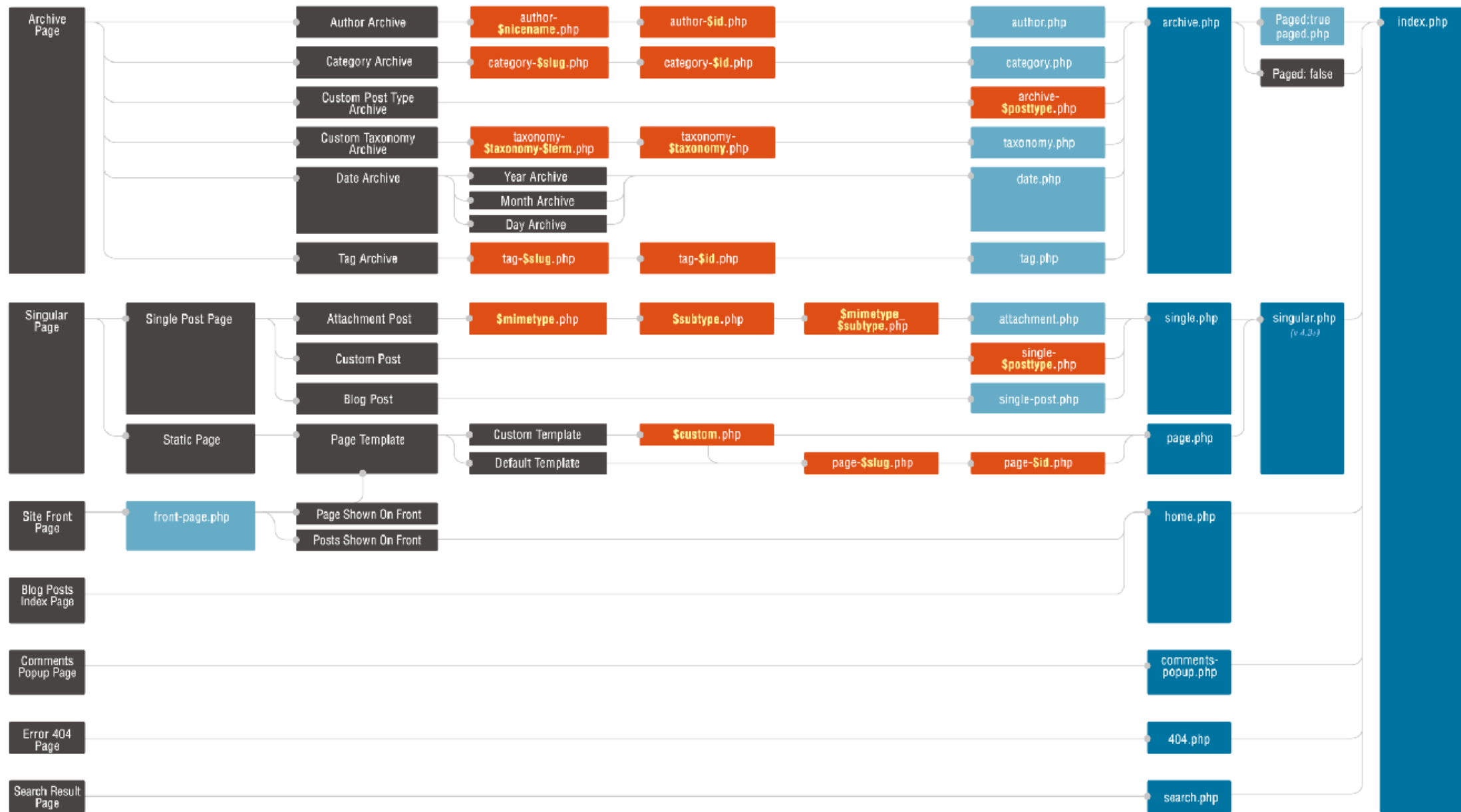






WordPress looks through the hierarchy and uses the first match it finds.



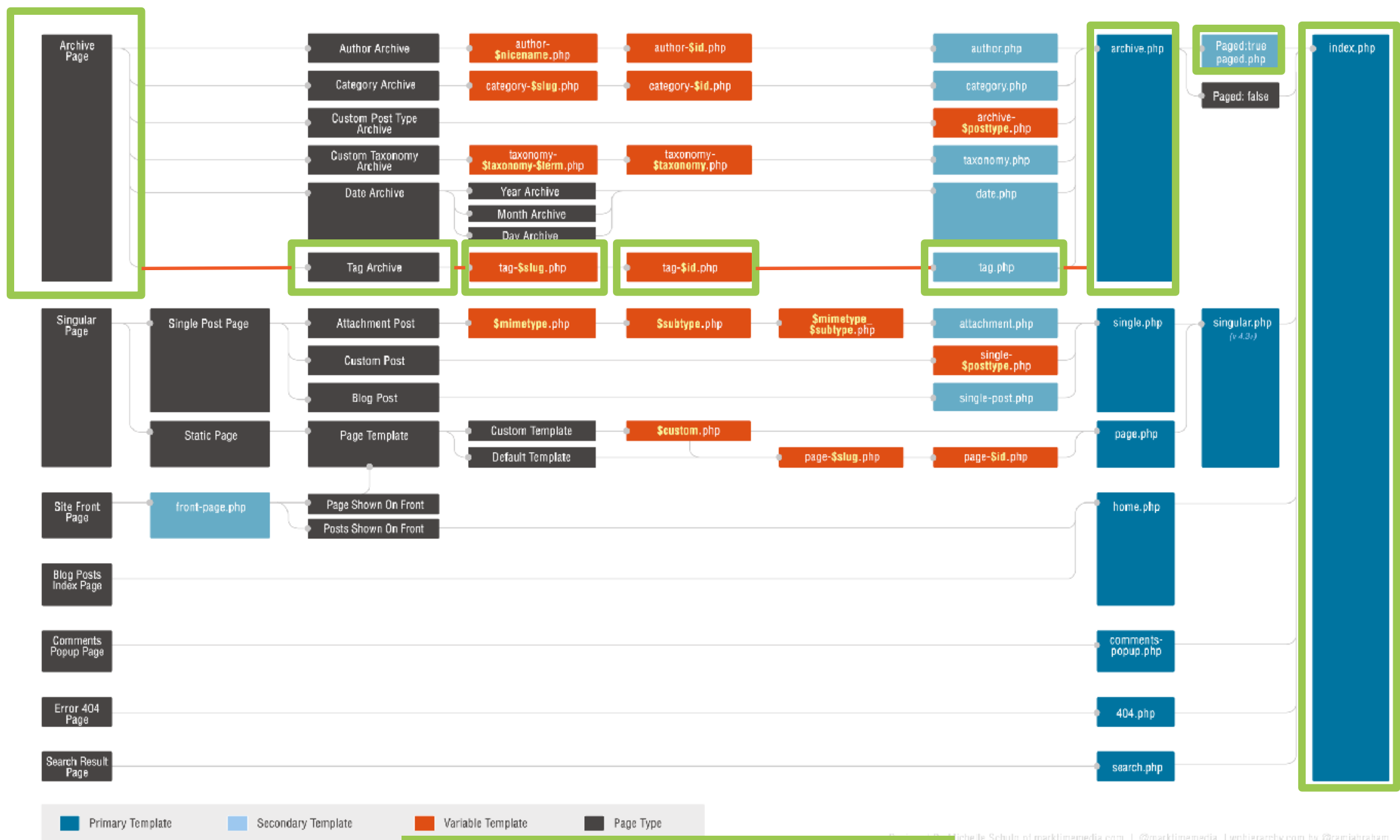


If it doesn't find one, it uses
index.php



Posts with the
tag **kitten**



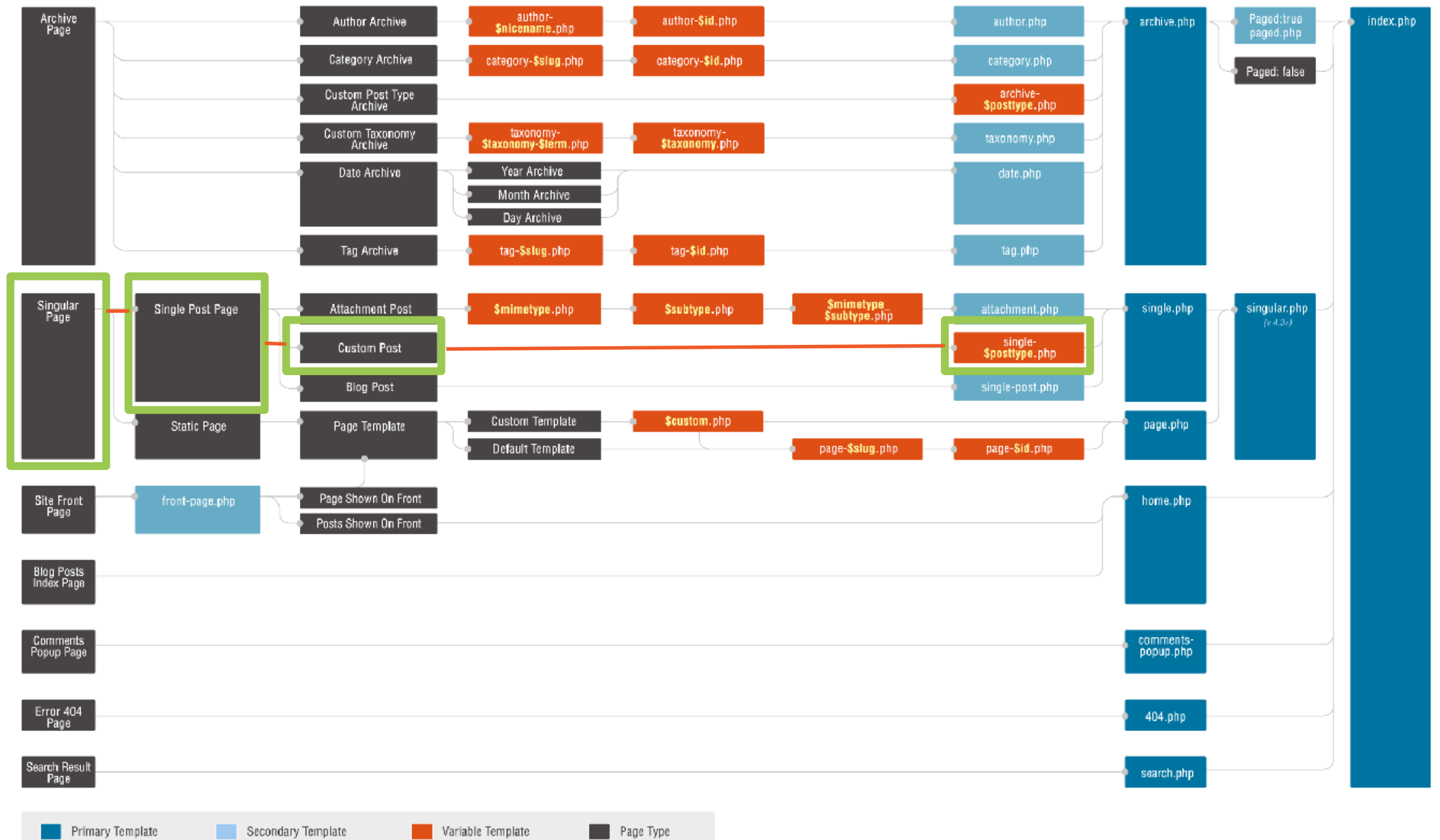


Custom Post Type “breeds”

[https://ilovekittens.com/breeds/
norwegian-forest-cat](https://ilovekittens.com/breeds/norwegian-forest-cat)

Individual post of breeds
custom post type, called
“Norwegian
Forest Cats”



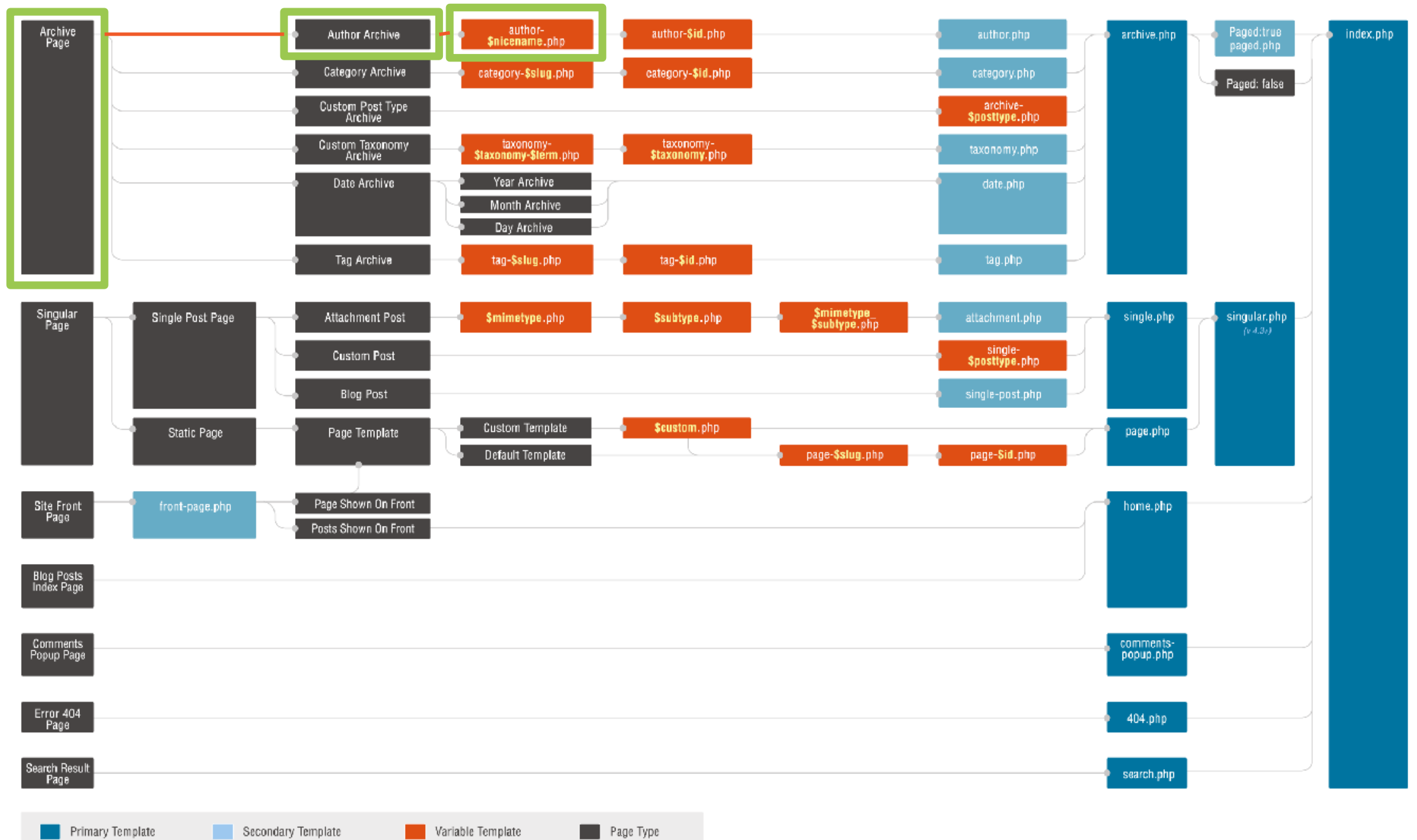


<https://ilovekittens.com/breeds/norwegian-forest-cat>

Your boss wants a custom design for special guest authors writing for your company blog, that also shows all the posts they've written for said blog.







Custom Blog Author Page

Being familiar with the Hierarchy gives you the power to control your theme presentation.



YAY

