How to edit Chrome Themes

- ## Introduction

This is a guide to help you edit your existing Chrome themes to change the default text colors and background images on New Tab page. It is fairly simple to do, and should take around **15 minutes, more or less**.

- ## Getting started

You will need to have [Google Chrome](https://www.google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/) installed on your computer as well as some text editor. I like [Sublime Text](http://www.sublimetext.com/2) but feel free to use any editor you like better.

You will need to have downloaded a pre-existing Chrome theme to begin. Browse the [theme store] (https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/themes) to find one you like, and hit "Add to Chrome". Once you have a theme, we will want to find the folder it saves to.

- ## **Find the folder with your theme**
  - ### Windows

You will need to show hidden files to see the folder. Do this by opening the Control Panel. If you're on Windows 8 or newer, the fastest way is **Windows key+X**, then **P**. Click into **Appearance and Personalization**, then **Folder Options**. Go to the **View** tab. There will be a list of advanced settings - we want to find the *Hidden files and folders option*. There should be two radio options - select the Show hidden files, folders, and drives* one. Click Apply and you're done.

Open File Explorer (Windows+x, e) and navigate to this folder. **User Name** shoul be replaced by your user name.
`C:\Users\**User Name**\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Extensions`

  - ### OS X

Open Terminal and type `defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES` to show hidden files. Navigate to `~/Library/Application Support/Google/Chrome/Default/Extensions` to find the folder containing Chrome extensions.

  - ### Linux

Open your file manager in root (`sudo nautilus` in Ubuntu) and press ctrl+h to see hidden files. Navigate to `~/.config/google-chrome/Default/Extensions/` to find the extensions. You could also enter into a Terminal: `sudo vim ~/.config/google-chrome/Default/Extensions/` to edit the file directly.

- Find your theme

In the folder you opened, you will find a long list of folders, all of which have titles that look like random letters.

 One of these contains your theme, and the rest are other themes or extensions you have installed. Sort by Date Modified. The most recent one should be your theme, assuming this theme was the one you installed last. Open the folder, go into the version folder, and look for a file called **manifest.json**.

- Edit manifest.json

The **manifest.json** file is the "command center" for your theme. It controls the layout and details of your theme. Right-click it and open it with a text editor. If you're in the right folder, it'll look something like this

You'll want to be careful with what you're editing in the manifest.json file, since it controls so much, but anything within the *theme* subsection should be fair game. [Google provides their own official documentation for theme attributes.](https://developer.chrome.com/extensions/themes) You can change text colors by [changing the RGB values](http://www.colorpicker.com) associated with them.

```json
{
    "description": "Enjoy the view from space.",
    "key": "MIGfMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBgQC+dTrwNtM6s4PbM7rwoVJ21C0mSJp
    "manifest_version": 2,
    "name": "Earth",
    "theme": {
        "colors": {
            "bookmark_text": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "frame": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "ntp_background": [ 10, 10, 10 ],
            "ntp_link": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "ntp_section_link": [ 10, 10, 10 ],
            "ntp_section_text": [ 10, 10, 10 ],
            "ntp_text": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "tab_background_text": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "tab_text": [ 255, 255, 255 ],
            "toolbar": [ 10, 10, 100 ]
        },
        "images": {
            "theme_frame": "images/frame.png",
            "theme_ntp_attribution": "images/logo.png",
            "theme_ntp_background": "images/eyes.png",
            "theme_tab_background": "images/tab.png",
            "theme_toolbar": "images/toolbar.png"
        },
        "properties": {
            "ntp_background_alignment": "center",
            "ntp_background_repeat": "no-repeat"
        },
        "tints": {
            "buttons": [ 0.99, 0.99, 0.99 ],
            "frame_inactive": [ 0.99, 0.99, 0.99 ],
            "frame_incognito_inactive": [ 0.99, 0.99, 0.99 ]
        }
    },
    "update_url": "https://clients2.google.com/service/update2/crx",
    "version": "1.6"
}
```

It's a good idea to edit the *name* field too since you'll be making your own custom theme.

- ## Changing images

You'll also see an *images* subsection in the manifest.json. Here you can specify what images will be used, and where. To change an image, you'll need to put the changes in the images folder, which can be found in the same place you found your manifest.json.
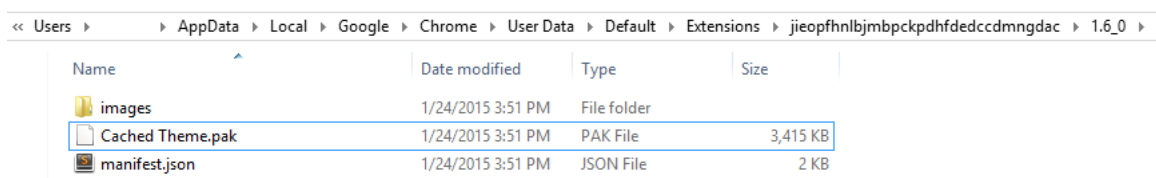
Number	Description	manifest.json Notation
10	The color of the frame, that covers the smaller outer frame	"frame"
10. 1	The color of the same element, but in inactive mode	"frame_inactive"
10. 2	The color of the same element, but in incognito mode	"frame_incognito"
10. 3	The color of the same element, but in incognito, inactive mode	"frame_incognito_inactive"
10. 4	The color of the toolbar background (visible by pressing Ctrl+B)	"toolbar"
11	The color of text, in the title of current tab	"tab_text"
12	The color of text, in the title of all inactive tabs	"tab_background_text"
13	The color of the bookmark element's text	"bookmark_text"
14	The theme's inner background color	"ntp_background"
14. 1	The color of all the text that comes in the inner background area	"ntp_text"
14. 2	The color of the links that appear in the background area	"ntp_link"
14. 3	The color of the underline of all links in the background area	"ntp_link_underline"
14. 4	The color of the section frames when mouse over	"ntp_header"
14. 5	The color of Recently closed tabs area's bg and frame of quick links	"ntp_section"
14. 6	The color of text in the section	"ntp_section_text"
14. 7	The color of the links that appear in the section area	"ntp_section_link"
14. 8	The color of underline of links in the section area	"ntp_section_link_underline"
15	Unconfirmed yet-The color of the window control buttons (close, maximize, etc.)	"control_background"
16	The background color of all the toolbar buttons	"button_background"

For example, if you'd rather have a different background image on the New Tab page, just rename your image `eyes.png` and copy/paste it into the theme's images folder, replacing the current tab.png as you do.

If you have a .jpg you want to use instead, that's fine. Just paste it into the images folder and change the line of code in the manifest to refer to your .jpg instead. In this example, if you had an image called cat.jpg, you would change line 22 to `"theme_ntp_background": "images/cat.jpg",`

- ## Loading your new theme

To see how your new theme looks, you can add it to Chrome. To do this, you'll need to enable Developer Mode. Go to Your chrome settings (chrome://extensions) and check the Developer Mode box and restart Chrome. Click **Load unpacked** and a window will open allowing you to select your folder. Navigate to your extension's version folder and select it.

Click OK and your theme will be applied! Admire your new theme and give yourself a pat on the back! You just made your own awesome theme!

- ## crx loading method

You can build a .crx with the **Pack Extension** button. You will receive a success message saying that Chrome made you a **.crx** and a **.pem**. The .crx is your new theme. Since Chrome v75 loading locally-packed .crx extensions via left-click/opening in Chrome is blocked. If you'd like to share your theme, you can zip your version folder and have other people unzip it and load unpacked. Alternatively, a workaround is to drag and drop the .crx into the Chrome window, this appears to bypass the security checks for now (as of v99/early 2022).