



What are TinkerCell "Themes" and How to Create new Themes

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Introduction

A theme is a collection of symbols for representing nodes, arrowheads, and decorators in TinkerCell. Each theme is stored in a separate folder. New themes can be created simply by creating new folders with the required sub-folders. Themes can also be shared between TinkerCell users by submitting the themes folder to the tinkercellexta.sf.net repository using subversion. Ask one of the TinkerCell developers for access to this repository.

Creating New Themes

Take a look at the Bio1 folder inside the TinkerCell/Graphics folder for an

example.

1. Go to the Graphics folder in the TinkerCell directory
2. Create a new folder with the name of the new theme
3. Inside this new folder, create three folders named "Nodes", "Arrows", and "Decorators"
4. Inside the Nodes folder, add node diagrams for each node type in TinkerCell.

Remove whitespace from all file names and make all file names **lower case**

Each node diagram consists of a PNG file and an XML file (see Bio1 folder)

It is acceptable to skip child families if parent families have an icon, e.g. if you have created an icon for "Protein", then all child families of Protein will inherit the icon as a default

5. Inside the Arrows folder, create diagrams for each reaction and regulation family
6. (optional) inside the Decorators folder, create diagrams for each reaction and regulation
Decorators are entirely optional and sometimes not even used.

The Drawing Program

Watch this demo to see how to create new nodes using the NodeGraphics:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bh97iqxxQV4>