



A blue square button with a white hamburger menu icon and the text 'MENU' in white, sans-serif font.

## Cleanup WordPress Header

WORDPRESS HACKS JULY 13, 2009 // FRANK

WordPress implements new standard features in the head of the theme since version 2.5, that are always on the hook `wp_head`. Even in WordPress 2.8 new functions were added. If you don't need them you can easily disable them by using the function `remove_action`.

### Function `remove_action`

```
remove_action( $tag, $function_to_remove, $priority,  
$accepted_args );
```

This function removes a function attached to a specified action hook. This method can be used to remove default functions attached to a specific action hook and possibly replace them with a substitute.

**Important:** To remove a hook, the `$function_to_remove` and

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for both filters and actions. No warning will be given on removal failure.

– via: [WP Codexy](#)

The following syntax shows an excerpt, only a part of the output you can have in your theme. They result from the standard functions, which are loaded in the head of the theme. Visible, if you search in the file `wp-includes/default-filters.php` for the Hook `wp_head`. Not all filters should be deactivated, because in most cases they are useful. But WordPress is not only as classical blog in use and therefore some functions are not necessary.

```
<link rel="alternate" type="application/rss+xml" title="WP Engineer RSS
Feed" href="http://wpengineer.com/feed/" />
<link rel="alternate" type="application/atom+xml" title="WP Engineer Atom
Feed" href="http://wpengineer.com/feed/atom/" />
<link rel="pingback" href="http://wpengineer.com/blog/xmlrpc.php" />
<link rel="EditURI" type="application/rsd+xml" title="RSD"
href="http://wpengineer.com/xmlrpc.php?rsd" />
<link rel='index' title='WP Engineer' href='http://wpengineer.com' />
<link rel='start' title='Use WordPress 2.7 Offline'
href='http://wpengineer.com/use-wordpress-27-offline/' />
<link rel='prev' title='Recents Drafts All Authors'
href='http://wpengineer.com/recents-drafts-all-authors/' />
```

This is an example, not a recommendation where some functions are deactivated. Check your header and turn off what you don't need. Less markup and better loading time.

```
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'feed_links_extra', 3 ); // Display the links
to the extra feeds such as category feeds
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'feed_links', 2 ); // Display the links to the
general feeds: Post and Comment Feed
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'rsd_link' ); // Display the link to the Really
Simple Discovery service endpoint, EditURI link
```

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*the Windows Live Writer manifest file.*

```
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'index_rel_link' ); // index link
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'parent_post_rel_link', 10, 0 ); // prev link
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'start_post_rel_link', 10, 0 ); // start link
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'adjacent_posts_rel_link', 10, 0 ); // Display
relational links for the posts adjacent to the current post.
remove_action( 'wp_head', 'wp_generator' ); // Display the XHTML
generator that is generated on the wp_head hook, WP version
```

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#PHP #WORDPRESS #WORDPRESS 2.8 #WORDPRESS THEMES #WORDPRESS TUTORIALS #WP2.8

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Frank

Webworker by passion, works with priority in WordPress, developing Plugins, themes and solutions. Frank writes in German language on his private blog [bueltege.de](http://bueltege.de) [[by:ltge.de](http://by:ltge.de)]. He is member of WordPress Germany and writes about news in [WordPress Deutschland blog](#) and is author of a [book for WordPress](#).

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11 comments



Hon tap

July 13, 2009 @ 5:33 pm

Cool. This hack may help WP blog run faster and hide some information from

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Arpit Jacob

July 14, 2009 @ 8:57 am

referring to Hon statement about will it actually effect the speed in which WordPress renders pages?



David

July 14, 2009 @ 11:34 pm

Looks useful, but I guess I have to look up what some of these functions do before I remove them.

I'm currently making a CMS type site and I'll probably try and find some way to disable that RSS feed. No need to have anything broadcasting.

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James John Malcolm

August 1, 2009 @ 1:06 pm

Having less in your head, and especially less links to look up/load will always be beneficial.

Thanks WP Engineer!



Joe Howard

October 22, 2009 @ 10:08 pm

Thanks so much for this tip! Any little piece I can save to optimize wordpress is so helpful. Thanks again! 😊



Vayu

October 28, 2009 @ 10:35 am

Hi.

Thanks, this is very helpful!

I have several plugins that add extra meta tags in the header that I also would like to have control over.

For example I use the NextGen gallery and this is added in the header:

How can I remove this?

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Vayu



Alex

November 3, 2009 @ 9:40 pm

This is not possible in an easy step, it is always depending on the Plugin. It's not possible with NextGEN, you have to contact Alex Rabe, the author of NextGEN



Korrekt

June 19, 2010 @ 6:23 pm

hi

'adjacent\_posts\_rel\_link' has changed to 'adjacent\_posts\_rel\_link\_wp\_head' in WP 3.0

greetz



Martina

July 17, 2010 @ 11:57 am

Thanks, Korrekt 😊

this brought me also to the idea to use parent\_post\_rel\_link\_wp\_head and start\_post\_rel\_link\_wp\_head, because the above version without \_wp\_head did not

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Chris

July 19, 2010 @ 6:49 am

`remove_action( 'wp_head', 'adjacent_posts_rel_link_wp_head' );`

this worked for me whereas

`adjacent_posts_rel_link_wp_head`

did not. I am using wordpress MU



stanislav

October 1, 2010 @ 6:24 am

`adjacent_posts_rel_link` - not exist in wordpress 3,  
right - `adjacent_posts_rel_link_wp_head`  
mistake ?

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