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Using CSS3 PIE in WordPress custom themes
Filed Under: Theme Hybrid, WordPress by Debbie — 19 Comments
January 25, 2011

Boy, was this a huge pain to figure out. I'm hoping I can save others some teeth-grinding here.

CSS3 PIE is a wonderful addon that makes IE 6-8 render many of the most-used CSS3 features, including:

- rounded corners
- box shadows
- text shadows
- linear gradients
- border images
- multiple background images

It is super-easy to use on an HTML/CSS site, you simply add the PIE.htc file to your site and call the behavior like this in CSS:

```
1  #myElement {
2      ...
3      behavior: url(PIE.htc);
4  }
```

And if you can, add this to .htaccess (if you can't do this for some reason, you can use PIE.php

instead of PIE.htc in the CSS file):

```
1  AddType text/x-component .htc
```

Works like a charm.

But if you're using WordPress...

We have a different story entirely. I was unable to get PIE working after several attempts, moving the PIE file, trying PIE.htc vs PIE.php, etc. What I'll show you are the final edits that got it working for me. Note: I'm using a child theme of Theme Hybrid.

1) This is in my functions.php file:

```
01  function my_render_ie_pie() { ?>
02  <!--[if lte IE 8]>
03  <style type="text/css" media="screen">
04     #your-css-elements-here {
05          behavior: url('http://www.redkitecreative.com/PIE.htc');
06     }
07  </style>
08
09  <![endif]-->
10  <?php
11  }
12  add_action('hybrid_head', 'my_render_ie_pie', 8);
```

So you see you'll add all the CSS elements that need PIE treatment in IE, then the behavior line with a call to the PIE.htc file (I found that I had to use an absolute link, relative did not work for me on this WordPress site).

2) I added the AddType statement for .htc in my .htaccess file; if for some reason I hadn't been able to do that, I'd call PIE.php instead.

3) I removed the filters in every CSS element I included in functions.php (I was using a gradient filter for the buttons, and that hides the PIE results).

4) All the CSS elements involved were given position: relative.

Getting PIE to work in WordPress is tricky. There are some posts on the PIE forums that helped, but the part about the filter eluded me and that was the final issue to solve. There are other suggestions there that are reported to work in WordPress, but they didn't for me, maybe due to something about Theme Hybrid - I don't know. I did have another Theme Hybrid user confirm that what I showed above worked for him, too.

Let me know if this helps you!

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18 Comments:

- Dario
  [March 2nd, 2011 at 4:13 pm](#)

  Thank you, just what I needed. Works great for all css elements and supported behaviors. I'm building a new theme and I needed to put PIE in theme directory (not in site root). I put absolute url in variable which I call for each css element. So here is my function:

  function my_render_ie_pie() {
  $piedir = WP_CONTENT_URL. "/themes/themename/library/js/PIE.htc";
  ?>

  #searchform input#s {
  behavior: url("$piedir");
  }

  <?php
  }
  add_action('wp_head', 'my_render_ie_pie', 8);

- Dario
  [March 2nd, 2011 at 4:34 pm](#)

  There's a typo in my previous comment, correct is.
  behavior: url("$piedir");

- [Debbie](#)
  [March 2nd, 2011 at 5:06 pm](#)

  I updated the first post with your correction. Thanks for the reply, I'm still trying to get my head around using this in WordPress but the results in IE are worth it.

- redsalmon
  [March 9th, 2011 at 10:12 am](#)

  Thanks folks,

Above saved me a lot of work.

I put the style declaration directly into header –

#your-css-elements-here {
behavior: url('http://www.mysite.com/wp-includes/PIE.htc');
}

added 'position: relative' to css and 'AddType text/x-component .htc' to .htaccess and it works fine and good for basic rounded corners on divs in wordpress twentyten theme

- Debbie
  March 9th, 2011 at 10:23 am

  Thanks – it was ridiculous how hard it was to find info on using PIE in WordPress. I'm glad it helped.

- dan o
  April 25th, 2011 at 10:24 am

  redsalmon: just adding the behaviour in the head as you mentioned did it for me.

  .ie-round { position: relative; margin:0 0 5px 0 !important;/*PIE.htc*/ behavior: url(/PIE.htc);

  i didn't even need to use AddType in .htaccess (but I'll know where to add it, if necessary later). thanks to debbie and all who posted with your workarounds for wordpress !

- gina b
  April 28th, 2011 at 9:58 pm

  I'm still having issues, but you saved my life with this code!! Oh man, thanks Debbie, you are appreciated.

- Debbie
  April 28th, 2011 at 10:03 pm

  Thank you 😃 My pleasure, this was such a pain to deal with.

- Rohan
  September 8th, 2011 at 10:47 pm

  Kind of combined your two functions

  function PIE_CSS()
  {
  $piedir = WP_CONTENT_URL."/themes/mytheme/css/PIE.htc";
  ?>

```
#nav .dropdown {
behavior: url(");
}

<?php
}
add_action('wp_head', 'PIE_CSS', 8);
```

- **Boris**
  October 16th, 2011 at 7:08 am

  Thanks Debbie, for this one and the next (http://www.position-relative.com/2011/04/using-css-pie-in-wordpress-themes-updated/). I finally have it all working now!

- **Debbie**
  October 16th, 2011 at 8:41 am

  You're welcome.

  I seem to occasionally have some WordPress sites where even these two setups don't work – I suspect it might be the client's host, because there are no differences in the WordPress install.

- Thomas
  November 11th, 2011 at 11:10 am

  Thanks Debbie!

  Border-radius and box-shadow works perfect.
  However I can not get text-shadow to work.

  Are you sure pie.htc support text-shadow?

- **Debbie**
  November 11th, 2011 at 12:51 pm

  You're right – PIE doesn't support text-shadow now but they say on their blog that they are planning to add this in the future.

- **Sridhar Katakam**
  November 25th, 2011 at 1:05 am

  Hi Debbie,

  Thank you very much for this blog post.

  I wrote a wiki entry on the same here: http://ithemes.com/codex/page/Plugin_related_and_other_generic_customizations_2#How_to_use_CSS3_PIE

- Avish Pimple
  [January 13th, 2012 at 11:54 pm](#)

  Does not need a function to make PIE.htc work in wordpress
  Just give relative path with respect to your base folder.
  Lets say you put PIE.htc in your theme folder then path will be as follows

  behavior: url(wp-content/themes/twentyeleven/PIE.htc);

- [Debbie](#)
  [January 14th, 2012 at 9:17 am](#)

  This may work now, but it certainly didn't at the time I wrote that post. I'll try this on the next site again.

- Miriam
  [February 1st, 2012 at 3:30 pm](#)

  THANK YOU! That helped a ton.

- [Debbie](#)
  [February 1st, 2012 at 3:52 pm](#)

  You're welcome, but you might want to check out the [latest version of this method](#), it could be easier to implement if you need it again.

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  [...] plenty of more rigourous solutions to the CSS3 PIE and WordPress issue (for example, here and here) – which might work better for all I know, as I was stumped by the longhand [...]

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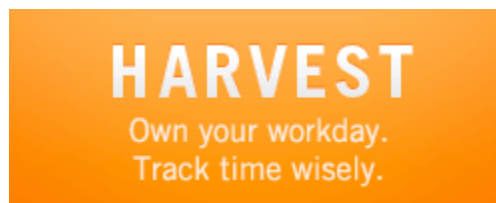 - Free offset, monochrome social media icons – more icons in this set
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