News+
Premium Drupal 8 theme Documentation

A responsive Drupal 8 theme, for news/magazine sites

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News+ 8.x-5.x.x

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1. Introduction

1.1. What is in the Pack

The News+ for Drupal 8 product pack contains the following:

- Drupal 8 core (v. drupal 8.1.1);
- A database with demo content and configuration;
- The News+ premium theme for Drupal 8, which is based on Bootstrap, with all its assets: HTML5, CSS3, JS, PHP code;
- The License information and references to third-party licenses [licenses], wherever needed.

2. Documentation

2.1. Installation

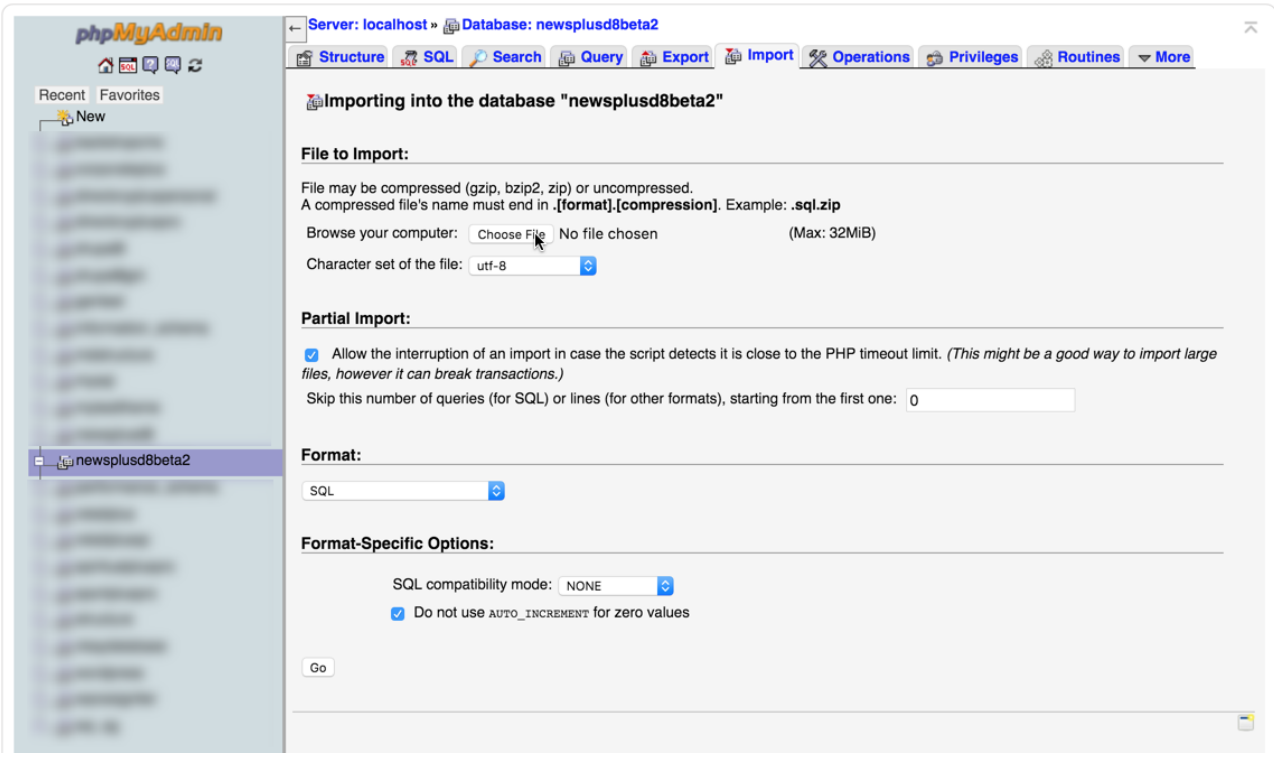
Theme installation guidelines for Drupal 8.

There are two main ways to use News+: (1) install as a full-featured Drupal distribution, and (2) apply as a simple Drupal theme, on top of an existing Drupal 8 core installation.

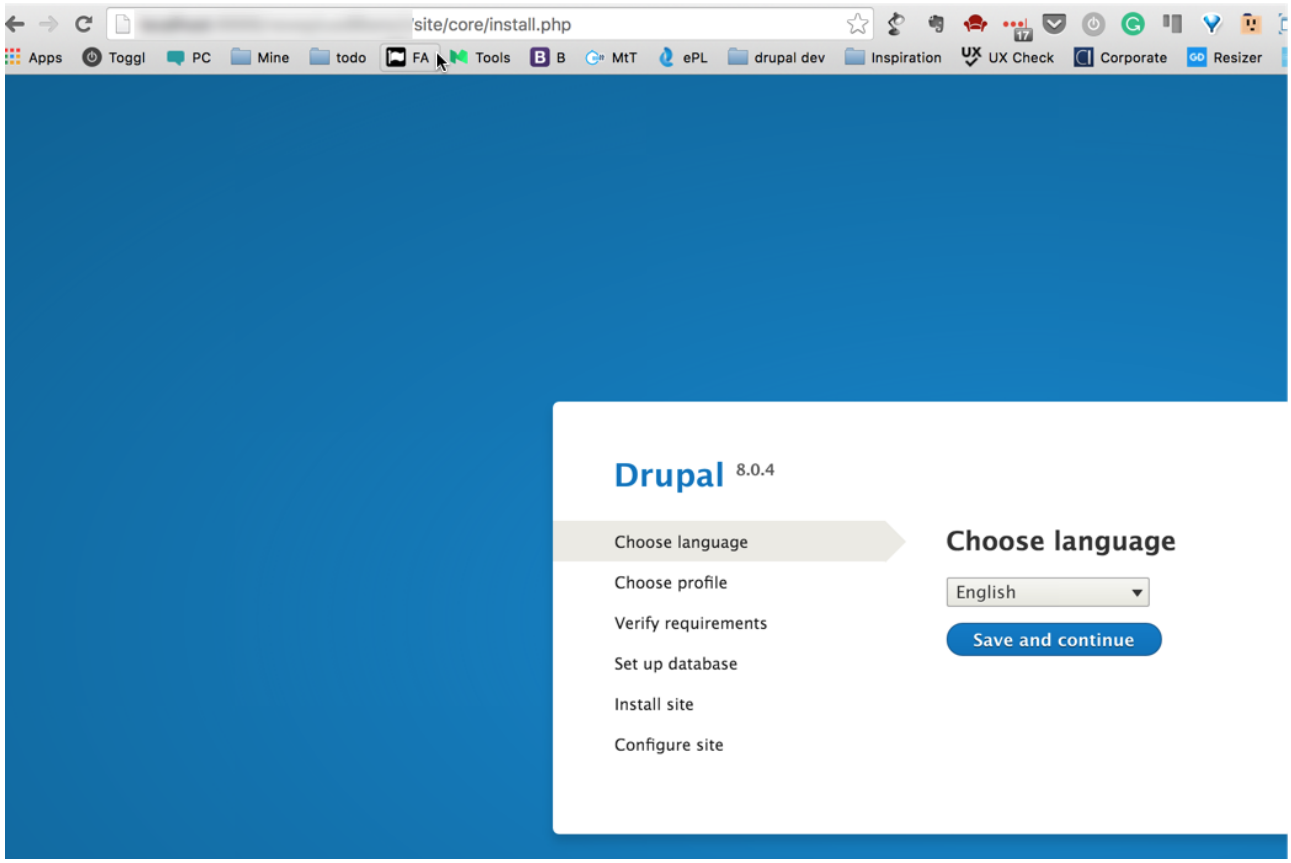
2.1.1. Install as a full Drupal distribution (with all features)

To install News+ for Drupal 8, with the demo content and the full functionality, including Content types, Slider(s), Views pages and blocks, and special layouts, please follow the steps below.

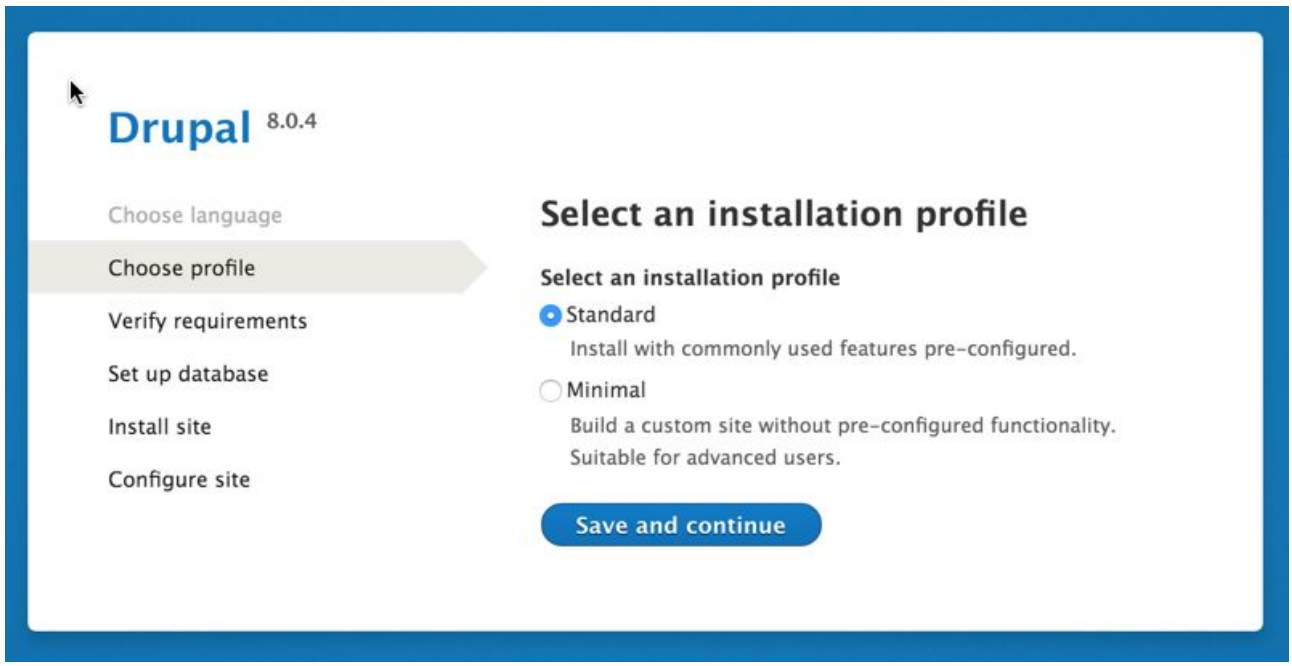
1. Place the included “site/d8” folder under your Apache server path[1].
2. Create an empty MySQL database and take note of the database name.
3. In your newly created database, import the “site/d8/_data/db_instance.sql” file that comes with the theme.



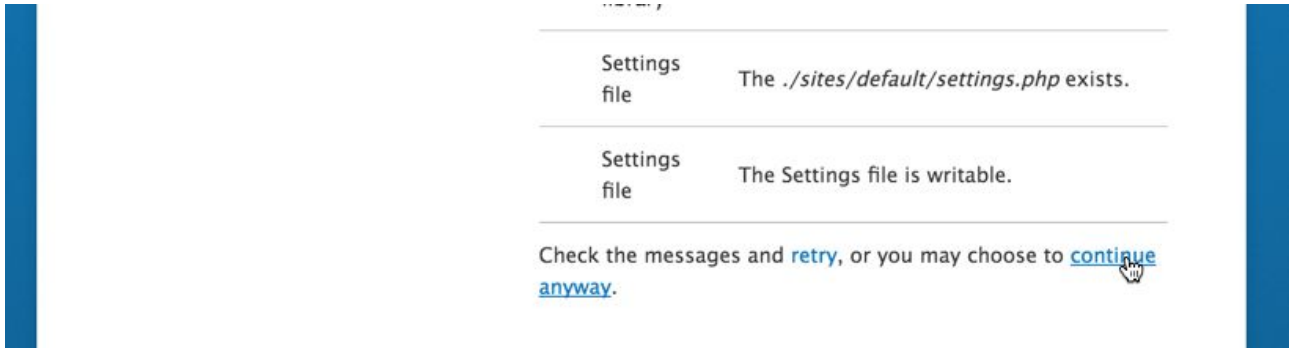
4. Start the Drupal installation wizard by pointing your browser to the recently created folder, in your Apache server path.



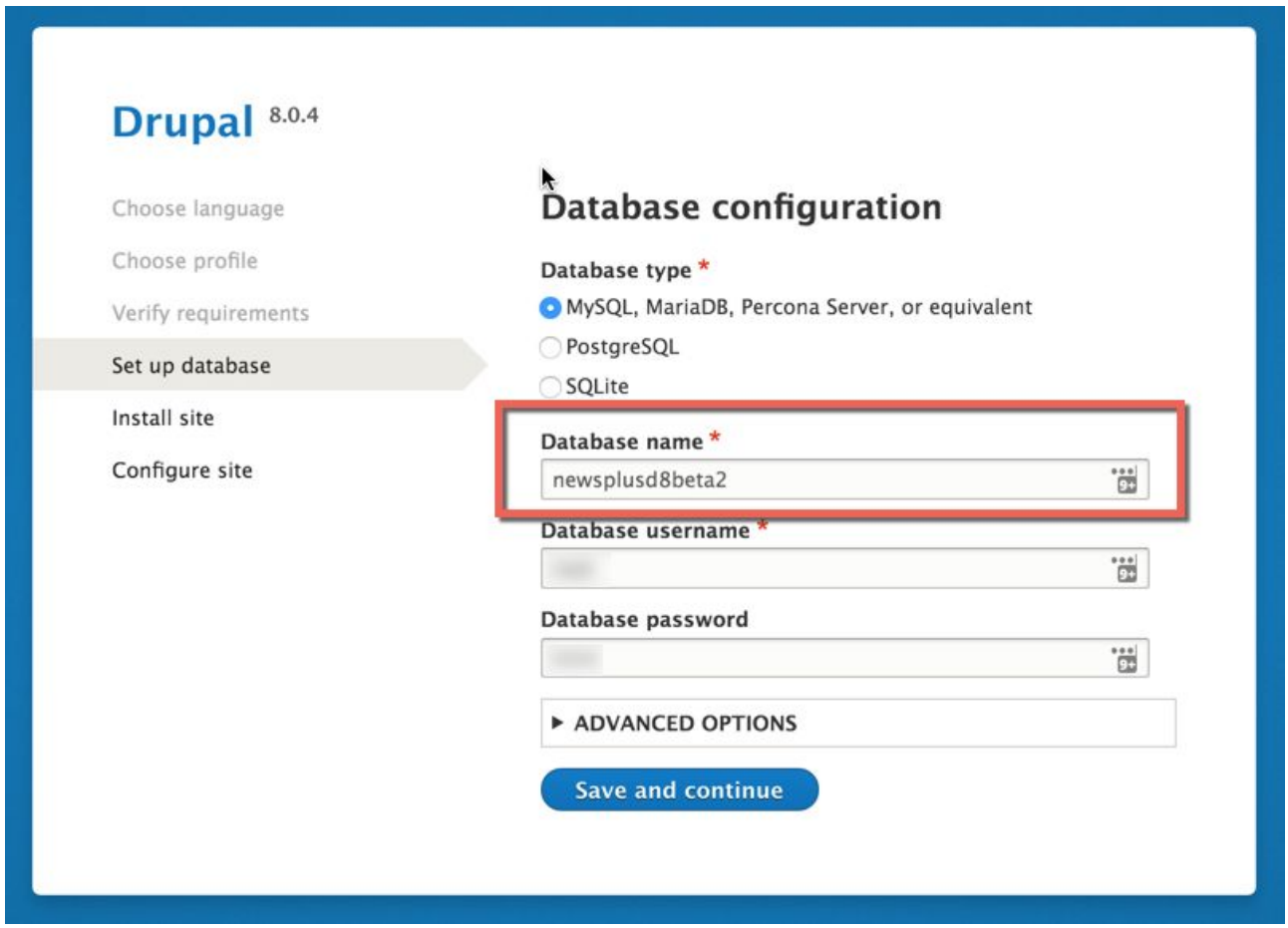
5. Continue the installation by selecting the "Standard" installation profile.



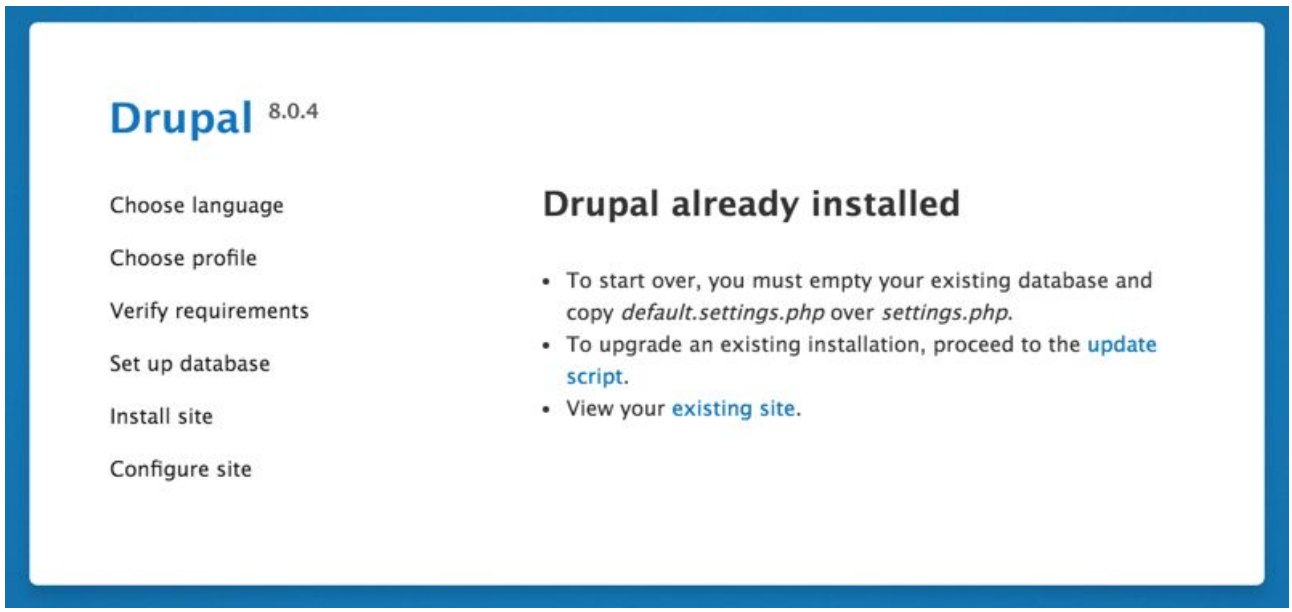
If confronted with any warnings, click to continue with installation.



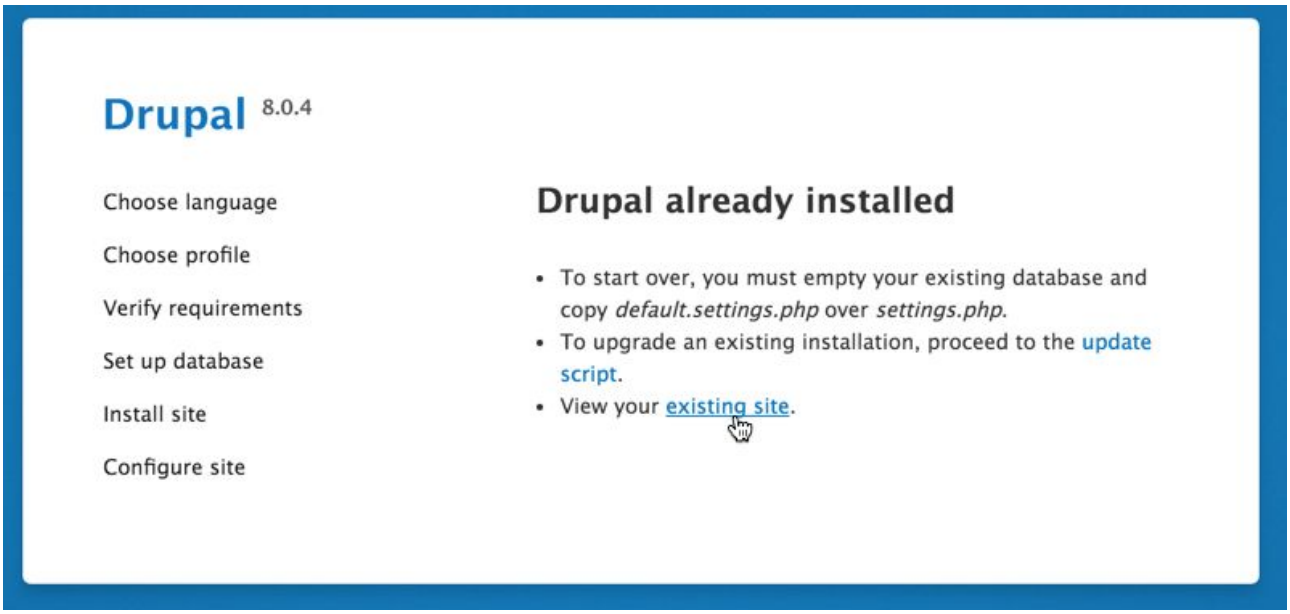
6. Enter your recently created database information. This includes the database name and credentials (username/password) you have chosen when creating it.



7. The installation wizard will recognize that you are using an already populated database and will inform you accordingly. At the same time, the wizard should create all the necessary files your Drupal site needs in order to work properly on your server.



8. You are done. Click on the "visit existing site" link, to visit your new site.



9. Once you are done with the above, please login to this site through the /user/login url and by using the following credentials: u: **admin**, p: **password**.
10. Navigate to **/admin/reports/status** and make sure that there are no errors regarding the “File system” item. In case of errors please make sure to resolve those.

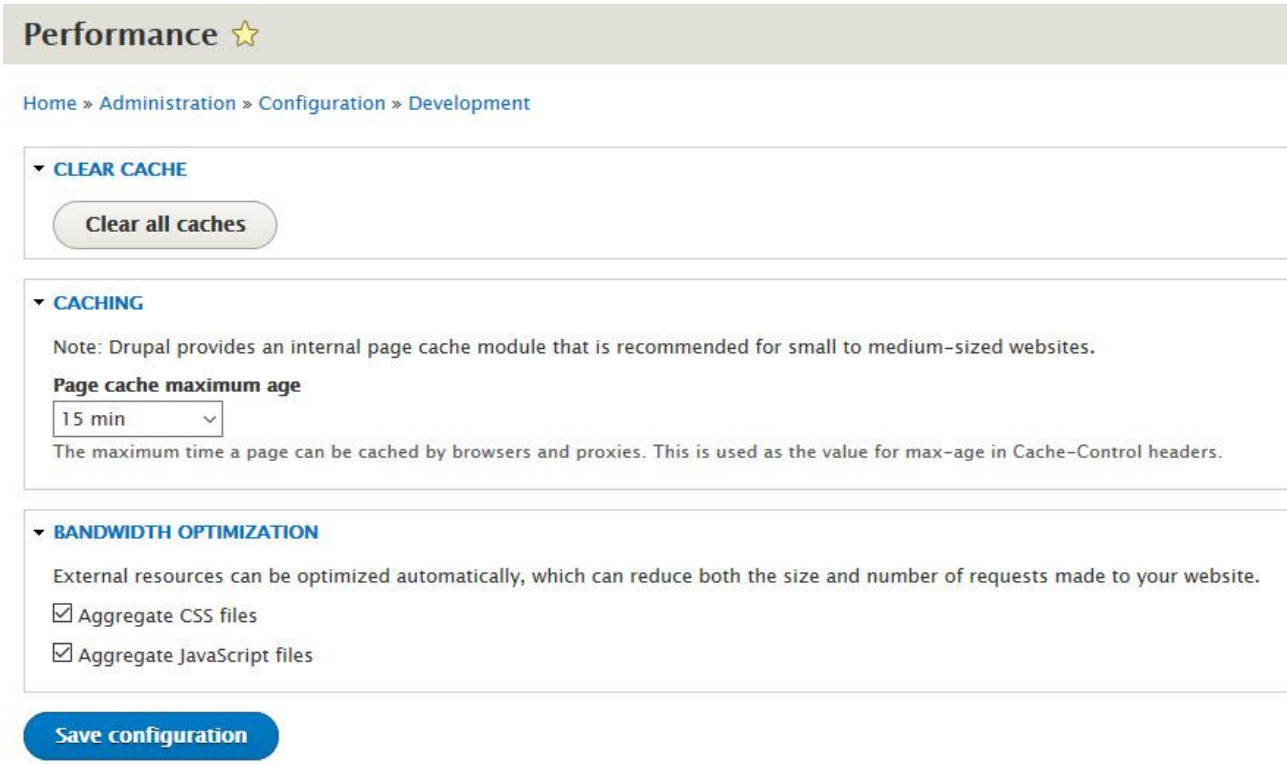
Entity/field definitions	Up to date
File system	Writable (*public* download method)
GD library	2.1.1-dev
GD library PNG support	2.1.1-dev

Other errors may exist and should also be taken care of.

11. By default, our theme distribution comes with Drupal 8 caching ***deactivated***, ensuring a smoother experience during any technical work you will need to do post-installation.

    Either right after installation, or when you finish building your Drupal 8 site using this theme, it is recommended to activate Drupal caching and aggregation of CSS and JS files, for better performance.

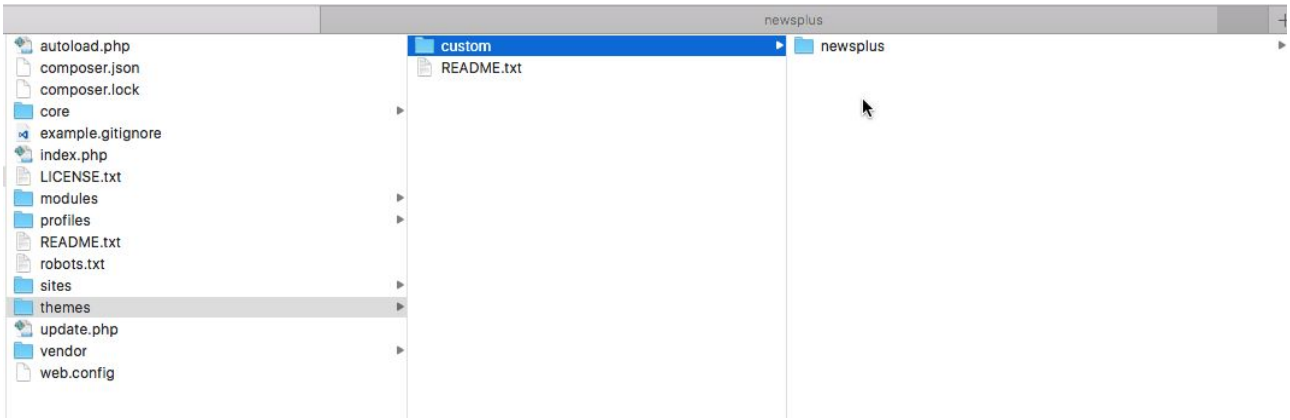
To do so, navigate to **/admin/config/development/performance** and enable caching (default option: 15 min) as well as the “Aggregate CSS files” and “Aggregate JavaScript files” options.



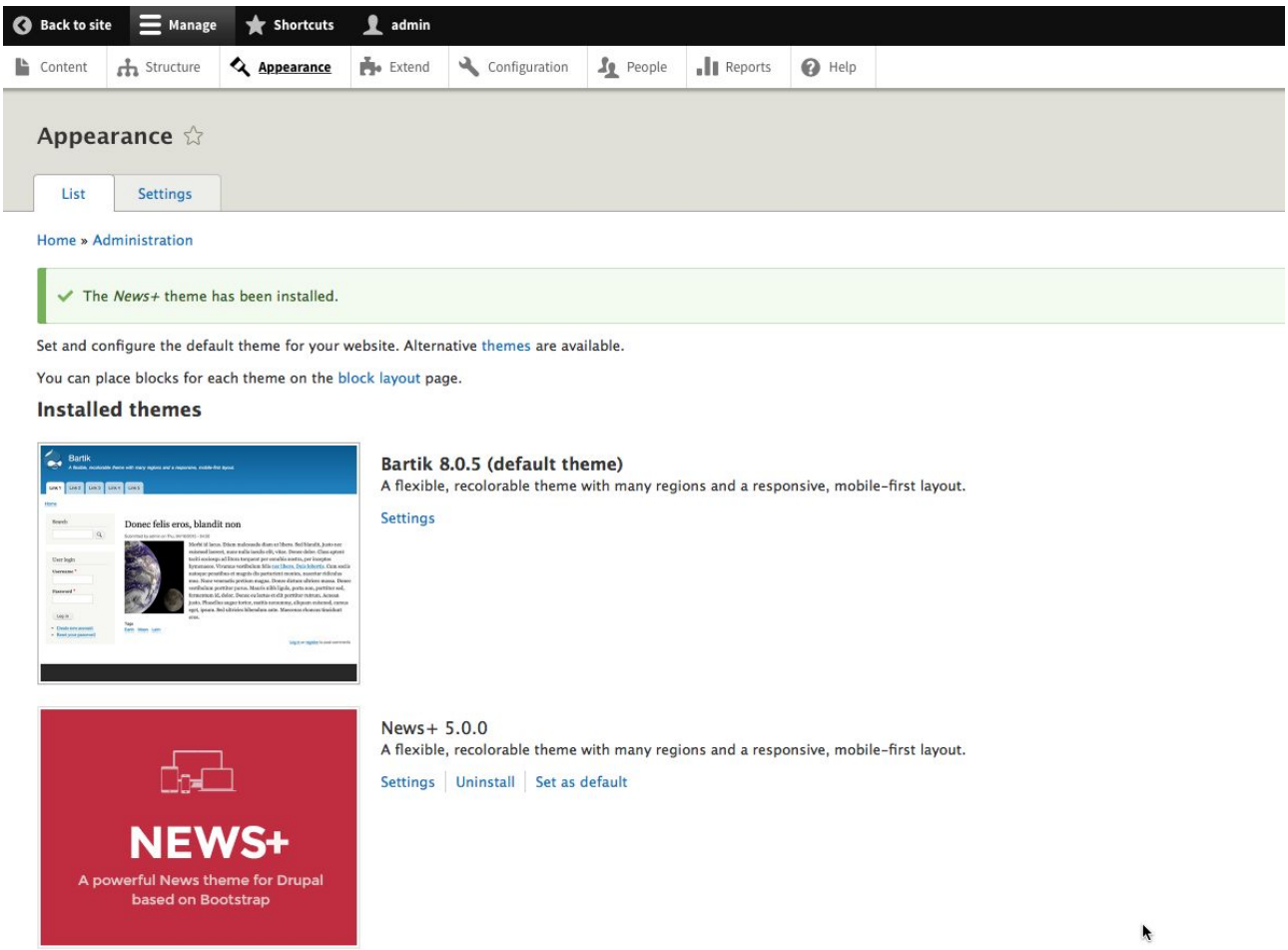
[1] *How to find your Apache server path: if you are deploying online, your hosting provider should be able to provide you this. If you are deploying locally, it will be where your XAMPP or MAMP installation is configured to look into (e.g.: htdocs, in the case of MAMP on Mac OS X).*

2.1.2. Install as a simple theme over existing Drupal site

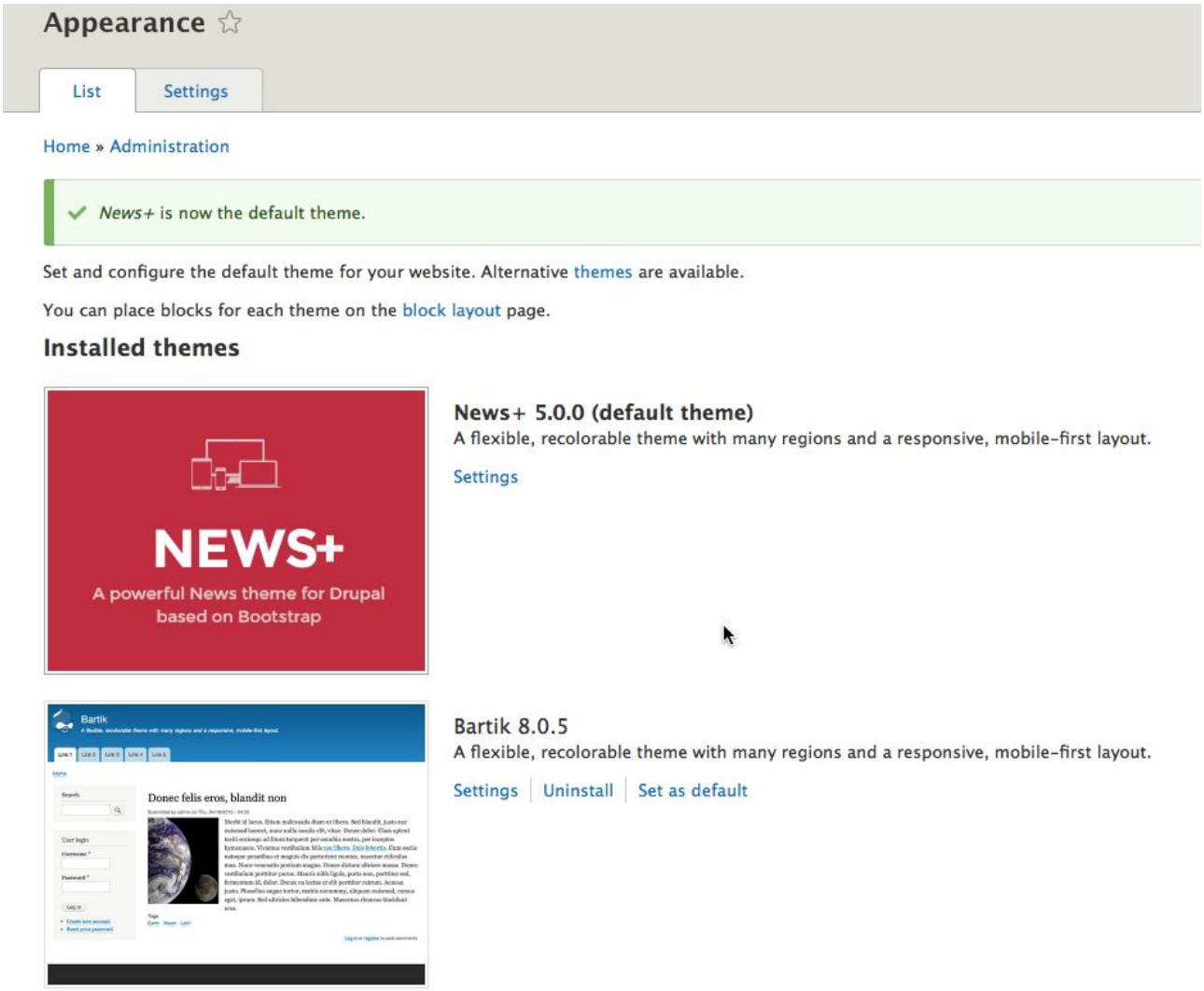
1. Open the **site » d8 » themes » custom** folder, that came in the pack.
2. If working on a local environment, copy the **“newsplus”** folder. If working directly on your web environment, select the “newsplus” folder in order to upload it in the next step.
3. Paste or upload the “newsplus” folder into the corresponding path **themes » custom**, in your existing Drupal 8 installation. If you don’t have a “custom” folder under themes, it’s strongly recommended to create one.



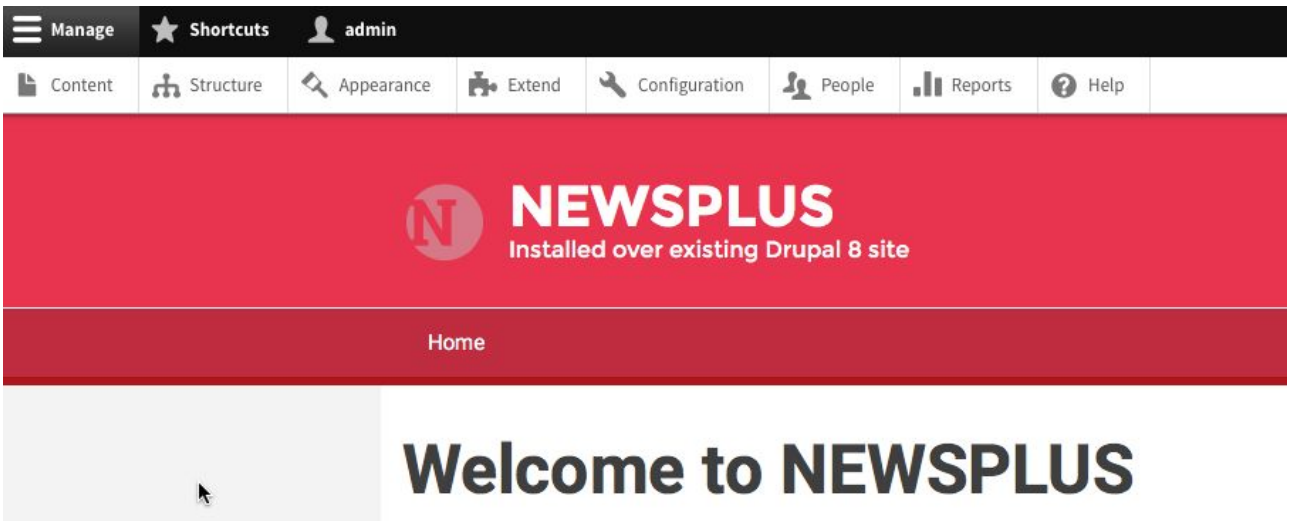
4. Log in to your existing Drupal 8 installation as admin, with your credentials.
5. Browse to the "**Appearance**" section of the Drupal admin environment.
6. Find the theme and activate it by clicking “install”.



7. Click “Set as default” to make it your default theme.



8. Browse to the homepage, then hit "refresh" in your browser. You should now see your site styled using News+.



2.2. Usage

News+ features and how you can get the most out of those.

2.2.1. Overview

2.2.1.1. Content types

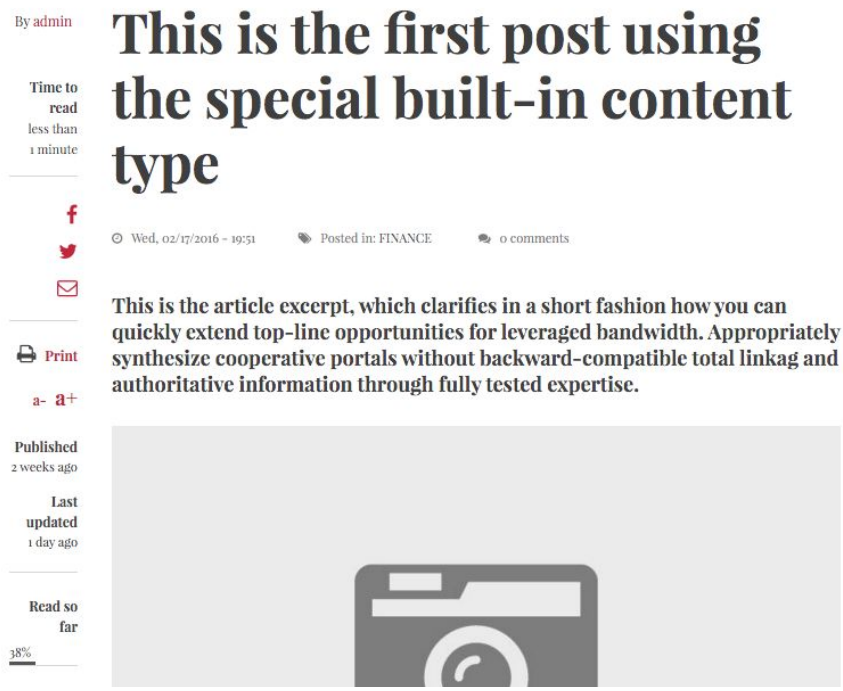
News+ comes with two, special built-in Content types:

- Post
- Slideshow Entry

Of course, **News+** also supports the default Drupal content types: Article, Basic page etc.

2.2.1.1.1. Post

Use the Post content type to create and publish articles making use of all the special functionality built into the News+ theme, like “time to read”, “% read so far”, social media sharing and more.



2.2.1.1.2. Slideshow Entry

A Slideshow entry is ideal for creating commercial banners as well as messages for your website. Use it to promote any page of your website or URL into the front page slideshow.

It can carry a title, a teaser and an image linking to an internal path or external link.

2.2.1.2. Custom Block types

News+ comes with three, special built-in custom Block types:

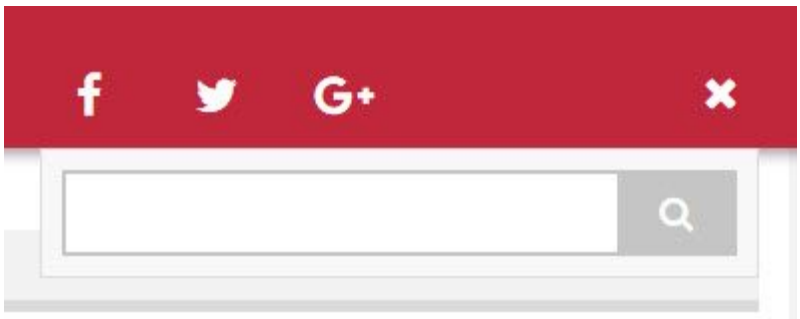
- Dropdown block
- Google map
- Tabs block

2.2.1.2.1 Dropdown block

This custom block type allows you to create blocks that display an existing block as a dropdown component. It also supports a body field to populate with other information.

The search block in the header area is implemented with the use of this custom block type.

Closed dropdown



Open dropdown

2.2.1.2.2 Tabs block

This custom block type allows you to create blocks that display other blocks in a tabbed design.

The sidebar tabs block is implemented with the use of this custom block type.

This feature was implemented in Drupal 7 with the use of the “Quicktabs” module, however in Drupal 8 it is currently not available.

2.2.1.3. Image handling

News+ comes with pre-configured image presets ready to be used. All the content types make use of this and produce all necessary thumbnails and other derived images. Just upload your images and **News+** will use them for the Front Page and any other place where a derived image is needed.

2.3. How to

2.3.1. Add a new Post

1. Select "Add Content" and click on the Post option
2. Enter a title
3. Upload as many images as you like to display in the Post banner area
4. Enter the Subheader body
5. Upload as many in-page images as you like
6. Enter the body text
7. Select your prefered category
8. Enter any tags that you wish
9. Enable the “ Add to Breaking news” checkbox to include in the breaking slider.

2.3.2. Publish a post to the slideshow

Article, Post

1. Create a new or edit an existing node of the above content types
2. Make sure you have uploaded the Slideshow image using the Slideshow image field
3. Check the "Promoted on slideshow" option

Your image will automatically be uploaded and resized to fit in the Slideshow. Your post now is part of the front page Slideshow.

Slideshow entry

1. Create a new Slideshow Entry
2. Enter the title and upload an image using the Slideshow image field.
3. Set the Slideshow entry path. It can also be an external link.
4. Make sure the Promoted on slideshow check box (“**on**”) is enabled.
5.

2.3.3. Create new instances (clones) of existing blocks and assign them to regions

Drupal 8 comes by default with a feature that allows you to create new instances of

existing blocks and assign those in the theme regions.

1. Navigate to Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout
2. Locate the region that you wish to populate with your new block
3. For this region click on the “Place block” button
4. From the list that pops up, locate the block that you wish to place in this region
    - You could also use the filter field at the top to quickly search through the available blocks
5. Click the “Place block” button at the right of the specific block.
6. Configure the block as you would do with any other block
7. Save your configuration

Remove blocks from regions

In Drupal 8 in order to remove a block from a region you should just delete it from the regions page. If you need to place the block in the future you could follow the above procedure to create a new instance of this block.

2.3.4. Allow blocks to be referenced through custom block type fields

In order to be able to reference and display a block though a custom block reference field you should first assign it to a region. We have created the “Hidden blocks collection” region exactly for this reason.

Blocks assigned to this region will not be printed through the theme but will be available to reference through the custom block types and will be displayed based on the custom block visibility configuration.

Blocks that are already assigned to the “Hidden blocks collection” region can be used multiple times through different custom blocks.

1. Navigate to Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout
2. Add the block you want to the “Hidden blocks collection” region.
3. To be able to easily find this block through the reference field we suggest that you specify a unique title.
    - You can go back and configure this title after you have used it in a block reference field

4. Leave the visibility settings untouched.
5. Save your configuration

2.3.5. Add a new dropdown block (Dropdown block custom block type)

1. Make sure that the block you want to display is assigned in the “Hidden blocks collection” region. (See above)
2. Navigate to Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout > Custom block library
3. Click on the “Add custom block” button and select the Dropdown block option
4. Enter the Description of the block
5. Enter Body content
6. Enter a Font Awesome icon class (https://fortawesome.github.io/Font-Awesome/icons/) to use as the dropdown trigger icon
7. Search for the block that you have assigned in the “Hidden blocks collection” through the “Dropdown block” field and select it.
8. Save your configuration
9. Your new dropdown block is now added to the available blocks and can be placed in any region through Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout

2.3.6. Add a new tabs block (Tabs block custom block type)

1. Make sure that the blocks you want to display are assigned in the “Hidden blocks collection” region. (See above)
2. Navigate to Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout > Custom block library
3. Click on the “Add custom block” button and select the Tabs block option
4. Enter the description
5. Reference as many blocks as you want.
6. Rearrange the order of the blocks to rearrange the tabs order
7. Save your configuration
8. Your new tabs block is now added to the available blocks and can be placed in any region through Home > Administration > Structure > Block layout

2.3.7. Configure / modify the Slideshows

All configurations regarding the Slideshows are available through the “**Slideshows”** tab in the theme settings.

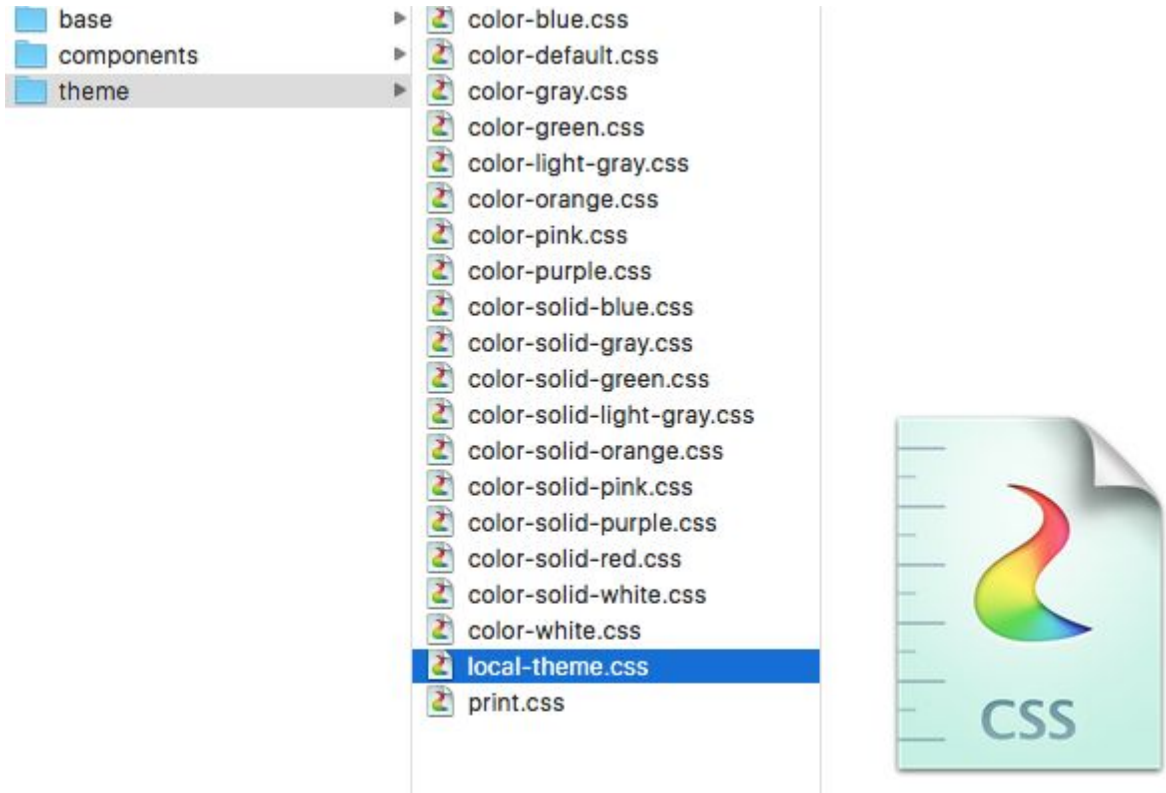
You can configure the **speed** and the **effect** of the front page and internal banner and breaking news slideshows.

2.3.8. Enable / disable Post features

You can find the options to enable/disable the **“Time to read”, “Read so far”** as we as the rest of the Post features in the **“Post”** tab in the theme settings.

2.4. Customize the theme

You can customize the theme by overriding any of the theme styling using the local-theme.css. Any CSS that is added in this file leaves the code codebase of the theme intact, so you can safely rollback anytime.



3. Road map

News+ 8.x-5.x.x

- Drupal 8 release branch

4. Change log

News+ 8.x-5.1.1

- Updates
  - Drupal core to latest v8.1.1
- Improvements / Fixes
  - Content improvements
  - User Profile page implementation
  - Update Bootstrap to latest version v3.3.6
  - Update Fontawesome to latest v4.6.3
  - Social icons improvements
  - Improve simple theme installation
  - Improve Google map custom block implementation
  - Breaking slider theme settings fixes
  - Typography theme setting fixes
  - Packaging improvements
  - Print image title in Magnific popup
  - Remove image alt text from image and sliders display

News+ 8.x-5.0.1

Improvements in packaging

News+ 5.0.0

Initial release