



Development of a dynamic web site (DWD)

Class 03

Developing a custom WordPress theme (suite)

In order to create an entire theme, contents are needed so there will be element to position and style, hierarchy to establish, text to lay out, etc. Therefore, different pages and categories will have to be created.

Creating categories

From the dashboard, select **Posts > Categories** and create a few of them. For instance, if you create the web site for a library, categories could be : children, history, science fiction, anticipation, classics, etc.

Creating pages

Now that categories have been created, you are ready to create pages.

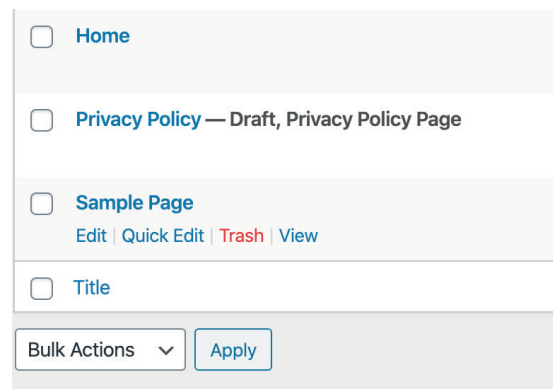
To do so, from the dashboard, select **Pages > Add new**. Create a few pages, for instance : *Home*, *Blog* and *Contact*. For each of them, create a Heading and a short paragraph and publish them.

Managing your pages

From the dashboard, select **Pages > All pages** so you can have an overview of your site.

First, you can now delete the *sample page*. Simply select Trash from the menu appearing when hovering the page's name.

You will also notice a page named *Privacy Policy*. This is a mandatory page in Europe.



Setting the home page

By default, WordPress uses the page named *Blog* as a home page. So if it isn't a blog you are creating but a web site, you will need to set another home page.

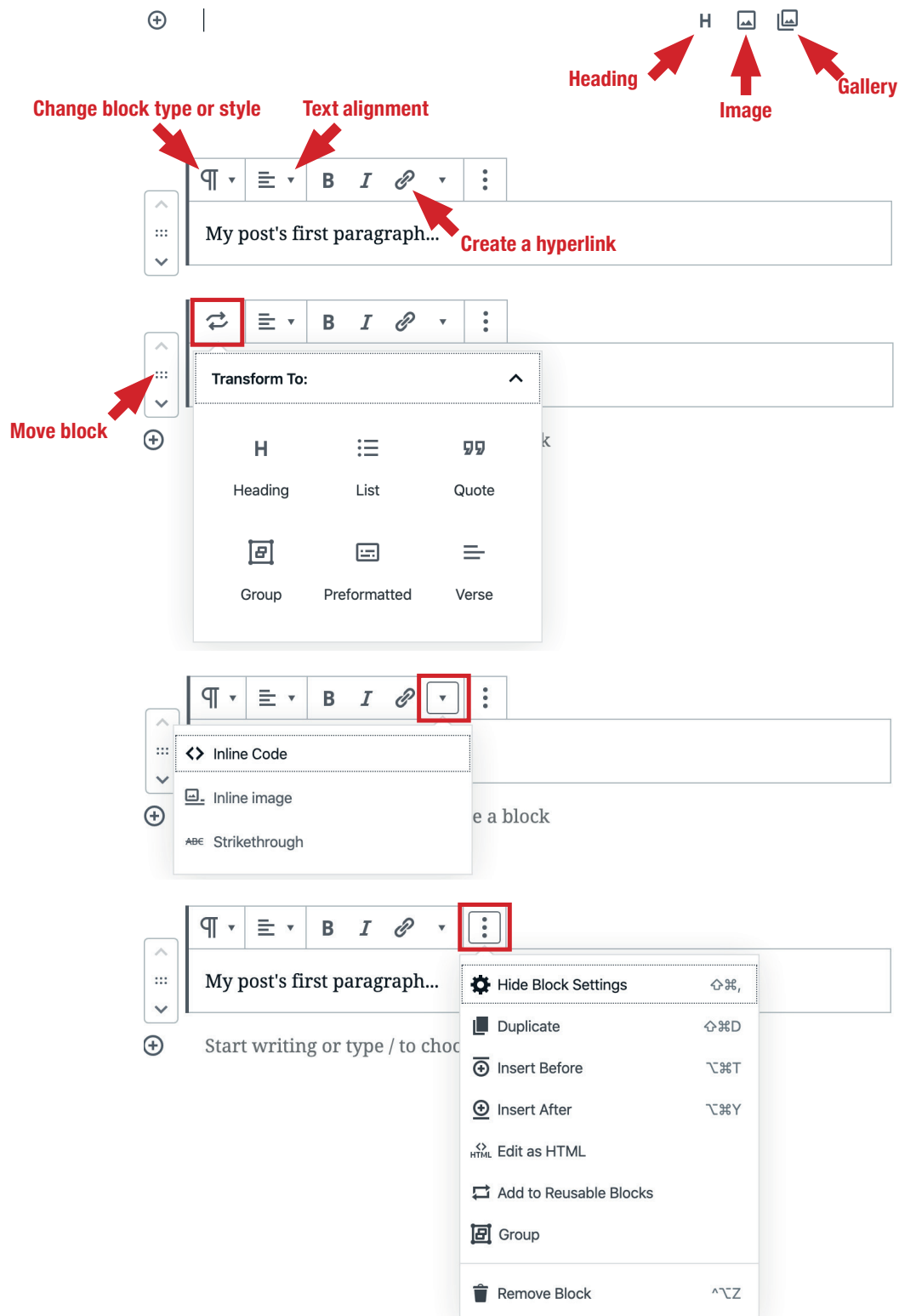
From the dashboard, select **Settings > Reading**, then, from the section **Your home page display**, select the option **A static page** and the page you want to use as a home page from the drop-down menu. Don't forget to press the button **Save changes** before leaving the page.

Creating a new post

In order to create a new post, select **Post > Add new** from the dashboard. This will generate a blank page in which you will be able to first write a title. When clicking out of the title zone, a new paragraph zone is created and ready for you to write in. A new paragraph is created every time you hit the *Return* key.

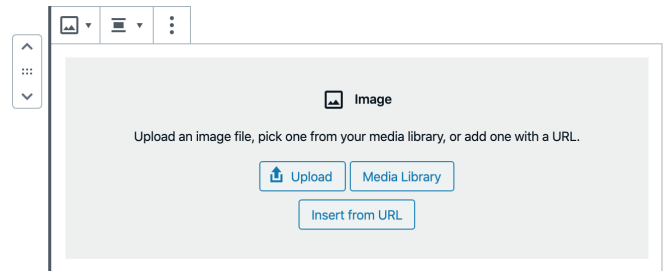
Styling posts contents

When creating a new paragraph, it is possible to click one of the icon to show the styling options so you can create a heading, insert and image or an image gallery. Clicking in an existing paragraph also shows different styling an editing options.



Block of image settings and styling options

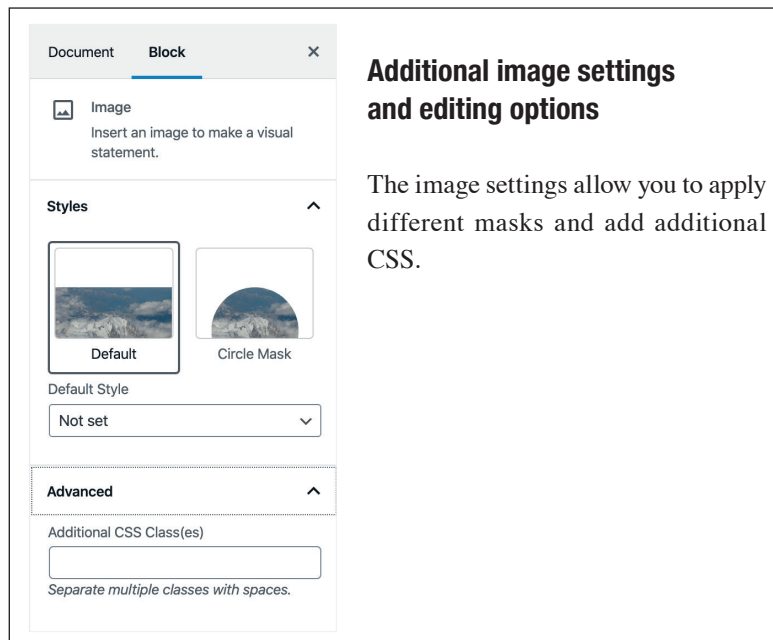
Just like for paragraphs, image blocks have their own settings and styling options



Additional block settings and editing options

On the right side of the interface shows a panel when clicking into a block from which it is possible to style and edit blocks contents.

The example aside shows you the options for blocks of texts (paragraphs), but there are also a few options for images styling image galleries.



Additional image settings and editing options

The image settings allow you to apply different masks and add additional CSS.



Paragraph
Start with the building block of all narrative.

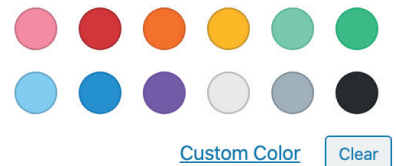
Text Settings

Font Size
Normal

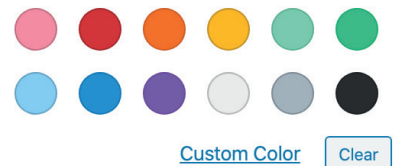
☒ Drop Cap
Toggle to show a large initial letter.

Color Settings

Background Color



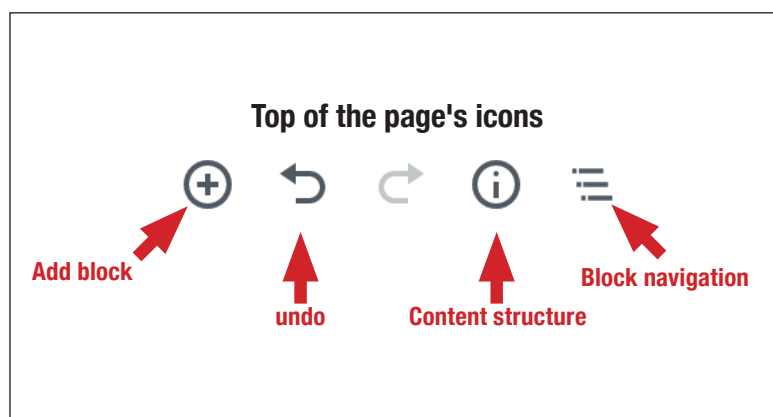
Text Color



Advanced

Additional CSS Class(es)

Separate multiple classes with spaces.



Document settings options

The document settings allow you different options.

Status visibility

This option allows you to set the visibility to **Public** (visible by everyone), **Private** (visible by the administrator and editors only), and **Password Protected**.

Categories and tags

These options allow you to indicate the category(ies) in which a post belongs as well as tags to help searches.

Feature image

This option makes it possible to use an image to accompany and represent the post in various previews.

Excerpts

This option allows you to put emphasize on part of the text that may attract readers.

Discussion

This option allows you to enable or disable *Comments*, *Pingbacks* and *Trackbacks*.

Document

Block

×

Status & Visibility

^

Visibility

Public

Publish

Immediately

☐ Stick to the top of the blog

☐ Pending Review

Categories

^

☐ Children

☐ Classics

☐ History

☐ Poetry

☐ Science fiction

☐ Uncategorized

[Add New Category](#)

Tags

^

Add New Tag

Separate with commas or the Enter key.

Featured Image

^

Set featured image

Excerpt

^

Write an excerpt (optional)

[Learn more about manual excerpts](#)

Discussion

^

☒ Allow Comments

☒ Allow Pingbacks & Trackbacks

FakerPress plugin

When creating new themes, it is always useful to be able to preview the result of our work using replacement text such as *Lorem ipsum*. This plugin generates fake content for you to preview the pages you are working on.

Install FakerPress

First download the plugin from <https://wordpress.org/plugins/fakerpress/>, then unzip it and copy it to WordPress plugins folder. Once that is done, FakerPress will be visible from the dashboard lateral menu.

Configure the fake post generator

Click **FakerPress > Articles**. This will enable you to create a variable options:

Number of posts wanted

Let's say ten for the example.

Date range

Let's say we want to see the posts published in the last year (enter date manually)

Post Type

These will be normal posts.

Author

Yourself.

Taxonomies

Categories only.

Number of taxonomies

One per post only.

Image providers

Placeholder.it uses ugly gray rectangles. Let's try Lorem Picsum.

Finally, click on the **Generate** button. The process may take a short while.

Viewing the fake posts

To view the post that was just generated, simply go to **Posts > All posts**.

Web sites types of pages

In a web site, there are different types of page. For instance, many pages are commonly called static pages. Those are normal pages showing different types of contents. In WordPress, these pages are simply called **Pages**.

But some pages can show a section such as *Actualities* which shows the latests posts. Those pages are called **Archive**. For instance, when you click on a *category*, an archive page shows the last ten posts of the given category. When one of these articles is clicked, a page showing the entire article is displayed. This type of pages is called a **Single**.

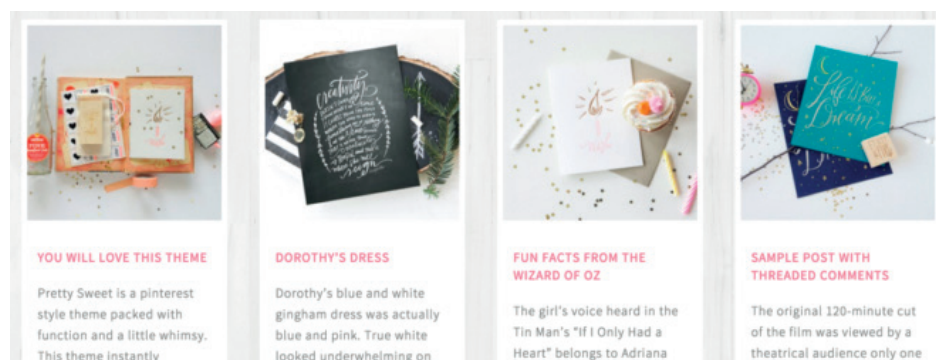
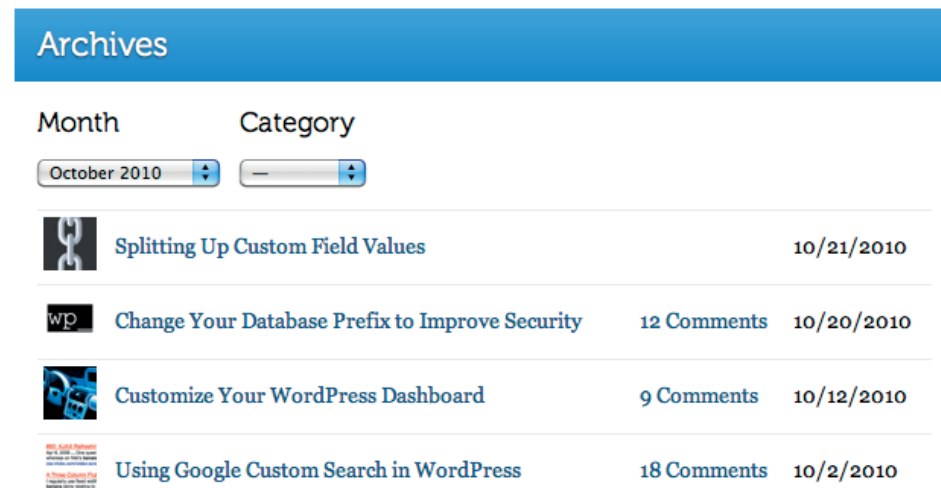
In resume :

Page:

Normal static page.

Archive:

Pages showing list of posts.

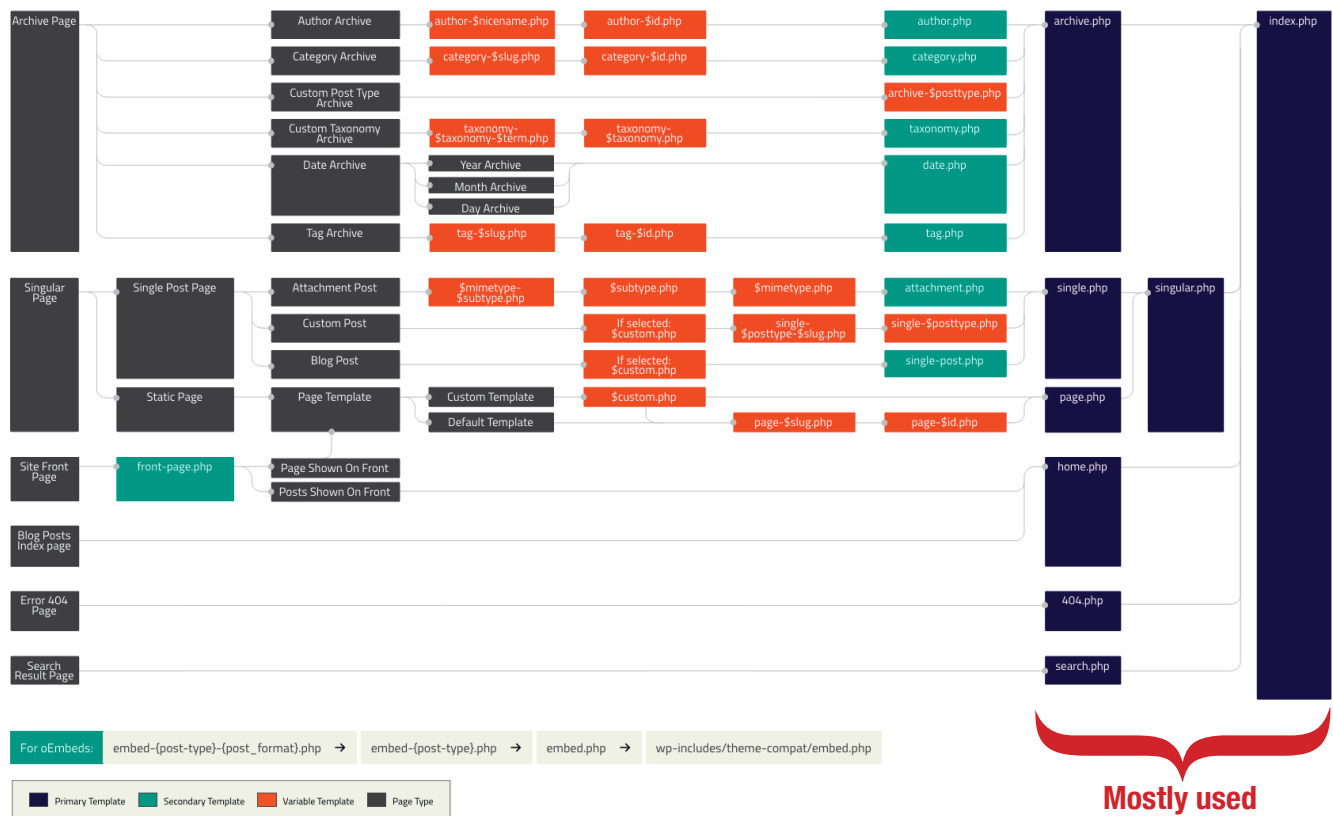


Single:

Page showing an entire posts

Template Hierarchy

The Template Hierarchy is most probably the most important concept to know about when it comes to custom WordPress theme. It is a process that tells the application what pages to show and what template to use for given pages to be published and it is launched each time a page is requested. So, developers can create different templates for different situations as long as the naming convention is respected.



Explanation :

The process illustrated by the image above may seem complicated, but in fact, we use only a small part of it. The process starts on the left with the type of page to be displayed. For each of these, there is a corresponding template to be used if no template is assigned, *index.php* is used :

Archive: Displays sorted by categories, tags, author, date, etc using *archive.php*.

Single: Content of a page uses *page.php*, and content of a post uses *single.php*.

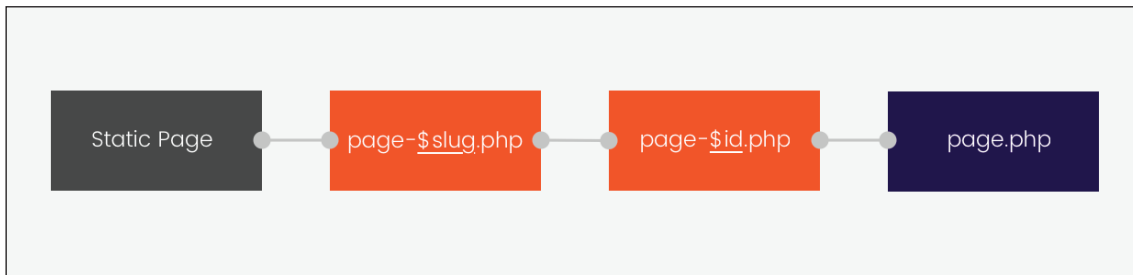
Blog's main : which is a special archive, uses *home.php*.

Web site's home page: uses *front-page.php*.

404 page: uses *404.php*.

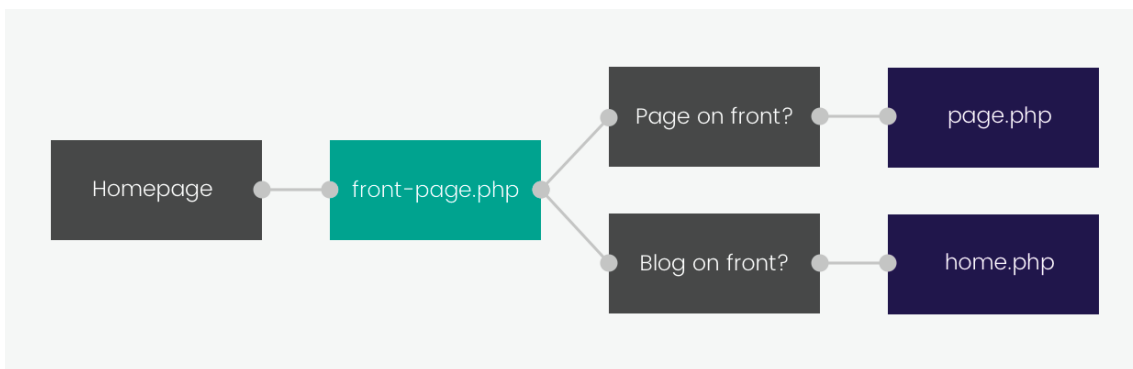
Search result page: uses *search.php*.

Pages



For pages, WordPress uses the template *page.php*, but will first verify if a specific template has been created for the given pages based on its name, then on its id. Finally, if no specific template has been created, *page.php* is used. Since slug and ID could have been changed, it is preferable, for a while, to use custom pages templates.

Home page



The home page is managed in a special way using the template *front-page.php*. If the template isn't there, WordPress will check what page has been set as home page:

If home page is a page:

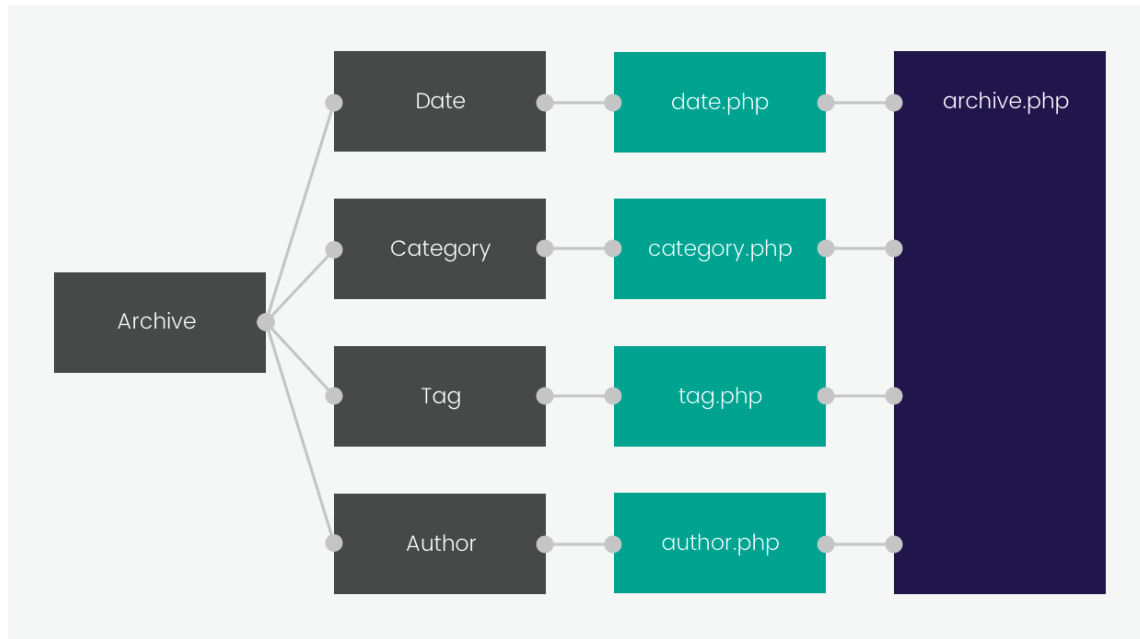
WordPress uses *page.php*.

If home page is a blog:

WordPress uses *home.php*.

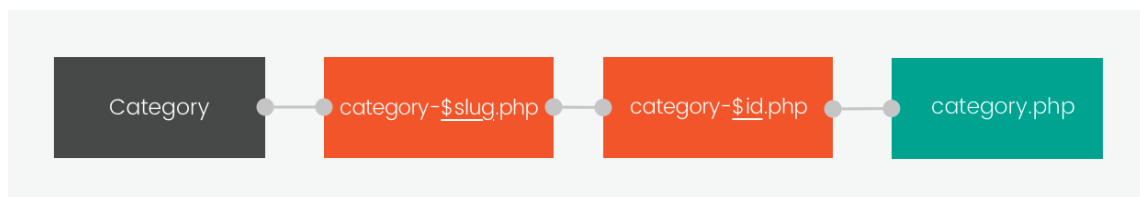
Nota : this can be changed in **Settings > Reading**.

Archive



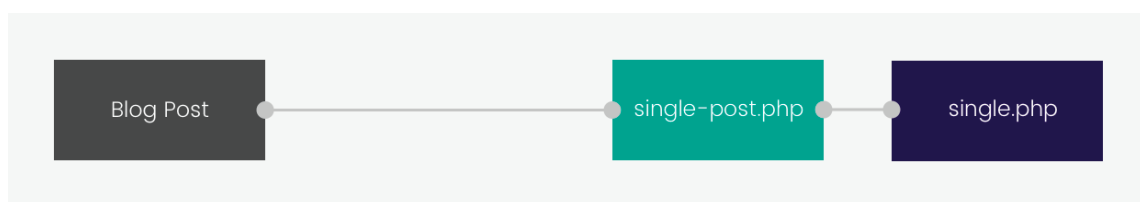
Although this seems complex, 99% of time, *archive.php* will be used. In the above example, the templates in green allows different layouts corresponding to different categories, labels, authors, etc.

Just like for pages, a category, a label or a specific author can be targeted using the slug or the ID. Below are examples of different categories :



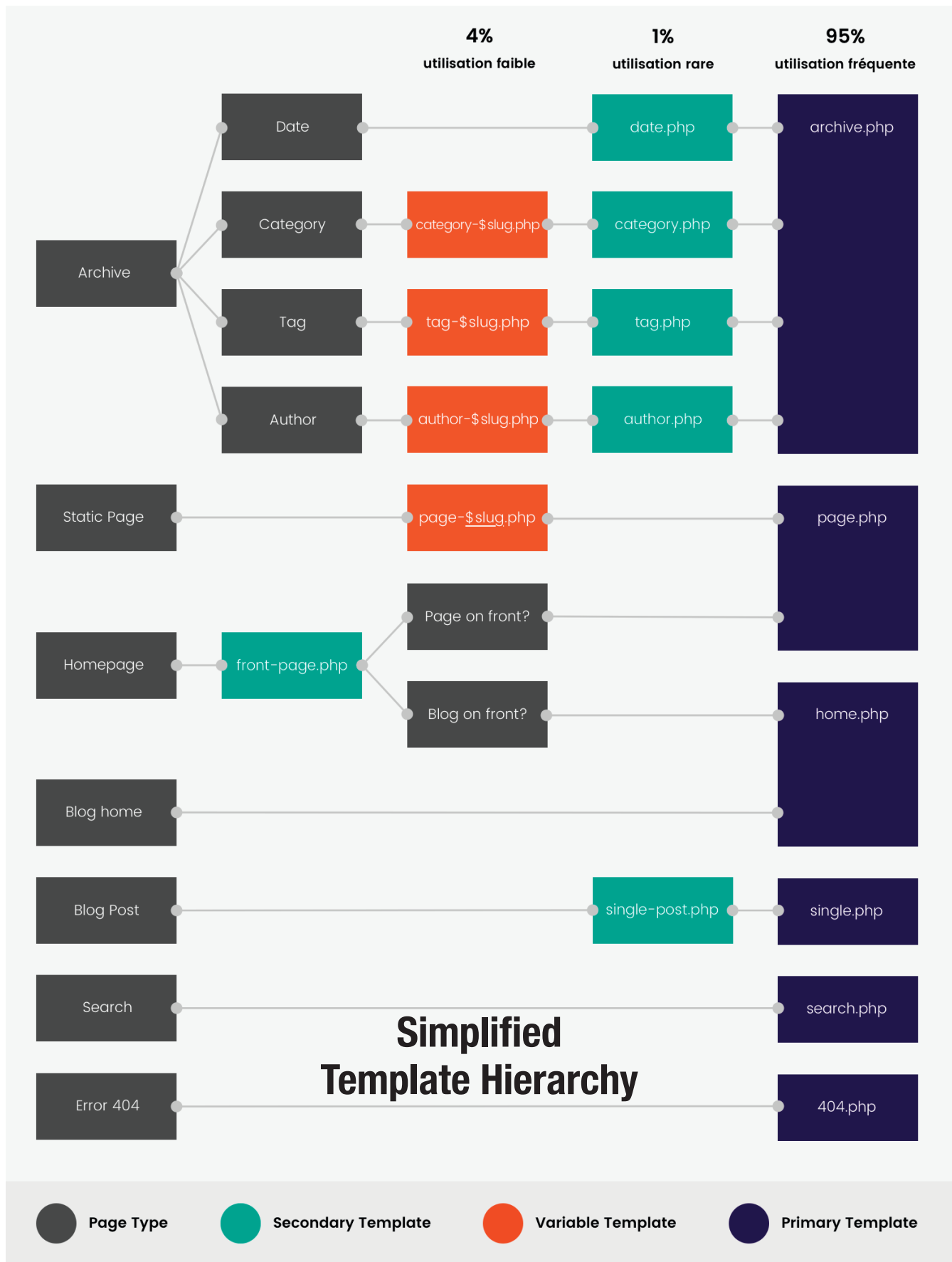
For instance, you could have a category (*Promotions*) having a different layout than the rest of the wqeb site. Although, this is quite exceptional.

Single



With Singles, it's all quite simple as WordPress will finally use *single.php*. It is also possible to use *single-post.php*, but there is really no points doing this unless, maybe, if custom post types are used.

Nota : for more information, visit <https://developer.wordpress.org/themes/basics/template-hierarchy/>.



Creating custom template files

Now that we understand the template hierarchy, it is time to create the main templates files. We will use the basic templates (the purple ones of the diagram plus the front-page).

Creating the templates files:

You will need to create the following PHP files :

- archive.php
- front-page.php
- home.php
- page.php
- single.php

Each of the files will contain very minimal coding for the moment : the header, the footer and a heading to identify the page on screen.

```
<?php get_header(); ?>
    <h1>Single</h1>
<?php get_footer(); ?>
```

Managing the <body> tag :

Depending on the template, different classes need to be added to the <body> tag. Therefore, a PHP snippet also needs to be added.

```
<body <?php body_class(); ?>>
```