PILE

User Guide

Helpful Links

Online Knowledge Base: http://bit.ly/1ohJm99

Community Forums: http://bit.ly/1uGEBJJ

Open a new ticket: http://bit.ly/new-ticket

Getting Started

Installing and Setup Demo Content

In this video we will take you through the **very simple and fast process of setting up** the Pile WordPress theme and (if you want to) import the demo data that will make your installation **look like our demo site**.

View video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhBiwb0V3s0

The main steps are:

1. Navigate to **Appearance - Themes** and click **Add New** button at the top of the page and go for the **Upload option**.
2. For the file upload, pick the **Pile-Installer-1-0-0.zip** archive from the theme package downloaded from ThemeForest and click I**nstall Now**.
3. **Install and activate** the required or recommended plugins.
4. Import the Demo Data by going to **Theme Options > Utilities** and click **Import Demo Data** button.

Theme Style Customizer

Since **Pile** is meant to be a very straight forward blogging theme, we have strived to make the style controls as easy to use as possible. Because of this we have decided to use **the WordPress Customizer workflow** and give you **instant feedback** for your typography, colors, backgrounds, and so on.

To access the Customizer mode you can either go to **Theme Options > Style** and click on the button or go to **Appearance > Customize**, its up to you.
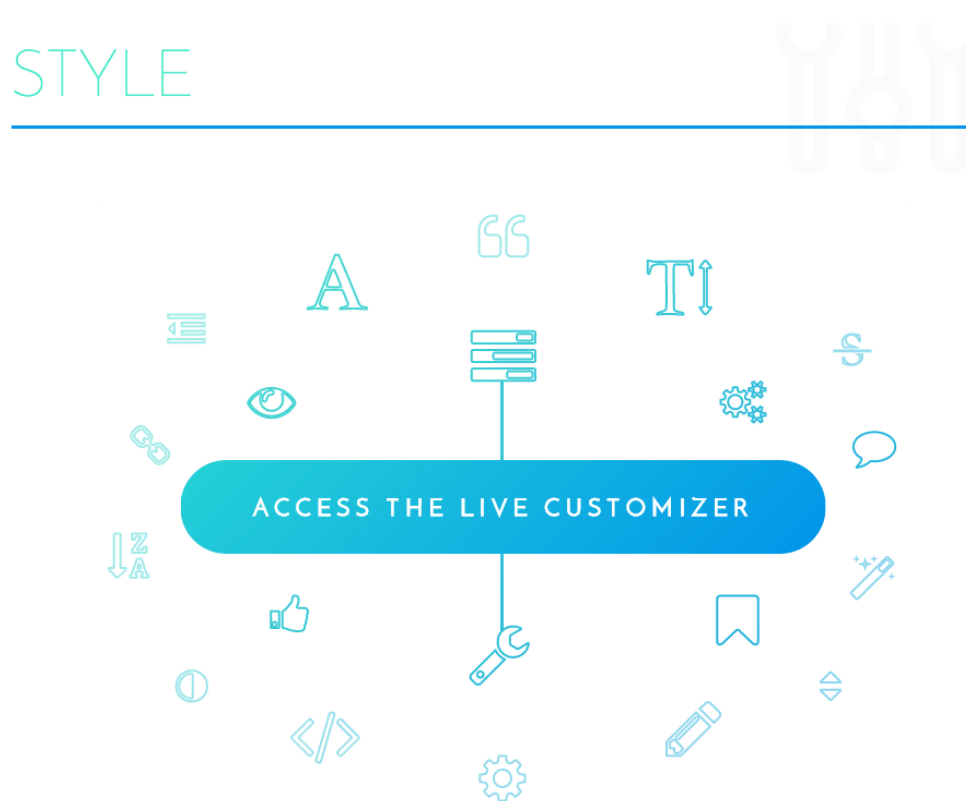
From the **customizer mode window** you change several different aspect of your site's styling.

COLORS

Accent Color

Text Color

Headings color

BACKGROUNDS

Header

Content

Footer

TYPOGRAPHY

Titles   A

Descriptions   A

Navigation   A

Body Text   A

SIZES AND SPACINGS

Content

Header

Navigation

Archive Grid

Project Grid

CLOSE   SAVED

PILE

First off are the **Colors** that allow you to change the **main accent, text, headings and cover text colors**.

Second are the **backgrounds color** controls that allow you to control the background color of the content, the header, the site background and the navigation.

The **typography** settings allow you to use **all the Google Fonts collection (600+)** of web fonts to change the **headings, subheadings, navigation and body text fonts**. You have individual controls for font weight and charset for different languages (please note that not all the fonts have the same charsets options).

Next are the **Size and Spacings** where you have the freedom to modify distances, paddings of various areas of the site layout.

That's it. With these **live customization tools** you will have the look you want in no time.

Mastering the Grid

One of the most important shortcode that our custom plugin **PixCodes** has to offer is Columns. This shortcode gives you easy and hands-off access to the underlying grid on which Pile is built upon. This means that you don't have to get your hands dirty and mess with complex CSS rules and intricate HTML markup.

You should think of this shortcode like a row divided in a number of columns of various sizes (based on a 12 columns grid as the graphics suggest also). First you need to select how many columns you intent to use (between 2 and 6), the dynamic controls changing in

accordance. After that you can drag around using the handles to set how wide should each column be.

The row will always stretch to the size of it's container (we even allow for nested rows for those rare cases when you need some more granulated control).

For further customization we allow you to define a certain class (or multiple classes for what matters) to be added to the row top div.

Once you are done with the settings simply hit the **Insert button** and we will automatically generate all the necessary shortcode markup right in the WordPress editor. From here on you can replace the "Content goes here" text with your own content, be it text, images, other shortcodes or anything in between.

Wasn't that easy or what?! Have fun with our Columns shortcode.

Social Icons (Menu)

We all know we are social these days, hence we all need to put our social links somewhere, with social icons of course :)

For this we have devised a simple system that takes advantage of the flexibility provided by the WordPress Menu editor. This means that you can create a **regular menu** and fill it with **Custom Links** to your social profiles and pages. No trickery here.

So to get a better feel of this, and get acquainted with the intricacies of this system let me walk you through creating the social menu from our demo.

1. Creating the Menu

So, first go to **Appearance > Menus** and create **a new menu** (we will call it **Social Menu**).

2. Adding Links

Next we add **Links** (from the left side tabs) to our Facebook, Dribble and Twitter social pages.

By default these links will open in the **same tab** as the current one. If you want them to open in a**new tab**, then you will need to activate the menu editor's **advanced options**. You do this from the**Screen Options** (upper right corner) and checking **Link Target**.

Now when you go and **edit a menu link** you will see a **new checkbox option** asking you if you want it to open in a new tab.

3. Add it to the Header

We are done with our links, now what next? How will those fancy icons appear? Where will my social links show up? Rest assure we've got you covered.
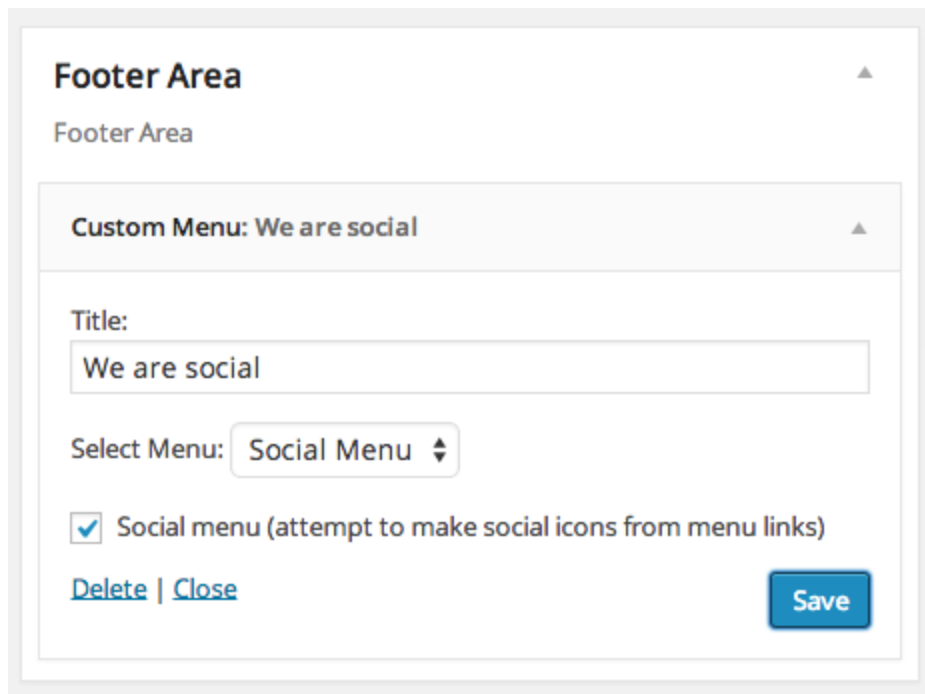

First of all, lets get the **where** out of the way. As with any menu, you can assign it to a theme defined **Theme Location**. We have enabled in our theme **a location** specifically

designed forsocial links, called **Social Menu** (how else?). Assigning your menu to this will show your **social icon links** in the **header of the site**, right to the main menu.

4. Use it as a Widget

Now what if you wish to display your social icons somewhere else, like the **Footer area** or theSidebar area. Like always rest assure, things are straight forward.

WordPress offers a default widget called **Custom Menu** that allows you to **display a menu in any widget-ready area**. We have **extended this widget** with a **checkbox option** that will allow you to let us know that you would like to treat the menu you selected in the Custom Menu widget settings, as a **social menu** and transform the links into icons (or at least attempt to - we will get to this).

The System

Now... what's the catch? What are those hidden rules that only the developers know and make us of only on their demo? Well... there are **no hidden rules**. We just take your social link and see if it **matches one of our "known" social networks URL fragments**. These are the following:

- "mailto:"
- "mail"
- "feed"
- "rss"
- "behance"
- "delicious"
- "deviantart"
- "digg"
- "dribbble"
- "facebook"
- "flickr"
- "foursquare"
- "github"
- "plus.google"
- "instagram"
- "linkedin"
- "pinterest"
- "reddit"
- "skype"
- "soundcloud"
- "spotify"
- "stumbleupon"
- "tumblr"

- "twitter"
- "vimeo"
- "vine"
- "vk.com"
- "weibo"
- "xing"
- "yahoo"
- "youtube"
- "angel.co"
- "yelp"
- "last.fm"
- "slideshare"
- "twitch.tv"

So if the URL you have added in the menu will match any of these we will replace it with a corresponding icon.

This pretty much wraps up our uber social icon links menu system. We hope you will find it handy.

Footer Widgets Setup

Pile offers a customizable Footer widget area, flexible enough to handle all kind of widgets configurations.

Footer Columns Number

You can set the number of columns in **Theme Options > Footer**. You can split the footer in up to six columns. Note that for the *one column* case you have an extra option to make it narrower.

Centering Widgets Content

You can set the content of the widgets to be aligned center by adding a helper CSS class called centered .

In order to enable custom CSS classes for widgets, you need to install the WordPress CSS Classes plugin. After that go to **Appearance > Widgets > Footer Area** and for each widget you have a new field *CSS Class* where you can add the *centered* helper class.

Other helper classes

Using the above plugin, there are two other classes that you can use to change the width of the widgets container: one-half and two-thirds .Use them if you have less content.

Widget Area Number of Columns

Select how many number of columns should the Footer widget area have.

| 1 | ▾ |

Widget Column width

| Two thirds | ▾ |

AddThis Social Sharing

With PILE we have decided to offer a custom integrated solution with one of the most popular social sharing services out there, AddThis. We have chosen it due to it wide use, large number of supported social services and options to customize. On top of these you also get social sharing analytics (even integrated with your Google Analytics property).

Important note: We don't have any commercial link or agreement with AddThis to promote their service, be it free or paid (they do have a Pro account type). We do not receive any affiliate or any other type of income from them. We have chosen them for their service quality, not for other reasons.

Now that we got that out of the way, let me give some hints about how we have envisioned the social sharing in ROSA.

Showing Social Sharing Buttons

You can from **Theme Options > Blog - Single** disable or enable the social buttons on **all the posts**.

For **portfolio projects** you can also show/hide the sharing icons from **Theme Options > Portfolio - Single**.

PORTFOLIO - SINGLE
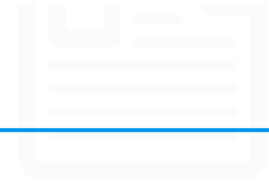
Meta
Show project categories under the title.

Show Next/Prev
Do you want to show the next and previous project links?

Show Share Link
Do you want to show share icon popup for your projects?

Configuring AddThis Social Sharing

Share Services
Add here the share services you want to use, single comma delimited (no spaces). You can find the full list of services here: http://www.addthis.com/services/list. Also you can use the **more** tag to show the plus sign and the **counter** tag to show a global share counter.

Important: If you want to allow AddThis to show your visitors personalized lists of share buttons you can use the **preferred** tag. More about this here: http://bit.ly/1fLP69i.

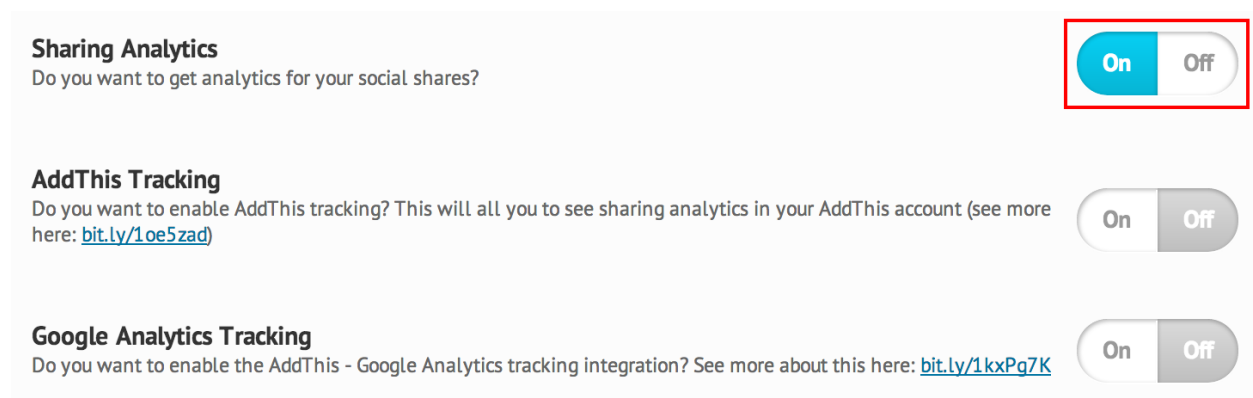   more,facebook,twitter,pinterest_share,google_plusone

AddThis offers quite a large number of supported services, each identified with a specific, lowercase name that you can find in this list: http://www.addthis.com/services/list

In the field that you see above from **Theme Options > Social and SEO** section, you can enter as many different services as you want and they will show on your site. The catch is that you can also have a **more button** (the plus sign button) that will open up a popup where people can search for their particular service. So you don't have to add a large

number of services to make sure you cover all you bases, just the most popular ones (or the most important for your particular needs) keeping things cleaner and leaner.

On top of this, another **cool feature** of AddThis is the **preferred** button type that will try and display your visitors favorite social services, saving him the time of finding them. This feature allows you to cater to a much wider audience, since there are so many social services nowadays, from different geographic regions, in different languages, and so on. You can have **multiple preferred buttons**(up to 4) and they will be filled with different social services automatically.

To activate the **Social Sharing Analytics** you will need to enable it from Theme Options > Social and SEO. After that you will be presented with **2 secondary options** allowing you the freedom of either using the custom **AddThis Analytics** (you will need to enter your AddThis username) or your **Google Analytics** account (you will need a Google Analytics Property ID).

Using The Theme One-Click Update Feature

As you may already know, we have incorporated into our theme a auto update feature that allows you to be notified about new versions being available. So no need to go to ThemeForest and check if we have updated something. For this to work there are some things you need to provide us with first, so you can talk to the ThemeForest servers. So here we go.

First step, is to go to you Theme Options > Utilities tab and activate the "Use Auto Update" option. This will reveal a number of fields and options.
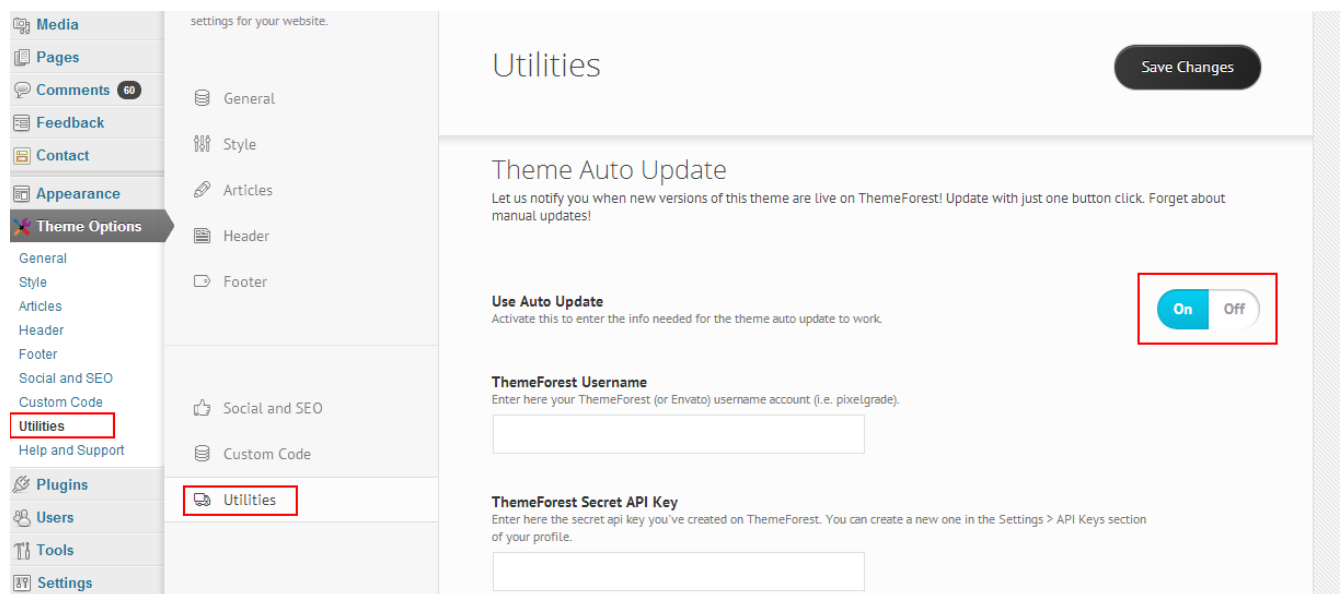
The first field that is need is your ThemeForest (Envato) **username** (your login username - ours is pixelgrade).

The second field is a **Secret API key** that will allow your site to communicate with ThemeForest in a secure way so only you have access to updates of the items you have purchased. So it is very important that you put the username and the Secret API key of the account that purchased the theme (in case you use multiple accounts). See below an

image that explains how to generate a Secret API key (click on it to see the full size) or the official documentation on the matter.


Once you are done with the Secret API Key generation, copy and paste it in the appropriate field.

Bellow you have a final option regarding the auto update, the backup feature. We offer you the option of making a zip backup archive of your existing theme before updating so you will have some sort of backup in case something goes wrong.

Now let's go to the actual update. Once a new version is available on ThemeForest, you will see in your admin bar a notification like the one bellow.
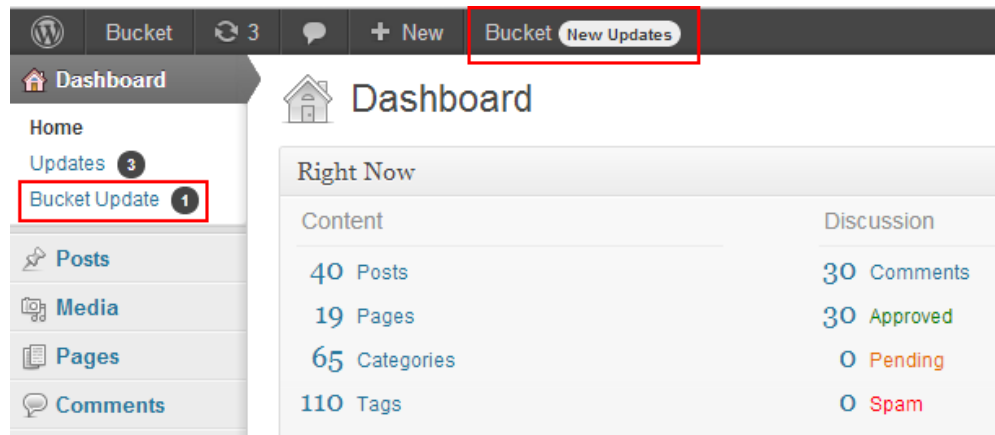
Click on the update button and you are taken to a new page giving you 2 options for update, the automatic one and the manual one that involves you going to ThemeForest, downloading the new archive and overwriting through FTP the current theme files. We will go with the first cool one, that is the first one :)

All you have to do from here on is to click on the "Automatically Update Theme" button and accept the modal message that will popup.

Notes: The automatic update can break on some hosts because they either impose limits on the max file upload lower than the theme archive file size or the server doesn't have write permissions (if when you try to update WordPress you are prompted for FTP credentials, then you are in this case). For these cases unfortunately the manual update remains the only option.

PixCodes Custom Plugin (Shortcodes)

Here is where the beauty lies. We've taken that extra-mile and crafted an advanced but simple to use shortcodes plugin that will allow you to give structure and bling to your pages and posts. To ensure ease of use, everything is visual, nicely packed in a modal window accessible from the Wordpress editor. Look for that **funky P button**
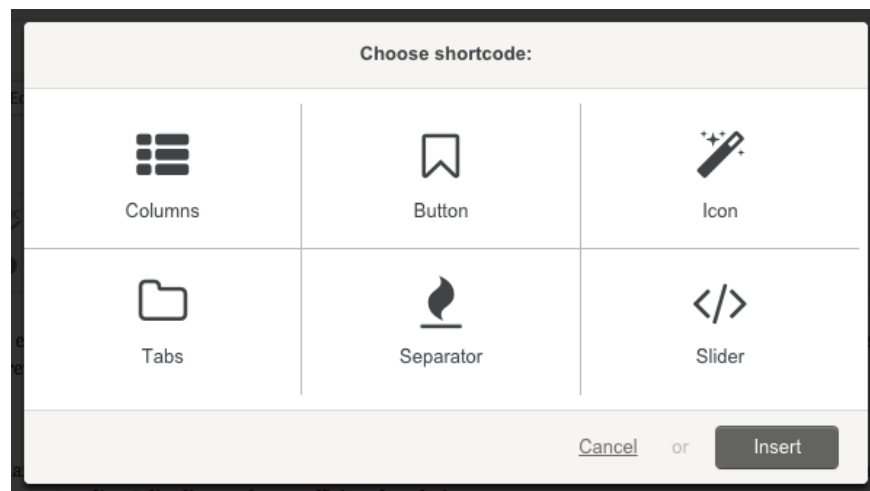
Columns

The **main shortcode** that will be the workhorse of your pages, is the **Column shortcode**. This enables you to divide the content into a multitude of columns via a simple and intuitive slider interface. Simply choose how many columns do you want and then drag the sliders to select the proportions of each column.

Once you are done, hit the **Insert button** and we will generate for you the shortcode, with some **dummy content** for each column. From here you can add what content you desire in each column, text, images or even other shortcodes.

Insert **Columns** Shortcode:

No. of columns:

3

Drag handlers to change the columns width.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

0   4   8   12

4x   **4x**   **4x**

Content goes here..   Content goes here..   Content goes here..

Custom CSS Class

Cancel or **Insert**
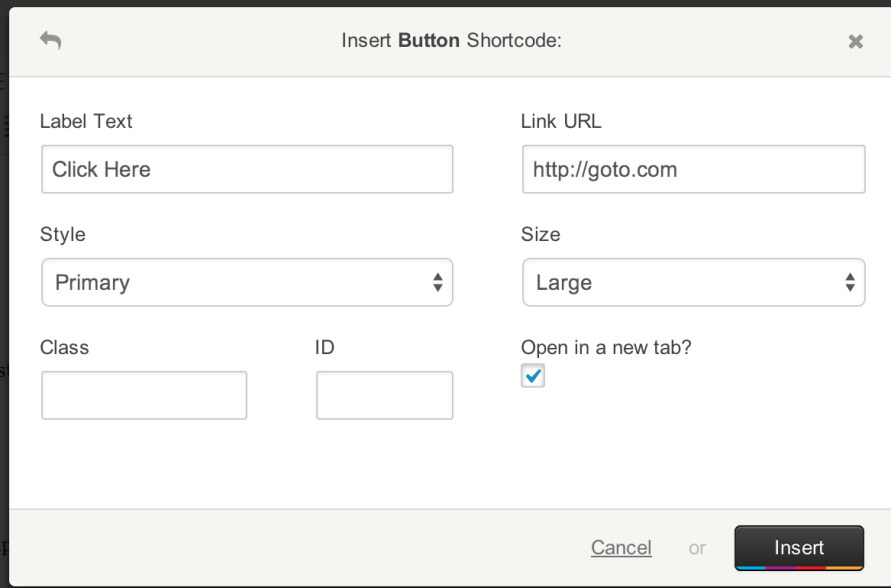
You can have **multiple rows of columns in one page**, with different column configurations, but we urge you to take the time and think things over, so you don't clutter your pages with too much complexity.

Icon
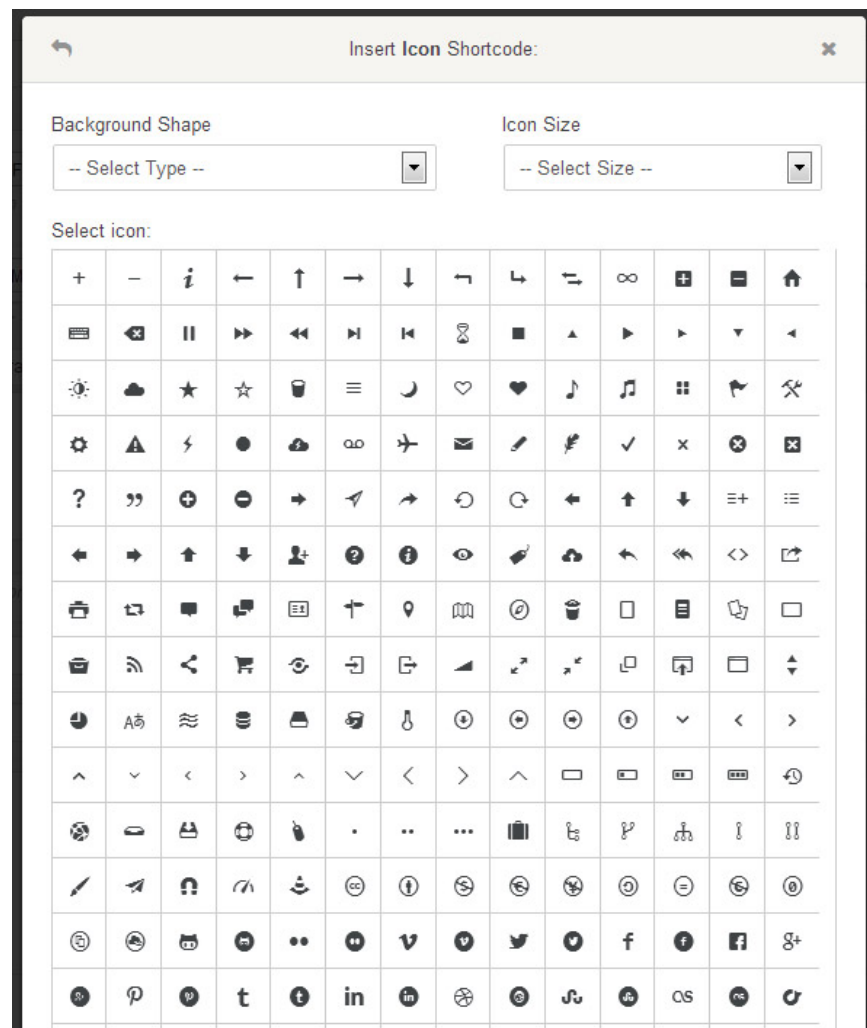
Because icons are cool, we've made it easy for you to add icons using the famous **FontAwesome** and **Entypo** icons. We also allow you choose between 2 background styles (a rectangle or circle) and 3 sizes (small, medium and large). All these so you can better make your point.

Button

To further emphasize your call to action or links, you can use this Button shortcode to get a beautiful button that is in line with the rest of the theme (we really hate those pesky default browser buttons). Simply input the button link and label and you are good to go. You can also choose the size of your button: small, medium or big. For custom styling you can add a CSS class and/or id.

Separator

This shortcode will help you add a nice formatted divider, to go with your beautiful theme. You can control the color (Dark, Light and Color).

Slider

Use the **Slider shortcode** to insert small sliders in your content to showcase your testimonials for example. You can create as many slides as you like using the **New Slide** button. Also you can define the **arrows style** (arrows, bullets, arrows and bullets or none) and the **transition animation** between slides (move/drag or fade).

Tabs

Use the Tabs shortcode to group some of your content in your pages or posts under certain tabs. For each tab you can specify the tab title, an icon (using the FontAwesome library) and the HTML content. If you don't want icons simply leave that field empty.

You can define as many tabs as you want using the New Tab button.

These are all the details you need to know about our custom shortcodes to get you creating nice presentation pages, or maybe... posts? Probably not.

Check this out to get a better feel

http://pixelgrade.com/demos/pile/shortcodes/

Customizing Your Theme Using Child Themes

As you may already know, Pile supports child themes for customizing some and any of it's templates, functions or styles.

Although Pile offers it's fair share of customization options, we generally try to keep the options to a reasonable amount as to not scare or confuse the general user. We believe that too many customization options tend to erode the design with an ease that is almost scary. For those of you that have special needs in terms of design and/or functionality, the child themes are the way to go.

Child Themes Fundamentals

First let me explain to some of the aspects of the WordPress Child themes concept. For those of you familiar with this, please skip to the next section.

One of the best places to start learning about this is the WordPress Codex that covers this topic in full: http://codex.wordpress.org/Child_Themes. I am not going to reiterate all that is explained there, but try to give you a short start into this.

The main reason and advantages of the child themes are:

- ability to modify and add functionality to a theme without changing any of the code of the theme. This is very important since this way you don't loose the possibility to update that theme without loosing your changes;
- you can easily experiment with new features without digging too much through the parent's theme code;
- you can focus just on the aspects that are of interest too you, and not get tangled in the complex logic of the parent theme.

From all of these, the first is the most important since it's a very common issue in the WordPress world to start and hack around at a theme and then find yourself missing on all the improvements the authors are adding to the table with updates. You either start digging

and see what they have changed or you just give up and stay with a old and outdated version. This are not feasible options from our point of view.

The main and the single file that is required in a child theme is the style.css file that provides WordPress the details about the child but, most importantly, the parent's theme folder name. You will find in the archive that came with your theme, such a folder with the style.css file already created and ready to go.

You need to know that the style.css file is loaded after all the styles of the parent theme have been loaded so anything you write into it overwrites the rules in the parent.

When thinking about the other files in a theme (like template files), anytime you create one with the same file name in a child theme, that will be used instead of the one in parent theme.

Important note: Please take note that while child themes may sound like an easy thing to do, if you lack the proper knowledge in terms of CSS for styling changes, JavaScript or WordPress and PHP programming, you will find yourself quite easily lost and breaking things. Keep in mind that there are countless variables in play with Pile (or with any professional responsive theme for what matters). For example, don't expect to make a CSS change and, while working perfectly on YOUR screen size and browser, to work the same on other screen sizes or browsers, or to not affect the responsive nature of your site. This is why we recommend that in the case of more complex customizations you should seek the help of professional web designer and web developer. This will save you time and give you the confidence that your site will work as expected.

Translating Your Theme using PoEdit

So you are looking to change the language of your WordPress based site to something else than English. Let me give you some simple steps to achieve this.

1. The first thing you need to to is make sure that the theme has the appropriate language file. The **default language files** and, eventually, the bonus ones are located in the theme's directory in the **/languages/ directory**. They are **.po and .mo files**.

2. If you don't find the appropriate language file for your target language then you must **copy the default.po file** and **rename the copy** accordingly to your desired language. The **language files names** must have this format "ll_CC", where "ll" is an ISO 639 two-letter language code (lowercase) and "CC" is an ISO 3166 two-letter country code (uppercase). The country code specification is not redundant: Some languages have dialects in different countries. For example, 'de_AT' is used for Austria, and 'pt_BR' for Brazil. The country code serves to distinguish the dialects. See Language Codes and Country Codes for the lists of codes.

3. So let's say you want to translate to Brazilian Portuguese and you have copied default.po to pt_BR.po. Now you have to edit it using the **world's favorite free .po editor**, PoEdit (http://www.poedit.net/download.php).
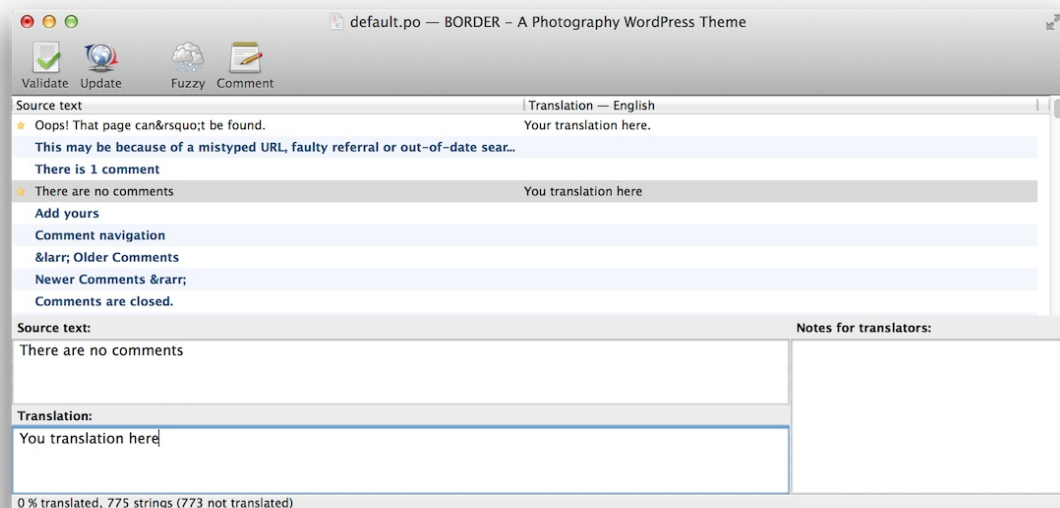
4. Once you open the file you will be presented with the list of all the English strings on

the left side and their translation (if present on the right). To translate simply click on a line and on the bottom of the window you can enter your translation. More info here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poedit

5. Once you are done simply **hit save in PoEdit** and this will automatically **save the .po file** and **generate/regenerate the .mo file** (a binary file).

6. Now all you have to do is **change the language of your WordPress installation**. To do this you need to edit the wp-config.php located in the root of your WordPress installation and change this line ***define ('WPLANG', '');*** to match your language, in our case *define ('WPLANG', 'pt_BR');*

You can reopen the .po file at any time and change, continue to translate, etc.
All done. Easy right?

Where To Start Learning WordPress?

The WordPress CMS is a complex beast that is made even more complex thanks to the countless plugins available out there (free or premium). All this complexity allows for a lot of capabilities and power, and like a famous saying tells us, with great power comes great responsibility. So we advise you not to treat things lightly and try and learn at least the basics so the whole system will work for you, not against you.

We strive to make our themes as solid as possible (i.e. to break as hard as possible) but there is a fine line between allowing for flexibility and making things solid. This is a never ending game, but this is what makes the web exciting.

So the long story short, Pile (or any other theme that does more that just the simplest of things) and WordPress at the same time are not fool proof. They are complex pieces of code that allow you to get a great website, but only when treated with respect.

The WordPress Codex

This is the Holy Grail of starting to get to terms with WordPress. It has both beginner and advanced information. We recommend you to start with these sections (they are intended for regular users, not developers):

- Introduction to Blogging
- First Steps With WordPress
- WordPress Semantics - Learning the Jargon
- New To WordPress - Where to Start
- Finding WordPress Help

Going through these will mostly get you on your way on becoming a proper WordPress user.

Further Learning Resources

Since WordPress is such a huge phenomenon nowadays, the learning resources are for from scarce. From the Google start page to the personal blog of a WP enthusiast, everywhere you look there is something to learn.

From some of the most widely appraised sites that help you with WordPress, we would like to point you to these:

- WP Tuts+
- WP Beginner

FAQ

More to come...