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Hugo Site Customization

Getting started? Hugo Blox has a collection of beautiful templates for you to choose from.

Want to personalize the template? No problem, a Hugo Blox template is fully customizable. In fact, you can change so many elements, it would be difficult to find the original template it was made from.

This page explains some common site customizations. You might also be interested in customizing the homepage.

Check out the **Guides** for details on each feature and for more advanced customization by extending.

Personalise your URL

Give your site a professional appearance, such as `your-name.com`, whilst preventing it getting locked into one specific host such as GitHub Pages (`your-name.github.io`) or Netlify (`your-name.netlify.app`).

View the Custom Domain guide →

Website icon

Are you looking to customize the desktop and mobile icon (aka *favicon*) which appears in your site's Progressive Web App (PWA) and web browser tab?

Save your icon as a square 512x512 pixel image named `icon.png` and place the image in your root `assets/media/` folder, creating the folders if they don't already exist.

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Appearance

The following options in `config/_default/params.yaml` can be set to personalise the appearance of your site:

```yaml
appearance:
  mode: light
  color: blue
```

Light and Dark Modes

Choose the default appearance of your site with the `mode` option. Options include `light`, `dark`, or `system`.

When choosing the `system` option, the appearance will automatically match the appearance of the user's device.

Want to let visitors override the default appearance? Show a theme toggle button in the site header - check out the Header section below.

Color Themes

Choose the color scheme of your site with the `color` option

Options include blue, cyan, green, indigo, purple, red, rose, sky, teal, and zinc.

Alternatively, create your own color scheme:

1. Download an existing color scheme
2. Edit the colors
3. Rename the file to match your new color scheme, for example `river.css`
4. Move the file to your `assets/css/themes/` folder, creating the folders if they don't already exist
5. Use your new color scheme by setting `color: river` (or whatever you named your

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Fonts

Use your own fonts, such as from Google Fonts, by adding them via Custom CSS (see *Extend Hugo Blox*).

Header

You can choose from the following options to customise the site header containing the navigation bar:

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```
# Display the navigation bar?
enable: true
# Choose a built-in navigation blox or create your own
blox: "navbar"
# Align menu links: `left`, `center`, or `right`
align: "center"
# Fix the navigation bar to the top of the page
fixed_to_top: true
logo:
  # Logo text
  text: ""
  # Logo filename in `assets/media/` folder
  filename: "logo.svg"
# Shop a call-to-action button in the top right?
button:
  enable: true
  text: "Get Started"
  url: "https://hugoblox.com/templates/"
# Let the user choose between light or dark mode?
show_theme_chooser: true
# Let the user search from the navigation bar?
show_search: true
# Attempt to automatically highlight the active menu link? Can be disable
highlight_active_link: true
# Show a language chooser (if you have translated your site content)?
show_translations: true
# If `show_translations` is enabled, do you wish to hide the current langu
hide_language_name: false
```

Want to swap out the `navbar` header blox for a different layout?

You can do that too by choosing a `blox` from the [blox repository](#) or from your local `layouts/partials/components/headers/` folder.

Menu items

The main menu links in the navigation bar can be edited in the `config/_default`

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For example, to link to the homepage and an about page, we paste their relative URLs from the root of the site:

```
main:
  - name: Home
    url: /
    weight: 10
  - name: About
    url: about/
    weight: 20
```

To order your links, set the `weight` options to any ascending numeric values. Here we use multiples of ten so that it's easier to change the order in the future if we have many menu items.

Linking to page sections

To link to a section of the homepage, use the form `#ID` where `ID` corresponds to the section `id` field. For example, `#posts` references a section with `id: posts`. You can rename your IDs in `_index.md`, just remember to use a dash (`-`) instead of spaces in the ID.

Sub-Menus

To create a dropdown sub-menu, add `identifier: a-unique-reference` to the parent item and `parent: a-unique-reference` to the child item, replacing `a-unique-reference` with a unique reference of your choice.

Example of creating a *Tags* sub-menu:

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```
    url: /
    weight: 10
  - name: Tags
    identifier: tags
    weight: 20
  - name: Academic
    parent: tags
    url: tags/academic/
    weight: 10
```

Learn more about the underlying Hugo menu system here.

Footer

Add your own message to the footer of a site using the `notice` text field in `config/_default/params.yaml`. The `notice` field supports two dynamic variables: `{year}` displays the current year and `{license}` will link to the copyright license if one is enabled.

Optionally, you can choose a Creative Commons copyright license too:

```
footer:
  block: minimal
  copyright:
    notice: '© {year} Me. This work is licensed under {license}'
    license:
      enable: true
      allow_derivatives: false
      share_alike: true
      allow_commercial: false
  # For multilingual sites, show a language chooser in the footer?
  show_translations: true
```

A `copyright_license` can also be displayed on a per-page basis by adding the option directly to a page's front matter (see Page Features page).

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Want to swap out the `minimal` footer block for a different layout?

You can do that too by choosing a `block` from the [block repository](#) or from your local `layouts/partials/components/footers/` folder.

Hide *Published With Hugo Blox Builder*

Want to hide or customize the *Published with Hugo Blox Builder* notice in the footer?

The notice can be **automatically removed whilst 💖 [sponsoring](#) 💖 with** *All Access*.

Otherwise, please leave the attribution to this open source initiative that you benefit from intact.

The notice can be translated. If the notice is not already translated for your language, refer to the Language guide to translate it.

Localization

The date, time, and address formats can be localized in `config/_default/params.yaml`. For example,

```
locale:
  date_format: 'Jan 2, 2006'
  time_format: '3:04 PM'
  address_format: en-us
```

Date/time options

Hugo uses the following constants to format dates and times:

Type	Options
Year	06 2006

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Month	`01  1  Jan  January`
Day	`02  2  _2` (width two, right justified)
Weekday	`Mon  Monday`
Hours	`03  3  15`
Minutes	`04  4`
Seconds	`05  5`
AM/PM	`PM  pm`
Timezone	`MST`
Offset	`-0700  -07  -07:00  Z0700  Z07:00`

To modify the format, edit `date_format` and `time_format` in `config/_default` `/params.yaml` using the above constants. For example, some common formats are:

Format	Type
`January 2, 2006`	Date
`01/02/06`	
`Jan-02-06`	
`Mon, 02 Jan 2006`	
`Monday, 02 Jan 2006`	
`15:04`	Time
`3:04 PM`	
`15:04 MST`	

Address formats

If you display addresses on your site, such as for events or contact sections, you can choose an address format.

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Interface language

[Personalise the interface text or choose a translation](#)

Site Features

Refer to the *Guides* section of the documentation site for the main features such as SEO, page sharing, and commenting.

Additional site features that can be customized in `params.yaml` are covered below.

SEO

[View the SEO guide →](#)

Commenting

[View the Commenting guide →](#)

Analytics

[View the Analytics guide →](#)

Social sharing

[View the Social Sharing guide →](#)

Code syntax highlighting

Hugo's code syntax highlighter is named *Chroma*.

Chroma's light or dark styles are automatically applied to your code blocks in light mode and dark mode, respectively.

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Latex math

```
features:
  math: true
```

Diagrams

Draw diagrams on pages using the Markdown-like [Mermaid](#) syntax.

Diagrams are automatically detected and rendered without the need to configure anything.

Privacy

[View the Privacy guide →](#)

Link to edit page

Let your users suggest improvements to pages.

Simply update the URL and branch to match those of your GitHub repository. Then set `editable: true` to page front matter and a link will be added to the page footer to let users edit the page within the GitHub Editor.

```
features:
  repository:
    url: 'https://github.com/<username>/<repository>'
    content_dir: content
    branch: main
```

Get feedback

Add a feedback widget to your docs pages (Book layout) to get feedback on your content and prioritise which pages to improve.

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production: `hugo server -e production` . It can be disabled by setting `feedback: false` in the front matter.

Here's how you can configure your feedback responses in `params.yaml` :

```
features:
  feedback:
    responses:
      positive: 'Glad to hear it! [Any ideas for improvements?](https://githul
      negative: 'Sorry to hear that. [Please tell us how we can improve](https
```

Note: browsers which block Google Analytics may also block the feedback widget.

> ⚠️ **Caution**
>
> The feedback widget is not currently available for Tailwind-styled sites.

Recommendations

Recommend similar content to your readers at the end of pages.

In your page front matter:

```
show_related: true
```

Search

[View the Search guide →](#)

Security

[View the Security guide →](#)

Maps

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The following map providers are supported: `''` (no map), `google`, `mapnik`, or `mapbox`. Some map providers provide an `api_key` to set.

For example, to use Mapnik's map service:

```
features:
  map:
    provider: 'mapnik'
    api_key: ''
    zoom: 15
```

After choosing a provider, set your map coordinates in your Contact widget in order to display a map:

```
content:
  coordinates:
    latitude: '37.4275'
    longitude: '-122.1697'
```

If you do not know your coordinates, you can retrieve them from Google Maps after searching for a location, or from alternative apps.

> ⚠️ **Caution**
>
> No map blox is currently available for Tailwind-styled sites.

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