

Theme Workshop

Customizing your WordPress theme

Best Practices

About Me

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You should already have a live WordPress.org blog

If not, you need to follow these steps:

- Register a domain name
- Find a web host
- Install WordPress

6 Best Practices

- Use an FTP client
- Use a proper text editor
- Setup your blog locally
- Use a child theme
- Use Firebug
- Use the Codex

Use an FTP Client

- FTP client connects to your web server
- Allows you to upload files quickly and easily
- Windows (or Mac): Filezilla
<http://filezilla-project.org/download.php>
- Mac: Transmit
<http://www.panic.com/transmit/>

Use an FTP Client

step-by-step

- Download your and install your FTP client
- Setup your FTP client to connect to your server (web host can help you get it set up)
- You need a server name, username, and password to login
- SFTP is preferred if your host supports it

Use a proper text editor

- The right tool for the job
- Keeps your code clean and manageable
- Work on multiple files at one time
- Built in syntax highlighter and other useful tools

Use a proper text editor

step-by-step

- Windows: Notepad ++
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/notepad-plus/files/>
- Mac: Textmate
<http://macromates.com/>
- Other options are available, these are my recommended editors

Install WordPress locally

- Great practice / testing environment
- You don't have to worry about breaking your live website
- You have an extra backup copy of your theme in case something ever goes wrong

Install WordPress locally

step-by-step

- Download and install XAMPP
<http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp.html>
- Export the database from your live blog using phpMyAdmin
- Using phpMyAdmin create a new local database and import your live database
- Setup WordPress locally

Use a child theme

- Modular
- Protects your customizations
- Easy upgrades
- Simple to setup

Use a Child Theme

step-by-step

- Setup a child theme
- Activate the child theme
- Make a few changes to the style.css file

Use Firebug

- Quick and easy style changes
- Test your changes “real time” before you edit any code
- Firebug (Firefox extension)
<http://getfirebug.com/>

Use Firebug

step-by-step

- Change the post title font stack
- Change the comment styling to italic
- Adjust the header border

Use the Codex

- <http://codex.wordpress.org/>
- Great theme customization resource
- Template tag documentation
http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags
- Conditional tag documentation
http://codex.wordpress.org/Conditional_Tags

Use the Codex *step-by-step*

- Switch the category name and the tags on all posts

Questions