WordCamp Miami 2014 - Themes

by Hector Torres - April 19, 2014

Bio:

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WordPress Themes

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7. Working with Special Theme Features: custom post types, sliders, home page settings, and theme background images.
8. If time permits (how to create a child theme)

What are WordPress themes?

- A WordPress theme = a design template = the foundation of your website.

- A theme allows you to change the look and functionality of your website.

- When you change the theme, your content (pages, posts, images, and permalinks - the URLs) does not get erased.

Selecting a Theme from a Trusted Source

- #1 Trusted Place for themes = WordPress.org Themes directory http://wordpress.org/themes/
  - Advantages: free, over 2000 themes
  - Disadvantages: limited support and functionality
- Other Trusted places for Premium/Paid themes:
  - woothemes.com – ecommerce themes
  - studiopress.com – business themes
  - organizedthemes.com – charity themes
  - graphpaperpress.com - photography themes

Things to look for in a theme

- Make sure that the theme has most of the look and functionality that you need (e.g. home page, slider, ecommerce). If the functionality is missing, make sure the theme will work with a plugin that has the needed functionality.

- Make sure the Theme is Mobile Responsive.

- Make sure the theme has good technical support from the vendor.

Installing the Theme

- Add the theme from the WordPress.org Themes directory

OR

- Upload the .Zip Theme file you received when you downloaded the theme from a website

Best Practices when working with Theme

- Backup your website before installing a Theme

- Do a Live Preview before activating the theme. In Live Preview, change some of the options before activating the theme and see how they look.

- Once you activate your theme, create a "Child Theme".

- After creating the child theme: upload any sample content, then set all of the theme options.

Working with: logo, menus, widgets and shortcodes

- Logo setting can be found somewhere in the Theme Settings
- Menus can be found in Appearance->Menus
  - Adding, removing, changing menu items
  - Menu locations
- Widgets are special add-ons that come with a theme and that allow you to add them to a theme's widget areas.
- Shortcodes are shortcuts in the form of [my_shortcode] that can be added to posts, pages, and to some widgets.

Custom post type, sliders, home page & background

- Some themes come with custom post type such as "Portfolio" or "Testimonials" – found in Dashboard menu

- Some themes have a built in slider

- Some themes have special home page settings

- Some themes allow for a background image. Go to Appearance->Background

Editing the theme files

- Warning: only do this if you have php experience or have exact instructions from the theme vendor

- Files for all themes can be found in Appearance -> Editor

- Select the child theme file (style.css) if you have installed a child theme

How to create a child theme

- Use Filezilla to create a new theme folder (eg. "parent-child") under the "parent" folder. Create a new CSS file in the child theme folder and name it style.css. Paste the sample code below in the style.css file (replace parent with the actual parent theme name)

```
/*
Theme Name: parent Child
Description: Child theme for "parent" theme
Author:  Your name
Template:  parent
*/
@import url("../parent/style.css");
/* write custom css below */
```