

# **Creating a custom theme for ProjectCMS**

## 1. First Steps

The first step to creating a theme for ProjectCMS is to create the folder layout for the theme.

In your working directory you will create a folder named 'themes' and a file named 'index.html'

In the 'themes' folder you will create another folder with the name of your theme. i.e. 'yourtheme' (change to match the name of your theme)

Inside the folder 'yourtheme' you will need the following files 'menu.php', 'external.php', 'style.css'. You will also need to create a folder named 'img', this is where all of your images will go.

You should now have a directory structure that looks like this

```
Working Dir [directory]
  index.html [file for creating the HTML part of the theme]
  themes [directory]
    yourtheme [directory, change to match theme name]
      img [directory, for storing images]
      external.php [for loading the external links]
      menu.php [for loading the menu links]
      style.css [for defining the theme CSS style]
```

## 2. Creating a HTML template

Open the 'index.html' file in your preferred editor and create a basic page with the layout that you would like.

Remember that when you link to images in your HTML template to use the full path i.e.

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We will not go into detail on this step, there are many guides on the internet to help you create a HTML web template.

## 3. Creating the theme file from your HTML template

Once you have created the HTML theme you will need to copy the content of the index.html file between the **<BODY>** and **</BODY>** tags and paste it into a file named index.php in the folder named 'yourtheme'

#### 4. Adding the PHP code to the theme

Open the file named 'index.php' from the 'yourtheme' directory in your preferred editor.

Add the below code to your 'index.php' file where you want the menu and external links to show. Remember to change the folder name to match that of your theme.

```
<?php include('themes/yourtheme/menu.php') ?>
<?php include('themes/yourtheme/external.php') ?>
```

Add the below code to your 'index.php' file where you want the page content to show.

```
<? include('includes/content.php'); ?>
```

#### 5. Creating the menu.php file

The 'menu.php' file should contain the following code:

```
<?
$sql="select sn,pagename,linktext,visible from $content order by sn";
$result=mysql_query($sql,$connection) or die(mysql_error());
while($row=mysql_fetch_array($result)) {
?>

<?
$pagevisible=$row['visible'];
if ($pagevisible=='1')
echo "

&nbsp; <a href='index.php?sn=" . $row['sn'] . "'>" . $row['linktext'] . "</a> &nbsp;";
else
echo "; ?>

<? } ?>
```

The parts highlighted in **Blue** may be changed to match your theme.

For example if you wanted your menu to be displayed in a table with one link in each cell then you would change the code to :

```
<td width="100px"><a href='index.php?sn=" . $row['sn'] . "'>" . $row['linktext'] .
"</a></td>
```

But as this is only creating the table cells and not the table or table rows you would need to add the following code to the 'index.php' file above the code to open the 'menu.php' file:

```
<table>
<tr>
```

And the following code below the code to open the 'menu.php' file:

```
</tr>
</table>
```

This may take some experimentation to get the effect you like.

## 6. Creating the external.php file

The 'external.php' file is very similar to the 'menu.php' file, if you start with the following code and modify it to match your theme:

```
<?
$sql="select id,link,url,visible from $externallinks order by id";
$result=mysql_query($sql,$connection) or die(mysql_error());
while($row=mysql_fetch_array($result)) {
?>

<?
$pagevisible=$row['visible'];
if ($pagevisible=='1')
echo "

&nbsp; <a href='\" . $row['url'] . \"' target='_blank'>\" . $row['link'] . \"</a> &nbsp;

";

else
echo "; ?>

<? } ?>
```

## **7. Creating the style.css file**

When you open up the 'index.html' file in your working directory you may have some CSS code at the top, this will be placed between a **<STYLE>** and **</STYLE>** tag, you will need to copy the code between these tags and paste it into your 'style.css' file in the 'yourtheme' directory.

## **8. Testing the theme**

To test your theme upload the folder 'yourtheme' to your webserver, this folder 'yourtheme' will need to be placed in the 'themes' folder, you can now set it as the default theme from the ProjectCMS admin panel.

## **9. Adding a preview image**

As a finishing touch to your theme you may create a 'preview.jpg' file, do this by loading up a ProjectCMS based website using your new theme and create a screenshot, place the 'preview.jpg' file in the 'yourtheme' folder.

## **10. Packaging**

To make it easy for other people to install your theme, ProjectCMS includes a script to upload and uncompress zip files to the 'themes' directory.

You may place the folder 'yourtheme' into a zip file, this theme may now be installed with ease from the ProjectCMS admin panel.

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This guide is a quick fix and is not the final piece, if you have mastered the creation of ProjectCMS themes and would like to write your own guide please feel free to forward it to:

admin [at] projectcms [dot] org

Remember to include your details so we can give credit to you.