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SimplyWP – Rough Draft Articles

Where to Find the Best WordPress Themes

Themes help give your site character. They tell the reader what type of content to expect. Is you site focusing on news, technology, or on your thoughts? I have gathered this list of some good sites to go hunting for a personality for you site.

Themeforest

http://themeforest.net

WooThemes

http://www.woothemes.com/

WPZOOM

http://www.wpzoom.com/

MOJO themes

http://www.mojo-themes.com/

ThemeShift

http://themeshift.com/

Press75.com

http://www.press75.com/

Theme Garden

http://www.themegarden.com/

Template Monster

http://www.templatemonster.com/wordpress-themes.php

Studio Press

http://www.studiopress.com/

ElegantThemes

http://www.elegantthemes.com

Obox

http://www.obox-design.com

templatic

http://templatic.com

NattyWP

http://www.nattywp.com

30 Plugins to Make your Site Stand Apart From the Competition

The basic install of WordPress has many useful options, but the true power of the CMS comes from it's ability to be extended to do almost anything. If you need a poll, stock images, social media integration, or well, almost anything, WordPress can do it. Check out these useful plug-ins. Find out what you can do with your site.

W3 Total Cache

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/w3-total-cache/

WP Super Cache

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-super-cache/

WP Smush.it

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-smushit/

Tweet, Like, Google +1 and Share

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/only-tweet-like-share-and-google-1/

Freebie Images: Free Stock Images Plugin

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/freebie-images-free-stock-images-plugin/screenshots/

Make Your Site Social

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/gigya-socialize-for-wordpress/

SexyBookmarks | email, bookmark, and share buttons

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/sexybookmarks/

WP to Twitter

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-to-twitter/

Digress.it

http://digress.it/

WordPress Wiki

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wordpress-wiki/

WP Mobile Detector

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-mobile-detector/changelog/

WPtouch

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wptouch/

Akismet

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/akismet/

All in One SEO Pack

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/all-in-one-seo-pack/

Google XML Sitemaps

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-sitemap-generator/

Scissors Continued

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/scissors-continued/

NextGEN Gallery

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/nextgen-gallery/

Google Analyticator

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-analyticator/

Google Analytics for WordPress

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-analytics-for-wordpress/

Organize Series

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/organize-series/

WordPress.com Stats

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/stats/

Yet Another Related Posts Plugin

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/yet-another-related-posts-plugin/

TinyMCE Advanced

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/tinymce-advanced/

MapPress Easy Google Maps

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/mappress-google-maps-for-wordpress/

Broken Link Checker

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/broken-link-checker/

Post Ideas

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/post-ideas/

MediaElement.js - HTML5 Video & Audio Player

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/media-element-html5-video-and-audio-player/

FeedWordPress

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/feedwordpress/

WP-Polls

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-polls/

Google Doc Embedder

http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-document-embedder/

21 Amazing WordPress Themes

WordPress can be a great platform for you even if you are not a designer. You don't necessarily need to code your own content, that is what themes are for. A theme is like a skin for you site. Whether you want to create a video site, a event site, a blog, or even a forum there is a theme out there for you. This is just a short collection of themes to get you started. Check them out and then keep searching. Just remember that a beautiful theme will not make you site a hit. It can help, but content is king.

Simpl: A Clean & Classy WordPress Portfolio Theme

http://themeforest.net/item/simpl-a-clean-classy-wordpress-portfolio-theme/300878

Simpl is a clean and classy theme that emphasizes your content. Whether your goal is to land the next big client with your flashy portfolio or to saturate the minds of your readers with premium

textual content, Simpl does the trick. No matter your field or passion, Simpl will allow you to broadcast your message in the most universal and uncluttered fashion.
Demo - http://themeforest.net/item/simpl-a-clean-classy-wordpress-portfolio-theme/full_screen_preview/300878

Editorial

http://www.woothemes.com/2011/06/editorial/
Editorial is a magazine theme which gives you complete control over your post layouts. Each post can be styled uniquely with 1,2 or 3 column layouts. A featured slider, customizable header space, and AJAX powered category posts module allows for your content to be the core focus of your website.
Demo - http://demo.woothemes.com/?name=editorial

Vimes

http://www.wpzoom.com/themes/vimes/
Vimes is a simple & elegant theme for WordPress, designed especially for design agencies, photographers and artists, but which can be easily used as a traditional blog theme.
Demo - http://demo.wpzoom.com/?theme=vimes

Stereotype One Page – WordPress Theme

http://www.mojo-themes.com/item/stereotype-one-page-wordpress-theme/
Stereotype is a clean and simple one page portfolio built on the 960 Grid System, HTML5 DOCTYPE and CSS3.
Demo - http://www.mojo-themes.com/item/stereotype-one-page-wordpress-theme/demo/

deCorum

http://themeshift.com/decorum/
deCorum is a complex and fully-featured real estate WordPress theme. The minimal style and extensive layout options let you easily change it to your special needs with no coding skills.
Demo - http://themeshift.com/demo/decorum/

Vidley

http://www.press75.com/themes/vidley-for-wordpress/
The Vidley theme is a flexible video centric website solution perfect for video blogs, portfolios, news sites, promotional sites or pretty much anything else. Vidley combines many aspects from my other popular video-centric themes to bring you all the features you are looking for in a one great theme. Vidley also includes advanced style customization options that allow you to customize the background and content colors of the theme right through the theme options page.
Demo - http://www.press75.com/themes/vidley-theme-demo/

WonderBiz

http://www.templatemonster.com/wordpress-themes/35335.html
the WordPress 3.0 themes that are built to fully utilize the extended capabilities of the latest WordPress blogging platform version. In these themes you may edit virtually any part of your blog, which means a lot more flexibility for your website than with the ordinary WordPress themes you may find elsewhere.
Demo - http://livedemo00.template-help.com/wordpress_35335/

Chapters

http://www.themegarden.com/woothemes/chapters/
A theme for publishing a book or series of articles.
Demo - http://demo.woothemes.com/chapters/

Feather

http://www.elegantthemes.com/gallery/feather/
Feather has a light and airy quality that gives your website a fun and care-free vibe. The theme is simple, but its subtle details and textures have been designed with care. If you are looking for a subdued design that is still stylistic and impressive, then Feather just might be the theme for you.
Demo - http://www.elegantthemes.com/preview/Feather/

WP FlexiShop - A Versatile WP E-Commerce Theme

http://themeforest.net/item/wp-flexishop-a-versatile-wp-ecommerce-theme/137144
This theme utilises the powerful WP E -Commerce plugin to create a versatile and feature packed Wordpress powered shop, with 3 different layout options and unlimited color possibilities. Make this theme your own.
Demo - http://themeforest.net/item/wp-flexishop-a-versatile-wp-ecommerce-theme/full_screen_preview/137144

Social Life

http://www.press75.com/themes/social-life-for-wordpress/
If you are looking for an advanced blogging or news theme, Social Life is not the theme for you. Social Life is unique in that it takes all your favorite social media services and aggregates them within a lifestream on the home page. You can add your Flickr Photos, YouTube or Vimeo.com Videos, Delicious Bookmarks, Latest Tweets from Twitter and much more.
Demo - http://www.press75.com/themes/social-life-theme-demo/

Highlight

http://shakenandstirredweb.com/theme/highlight
"Highlight" is a minimalistic, horizontal scrolling, portfolio theme that places your work up front and center. I created this theme after seeing so many poorly designed horizontal scrolling portfolios. I felt that photographers and designers should have a beautiful website that reflects the quality of work that they produce, so say hello to "Highlight".
Demo - http://demo.shakenandstirredweb.com/highlight/

Kaboodle

http://www.woothemes.com/2011/04/kaboodle/
Kaboodle is a trendy, pixel-perfect, customizable business theme with a clean layout, featured home page slider, and custom post types for testimonials, portfolio items, mini-features and slides. Every new business can do with a spiffy design like this!
Demo - http://demo.woothemes.com/?name=kaboodle

Bizco

http://themify.me/themes/bizco

Bizco is a professional theme targeted at business and product based websites. This theme is great for showcasing features of your service or product to your readers. With the custom page template you can change the display of your pages and posts easily with the visual custom panel.
Demo - http://themify.me/demo/#theme=bizco

AskIt

http://www.elegantthemes.com/gallery/askit/
AskIt effectively transforms your blog into a fully functional question and answer site. AskIt allows your visitors to post their questions and have them answered by fellow members. Any visitor can post answers to these questions which are then voted on by the community until a "correct" answer is chosen by the question author.
Demo - http://www.elegantthemes.com/preview/AskIt/

Pont - Multipurpose Wordpress Theme

http://themeforest.net/item/pont-multipurpose-wordpress-theme/273142?ref=depot
Pont is a clean and modern multipurpose WordPress theme with WP 3 .2+ features. There's many page templates available, unlimited colors, 18 background patterns, 2 slideshow types, 37 included cufon fonts, drag and drop menu builder, sidebar video support, portfolio and slider post types, 50+ shortcodes with shortcode manager and much more.
Demo - http://easysite.by/?theme=pont

City Guide

http://www.woothemes.com/2010/03/cityguide/
This theme was developed to cater for directory-based wordpress sites. For example, a guide to a city with shops, restaurants and other places of interest all archived in posts with geo-tags, custom content about the locations, and well presented in this killer theme designed by Sam Brown.
Demo - http://demo.woothemes.com/?name=cityguide

Visual HTML5 Wordpress Theme

http://themeforest.net/item/visual-html5-wordpress-theme/154651?ref=PauliusR
Visual is designed for people who love a clean design and functionality. It's built on a solid modular framework and it comes with a custom set of Widgets which allow you to build your own layout.
Demo - http://demo.mattiaviviani.com/wp_themes/?theme=visual

Tanjun

http://bizzthemes.com/themes/tanjun/
Designed to be simple, developed to be the best. This is our most complete business theme to date. It has everything you need to run your website and more. Every element is highly customizable through template builder and powerful design options panel.
Demo - http://bizzthemes.com/preview/?theme=2070

Evento - Event Management WordPress Theme

http://themeforest.net/item/evento-event-management-wordpress-theme/488278
Evento is an event management WordPress Theme suitable for any type of events: conferences, exhibitions, conventions, trade shows, seminars, workshops and business meetings.

Demo - http://themeforest.net/item/evento-event-management-wordpress-theme/full_screen_preview/488278

Store

http://templatic.com/ecommerce-themes/store
Create your own online store easily in WordPress. It transforms your WordPress install into a fully functional Ecommerce store complete with backend administration. Use WordPress to easily manage your store that sells Tangible or intangible/digital goods.
Demo - http://templatic.com/demos/?theme=store

What Files Make Up a WordPress Theme?

Creating your own WordPress theme starts with understanding the file structure of a theme. WordPress does not create each page from a single HTML page. It uses php files to put each page together. If you are creating a static HTML site and you want to change a link in the header you need to go to each page and make that change. With php, you can create one php file called `header.php` and import that into all of you pages so that now, you can make only one change to `header.php` and all the pages with that header will be affected. This is how WordPress Works. You make one change and all the pages that are affected by that change will be updated.

Your theme uses more than one of these php pges. There a number the files that WordPress uses to build you pages. Well go through the basics of the pages so you can understand where to start.

Let's take a look at the most obvious pages first. After looking at the file maes of a couple of these php file you will start to get the idea. The php files are named in such a way that, most of the time, it is rather apparent what each pages does.

- style.css – This include the styles for you page. This is the only truly necessary file that must be included in your theme.
- `header.php` - This is the page header. This is what shows at the top of each page.
- `sidebar.php` – This is the sidebar.
- `footer.php` – This is the footer. This is what you want to show at the bottom of each page
- `index.php` – This is the main page in you template. When someone navigateds to your bace url, this is what they will see.
- `single.php` – This is a single blog post.
- `page.php` – This is the page template. This is the mark up for pages, not posts.
- coments.php – This is the comments template. It denotes how the comments on your posts will be marked up.
- archive.php– This is the templaete used to show posts within a category, by an author, or in a date rage if those specific files are not provided.
- `category.php` – This is the template for when viewing a category.
- `author.php` – This is the template for viewing the posts by a certain author.
- `search.php` – This is the template for viewing search results.

- `404.php` – This is the page not found template. When the user enters a page within your wordpress install that does not exsist, this is what they see.
- `functions.php` – This is different than the other template files listed here. It included functions that help change the way wordpress works for your specific theme.

Those are the basics, but there are others and I would encourage you to check out the WordPress Codex on the WordPress website for more information about these file types. http://codex.wordpress.org/

Each and every time you create a theme you will start with some configuration of the files listed above, and often you will need to have some of the same code in each page. It doesn't make sense to start from scratch each time. Some great starter templates have been created and provided free to help you get started with your theme. Take a look at these themes and see if any of them can help you get started.

Bare-Bones Templates or Boilerplates

Roots

http://www.rootstheme.com/
Roots is a starting WordPress theme made for developers that's based on HTML5 Boilerplate, Blueprint CSS (or 960.gs) and Starkers that will help you rapidly create brochure sites and blogs.

Skimpy

http://skimpy.levigideon.com/
You can use this however you want. Sell it, claim it, do what you want. Skimpy has basic WordPress 3.0 functionality enabled in its functions. This includes custom menus, post thumbnails, custom sidebars, and even a couple useful little tweaks that are commented out, but you can comment them in and do what you want with them. The only styles included are a container that sets the width of everything to 900px.

Bones

http://themble.com/bones/
Bones was created after years of editing and reusing the same template to develop custom sites. It came from trial and error and tons of experience customizing templates.

Starkers HTML5

http://nathanstaines.com/articles/starkers-html5/
Starkers is a bare bones WordPress theme created to act as a starting point for the theme designer…

Toolbox

http://themeshaper.com/2010/07/02/toolbox-html5-starter-theme/

Toolbox is a blank, HTML5, WordPress starter theme. Out of the box, it features: the latest in plain, old, semantic HTML5 markup and Ultra-minimal (it looks like there's no CSS at all), fluid, em-based CSS that won't get in your way when you're starting a design.

Handcrafted WP

http://randyjensenonline.com/thoughts/handcrafted-wp-starter-theme/

Handcrafted WP is a starter theme built for WordPress developers who are doing more than building blogs. The theme is based on Ian Stewart's Toolbox Starter theme and Paul Irish & Divya Manian's HTML5 Boilerplate plus some other awesome features based off our years of experience. This is not a framework, but an almost-naked starter theme that gives you a rock solid starting point for crafting a serious website on the WordPress platform.

Whiteboard Framework

http://whiteboardframework.com/

Whiteboard framework for WordPress was developed to speed up the process of developing a WordPress theme. Whiteboard does so by eliminating the time spent on code common to all WordPress themes and includes non-intrusive code that improves the overall WordPress theme in many ways - including SEO, speed, usability, and mobile support.

These are just a couple of the bare-bones themes out there for when you get started on your theme. There are many more and you should look around before choosing the one with the right features to help you create your perfect theme. Also, don't think that these boilerplates are good to go out of the box. Edit them, play with them, and make them into what you need.

What Is "The Loop"?

- Define the loop
- Start and end of loop
- How to use the loop