



Lesson #27

Custom Tag Page

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Introduction

Since WordPress introduced tags, many bloggers and developers have often wondered how to effectively use tags. Some SEO experts advise not to use tags and categories and only use one exclusively. I believe that is smart. However, there are certain scenarios where tags can come in pretty handy.

Here's one. When using WordPress as a CMS, it is quite likely you will be using categories to develop different sections of the web site. For example, a hair stylist site may have Hot Styles, Hair Care & Maintenance Tips, Examples and a Blog. You could setup categories for each of these sections and use tags as a way to Sub-categorize the posts that appear under 'Blog'.

No matter how you use tags, you can customize the Tags archive listing much like you do other archives.

What we're going to do in this lesson explore how we can manipulate the tags page to make it unique. We'll create tag.php in our theme then customize it to display a list of posts archived under that tag and also display a tag cloud so people can jump to other tags.

Displaying Tags

At this point, our theme does not display any tags whatsoever. Let's go ahead and make the theme display some tags. You can display tags in two ways. In the sidebar, in single post pages or archives. To keep it simple, we shall display tags in the single post page.

Remember to start your server if you haven't yet, launch Pspad and open up single.php. Add the following at the bottom of the _content.

```
<div id="tags"><?php the_tags('Tags: ', ' &bull;'  
, ' '); ?></div>
```

```
18
19 <?php the_content(); ?>
20
21 <div id="tags"><?php the_tags('Tags: ', ' &bull;', ''); ?></div>
22 <?php if (in_category ('3')) { ?>
```

This tells WordPress to insert a line of tags separated by bullets. As you can see, I've also wrapped the `_tags` code with a DIV named "tags" this is so that I can style this later on if I wish to.

Now, go log in to your sandbox blog, edit your posts to add some tags to your posts. Then visit your sandbox blog in your browser, navigate to a single post page. You should see this at the bottom of the post.

felis. Fusce id enim ac libero tincidunt imperdiet. Nulla mollis nisl eu orci. Curabitur varius est non tortor. Proin nec sapien. Curabitur at augue pretium nisi viverra bibendum.

Tags: [Infant](#) • [toddler](#)

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Authors

- [admin](#)
- [Boots](#)

Blog Roll

- [Development E](#)

Your posts of course will have different tags. When you click on the tag, you will find an archive of all posts that have been tagged with that keyword. For example, when I click on the tag 'Infant', this is what I see.



You will see that this archive page has a heading "Infant Archive" how is that so? If you remember back in lesson 40 when we worked on Archive.php, we put in some conditional tags to display a heading whenever the author, category, date or tag archives are displayed. That's where that came from.

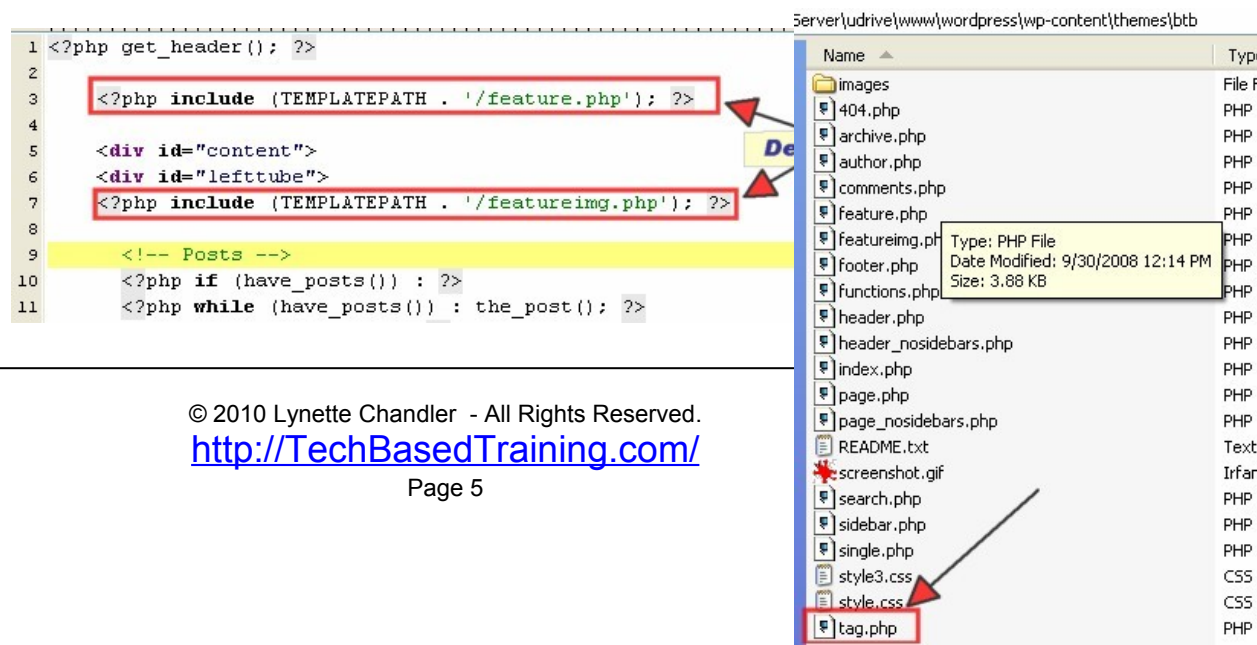
Once you create a tag.php template, tag.php will supersede archive.php so let's create the file right now. In Pspad, open index.php, remove

```
<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/feature.php'); ?>
```

and

```
<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/featureimg.php');  
?>
```

Click File, Save As and save the file as tag.php This file should be in your theme now.



Now, let's work on this file. Still in PsPad, add this right under the the "lefttube" DIV, before the loop.

```
<h2>Posts Filed Under <?php single_tag_title(); ?>
</h2>
```

```
4 <div id="lefttube">
5 <h2>Posts Filed Under <?php single_tag_title(); ?></h2>
6
7 <!-- Posts -->
8 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
```

When I visit my tag archive and refresh my page, this is what I will see.



You can change the words if you wish to. Depending on your objective, you can leave this as it is and move on. For the bootcamp, I'd like to show you how you can further manipulate the template to make it look really different. Instead of displaying post excerpts, let's say we just want a bullet list of links. Here's how we do it.

First, we delete everything inside the loop or, everything inside and including the "post" DIV.

```

5 <h2>Posts Filed Under <?php single_tag_title(); ?></h2>
6
7 <!-- Posts -->
8 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
9 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
10 <div class="post" id="pt-<?php the_ID(); ?>">
11 <div class="posttitle">
12 <div class="commentnbr">
13 <h4><?php comments_popup_link('0', '1', '% '); ?></h4>
14 <p>Comments</p>
15 </div>
16 <h1><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></h1>
17 </div>
18 <?php the_content(); ?>
19 </div>
20 <?php endwhile; ?>
21 <?php else : ?>

```

Delete these

After <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>, Add an opening unordered list tag

After <?php endwhile; ?>, add the closing unordered list tag like this.

```

7 <!-- Posts -->
8 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
9 <ul>
10 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
11
12 <?php endwhile; ?>
13 </ul>
14 <?php else : ?>
15 <h4>Not Found</h4>

```

In between <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?> and <?php endwhile; ?>, add the following.

```

<li><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php
the_title(); ?></a></li>

```

Let's refresh

```

7 <!-- Posts -->
8 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
9 <ul>
10 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
11 <li><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></li>
12 <?php endwhile; ?>
13 </ul>
14 <?php else : ?>
15 <h4>Not Found</h4>

```



Home About Contact

Posts Filed Under Infant

- This is a post title
- Hello world!

You can still display an excerpt of the posts if you wish. Just add the `_excerpt` like this.

```
<li><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php  
the_title(); ?></a><br />  
<?php the_excerpt(); ?>  
</li>  
  
9      <ul>  
10     <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>  
11     <li><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a><br />  
12     <?php the_excerpt(); ?>  
13     </li>  
14     <?php endwhile; ?>  
15     </ul>
```



And... this is what you'll get

Now let's make this page more interesting, by giving them the option to click on other tags. We add a tag cloud at the bottom of the list. Just after ``, add this.

```
<div id="tagcloud"><h5>Other popular  
tags:</h5><br />  
<?php wp_tag_cloud(''); ?></div>
```

Alright, so let's



Conclusion

Isn't it amazing how different you can make each section look and feel? There are many ways you can display posts and list content using WordPress. Just a little creativity and your options are almost limitless. I hope you're as excited as I was when I discovered how much you can mold this system to do what you want it to. There's more!

Next Lesson...

In the later versions of WordPress, you can now display attachments inside your theme. This means, if you click on a photo that was uploaded to WordPress, you can view that photo in a nicely formatted page instead of a blank one. If you're confused, don't worry, we'll discuss this in detail in lesson 62.

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