



Lesson #16

Phase Two Development

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Foreword

Are you ready to get back to your theme? So am I. So far, everything we have done is to set the foundation. The goal then was to convert the static HTML template to WordPress. From now on, you will learn about the many different ways you can customize a theme be it yours or someone else's. This is where the power of WordPress begins to reveal itself. If you haven't fallen in love with WordPress yet, you will after these lessons and if you are – you'll be even more impressed with it.

What is in store

This phase is going to be pretty easy and fairly short. That's because the foundation is already set. Most of the time we will basically be cloning the index.php template we have already built and making small modifications to it. Just like we did with single.php in a previous lesson.

This is also why we take pains to get things right in phase one. Especially index.php. That template file is the linchpin.

Have I told you that the templates we are creating here are optional? You don't have to create them. But when you do, it makes your theme better thought out, more complete and allows you to display your content in a variety of different ways. For the bootcamp, you should create them but when building your own theme, whether you build them would be your call.

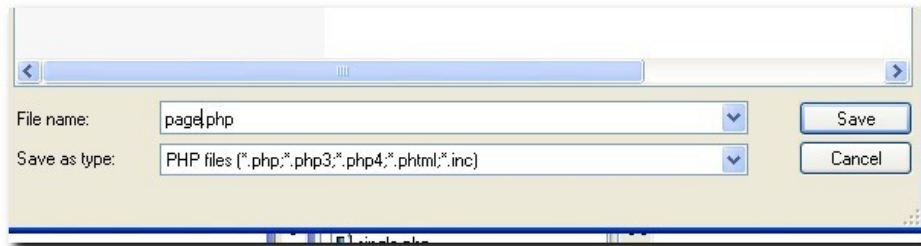
With that in mind, let's get started.

Page.php

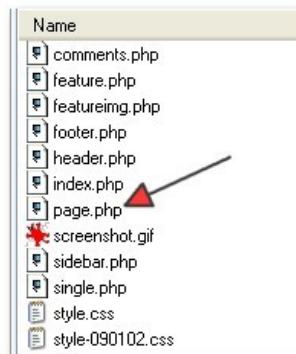
This template is used to display 'static' pages in WordPress called Pages with a capital P. Whenever we talk about Pages in WordPress, we mean content that is created when a user goes to Write >> Page. Pages, unlike posts are meant to be for evergreen content. Stuff like About us, Contact, Media, Terms of Use.

You can even use Pages as category landing pages. We'll talk about this more in Phase 3. Right now, we just want to create a simple Page template. This is pretty easy. Just copy and rename.

In PsPad, open up index.php that is in your Blog Theme Bootcamp theme folder. Press F12 on your keyboard or if you prefer, click on File >> Save As. In the file name box, type page.php. Click save.

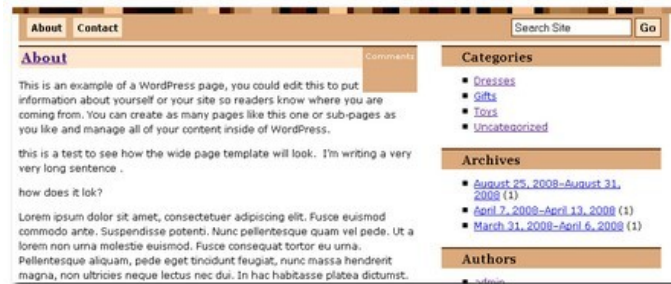


You should see page.php in your list of files.



Just like we did for single.php, we are going to remove the featured area and featured images. Delete `<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/feature.php'); ?>` and `<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/featureimg.php'); ?>` from page.php.

Save the file. Now when I visit my Sandbox and click on a Page, I'll see something like this the screen shot below. Everything looks a lot like a single post page at this point. If you get lost, go back to lesson 34 to review.



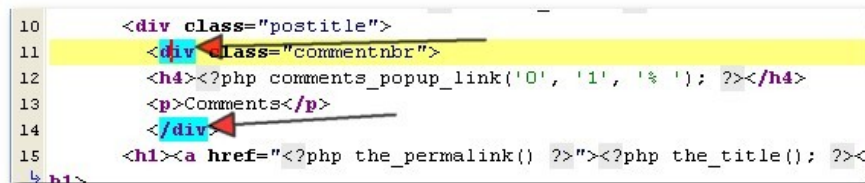
Removing comments

Here's where things start to get a little customized. I don't want any comments or anything related to comments on Pages because Pages contain static content which is not normally open for discussion. So, we will remove the comments box that is next to the title.

Switch back to PsPad, look for this code

```
<div class="commentnbr">
```

Click to put your cursor on <div. PsPad should immediately highlight the div and also the closing </div> tag. Like in this screen shot. See the blue highlight?



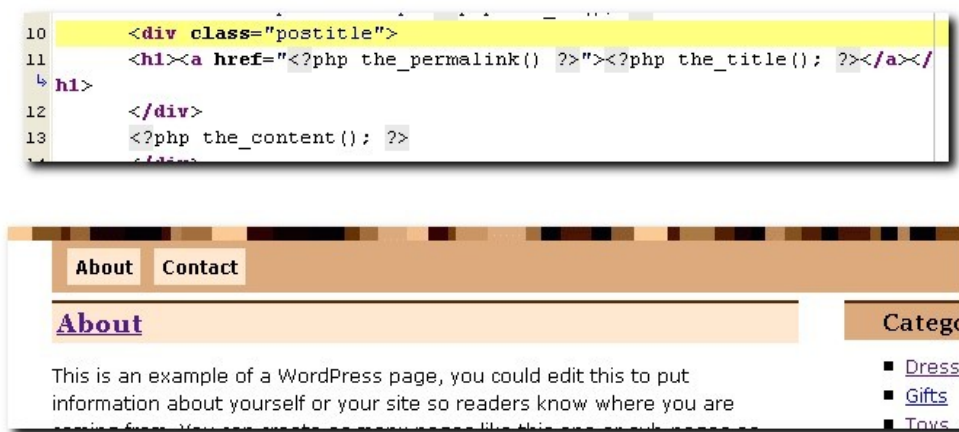
This is why I like PsPad so much. It's so helpful. The blue highlight tells me where the opening and closing tags are. It shows me the 'chunks' of code. I know now that I have to delete everything in between the highlights.

Be careful when using this method to determine boxes and chunks of code on other themes. I have written this theme specifically for teaching the bootcamp and have made certain things as clear as possible. The themes you find online may not be that clear. Sometimes because of bad coding or because the opening and closing tags are spread over different files, it may highlight the wrong closing tag.

This feature is useful. I use it all the time, but only as a guide. Always take a minute to check and see you are deleting the right thing. That is why strong HTML skills is so important. If you're still a bit new with HTML, keep learning. With time, you will get better at this.

If you're unsure at this point, don't worry. Just use the versioning method we talked about in the last lesson so you don't make a boo boo and lose all your work. Versioning helps you roll back and try again.

I'm taking out all code from lines 11 – 14 on my file. The result is this:



Removing title link

In most WordPress themes, the title is always linked. Personally, I find that redundant especially on Pages and single post pages. It may cause confusion when people are on a Page, they click on the title and end up in the same place. Also, it may effect your SEO efforts – check with an SEO expert on that.

For this theme, we are going to remove the link.

Look for

```
<h1><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php  
the_title(); ?></a></h1>
```

Remove the link code so it becomes this.

```
<h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>
```

```
10 <div class="posttitle">  
11 <h1><?php the_title(); ?></h1>  
12 </div>  
13 <?php the_content(); ?>
```

When I refresh my browser, I see this:



We're done with page.php now. Let's move on to another optional template file, search.php.

Search.php

This template is used to display search results when someone uses the search box to lookup posts on your blog. It is really a very straight forward template.

Repeat the cloning of index.php – rename the file search.php. Repeat also the steps of removing the featured images on the top as you did for page.php before.

Now, let's make sure the form works before we can test this out. When we created header.php I realized there is a mistake in the search form so we need to correct that so the search works.

In Pspad, open header.php again. Look for

```
<input type="text" name="search" value="Search Site" />
```

That whole line of code needs to change to

```
<input type="text" value="<?php  
the_search_query(); ?>" name="s" id="s" />
```

Save header.php and close it out. Visit your Sandbox in the browser, in the search box type something you know will produce search results. For example, there is a post in my Sandbox that is titled Hello world. I will search for 'world'.



That's good. It works but something is still missing. If I am a reader this can be confusing. How do I know my search worked? There needs to be some text to tell the reader that they are not viewing their search results.

To do that, go back to Pspad, open up search.php if you have closed it.

Right before the post loop, I'll enter the following.

```
<h1>Search Results for "<?php the_search_query();  
?>"</h1>
```

My code looks like this:

```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>  
2  
3 <div id="content">  
4 <div id="lefttube">  
5 <h1>Search Results for "<?php the_search_query(); ?>"</h1>  
6 <!-- Posts -->  
7 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
```

And now when I do the search again, this is what I'll see:

Homework

Ok, this is good. We will cover two more templates in the next lesson, archive.php and 404.php which are a little different than what we've done so far. Go ahead and build the two templates in this lesson. You can find the package for this lesson [here](#). If you run into any problems, download that and check it against your own work.

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