



Lesson #12

# Tackling The Featured Content Area Part 2

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## Quick Recap

Last week, we didn't do any coding. What we did was, take a step back to look at the big picture. We made some decisions about the design, what people see as they move into different pages and we made a little plan how to implement the decisions we made.

The decisions were:

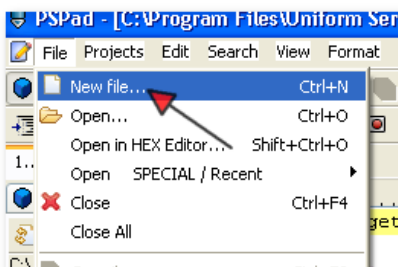
- The large featured content area and the 3 smaller images are going to be moved out into its own template files.
- These files are then going to be put back into index.php using a previously learned skill – PHP includes.
- Doing this will allow us to easily drop these two areas in archive pages, Pages and single post pages which we have yet to build.

These are now our objectives. With that clear in our minds, let's proceed. Gather your tools.

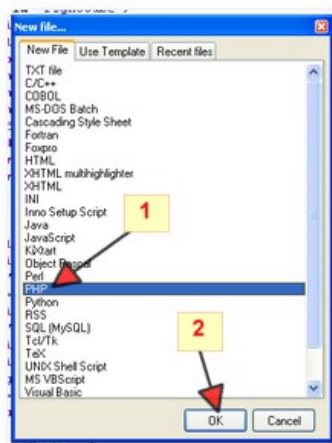
*The following theme files we are about to create are not normally a part of WordPress theme make up. WordPress will function without them. Your theme will not be broken if you don't create them. We are only creating them so we can easily differentiate the home page from other pages. Not all designs will have them either. That is your call depending on the design you are working with.*

### Create feature.php

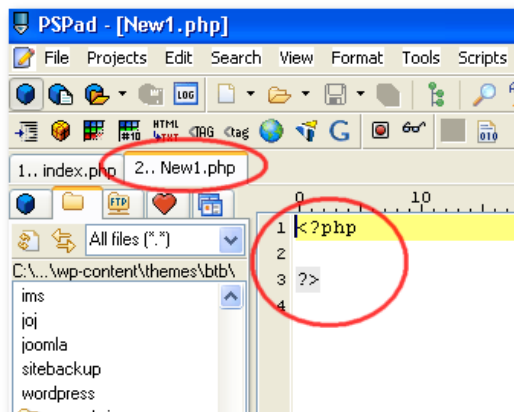
In PsPad, open a new file, by clicking File >> New file.



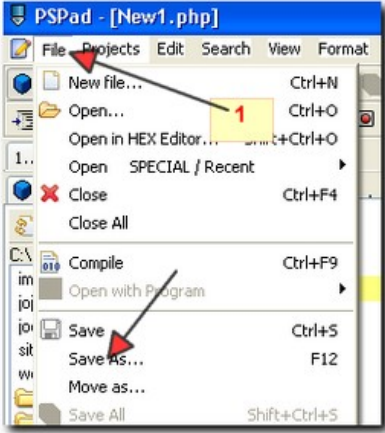
A small window will appear with a list of file formats. Click on PHP, then click OK.



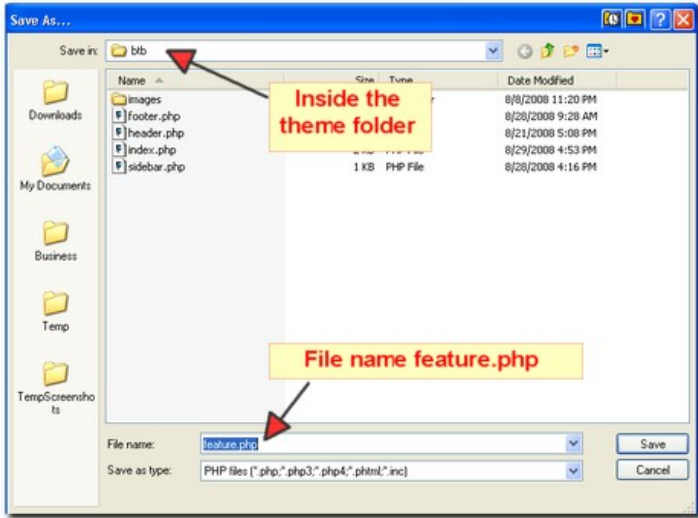
A new tab and file opens, probably named New1.php with some PHP opening and closing tags.



Before we do anything else, let's save this file. Click File >> Save As or hit F12 on your keyboard.

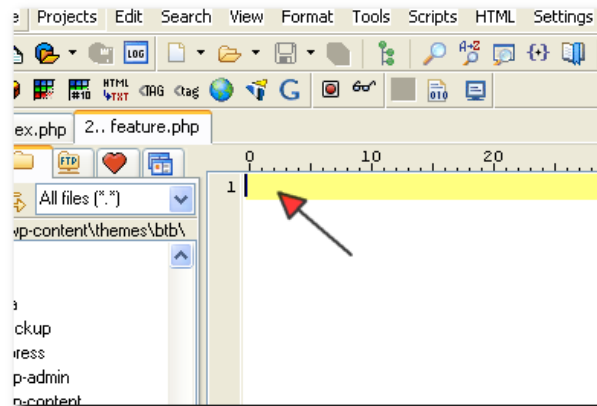


Save this file into the wp-content/themes/btb folder (the theme folder) as feature.php

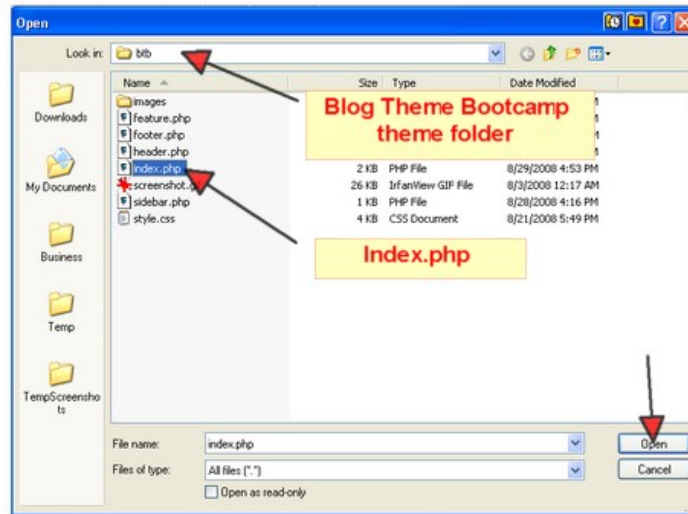


*When you are developing your own theme, remember this file can be named anything you want. But it makes sense to give it a descriptive name so others can make a quick guess what it contains.*

Next, we delete the PHP tags from `feature.php`. We won't be needing those at this time.



Open up index.php – make sure you're still inside the Blog Theme Bootcamp theme folder.



Find <div id="featurebar">. Click on the div. PsPad should highlight the opening and closing divs in light blue. That quickly tells you where the code begins and ends for the featured content area.

```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3 <div id="featurebar">
4   <div id="lefttube">
5     <div id="featureimg">
6       
7     </div>
8   </div>
9   <div id="righttube">
10    <div id="subscribe">
11      <h1>Subscribe To Daily Updates</h1>
12      <form action="#" method="post">
13        <input type="text" name="" value="Name" /><br />
14        <input type="type" name="" value="Email Address" /><br />
15        <input type="submit" name="" value="Subscribe" class="button" />
16      </form>
17    </div>
18  </div>
19 </div>
20
21 <div id="content">
```



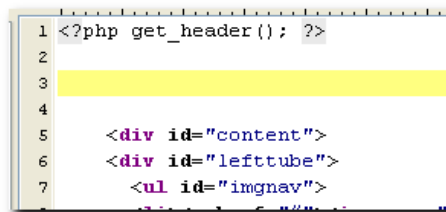
Using your mouse, highlight the code from the beginning to the end of that div. On my file, it is everything from lines 3 to line 19.

```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3 <div id="featurebar">
4   <div id="lefttube">
5     <div id="featureimg">
6       
7     </div>
8   </div>
9   <div id="righttube">
10    <div id="subscribe">
11      <h1>Subscribe To Daily Updates</h1>
12      <form action="#" method="post">
13        <input type="text" name="" value="Name" /><br />
14        <input type="type" name="" value="Email Address" /><br />
15        <input type="submit" name="" value="Subscribe" class="button" />
16      </form>
17    </div>
18  </div>
19 </div>
20
21 <div id="content">
```

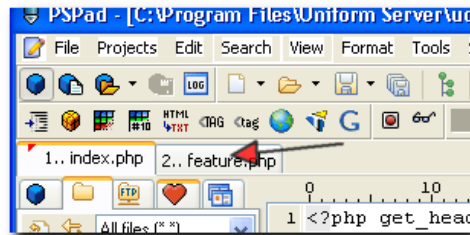


Right click on the selected code, click Cut on the popup menu. Or you can simply hit Ctrl + x on your keyboard. The chunk of code should disappear.

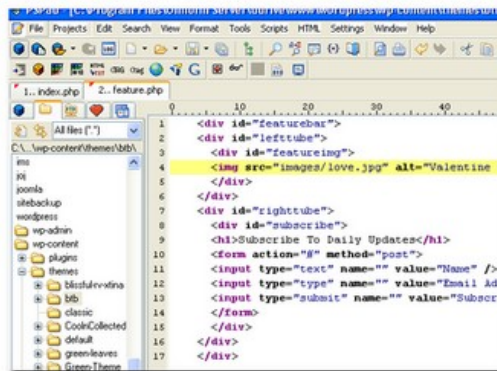
```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3
4
5 <div id="content">
6   <div id="lefttube">
7     <ul id="imgnav">
```



Hop on over to feature.php by clicking on the feature.php tab in PsPad.



Paste the chunk of code you just clipped from index.php into feature.php. Either right click anywhere in the file, click on paste or hit Ctrl + v on your keyboard.



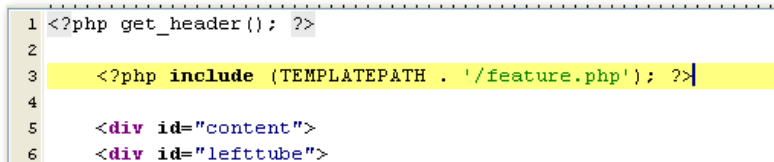
Save both files. Now, visit your Sandbox alog in your browser, the top area and the subscription box is gone.



Don't worry. We will put it back now. Let's go back to PsPad. In index.php, enter this code. After get\_header tag.

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

Once again, make sure that it is all in one line.





Save index.php. Go back to your browser, refresh your Sandbox blog. The image area and subscribe box should return.



Now let's fix the image so it'll show up instead of giving that ugly blank space/error. In PsPad, jump over to feature.php, look for

```
src="images/love.jpg"
```

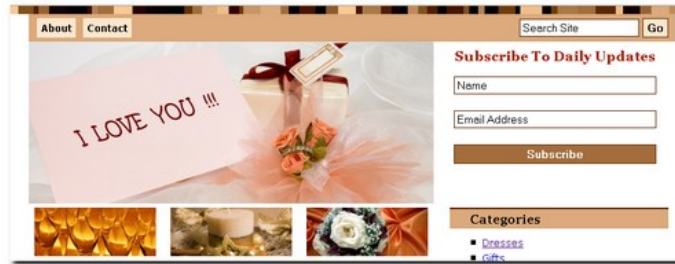
Before between “ and images, enter this code.

```
<?php bloginfo('template_url') ?>/
```

Don't forget the trailing slash. Your code should now look like this.

```
1 <div id="featurebar">
2 <div id="lefttube">
3 <div id="featureimg">
4 
5 </div>
```

Save feature.php Refresh your Sandbox blog in your browser again. The image should appear.



Lovely. You can close feature.php in PsPad now. We won't be needing the file anymore in this lesson.

### Create featureimg.php

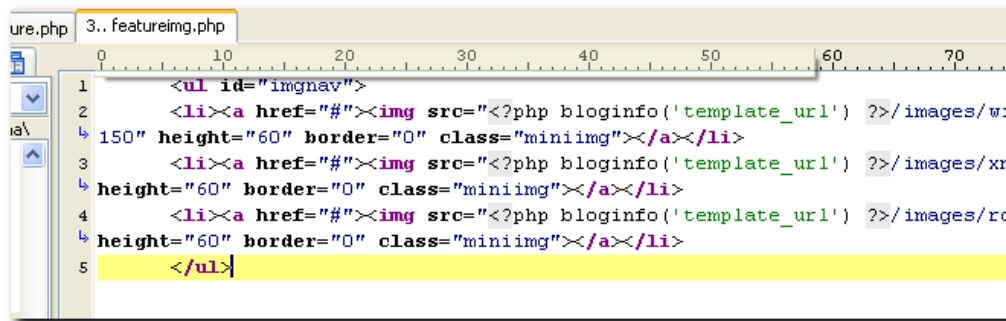
We will now move the three smaller images into yet another template file because they don't belong to the same block of code. The steps are pretty much the same. The only difference is file names and the code.

Knowing some HTML in this case is super helpful because you are able to 'read' where the code starts and ends. PsPad will help you of course, but the combination of that and HTML knowledge is more effective.

1. Create a new file. File >> New file... >> PHP >> Ok.
2. Click File >> Save As or hit F12 on the keyboard. Save this new file as featureimg.php.
3. Remove the php tags from the file – making it a blank file.
4. Jump over to index.php. Highlight all the code that displays the images. In this case it is everything between the <ul id="imgnav"> and </ul>, approximately from lines 7 to lines 11.

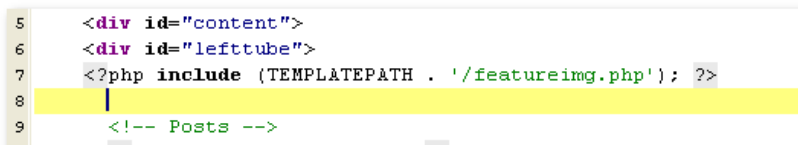
```
5 <div id="content">
6 <div id="lefttube">
7 <ul id="imgnav">
8 <li><a href="#"></a></li>
11 <li><a href="#"></li>
14 <li><a href="#"></li>
17 </ul>
18
19 <!-- Posts -->
20 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
```

5. Hit Ctrl + x or Right click on the selected code, click Cut.
6. Jump back over to featureimg.php, hit Ctrl + v on your keyboard or right click anywhere in the file, click paste.



7. Save featureimg.php.
8. Go back to index.php. Find <div id="lefttube">. On the line right under it, insert the following code. Make sure it is all in one line.

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



9. Save index.php. Refresh your blog in the browser. Everything should be as is. No missing images.
10. We're done.

## End of Lesson 30

This one was pretty simple wasn't it? PHP includes is a pretty handy function. You might already realize that you can include just about any file into a WordPress theme using the include code we used here. That is pretty powerful especially when you want to display things from other third party stand alone scripts like maybe an ad rotator.

A word of caution. For security, some servers do not allow you to include files from other web sites. If your web host is one of those, you will probably have to save the file in the same account before you can include the contents of that file.

[Here is the theme package](#) for this lesson. If you run into problems, download this package to check against your own work to see what went wrong. This package contains the work we have done from all previous lessons & this week's lesson.

## **Next Lesson...**

At the beginning of the bootcamp, I asked you to download several tools. Some of them you've already been using regularly. Others like Firebug has rarely been used. We are approaching the point where we need to start using it more often. The next lesson will be a quick overview, how to use Firebug to find out things you need to know.  
Watch out for that.

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