



Lesson #17

Archive.php and 404.php

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Foreword

Did you know that these are the last two template files you will be creating for this theme? Sure is. Like we have discussed in earlier lessons. The 'last' does not mean the theme is done. This simply signifies we are coming to a close if we were building this theme for general distribution, that it is good enough for typical blogs to use.

We still have a few more things to tweak like the style sheet and widgetizing before we can package this theme up. That will be in lessons right after this. Let's not waste anymore time.

Archive.php

This template is used when a reader clicks on any archive page like monthly archive, author's name, a tag or category page. The creation of this template is a lot like creating page.php, single.php and even search.php.

The cloning process is the same. The slight difference is, I will be introducing you to conditional tags here. We will have a full lesson on using conditional tags later on, right now, you will get a brief taste of it in action.

Launch all your tools – Load your Sandbox blog in your browser, open Pspad. Log in to your web host if you have to.

In PsPad, open... you guessed it. index.php – do you still remember how to clone it? If not refer back to lesson 34 when we created single.php. Save the cloned file as archive.php. Remove the code for feature content and featured images.

Just before the posts loop, add this chunk of code.

```
<?php if (is_category()) { ?>
    <h1><?php single_cat_title(); ?>
Archive</h1>
```

```
<?php } elseif (is_tag()) { ?>
<h1><?php single_tag_title(); ?>
Archive</h1>

<?php } elseif (is_author()) { ?>
<h1>Author Archive</h1>

<?php } elseif (is_day()) { ?>
<h1><?php the_time('F jS, Y'); ?>
Archive</h1>

<?php } elseif (is_month()) { ?>
<h1><?php the_time('F, Y'); ?> Archive</h1>

<?php } elseif (is_year()) { ?>
<h1><?php the_time('Y'); ?> Archive</h1>

<?php } ?>
```

Wow that's probably the biggest chunk of code we've used. Don't be afraid of it. If you take time to look closely and 'read' it, you will see it is very clear and logical. As I said, we will be diving in deeper in a later lesson. To quickly explain this code, it simply tells WordPress to do the following:

- When the user is viewing the category page, display “Category name archive” as the text.
- When the user is viewing a tag page, display “Tag name archive”.
- When the user is viewing an author page - this shows all posts by an author not an author's bio page, display “Author Archive”
- When user is viewing a daily archive, display “Day Archive”
- When a user is viewing the monthly archive, display “Month Archive”
- And finally when a user is viewing a yearly archive, display “Year Archive”.

If none of those conditions are met, it displays nothing.

Just to be clear, this is where you insert that code in your newly created archive.php template.

```
4
3 <div id="content">
4 <div id="lefttube">
5 |
6 <!-- Posts -->
7 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
8 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
9 <div class="post" id="pt-<?php the_ID(); ?>">
10 <div class="posttitle">
11 <div class="commentnhr">
```

This is what my template looks like for your reference.

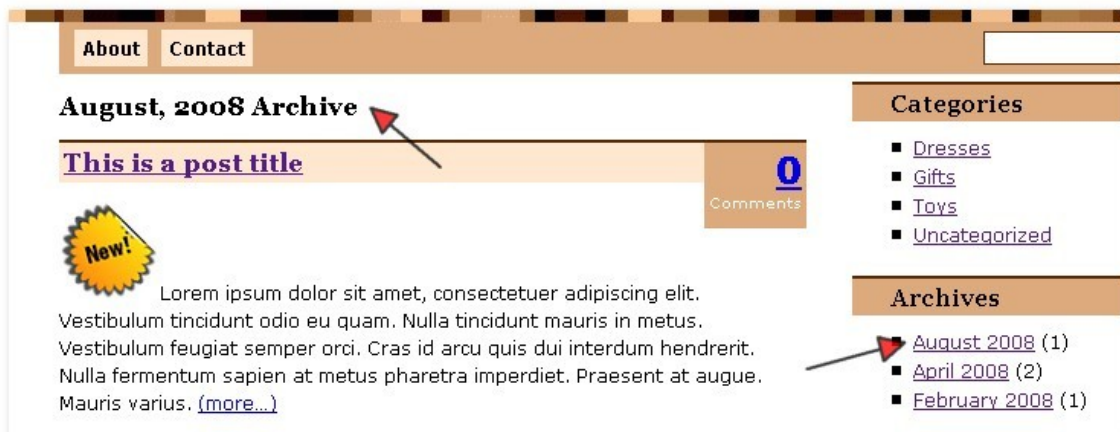
```
4 <div id="lefttube">
5
6 <?php if (is_category()) { ?>
7 <h1><?php single_cat_title(); ?> Archive</h1>
8 <?php } elseif (is_tag()) { ?>
9 <h1><?php single_tag_title(); ?> Archive</h1>
10 <?php } elseif (is_author()) { ?>
11 <h1>Author Archive</h1>
12 <?php } elseif (is_day()) { ?>
13 <h1><?php the_time('F jS, Y'); ?> Archive</h1>
14 <?php } elseif (is_month()) { ?>
15 <h1><?php the_time('F, Y'); ?> Archive</h1>
16 <?php } elseif (is_year()) { ?>
17 <h1><?php the_time('Y'); ?> Archive</h1>
18 <?php } ?>
19
20 <!-- Posts -->
21 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
22 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
```

After pasting that code. Save the template. Now visit your Sandbox in your browser. Click on a category link on the sidebar or an author's name or an archive link. Do you see the heading change? This is what I see on mine.

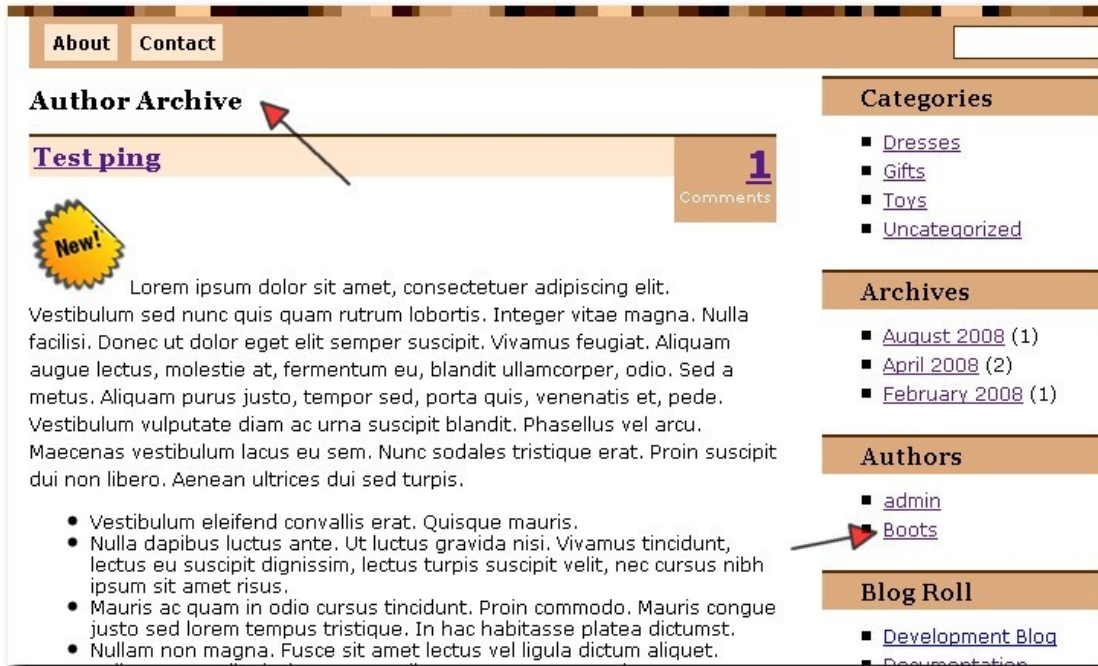
The category page



The monthly archive



The author archive



That pretty much wraps it up for archive.php. You may be wondering why this is so different from the other templates we cloned. Because the archive template is used in different scenarios. If you take a look at the [template hierarchy](#), archive.php is used in the absence of the tag.php, category.php, author.php and date.php and others.

You could develop all those template files if you wish. That is very useful if you want to create different looking pages for each of those archives – see how flexible Wordpress is? But for most blogs, or web sites for that matter, changing the title on the top works just as well. That's why we opted to use conditional tags instead of building more template files.

404.php

Most themes you find online do not have a 404 template in them. It is an optional template. We create it as a 'standard' because we know the importance of usability. Also, the 404 is a great way to help your clients catch traffic that they may have lost otherwise.

To create this file, once again. Clone index.php – name the cloned file 404.php.

This time, instead of removing only the featured content and featured images, we are going to remove the loop as well. Why? Because there will be no content to display. In its place, we will write a friendly little message to make the most of 404 pages.

This is what my 404.php looks like right after cloning.

```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3 <?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/feature.php'); ?>
4
5 <div id="content">
6 <div id="lefttube">
7 <?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/featureimg.php'); ?>
8
9 <!-- Posts -->
10 <?php if (have_posts()) : ?>
11 <?php while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>
12 <div class="post" id="pt-<?php the_ID(); ?>">
13 <div class="posttitle">
14 <div class="commentnbr">
15 <h4><?php comments_popup_link('0', '1', '% '); ?></h4>
16 <p>Comments</p>
17 </div>
18 <h1><a href="<?php the_permalink() ?>"><?php the_title(); ?></a></h1>
19 </div>
20 <?php the_content(); ?>
21 </div>
22 <?php endwhile; ?>
23 <?php else : ?>
24 <h4>Not Found</h4>
25 <p>Sorry, but you are looking for something that isn't here.</p>
26 <?php endif; ?>
27 <!-- End Posts -->
28
29 </div>
30
31 <?php get_sidebar(); ?>
32
33 <?php get_footer(); ?>
```

I will first remove line 3 the featured content area.


```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3 <?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/feature.php'); ?>
4
5 <div id="content">
6 <div id="lefttube">
```

Then, I'll remove this whole chunk. See the highlighted area in the screen shot.

```
2
3 <div id="content">
4 <div id="lefttube">
5 <?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/featureimg.php'); ?>
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 : ?>
22 <h4>Not Found</h4>
23 <p>Sorry, but you are looking for something that isn't here.</p>
24 <?php endif; ?>
25 <!-- End Posts -->
26
27 </div>
28
29 <?php get_sidebar(); ?>
```

```
1 <?php get_header(); ?>
2
3 <div id="content">
4 <div id="lefttube">
5
6
7 </div>
8
9 <?php get_sidebar(); ?>
10
11 <?php get_footer(); ?>
12
```

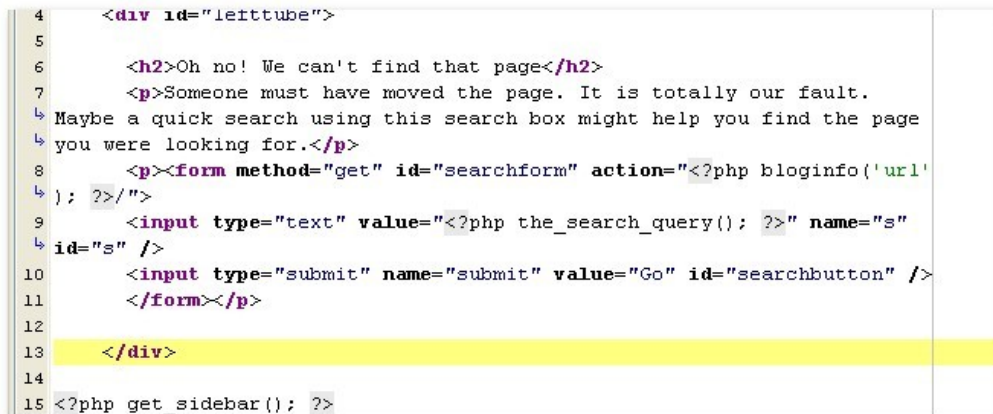
What's left is this

Take note that the content and lefttube divs are still intact. Those are not deleted because they 'hold' the content and is part of the design. We just want the content that was there gone. Not the design.

Now, in between the two lefttube divs, I'm going to type a message.



This is the message. I told them what happened, re-assured them they have done nothing wrong and gave them an option to search for the content.



Here is the message if you would rather just copy and paste

```
<h2>Oh no! We can't find that page</h2>
<p>Someone must have moved the page. It is
totally our fault. Maybe a quick search using
this search box might help you find the page you
were looking for.</p>
<p><form method="get" id="searchform"
action="<?php bloginfo('url'); ?>/">
<input type="text" value="<?php
the_search_query(); ?>" name="s" id="s" />
<input type="submit" name="submit"
value="Go" id="searchbutton" />
```

</form></p>

When I go to my Sandbox and enter /error/ at the end or something where the URL is something you know does not exist. This is what you should see.



If you do not get this. Don't panic. It is very possible that 404's do not work on WordPress when the permalink is set to default. That is my experience anyway. Try changing your blog to a different permalink structure by going to Settings >> Permalinks.

The problem is, if you're on Uniform Server (if you are using it) when you try to set pretty permalinks, it'll give you an error when you visit the blog. This is probably due to the server settings. It is not your fault. But we're not going to poke around in the server settings either as that is beyond the scope of this bootcamp.

Rest assured the 404 page does work. If you must test it out, try uploading the theme to another Sandbox that is installed on your web host. If you have it. Or your very own blog that nobody goes to. Switch the theme and try it out.

In closing

Hooray! We are done with building template files. Were you getting sick of it already? Well, don't despair. The next phase when we get back to templates it'll be a whole lot more exciting.

Next Lesson...

We're going to get ready to clean up the style sheet, go over a few things we have left 'for later' and fix them up. See you next week.

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