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Thank you for purchasing Sofa BizMate WordPress theme! For any questions you might have please contact me at info@sofarider.com.

Introduction

Sofa BizMate is multipurpose, easy to maintain and setup WordPress theme. Options page integrated into Admin panel lets you take control over each and every element which can be seen on theme's front-end. There's actually no need for widgets hence the fact that integrated Plugger system (it will be mentioned later) lets you control sidebar content as well as entire Home page.

Yeah, Home page content is made of Plugger and Widget units and can easily be expanded to 2x3, 3x3, 4x5, 5x3, etc. grid. You can even combine Pluggers and Widgets to make unique content!

However, keep on mind that Pluggers have priority and thus any eventual Widget will be pushed next to the very last Plugger unit.

With all these on mind and extremely powerful Options page you can generate completely new site within 10 minutes. There's no limit, your own creativity is the key factor so feel like playing around with Lego blocks. I just hope you gonna enjoy it!

Requirements & Compatibility

Any JavaScript and Flash enabled Browser will make this theme work with no issues! PC or Mac system does not make the difference as well. It has been tested on Firefox 2 & 3.5 (PC, Mac), Safari 3.1, 4 (PC, Mac), Opera 9.5, 9.6 & 10 (PC), Internet Explorer (6, 7, 8 PC).

Theme options

Login to WordPress Admin, select Appearance > Sofa BizMate Options

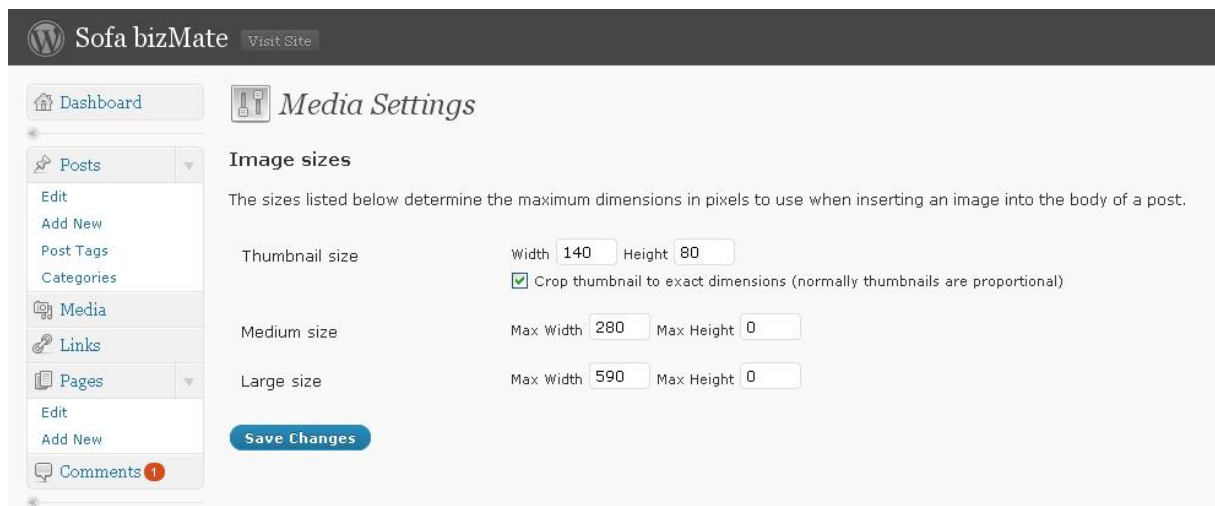
Each and every theme option is quite well explained so there shouldn't be any questions. You can also find translation table at the end which will definitely reduce launch time for any non-english site. However, 'comments.php', 'contact.php' and '404.php' templates contain portions of text which must be translated manually because of different language rules.

Quick Setup

The following chapter contains **recommended** settings for this theme. It's good idea to keep them, otherwise certain offset in layout/functionality may occur. However, if you are familiar with CSS and PHP those deviations may easily be corrected.

Media settings

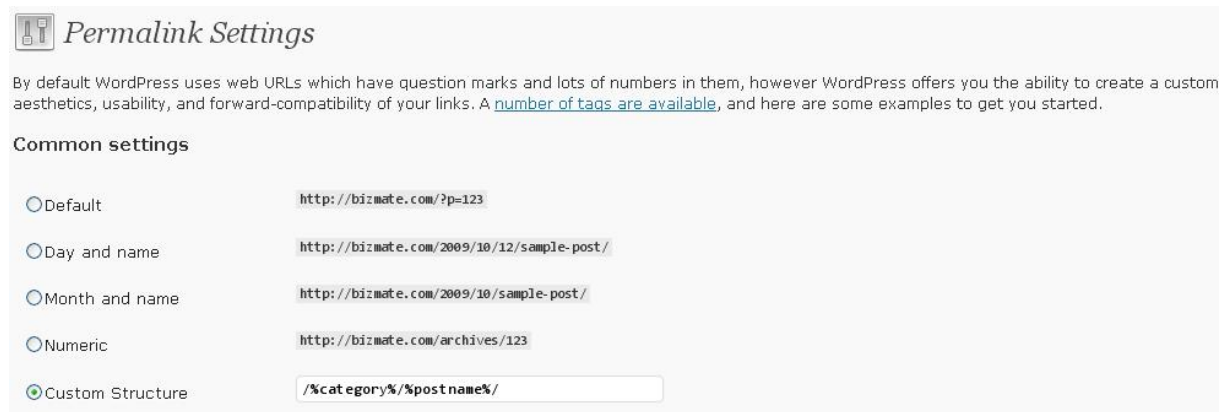
From the left hand sidebar select **Settings > Media**



These are theme's default Media Settings. The most important is that you never set Thumbnail wider of 140px and Large size 'Max Width' wider of 590px, otherwise you may expect problems with layout. Keep on mind that many other elements used by this theme rely on recommended Media Settings so I guess everything you do wrong may be reflected on front-end.

Permalink structure

From the left hand sidebar select **Settings > Permalinks**



The screenshot shows the 'Permalink Settings' page in WordPress. At the top, there is a heading 'Permalink Settings' with a small icon. Below it, a paragraph explains that WordPress uses web URLs with question marks and numbers by default, but offers a custom structure for better aesthetics and SEO. A link is provided for more information. Under the heading 'Common settings', there are five radio button options, each with a corresponding URL example: 'Default' (http://bizmate.com/?p=123), 'Day and name' (http://bizmate.com/2009/10/12/sample-post/), 'Month and name' (http://bizmate.com/2009/10/sample-post/), 'Numeric' (http://bizmate.com/archives/123), and 'Custom Structure' (which is selected and has an input field containing '/%category%/%postname%/').

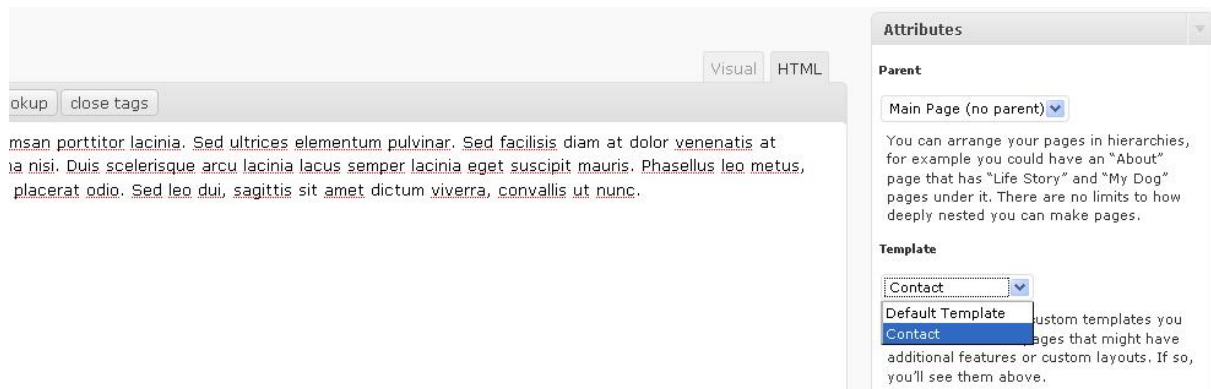
This theme uses custom permalink structure. It's good for SEO and looks better than Default link structure. The only thing you need to do here is to select Custom Structure option and enter the following into input field (copy and paste):

`/%category%/%postname%/`

How to?

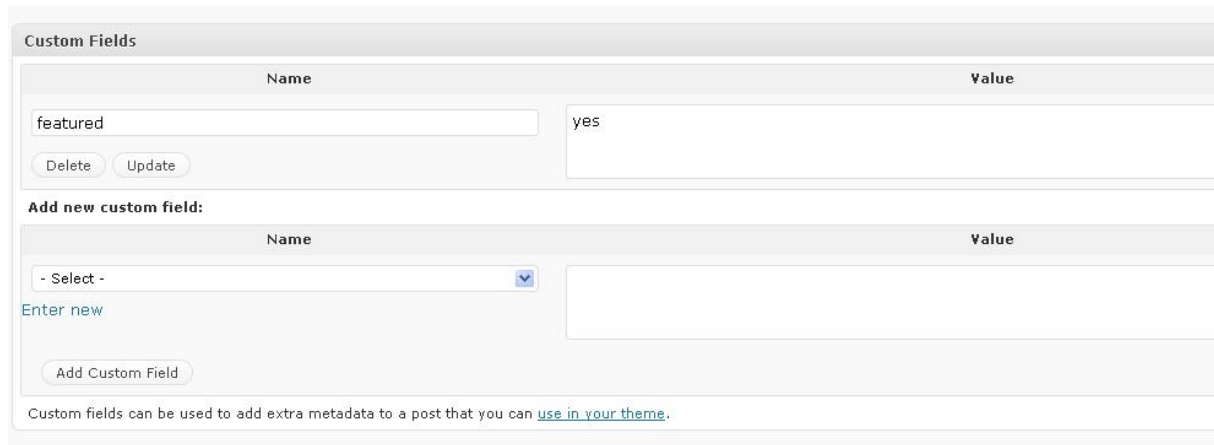
I guess all the crucial issues will be covered here in this chapter. For a case you still have questions don't hesitate to contact me on my private email address: info@sofarider.com.

How to set up Contact page?



In Admin panel select **Pages > Add New** from the left sidebar menu. Title the Page with Contact or whatever you like, add some text/content if you want and right before saving the Page, from Attributes panel (right sidebar) select 'Contact' as a Template option – just like shown on the illustration above. This will make the contact form automatically show up on front-end.

How to display content in jQuery Content Slider?



Name	Value
featured	yes

Add new custom field:

Name	Value
- Select -	

Enter new

Add Custom Field

Custom fields can be used to add extra metadata to a post that you can [use in your theme](#).

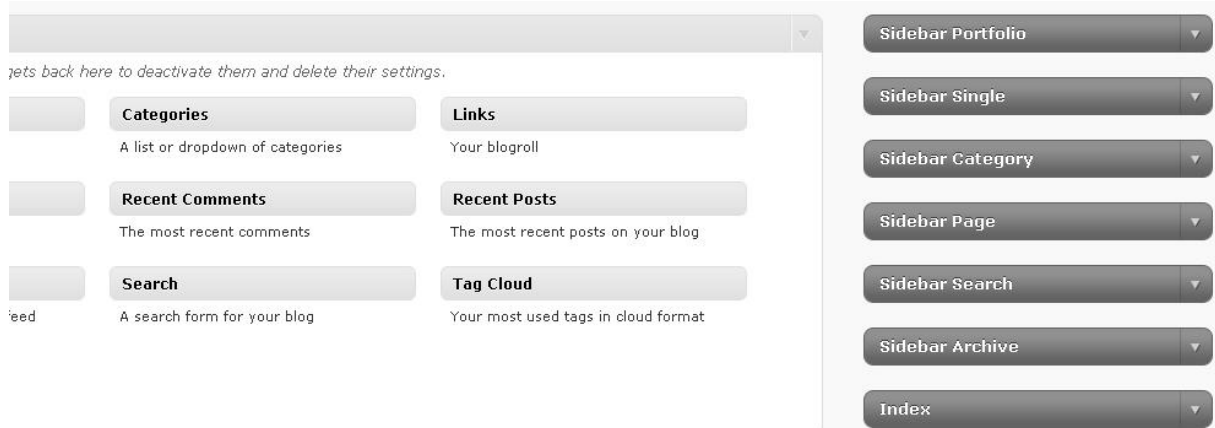
Any new or existing Post/Page you add to your site may become 'Featured' and thus displayed in Home page content slider. How? It's easy!

Below Post/Page write panel is Custom Fields tab. Spot the line reading 'Add new custom field:' and a link named 'Enter new'. Click on it then enter 'featured' in blank 'Name' slot (input field). After that enter 'yes' as a Value, just like shown on the illustration above.

Next time you want to add Featured Post or Page, 'featured' Name will be available on – Select – list, right below 'Add new custom field:'.

How to add Widgets?

From the left hand sidebar select **Appearance > Widgets**



gets back here to deactivate them and delete their settings.

Categories
A list or dropdown of categories

Links
Your blogroll

Recent Comments
The most recent comments

Recent Posts
The most recent posts on your blog

Search
A search form for your blog

Tag Cloud
Your most used tags in cloud format

Sidebar Portfolio

Sidebar Single

Sidebar Category

Sidebar Page

Sidebar Search

Sidebar Archive

Index

Each template file (index, portfolio, single, category, page, search, archive) may use different widgets so in total there's 7 widget reserved areas. Put whatever you find suitable for search results, archive, single page.

Please note that if used with Pluggers, all the Widgets will be displayed below or next to the very last Pluggers unit due to the fact that Pluggers have higher priority in content rendering.

How to properly insert images to Post or Page?

You might be wonder why this title is marked red? Many people do mistake when inserting images to Post or Page. For example copy-paste URL of a remote image file to Post/Page content is definitely bad idea. Why? Because such image will not be cropped to match your Media Settings.

Another quite common mistake is the usage of Media Library (see below) to insert existing images or files to your new Post or Page. Remeber, each image (or file for download) gets Post/Page ID when first time uploaded and thus 'marked' as certain Post or Page child. Exchange or borrow of images across different posts is OK in terms of saving server megaBytes but completely wrong when it comes to 'how things work in WordPress'. I guess people don't exchange their children in real world 😊



So, according to these little facts, adding an image should be done either by selecting image from your computer (From Computer tab) or from remote location (From URL). If more than one image is inserted to Post/Page, the third tab named Gallery will show up. This tab contains the list of all images (children) used by certain Post/Page and thus it's safe to re-insert file from there too.

This theme requires three different size images – as defined in Settings > Media. It's due to the fact that theme users are allowed to select either size to be used for category or post details page.

In order to make available all of 3 different size images you always have to select Thumbnail to be inserted into Post or Page. This information will be overridden by settings made on Sofa BizMate Options page! Remember, WordPress will crop/generate required size images only in case you select Thumbnail!



What is Plugger and how to make your own?

Plugger is nothing but a piece of code or HTML text saved as a separate file and later included in sidebar via Sofa BizMate Options page.

If you open '**pluggers**' folder found in '**sofa_bizMate**' download package you will see 9 **php** pages having the same prefix '**plugger_**'. This is how the system identifies Plugger and automatically makes one available for use. Each new Plugger will be visible in Sofa BizMate Options page.

Plugger content may either be static or dynamic, it doesn't make the difference. Go ahead, open any of available Pluggers with text editor or Dreamweaver. It looks simple, isn't it? Much simpler than Widget code.

Now let's create one or two by following three simple rules...

1. Each Plugger file you create MUST start with the prefix '**plugger_**' and be saved with extension '**.php**'. Everything between '**plugger_**' and '**.php**' will become **Plugger name**.

2. **Plugger name** may strictly consist of upper and lower case characters. No special characters, numbers and spaces are allowed otherwise Plugger will NOT BE REGISTERED BY THE SYSTEM! For example, you want to add a new Plugger called '**Most Commented Posts**'. As a Plugger it will only be recognized in this form: '**plugger_MostCommentedPosts.php**'. Hopefully it does make sense to you.

3. All the Pluggers you make must be kept/saved in 'pluggers' folder.

OK, here we go with our first STATIC content Plugger named 'Hello dudes'. Create new, blank text document and save it as 'plugger_HelloDudes.php'. Plugger's content is displayed within pre-styled elements:

```
<div class="widget">
    <h2>Plugger Title: Hello Dudes!</h2>
    <p>
        This is my very first Plugger which will become a part of one or more
        available sidebars.
    </p>
</div>
```

Upload to 'pluggers' folder and check whether it's available on Sofa BizMate Options page. It is? Congrats, you just have successfully created your first Plugger!

Now let's create DYNAMIC one...

The logic is quite similar to the previous Plugger we have created. Create new, blank text document and save it as 'plugger_Archives.php'. As you guess a little WordPress/PHP programming knowledge is required but this one doesn't suck your brain out, it's really the matter of basic programming.

Here's ready made code which you can copy-paste:

```
<div class="widget">
  <!-- TITLE -->
  <h2>This month Archives</h2>
  <ul>
    <?php wp_get_archives('type=monthly&limit=12'); ?>
  </ul>
</div>
```

Upload to 'pluggers' folder and check this Plugger availability in Sofa BizMate Options page. Is it there? Sure it is. So, each and every new Plugger you make in the future will automatically be pulled into theme Options. As easy as that.

Keep experimenting, keep building your own Pluggers, this is the best way to practice! For a case you need a quick overview of WordPress built-in functions, please refer to http://codex.wordpress.org/Function_Reference.

How to add Plugger units to sidebar?

Go to Sofa BizMate Options (Appearance > Sofa BizMate Options) and select for example 'Page sidebar settings'. Tick the checkbox next to Plugger name, modify sorting number if required and Save. Now get back to front-end, About Us page, reloadpage (F5) and voila!

Sidebar 'page.php' pluggers

Add some Pluggers to Page template as well, select as many as you like. Widgets can be added too but you should go to: Appearance > Widgets.

Check or uncheck available Plugger | Add sorting number to change the appearance order

<input type="checkbox"/> Advertising	<input type="text"/> sort num.
<input type="checkbox"/> Archives	<input type="text"/> sort num.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flickr	<input type="text" value="2"/> sort num.
<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction	<input type="text"/> sort num.
<input type="checkbox"/> LatestNews	<input type="text"/> sort num.

How to change background image of jQuery Content Slider?

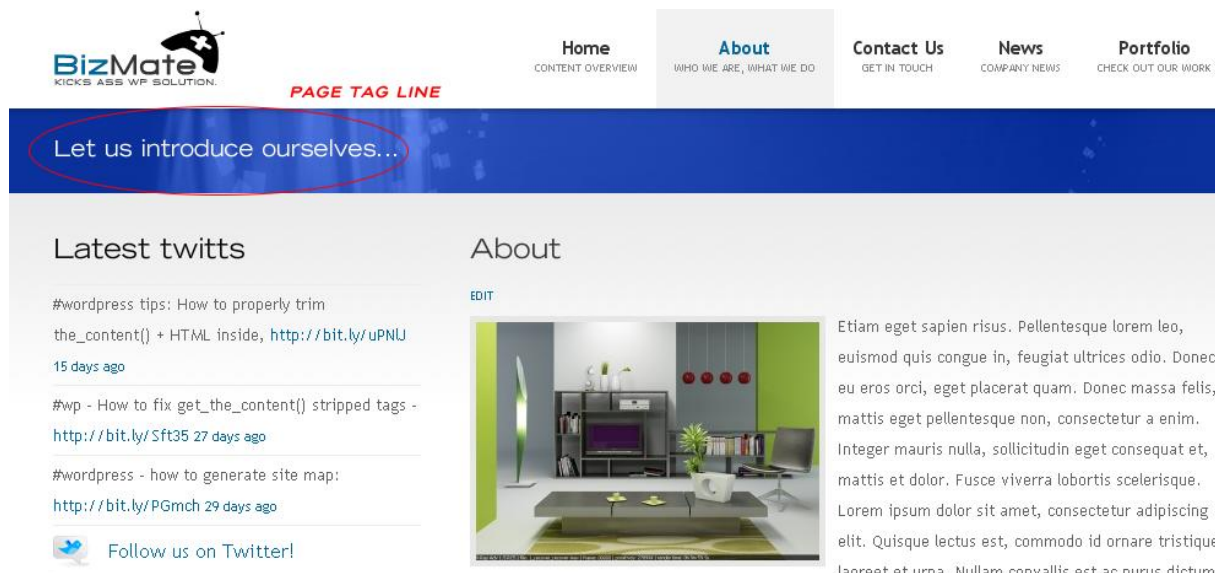
Sofa BizMate theme package contains special folder named 'header_images'. Inside that folder is a PSD file from which default background image of content slider has been exported. Also, note the blue gradient background (this one is tiled along entire width of the screen) – it has also been sliced out of the same PSD file. The only thing you need now is a bit of creativity dose to make your own.

Name	Size	Type
jQuery_bg.png	191 KB	PNG Image
jQuery_elements.psd	1.701 KB	Adobe Photoshop I...
pages_bg.png	191 KB	PNG Image
promoted_bgtile.jpg	1 KB	JPEG Image

BizMate theme allows you to disable/hide jQuery content slider too. In that case you can use the same PSD file to generate some serious graphic instead. ...but I guess you already know that.

What is the page tag line and how to add it?

Take a look at the image below...



Each Post, Page and Category can use it's own page tag line. Search results, Archive and Tag templates will display regular information instead - relevant either for search, archive or selected tag.

Now, you must know that you can add description text for each Category you create in WordPress. And this text will be used as a page tag line whenever visitor clicks on some of your site categories. Just to remind you where the description text can be added in Admin panel:

Categories

Add Category

Category Name

The name is used to identify the category almost everywhere, for example under the post or in the category widget.

Category Slug

The "slug" is the URL-friendly version of the name. It is usually all lowercase and contains only letters, numbers, and hyphens.

Category Parent

Categories, unlike tags, can have a hierarchy. You might have a Jazz category, and under that have children categories for Bebop and Big Band. Totally optional.

Description **HERE IT IS!**

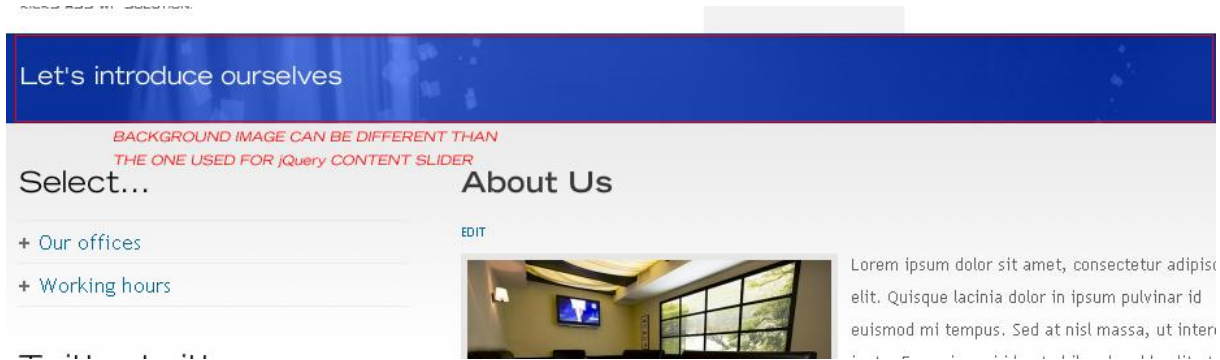
The description is not prominent by default, however some themes may show it.

Pages and Posts must use a little bit different method – yeah, good old Custom Fields are taking advantage once again. I believe you already know where to find Custom Fields panel and how to add new Name-Value pair (see chapter 5.2. How to display content in jQuery Content Slider?) so I just need to reveal Custom Field Name. It's 'tag_line'. Value is your choice – string or sentence but don't try to use HTML formatted text. Take a look at the illustration below if still catching a clue.

Custom Fields	
Name	Value
<input type="text" value="tag_line"/>	<input type="text" value="What's the best time to visit?"/>
<input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Update"/>	
Add new custom field:	
<input type="text" value="- Select -"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="Enter new"/>	

How to change background image of the page tag line?

Yes, you can use different image as a background for the page tag line. Different than the one used for jQuery Content Slider background. However, demo site of Sofa BizMate shares the same graphic for both. I just wanted to keep it that way coz I think it's fine.



So where the hell background file is located? As already mentioned (see 5.7. How to change background image of jQuery Content Slider?) Sofa BizMate theme package contains special folder named 'header_images'. Inside that folder is a PSD file from which default background image of the page tag line has been exported. Subject file is named 'pages_bg.png'. Replace it with your own and all of your pages other than front page will have it.

Name	Size	Type
jQuery_bg.png	191 KB	PNG Image
jQuery_elements.psd	1.701 KB	Adobe Photoshop I...
pages_bg.png	191 KB	PNG Image
promoted_bgtile.jpg	1 KB	JPEG Image

How to add description text to main navigation links?

For a case you wonder what it is, take a look at the following screenshot...



All category links will grab the text used in category Description text field. For a case you forgot, it was mentioned in chapter 5.8., 'What is the page tag line and how to add it?'. Basically, News link description text (see illustration above) will share the same text with page tag line displayed on category News page. This is because of the fact that from tech point of view there's no other method for making these two different.

On the other side, Pages can use Custom Fields and thus main navigation link description can be different than the page tag line.

So, once again, we gonna use the following Custom Field value to add description text below main navigation links. Here is how to...

A screenshot of the 'Custom Fields' interface. It shows a table with two columns: 'Name' and 'Value'. The 'Name' column contains the text 'navig_tag' and has 'Delete' and 'Update' buttons below it. The 'Value' column contains the text 'Get in touch'.

Just enter 'navig_tag' in Name slot and whatever (as short as possible) in Value input field. Avoid using more than just a few words, otherwise you can make main navig look like cow in Mini Moris.

Description text is optional and can be disabled on Sofa BizMate Options page so in case you don't like it or don't have an idea what to put inside – get rid of it.

How to install and configure sIFR plugin?

By default this theme uses sIFR plugin to render certain titles as well as page tag lines. It's not a must to install it but if you want to make your theme look fancy – just do it, it's free.

First download sIFR from WordPress plugins database:

<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-sifr/>

Follow installation guide, activate plugin and then go to **Settings > WP sIFR**. Use the following information to style titles and page tag lines:

WP sIFR Options

After fonts are created in Flash, upload them to the "fonts" directory in the plugin folder and they will show up here. Then you can a

To create a font, you can upload your TTF file to [sIFR Generator](#). Or you can use [sIFR Wiki](#). Be sure to remove any spaces from the file GOOD | "times new roman.swf" = BAD).

If you are using a more specific version of a general selector that you are already using, make sure the most specific version is order "h1".

widget_h2

Activate this font: [Settings](#) [Advanced Settings](#) Order: (-9 thru 9)

Item to Replace (Selector): Reference like CSS (e.g. 'div#sidebar h2')

CSS / Styles (.sIFR-root):

```
.sIFR-root { text-decoration: none; }  
a { text-decoration: none; }  
a:link { color: #363636; }  
a:hover { color: #006699; }
```

Advanced Settings:

coline_h2

Activate this font: [Settings](#) [Advanced Settings](#) Order: (-9 thru 9)

Item to Replace (Selector): Reference like CSS (e.g. 'div#sidebar h2')

CSS / Styles (.sIFR-root):

```
.sIFR-root { text-decoration: none; color: #FFFFFF; }
```

Advanced Settings:

maincontent_h1

Activate this font: [Settings](#) [Advanced Settings](#) Order: (-9 thru 9)

Item to Replace (Selector): Reference like CSS (e.g. 'div#sidebar h2')

CSS / Styles (.sIFR-root):

```
.sIFR-root { text-decoration: none; color: #363636; font-weight: bold; }
```

Advanced Settings:

How to use different font face for sIFR-ed titles?

Once again open 'sofa_bizMate' package folder. There's another folder named 'fonts' inside of the root. Open it. You will find 3 SWF files used by sIFR plugin to render titles and page tag lines - as seen on demo site of this theme, but these files are not editable. You must generate new SWF files which contain different font face(s)! Adobe Flash will be needed in order to open FLA, the source file, and render new SWF files and in case you are missing this great application, download 30-day trial from Adobe official site (<https://www.adobe.com/cfusion/tdrc/index.cfm?product=flash>).

OK, now spot the folder named 'flash' inside of our 'fonts' folder. Open it then double click on 'sifr fla' file. Pick new font, save, then export movie(s) to 'fonts' folder, not the one containing FLA file! This is important because plugin will seek for SWF files only in that very folder.

You can generate SWF with different name than original files and this new file(s) will automatically appear on sIFR plugin settings page (**Settings > WP sIFR**). In that case you'll have to add (probably copy) styles and settings from 'old' SWFs and in the same time de-activate them.

On the other side you can export SWFs and overwrite default/existing files. If you do so, no additional settings will be needed regarding sIFR plugin.

It's up to you. For more sIFR info, tips and tricks, updates visit <http://wiki.novemberborn.net/sifr/>.

Special category named 'Portfolio'

Why is it special? Because Sofa Biz Mate Options page enable you to handle/setup this category separately; it has its own sidebar and images can have different size than other categories. Beside, you can disable comments and Share it block if required.

As you guess, this category is supposed to be your showcase category because all the features mentioned above can make it differ from all other categories. However, it's not a must. For a case you omit its ID on Sofa Biz Mate Options page, all other settings will not be applied.

jQuery Content Slider

Our content slider uses 2 jQuery plugins:

1. Cycle

Slider is based on 'Cycle' plugin and all required documentation regarding customization as well as really ample Reference list can be found at the following URL:

<http://malsup.com/jquery/cycle/>

'footer.php' (right before closing </body> tag) 'holds' required function for this plugin to get initialized. For a case you are not interested in reading documentation you can easily switch direction of slider from vertical to horizontal and vice versa by changing the very first parameter. By default slider direction is set to vertical:

```
$('#slider').cycle({fx: 'scrollVert', timeout: 0, next: '.next', easing: 'easeInOutBack', speed: 580});
```

In order to make it scroll the content horizontally just replace 'scrollVert' with 'scrollHorz'. Slider speed can also be fine tuned. Higher values (by default set to '580') will slow it down while lower values make it slide the content faster.

2. Easing

In addition, and in order to make Cycle plugin more fancy, additional plugin is used along with it – jQuery Easing. Documentantation regarding usage can be found here:

<http://gsgd.co.uk/sandbox/jquery/easing/>

By default easing is set to ' easeInOutBack ':

```
$('#slider').cycle({fx: 'scrollVert', timeout: 0, next: '.next', easing: ' easeInOutBack ', speed: 580});
```

In order to switch it to different type of easing, I strongly recommend to visit plugin's home page and get a clue how it actually works.

jQuery ifixPNG plugin

And the very last plugin used with Sofa BizMate theme, supposed to handle IE6 transparency issue is jQuery ifixpng plugin. More info about this life saver:

<http://plugins.jquery.com/project/iFixPng2>

If you take a look at 'footer.php' (right before closing </body> tag) you'll see 2 lines of jQuery code reading:

```
jQuery.ifixpng('<?php echo bloginfo( 'template_directory' ) . ( '/script/pixel.gif' ); ?>');  
jQuery( '#branding img, .footer-logo, #colone, #colone h2, .panel-content, .logo' ).ifixpng();
```

The very first line represents path to graphic file (gif) supposed to fake transparency in IE6. Don't change it unless you are about to move 'pixel.gif' to another folder.

The other line is actually a list of styled HTML elements or HTML tags which hold (or eventually may contain) transparent PNG images. So let's say that you need to use transparent PNG in sidebar DIV styled with 'panel' class (<div class="panel">). Just add comma after default list and add .panel, like so:

```
jQuery( '#branding img, .footer-logo, #colone, #colone h2, .panel-content, .logo, .panel' ).ifixpng();
```

PSD files

Rooster template has a total of 6 layered PSD files included in package. In spite of the fact that all the PSD to HTML work has already been done you still have an option to play around with design (and layout) and slice down your own.

Do you remember additional PSD file (jQuery_elements.psd) placed in 'header_images' folder?

Good luck with your new theme!