

PENNSTATE



Advanced Blog Features

Movable Type 4

Spring 2008

Login: *<http://blogs.psu.edu>*

Community Help: *<http://blogger.psu.edu>*

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Create a Homepage for Multiple Blogs

If you create multiple blogs, the page **/blogs/index.html** on your Web site may be a folder listing.

To hide the directory list, upload a custom static **index.html** web page into your **blogs** directory. Static pages will not interfere with other blog pages.

See **A Guide for Penn State Web Developers**

(<http://css.psu.edu/publish/webdev/>) for more information on posting static HTML pages. </p>

Add Custom Blog Theme CSS

You can use code generated by the Stylecatcher to customize your own blog CSS theme file.

Note: The following documentation assumes familiarity with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). Information on CSS files can be found at

- http://its.psu.edu/training/resources/handouts/dreamweaver_css/index.html
- <http://css.psu.edu/publish/webdev/visual.html#css>

Find and Copy CSS Template

1. Login to <http://blogs.psu.edu>.
2. Click on the name of the blog to enter it, then click **Design** in the top menu then select **Styles**.
3. You should see a list of available preformatted styles. Click the option for **MT 4 Style Library** in the left to see all available styles.
Note: There may be a delay before all styles are displayed.
4. Find a style that most closely approximates the style you want then highlight it. A larger version will be displayed in the right.

5. Click the **CSS File** link beneath the larger image of the theme.



6. Copy the CSS and paste it into a .css text file.
7. Change the CSS class as needed.
8. Insert the following code at the top of your CSS file.

```

/*
name: Your Theme Name
designer: Your name and name of original theme
*/

```

9. Upload the CSS file into a directory of your choosing. It can be uploaded into the **/blogs** directory of your personal Web space. **Note:** If you have multiple blogs, it is recommended you upload the CSS file into the directory for the specific blog.

Key Divs

Below are a list of key DIVs used in Movable Type 4. Many include an inner div as well.

- `<div id="container">` is the main body of the blog excluding background images. **The width of this DIV should always be 940px.**

- `<div id="header">` is the top header of the blog. This can be changed as needed, although `$MT` variables should be left intact. This DIV also contains `<div id="header-inner">` which contains `<div id="header-content">`
- `<div id="content">` is the main page. This div also contains `<div id="alpha">` which in turns contains other DIVs.
- `<div id="entry#">` is an individual entry. Entry DIVs contain Asset DIVs
- `<div id="beta">` is the sidebar which contains the `<div id="beta inner">` and various widget DIVs
- `<div id="footer">` is the footer (bottom of the page).

Adjust Style CSS in Blog

1. Enter a blog by clicking the name.
2. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Templates**.
3. Click link for **Stylesheet – Main (styles.css)**.
4. Make sure the first line begins with `"@import url(base_theme.css);"`
5. Replace the rest of the CSS with your CSS markup.
6. Click **Save and Publish**, then click the **View Site** button to test.
7. In the browser, click **Shift+Control+R** (Win) or **Shift+Command+R** (Mac) to make sure the updated style is loaded.

Uploading Style Images

If your CSS relies on images, then you may upload them into your blog in the Assets area. To upload images.

1. Enter a blog by clicking the name.
2. In the top menu click **Create**, then **Upload File**.
3. Select file to upload, but do not select a destination. Click the **Upload** button at the bottom. Files will be uploaded into the same directory as the style sheet.

Apply Design with Style Catcher

These steps will allow you to create a Stylecatcher preview. The disadvantage is that if you update the CSS file, you will need to reapply the style each time.

1. Insert the following metadata at the top of your CSS file.

```
/*
name: Your Theme Name
designer: Your name
designer_url: this is optional
developer: this is optional
developer_url: this is optional
description: Describe theme here (this is optional)
layouts: layout-wtt, layout-twt, layout-wt, layout-tw
*/
```

2. Create a folder for your theme in PASS space (the folder can be in your /blogs directory)
3. Upload your CSS file and any images used in your style to the folder.
4. If you want a thumbnail displayed in the Style Catcher, then take large and small screen capture of your blog and name the files thumbnail.gif (ca 150 px wide) and thumbail-large.gif (ca 400 px wide) respectively. Load these images in the same directory as the CSS file. Determine the URL to your theme (e.g. <http://www.personal.psu.edu/xyz123/blogs/theme/theme.css>).
5. Login and enter your blog. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Styles**.
6. Click the plus button next to the **Saved Styles** text above the style preview grid.
7. Copy and paste the URL of your style into the pop-up window and click **OK**. The style preview will appear in the preview area.
8. Highlight style and click **Apply Design** in the lower right.

Note on Older Movable Type Styles

The new version of Movable Type includes styles not found in the previous versions of the blogs, so older themes may not work perfectly.

Finding Other Styles (Themes)

If you do not find a suitable style or theme to modify within the Stylecatcher, you can look for other "Movable Type 4 Themes" in Google and see if they provide access to a .css file.

Once you find the .css file, follow steps #7-10 from the section above.

Add an "About Me" Widget in the Sidebar

Widgets are snippets of code which allow you to add different types of content to the sidebar of your blog. Movable Type allows you to create custom widgets of your own.

Create A Custom Widget

1. Login into *http://blogs.psu.edu* and enter a blog by clicking the name.
2. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Widget Sets**.
3. Click **Edit Widget Templates** in the lower right. A list of available sidebar widgets are displayed.



Helpful Tips

To add a widget set to your templates, use the following syntax:

```
<$MTWidgetSet name="Name of the Widget Set"$>
```

Useful links

[Edit Widget Templates](#)

Click "Edit Widget Templates" to see list of widgets.

3. Click the link for **Create Widget Set** in the upper left.

Showing only: Widgets

<input type="checkbox"/>	Template Name	Output File				View
<input type="checkbox"/>	About Me	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Category list (nested)	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative Commons	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Date-based Author Archives	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Date-based Category Archives	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly archive dropdown	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly archive list	-				-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pages list (nested)	-				-

Quickfilters

- Index Templates
- Archive Templates
- Template Modules
- System Templates
- ◀ Widgets

Useful links

- Blog Publishing Settings

Actions

- Create a Feed Widget

Click "Create Widget Set" on the top of the widget list to create a new widget.

4. Name the item **About Me**.
5. Place the following code in the **Module Body** field.

```
<div class="widget-archives widget">
  <h3 class="widget-header">About Me</h3>
  <div class="widget-content">
    Your Text Here
  </div>
</div>
```

6. Click **Save**, then click **Design** and **Widget Sets** again to exit the widget editor.
7. Click **First Widget Manager** at the bottom to add the widget to your sidebar.
8. Click the **Publish Site** (circle arrow) button in the top links to implement the widget, then **View Site** to view changes.

External Links in Sidebar Widget

1. Follow Steps #1-3 for creating an "About Me" widget.
2. Create a new widget and name it **My Links**.
3. Place the following code in the **Module Body** field. Create as many LI items for as many links as you need.

```
<div class="widget-categories widget">
<h3 class="widget-header">HEADER TITLE HERE</h3>
  <div class="widget-content">

    <ul class="widget-list">
      <li class="widget-list-item"><a href="URL
        HERE">LINK TITLE HERE</a></li>
      <li class="widget-list-item"><a href="URL 2
        HERE">LINK 2 TITLE HERE</a></li>
    </ul>

    </div>
  </div>
```

3. Save and then use the Widget Manager to move the widget into your sidebar.
4. Click **Publish Site** to implement the widget, then **View Site** to view changes.

Edit a Widget

To edit a widget

1. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Widget Sets**.
2. Click **Edit Widget Templates** in the lower right. A list of available sidebar widgets are displayed.
3. Click the link for the widget to view the HTML tags.
4. Click **Publish Site** to implement the widget, then **View Site** to view changes.

Find Additional Widgets

Developers have created a variety of widgets for blogs which can be implemented in your blog via the Widget creator and manager.

Note: Check to see that the widget is compatible with **Movable Type 4** or **TypePad**. Widgets for older versions of Movable Type may not work.

A list of some available widgets can be found at <http://www.sixapart.com/typepad/widgets/>. Read instructions at each widget site for specific details.

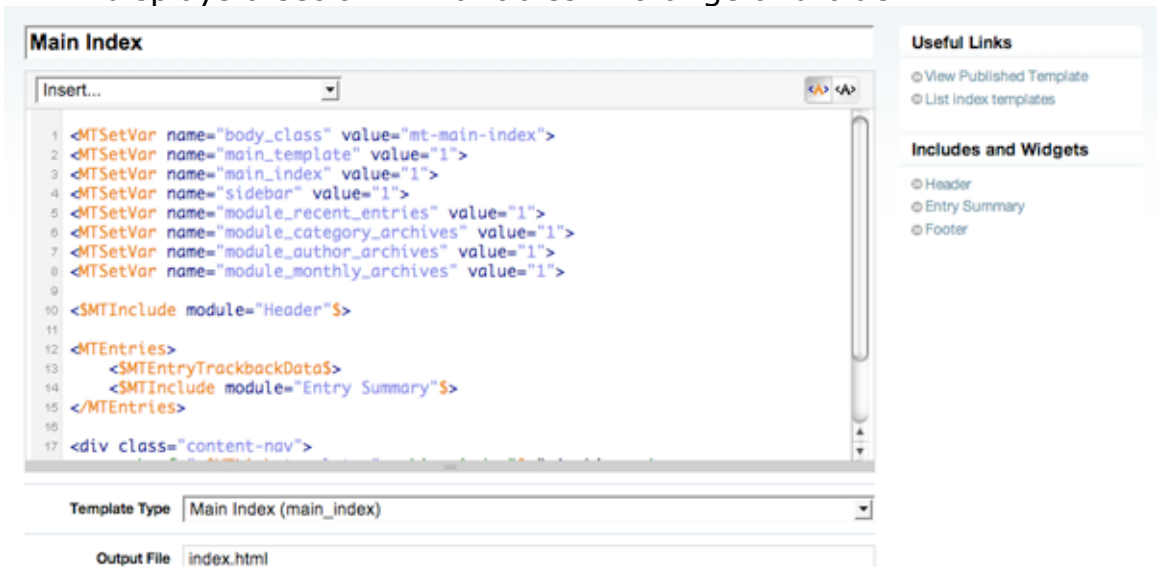
Working with Pages and Templates

Modify Blog Header with Templates

You can change your blog header or add favicons by modifying the HTML code of main index template.

Note: Changes only affect the main blog page, not static pages.

1. Login to the Blogs system and enter a blog
2. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Templates**.
3. Click the link for **Main Index** (also called "index.html").The HTML displays a set of MT variables in orange and blue.



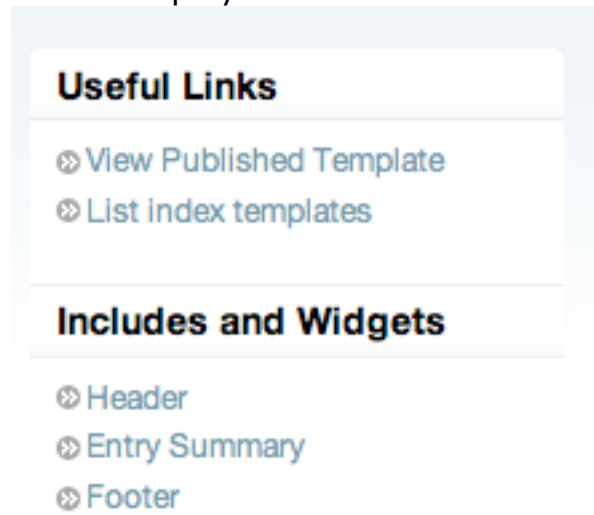
The screenshot shows the 'Main Index' template editor. The main content area displays HTML code with MT variables highlighted in orange and blue. The code includes several <MTSetVar> tags for variables like 'body_class', 'main_template', 'main_index', 'sidebar', 'module_recent_entries', 'module_category_archives', 'module_author_archives', and 'module_monthly_archives'. It also features <SMTInclude module="Header"\$>, <MTEntries> with <SMTEntryTrackbackData\$> and <SMTInclude module="Entry Summary"\$>, and <div class="content-nav">. On the right side, there are two panels: 'Useful Links' with 'View Published Template' and 'List index templates', and 'Includes and Widgets' with 'Header', 'Entry Summary', and 'Footer'.

Template Type: Main Index (main_index)

Output File: index.html

4. To modify the header, click the **Header** link under the **Includes and Widgets** category on the right. The HTML for the header

will be displayed.



5. To change the header, change code within the `<div id="header-content">` class.
Note: Tags beginning with \$MT are pulled from Movable Type and should not be changed unless there is a specific reason to.
6. Click **Save** then click the **Publish** button in the top links.
Note: Just clicking Save saves the changes, but does not publish them to the blog.
7. To test the file, click the **View Site** button in the top links. Hit **Shift+Control+R** (Win) or **Command+Shift+R** (Mac) to refresh the blog in your browser.

Key Divs in the Header

The HTML Includes the following divisions (which refer to the CSS stylesheet)

- `<div id="container">` is the main body of the blog excluding background images
- `<div id="header">` is the top header of the blog. This can be changed as needed, although \$MT variables should be left intact.

Undo Template Changes

If you find a serious flaw in a new template, then open it up and select **Refresh** from the **More Actions** menu in the lower right. This will restore the template to the previous version.

Publish Options Publish this template automatically when rebuilding index templates

Link to File

Save **Save & Publish** **More actions...** **Go**

Select "Refresh" in "More Actions" menu to restore template to the backup.

Modify Page Template Header

You first create a second header just for the Page, then you insert it into the template for the Page. This can be useful for changing default page titles.

Create Custom Header

1. Login to the Blogs system and enter a blog
2. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Templates**.
3. In the **Quickfilters** menu to the right, click **Template Modules**. You will see a list of template modules for different parts of the blog page including headers and footers.
4. Open the **Header** module and copy the tags then exit the module.
5. Click the **Create Module Template** link above the list of templates and fill in the title field (e.g. "Header for Page").
6. Paste the tags from the header module, then modify it as desired.
7. Click **Save** and exit the module

Insert Custom Header

1. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Templates**.
2. In the **Quickfilters** menu to the right, click **Archive Templates**. You will see a list of secondary page templates.
3. Click **Page** to open that template.
4. Change the tag `<$MTInclude module="Header"$>` to so that the module name matches that for the page header you just created.
5. Click **Save** and exit.

6. To test the header, click **Create** in the top menu then page. Fill in page text and set **Status** to **Published**.
7. Click the **View Published Page** link to open the published page in a new tab or window. The custom header should be implemented.

Modifying Old Pages

If you have create pages before you modified the header, they may still display the old default header. You may need to copy the entry and paste it in a new entry.

Modifying other Parts of the Template

Caution should be used when modifying other parts of the template since many involve the use of MovableType variables.

1. Login to the Blogs system and enter a blog.
2. Click **Design** in the top menu then select **Templates**.
 - For the main body with entries, select **Main Index**. This opens to the HTML for an individual entry.
 - For information beneath each entry, click **Entry Summary** in the Includes and Widgets menu.
 - For the footer, click **Footer** in the Includes and Widgets menu.
 - For the header, click **Header** in the Includes and Widgets menu.
 - For the sidebar, click **Footer**, then click **Sidebar**.
Note: It is recommended that you use the Widget Manager to edit the sidebar.
3. The **Insert** menu in the template allows you to insert different variables.