



## **The Handbook**

### **Codex**

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating a Static Front Page](http://codex.wordpress.org/Creating_a_Static_Front_Page)

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## Creating a Static Front Page

Known as a **static front page** or **splash page**, this is the first page seen by users entering your site. Unlike a traditional WordPress front page, featuring the [WordPress Loop](#) which generates a list of your most recent posts, the **static front page** is a customized page that lacks the [The Loop](#) and displays static information that can either invite people to "click through" to the real good stuff or offer highlighted post or article features and information that direct users to different areas of your WordPress site. It can have static information and links that do not change, or it can incorporate some automatically changing information.

### *Create and Upload a Static Front Page*

By default, most websites feature their main page as one of the following, and you can set yours to be any of these:

- `index.html`
- `home.html`
- `index.php`
- `home.php`
- `default.htm`

To create your static front page:

1. Using a [text editor](#), open a blank document.
2. Design the inside of your Static Front Page.
3. Save it with any name of listed above (Example: `home.php`).
4. If you have WordPress in another folder, upload your static page to your root HTML folder.

[Install WordPress](#) in its own folder or, if you have already installed it, consider [moving WordPress](#) to its own folder (or follow instructions below if you do not want to move entire WordPress core files -- *but you might have some problems when [upgrading](#)*).

### **If WordPress is in Root**

**If you do not want to move your WordPress installation** to another folder, or you are in a hurry, you can use these instructions or look [below](#).

1. Create a new folder on your site server for WordPress `index.php` file.
2. Download `index.php` WordPress file and open it in a [text editor](#).
3. Change the `require(' ../wp-blog-header.php');` line to `require(' ../wp-blog-header.php');`
4. Save and upload the modified `index.php` file into the new folder.
5. Login into your WordPress [Administration Panel](#), and go to [Options→General](#).
6. Change your Blog URI pointing to the new folder. For example, if your site is `http://example.com`, and the new folder is called `blog`, enter `http://example.com/blog`.



Now, upload your splash page to your root server folder.

### **Change Apache Configuration File**

There is another form to upload your static front page without moving all your WordPress files to another folder.

When you request a folder in a [Apache web server](http://www.apache.org) (<http://www.apache.org>) (for example the folder called /chouette), the core of Apache will search for a file with any of the names in a list saved in `httpd.conf`. If your server lets you use `.htaccess` files for change the original configuration, you can follow these steps:

1. Open the `.htaccess` file from your root web folder in a [text editor](#).
2. At the top of the file, add:

```
DirectoryIndex home.php
```

Save and upload the modified `.htaccess` file.

## ***Integrating WordPress***

To incorporate or integrate WordPress with your static front page, you can include the header, sidebar, footer, and even a mini-version of the WordPress Loop.

### **Include the Header**

To include the header from your [WordPress Theme](#) to maintain a consistent look, add this to the top of the page, using the folder path name you installed WordPress into:

```
<?php define('WP_USE_THEMES', false);  
require('./wordpress/wp-blog-header.php'); ?>
```

### **Include The Sidebar or Footer**

To add the sidebar and/or footer from your WordPress Theme, include one or both of the following at the bottom of the page, using the same folder path:

```
<?php get_sidebar(); ?>
```

```
<?php get_footer(); ?>
```

### **Adding a Mini-Loop**

To incorporate a mini-version of the [WordPress Loop](#) into your static page to generate a short list of posts from your blog or WordPress driven area, this mini-Loop acts like a feed. It brings posts to the front, static page. Change the data in the first two lines and add this to your front page.

```
<?php
```



```

$show_many=5; //How many posts do you want to show
require_once("wp-config.php"); // Change this for your path to wp-config.php
file ?>

<ol id="whats-new">
<?
$news=$wpdb->get_results("SELECT `ID`,`post_title` FROM $wpdb->posts
WHERE `post_status`= \"publish\" ORDER BY 'ID' DESC LIMIT ".$show_many);
foreach($news as $np){
printf ("<li><a href=\"index.php?p=%s\">%s</a></li>", $np->ID,$np->post_title);
}??>
</ul>

```

Posts will appear in an ordered list with the CSS ID `whats-new`. With [CSS](#) you can change the look of the mini-Loop.

## Examples

What you do with your static front page is up to you and your imagination. Here are a few examples to help you see the possibilities.

## Typical Page

A typical welcome static page may feature a greeting that explains what the site is about and welcomes users to click on various links to enter the site. It could include summaries or links to articles or posts within, changed manually by the site administrator.

Here is an example of a simple, typical page structure:

```

<?php define('WP_USE_THEMES', false);
require('./wp-blog-header.php'); get_header();?>
<div id="content" class="narrowcolumn">
<h1 style="color:#000;">Welcome to my site</h1>
<p>Hello and welcome to my site. You can go to my web
page about how to improve your digital photography
techniques with your new digital camera; or you
can <a title="Go to my Blog" href="/wordpress/index.php">go
to my blog.</a></p></div>

<?php get_sidebar(); ?>
<?php get_footer(); ?>

```

## Static Page with Mini-Loop

To incorporate the mini-Loop into your static page review this example of a possible structure:

```

<?php define('WP_USE_THEMES', false);
require('./wp-blog-header.php');
get_header();?>
<div id="content" class="narrowcolumn"><h1 style="color:#000;">Welcome to my
site</h1>
<p>Hello and welcome to my site. You can go to my web page about how to improve
your

```



```
shoots with your digital camera; or you can go to my blog</p>
<h2>Lastest posts in my blog:</h2>
```

```
<?php
# Here starts Mini Loop trick: You can use this code, but _at your own risk_
# If you want to improve this code, you're welcome ;)

$show_many=7; //How many posts do you want to show ?>
<ul class="whats-new">
<?
$news=$wpdb->get_results("SELECT ID,post_title FROM $wpdb->posts
WHERE post_status = \"publish\" ORDER BY ID DESC LIMIT ".$show_many);
foreach($news as $np){
printf("<li><a href=\"index.php?p=%s\">%s</a></li>", $np->ID,$np->post_title);
}?>

</ul></div>
<?php get_sidebar(); get_footer(); ?>
```