



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Hierarchy

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Template Heirarchy

Introduction

Templates are what WordPress uses to format your WordPress site. Since the introduction of [Themes](#) in WordPress v1.5, [Templates](#) have become more and more configurable. You can [develop new themes](#) with a great amount of customization. If template files are new to you, see [Stepping Into Templates](#). In order to develop or customize themes, a proper understanding of the way WordPress selects template files for displaying the various pages on your blog is essential.

This document attempts to answer the following question.

What template file will WordPress use when the _____ (page) is displayed?

The Template Selection Hierarchy

In the sections that follow, the section heading fills in the blank in the question above.

WordPress looks in the current theme's directory and uses the *first* template file it finds from the list under the appropriate section below. Note the parallels between the Template Hierarchy and the [Conditional Tags](#).

For example, if your blog is at `http://example.com/wordpress/` and a visitor loads the page `http://example.com/wordpress/`, WordPress looks for a template file called `home.php` and uses it to generate the requested page. If `home.php` is missing, WordPress looks for a file called `index.php` in the active theme's directory, and uses that template to generate the page.

The Main Page

1. `home.php`
2. `index.php`

Single Post Page

1. `single.php`
2. `index.php`

PAGE Page

This section refers to WordPress [Pages](#), not any generic webpage from your blog. Please see [Pages](#) for more detailed information.

1. The template selected from the "Page Template" dropdown when editing the Page.

2. [page.php](#)
3. [index.php](#)

Category Page

You can customize [Category Templates](#). In this example, the category in question has a category identification number (cat id) of 6.

1. [category-6.php](#)
2. [category.php](#)
3. [archive.php](#)
4. [index.php](#)

Please see [Category Templates](#) for more information.

Author Page

The [Author Templates](#) present information on post authors.

1. [author.php](#)
2. [archive.php](#)
3. [index.php](#)

Date Page

For example, a monthly [archive page](#).

1. [date.php](#)
2. [archive.php](#)
3. [index.php](#)

Search Result Page

1. [search.php](#)
2. [index.php](#)

404 Not Found Page

1. [404.php](#)
2. [index.php](#)