STUDIOPRESS

GENESIS FRAMEWORK

GENESIS

FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

by The StudioPress Team

WWW.STUDIOPRESS.COM

Genesis for Absolute Beginners - Revision 1.0

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A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE GENESIS FRAMEWORK

The Genesis Framework empowers you to quickly and easily build incredible websites with WordPress.

The framework is the parent "theme" that controls the major functionality of your site.

The child theme (if you purchased one from StudioPress) is the design face of it all, the layer that makes your site beautiful.

Whether you're a novice or an advanced developer, Genesis provides you with the rock-solid infrastructure to take WordPress places you never thought it could go.

This guide is a basic tutorial, helping you understand how Genesis works, and how to get up and running as smoothly as possible.

Since Genesis is constantly growing and evolving, please consider this guide a living document that will be updated as needed. Please make sure to check back and download the latest edition.

1 Introduction to Genesis

1.1 What's a Framework?

In short, a framework is a robust WordPress theme that can be utilized out of the box -- as is -- or also easily extended with child themes and hooks (customized code).

Not only do they provide a number of enhancements above and beyond a typical WordPress theme, they also serve as a platform on which to build added functionality.

1.2 What's a Child Theme?

A child theme is an extension of a framework comprised of typical WordPress theme elements.

With Genesis, these include a screenshot, theme files, a style sheet, a functions file and an images directory. These elements are grouped together in what's known as a child theme directory and can be activated like any other WordPress theme.

A Screenshot

All WordPress themes have a screenshot image included – typically this is called "screenshot.png", it is 300 x 225 in dimension and is a visual display of the theme. It can be seen on the Appearance > Themes page inside your WordPress dashboard.

Since child themes have their own directories and are activated like any other theme, they require a screenshot just like a standard theme.

Theme Files

The Genesis Framework, which acts as the parent theme of your entire site, is where all of the theme files are kept.

Typical theme files include: 404.php, comments.php, footer.php, header.php, index.php, page.php, single.php and so on.

Child themes can also include these same files – and the hierarchy dictates that if any of those files exist in the child theme directory, they will override the parent theme. In other words, if you customize a file (ex: page.php) and place it into your child theme directory, it will be used in lieu of the one in the Genesis parent theme.

Currently, the only theme files that can be found in some of the Genesis child themes are custom home.php files, which control the way a site's homepage will appear. If a file is not a part of a child theme, then the theme will defer to the index.php file, in the Genesis-parent theme, for the homepage.

A Style Sheet

Many frameworks simply import the parent theme style sheet (files that improve functionality and consistency of presentation throughout the entire site), and then allow for customizations by way of the child theme style sheet.

While there is nothing wrong with this system, we've chosen to simplify things and only give the child theme a style sheet.

In other words, if a child theme is being used, the style.css file in the child theme directory has complete control over the way the child theme looks. You don't have to compare multiple style sheets to look for and change style elements.

A Functions File

Most WordPress themes have a functions.php file – this is typically a file where you can control certain behaviors of how WordPress runs or how the theme outputs various things (functions).

A functions file can register sidebar widgets and how they are styled, as well as a number of other "functions".

With Genesis, the functions.php is simple – it runs the entire framework and that is the only code found there. The difference with the way Genesis is built is that the child theme's functions file is where many things occur – additional sidebar widgets can be registered, and from a development side, custom functions are defined as well as filtered and hooked.

An Images Directory

This one is pretty self-explanatory – as with any WordPress theme, there is an images directory which is used to hold images that a theme requires.

It holds your background images, icons, navigation bar gradients, and others.

In Summary

The easiest way to explain the relationship between a parent theme and child theme, in the case of Genesis, is to relate it to a cell phone.

The Genesis parent theme is the cell phone, and the child theme is the case you hold it in. You'll always use the same phone, but if you want to change the way it looks on the outside, you change the cover on it to make it look different.

The same holds true with a child theme – it "decorates" the way your theme looks.

2 Installing Genesis and a child theme

Installing the Genesis framework and a child theme is the same process for installing any WordPress theme.

You're just installing two themes.

There are two ways to install the Genesis parent theme or a Genesis child theme:

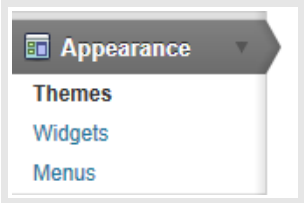
- manually with an FTP client (File Transfer Protocols transfer files from one host to another);
- automatically through the upload feature in the WordPress dashboard.

Below you will see both options...

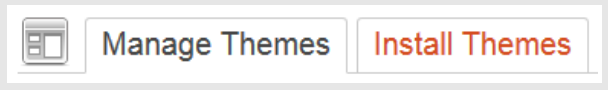
Please note that for child themes to work, Genesis must first be installed (and must remain) in the /wp-content/themes/ directory on your server.

2.1 Installing Genesis from inside WordPress

To install a theme from inside your WordPress admin panel, visit the Appearance menu item.



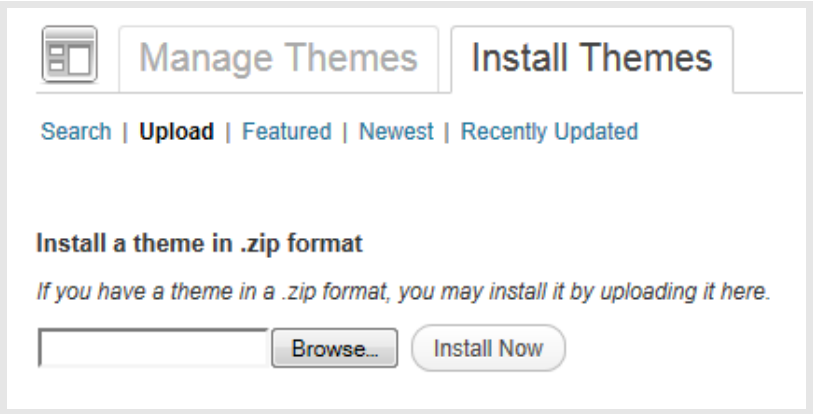
1. Click on Install Themes.



2. Select “Upload”.

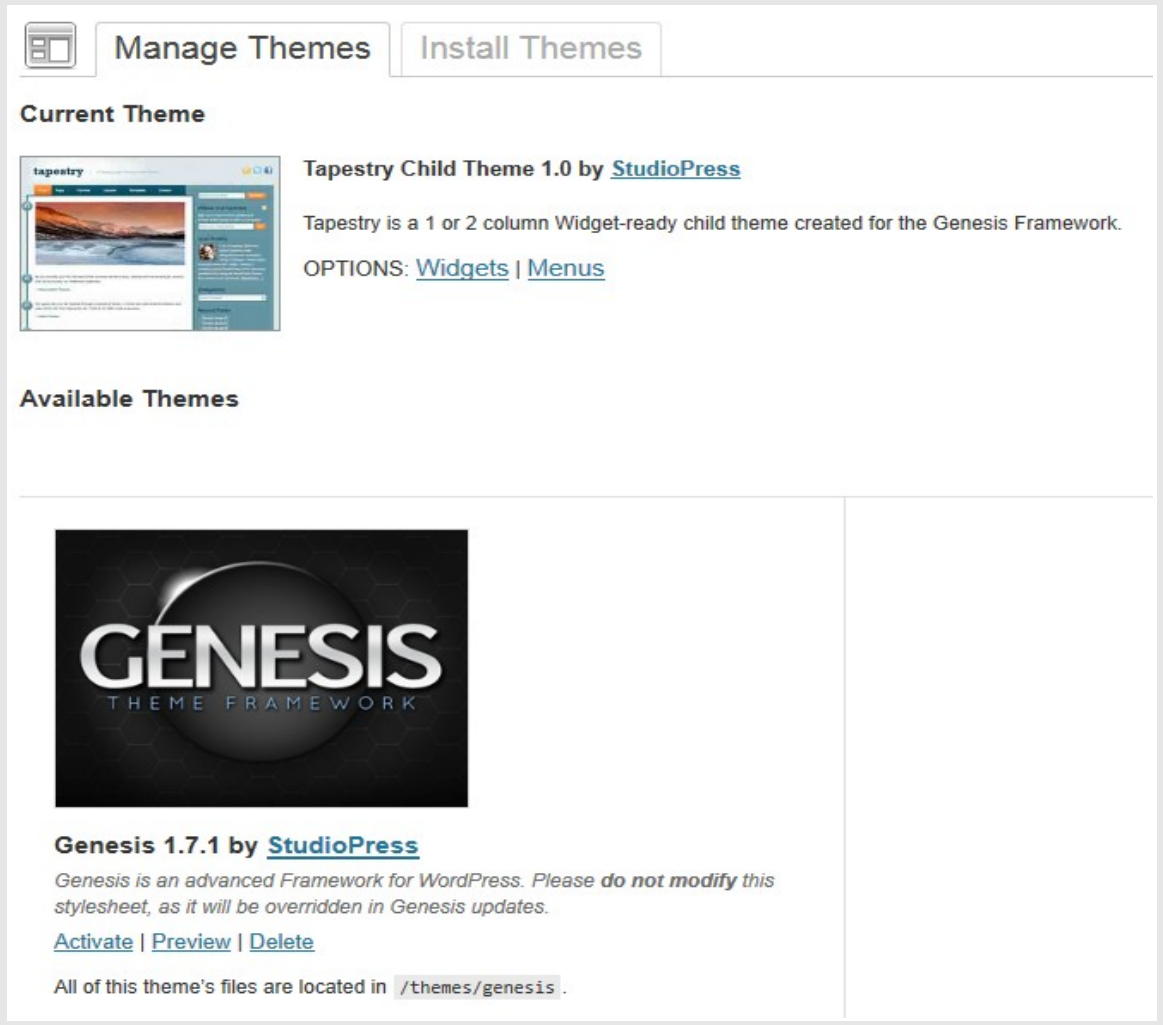
3. Using the browse link, find the zip file you downloaded to your computer from the link you received by email.

4. Chose the zip and click the upload button.



Your theme is now installed. Do this for both Genesis and the child theme you purchased.

Now you may activate the child theme.



2.2 Installing using FTP

Alternatively, you may wish to install your theme(s) using FTP or your webhost control panel. If you choose one of these methods, you must unzip the theme package on your computer first.

Some popular FTP programs to use in this process include CuteFTP, FileZilla and FireFTP for Firefox.

1. Connect to your site via FTP and navigate to the theme directory (typically /wp-content/themes/).

2. Upload the entire “genesis” directory to the themes directory. It must be “genesis” not “Genesis 1.7.1” or have any other directories before genesis/style.css and the rest of the files.

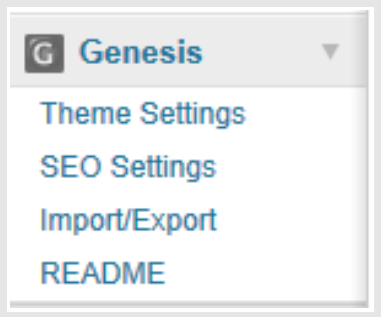
3. Upload the entire child theme directory to /wp-content/themes/. If you are renaming the child theme directory, avoid using special characters including spaces.

4. Activate the child theme via the WordPress themes page in the dashboard.

If your blog is hosted on WordPress.COM, then you cannot install new themes there.

3 Genesis Settings

Once your child theme is activated you will see a new menu item on the WordPress Dashboard. The “Genesis” menu applies to all Genesis child themes, though a few add additional sub-menus or options on the menu page.



3.1 Theme Settings

Your Theme Settings provides control over how the theme works.

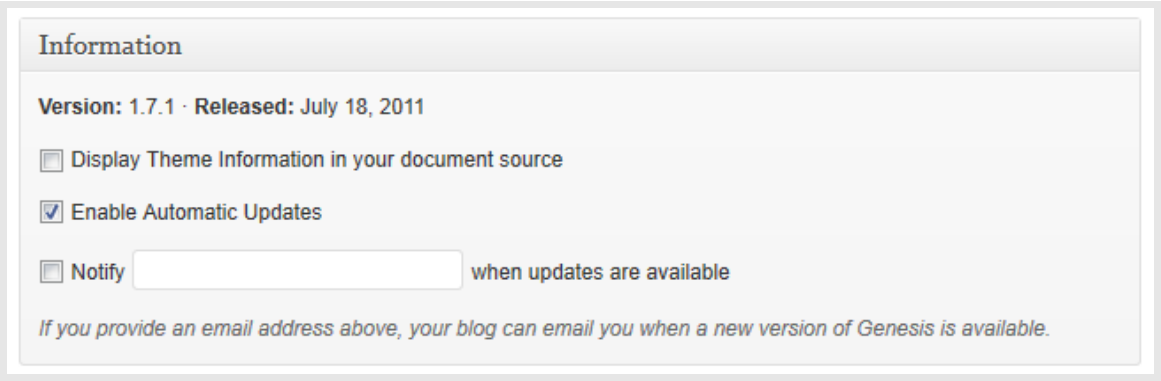
You will be able to control a lot of common and even advanced features from this menu.

Some child themes may add additional menu items to this list, including the ability to select different color schemes or set theme specific features such as a slider. Each of the boxes can be collapsed by clicking the box header and expanded by doing the same.

They can also be dragged into any order you desire or even hidden by clicking on “Screen Options” in the top right of the screen and “unchecking” the boxes you do not want to see.

Below you'll find the items common to every child theme...

Information



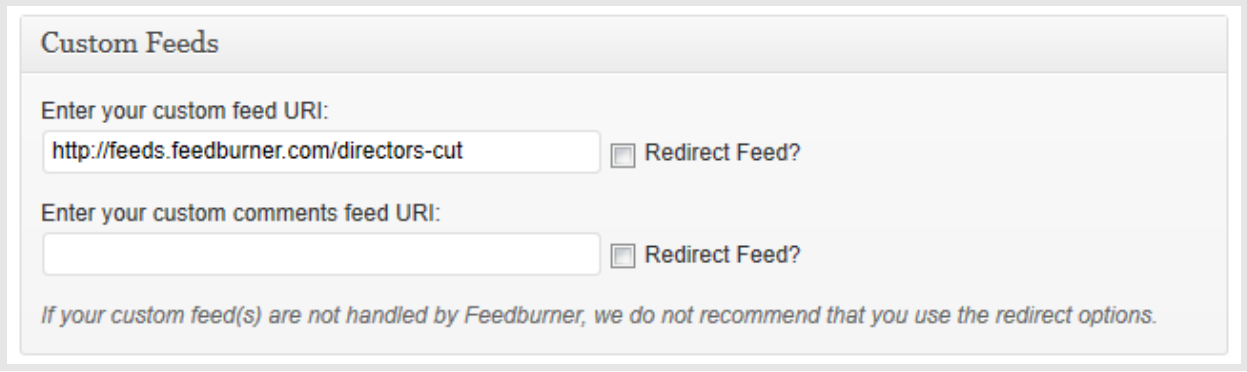
The information box allows you to see the current Genesis theme information and display if desired.

Normally, this should be unchecked. You can also set to enable automatic updates.

This does not mean the updates happen automatically without your permission; it will just notify you that an update is available. You must select it to perform the update.

If you provide an email address and select to notify that email address when the update is available, your site will email you when the update can be performed.

Custom Feeds

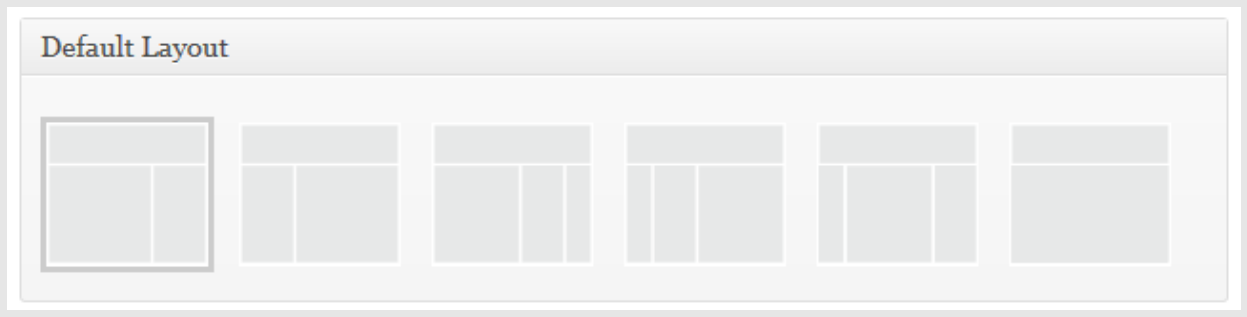


If you use Feedburner to handle your rss feed(s) you can use this function to set your site's native feed to redirect to your Feedburner feed.

By filling in the feed links calling for the main site feed, it will display as a link to Feedburner.

By checking the “Redirect Feed” box, all traffic to default feed links will be redirected to the Feedburner link instead.

Default Layout



This lets you select the default layout for your entire site.

On most of the child themes you'll see these options:

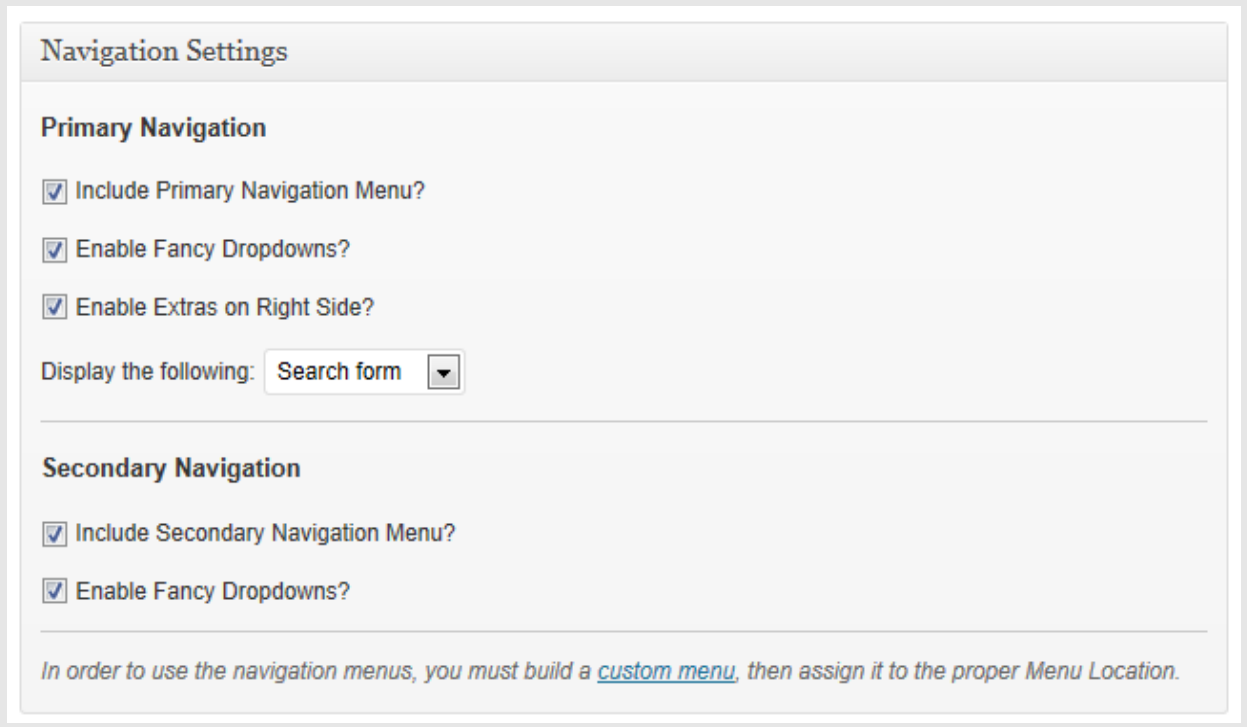
- Content Sidebar
- Sidebar Content
- Sidebar Content Sidebar
- Content Sidebar Sidebar
- Sidebar Sidebar Content
- Full Width Content

These options can be extended or limited by the child theme.

Additionally, many of the child themes do not allow different layouts on the home page as they have been designed for a specific home page layout. Please see this article on the forced homepage layout for more details on this feature.

This layout can also be overridden in the post/page/term layout options on each post/page/term.

Navigation Settings



The navigation settings let you select which navigation menus to enable (these are the menus that guide a user through the site).

In a default install the Primary Navigation appears directly after the header and the Secondary Navigation appears below the Primary Navigation. In some child themes this is changed.

The most common change is to move the Primary Navigation to above the header.

Each theme also has a navigation built into the Header Right, which can be activated by putting a Custom Nav Menu Widget into the Header Right Sidebar.

The “Fancy Dropdowns” option enables a small JavaScript (enhanced code) to run that animates the dropdowns and also displays arrows when sub menus are present.

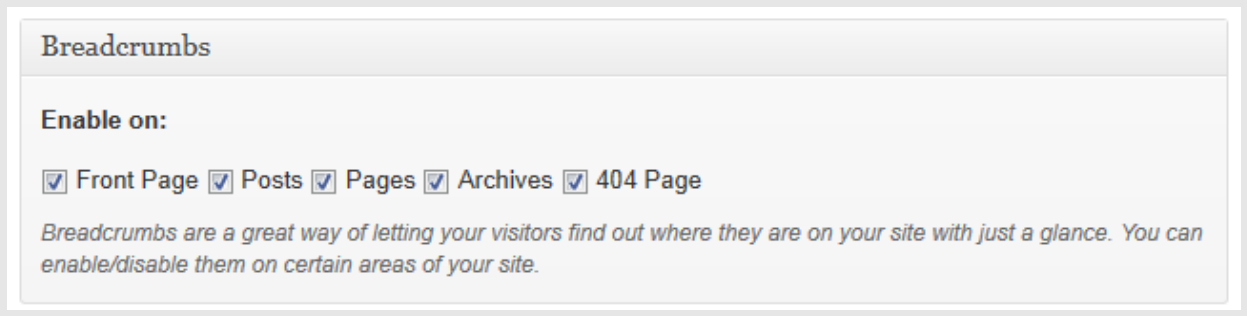
In addition to selecting to include the menu, you must also create a custom menu (Click “Menus” under the “Appearance” tab) and assign it to the Primary or Secondary menu position. If you are using the Header Right you do not need to assign a position, instead you will select the menu to use in the widget.

To create a drop down menu with the custom menu, you need to add all of the menu items. The drop down menu items can be dragged under and slightly right of the parent menu item. This will “nest” the menu item.

To add a home link to your menu, create a custom link with the URL as your site URL and Label it “Home” or whatever you wish the menu to say.

You can also click the arrow beside each menu item and change the Label. This allows you to have good, SEO friendly page titles, and also simple menu friendly labels for that page.

Breadcrumbs



This box lets you define where the “Breadcrumbs” display.

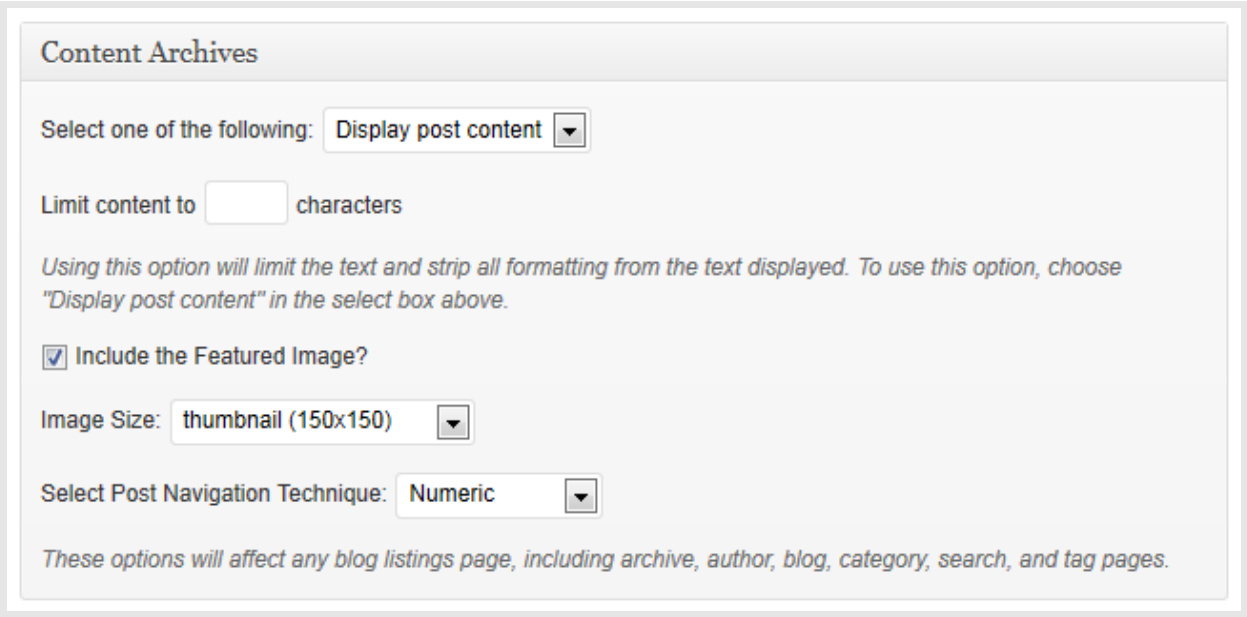
The Breadcrumb is the navigation tool that displays where a visitor is on the site at any given moment.

Comments and Trackbacks

This allows a site wide decision on whether comments and trackbacks (notifications when someone links to your page) are enabled for posts and pages.

If you enable comments or trackbacks here, it can be disabled on an individual post or page. If you disable here, they cannot be enabled on an individual post or page.

Content Archives



In the Genesis Theme Settings you may change the site wide Content Archives options to control what displays in the site's Archives.

Archives include any pages using the blog template, category pages, tag pages, date archive, author archives, and the latest posts if there is no custom home page.

The first option allows you to display the post content or the post excerpt.

The Display post content setting will display the entire post including HTML code up to the <!--more--> tag if used (this is HTML for the comment tag that is not displayed in the browser).

It may also be coupled with the second field "Limit content to [___] characters" to limit the content to a specific number of letters or spaces. This will strip any HTML, but allows for more precise and easily changed lengths than the excerpt.

The Display post excerpt setting will display the first 55 words of the post after also stripping any included HTML or the manual/custom excerpt added in the post edit screen.

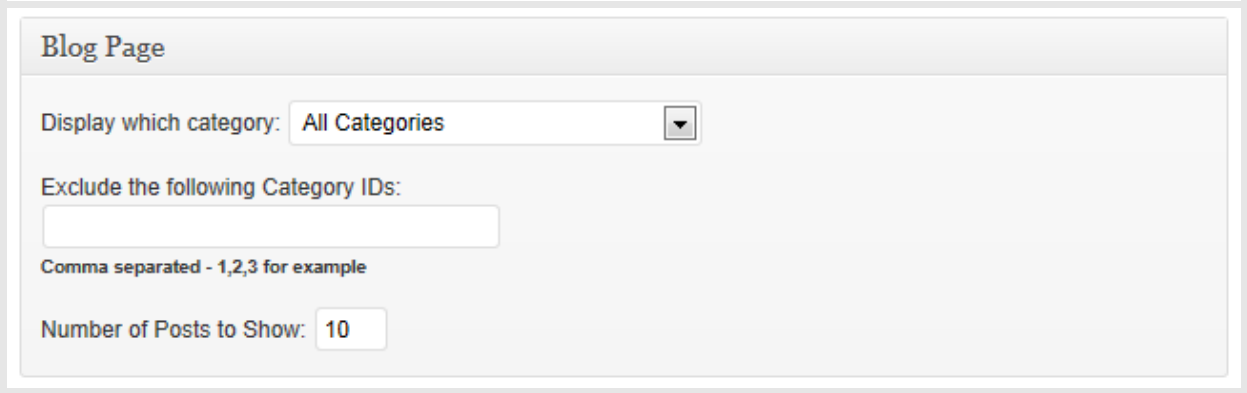
The 'Include post image?' setting allows you to show a thumbnail of the first attached image or currently set featured image.

This option should not be used with the post content unless the content is limited to avoid duplicate images.

The ‘Image Size’ list is populated by the available image sizes defined in the theme.

Post Navigation Technique allows you to select one of three navigation methods.

Blog Page



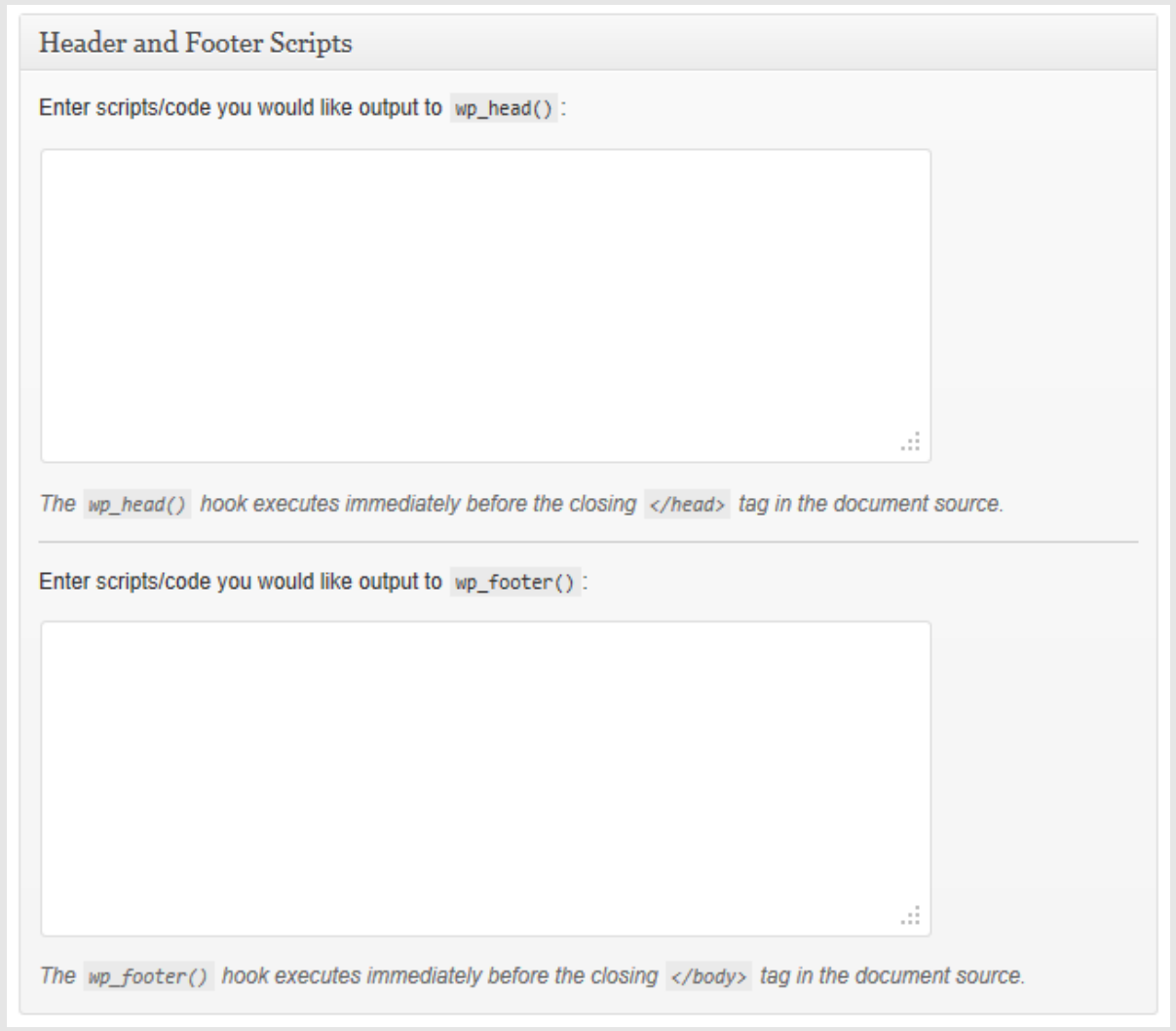
This works with the Blog Template, which is a page template that shows your latest posts. It's what people see when they land on your homepage.

In the General Settings you can select a specific category to display from the drop down menu, and exclude categories by ID, or even select how many posts you'd like to display on this page.

There are some special features of the Blog Template that allow you to specify which category to show on each page using the template, which is helpful if you have a “News” category (or something else) that you want to display separately.

You can find more on this feature in the How to Add a Post Category Page tutorial.

Header and Footer Scripts



This provides you with two fields that will output to the <head></head> of your site and just before the </body>. These will appear on every page of the site and are a great way to add analytic code and other scripts. You cannot use PHP in these fields. If you need to use PHP then you should look into the Genesis Simple Hooks plugin.

0.1 SEO Settings

Genesis SEO (search engine optimization) is polite, and will disable itself when most popular SEO plugins are active.

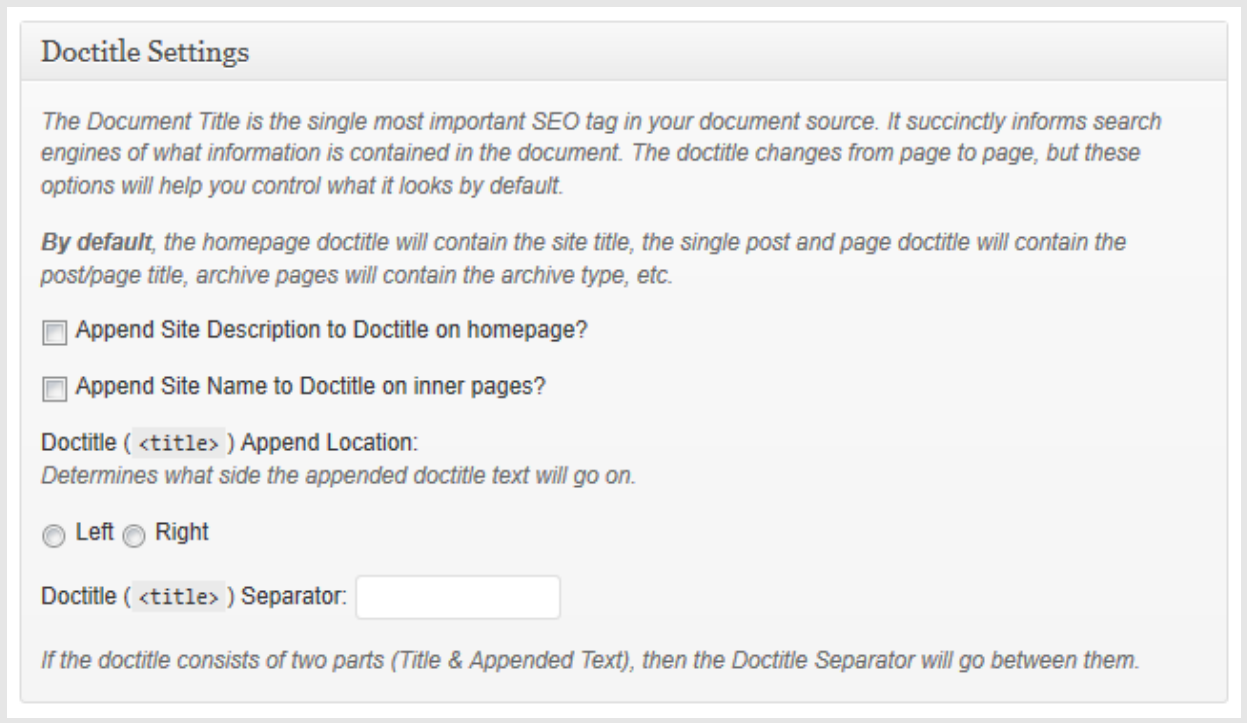
If you don't see an SEO Settings sub menu, then you probably have another SEO plugin active.

If you see the menu, then opening that menu item will let you set the General SEO settings for your site.

Each page, post, and term will have its own SEO settings as well. The default settings are recommended for most users. If you wish to adjust your SEO settings, the boxes include internal descriptions.

Below you'll find a few succinct notes on the options for each box:

Doctitle Settings



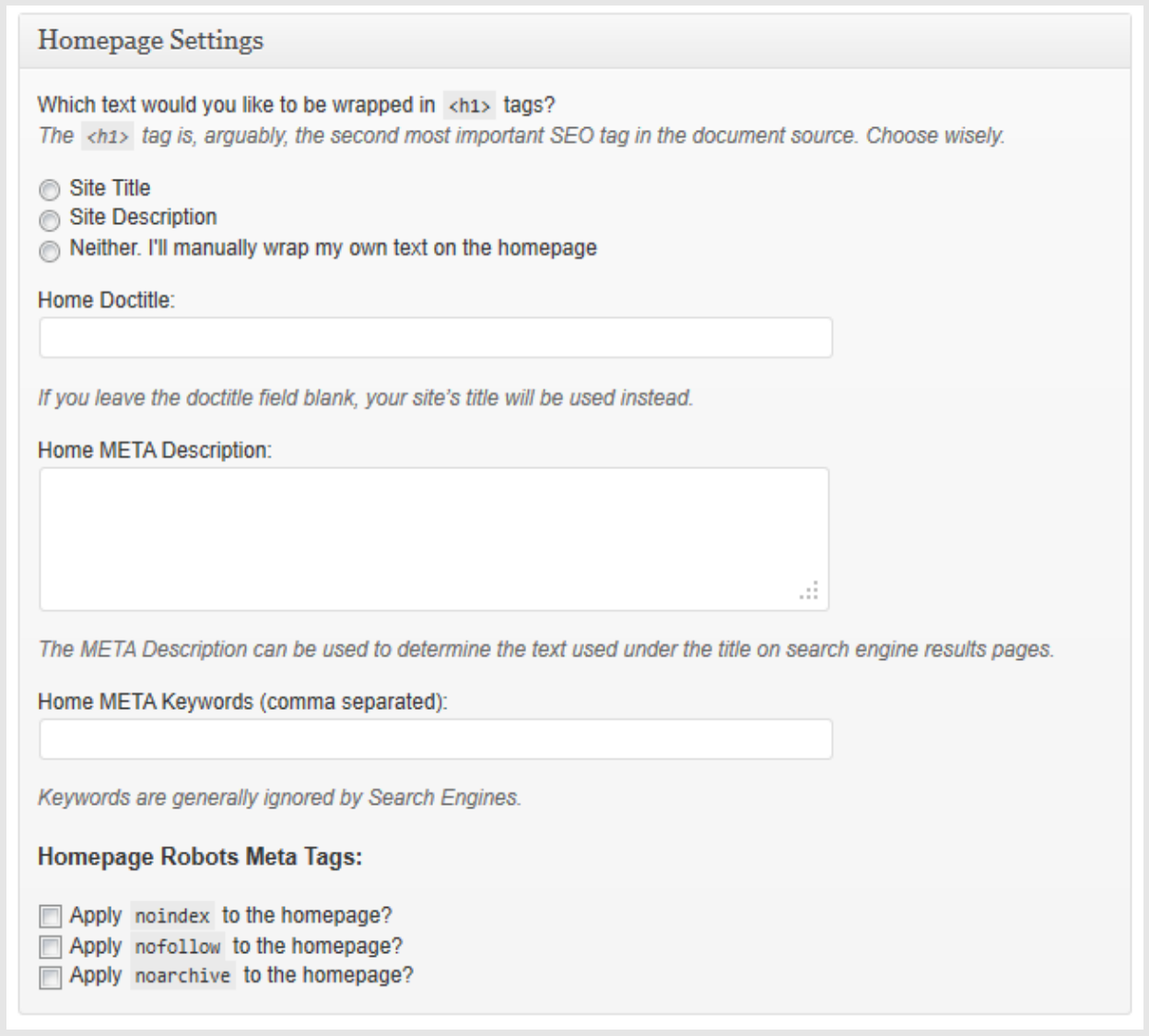
Append Site Description will insert the site description from your General Settings after the title on your home page.

Append Site Name will put the site name from the General Settings after the title on inner page.

Doctitle Append Location determines which side of the title to add the previously mentioned items.

The **Doctitle Separator** is the character that will go between the title and appended text.

Homepage



These are the homepage specific SEO settings. Note: these settings will not apply if a static page is set as the front page. If you're using a static WordPress page as your hompage, you'll need to set the SEO settings on that particular page.

You can also specify if the Site Title, Description, or your own custom text should be wrapped in an <h1> tag (the primary heading in HTML).

To add custom text you'll have to either edit a php file, or use a text widget on a widget enabled homepage.

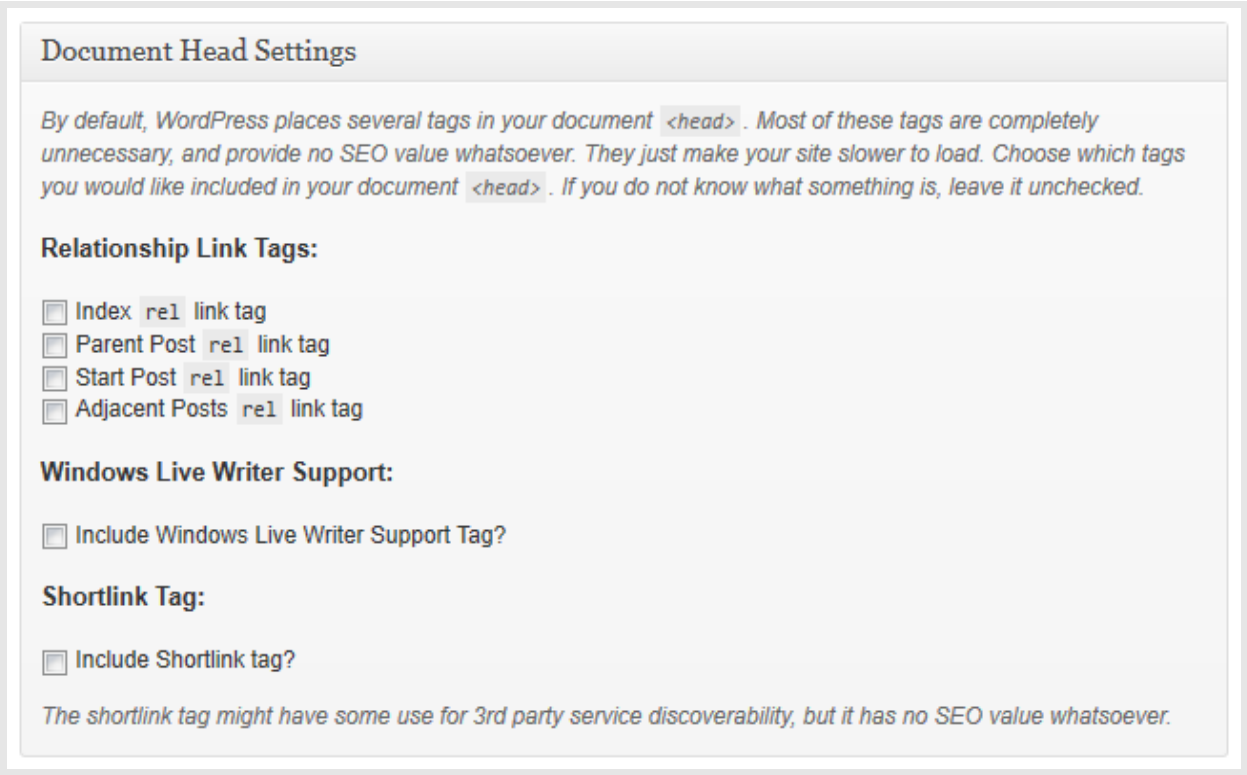
The home doctitle sets what will appear within the <title></title> tags (unseen in the browser) for the home page.

The home META description and keywords fill in the meta tags for the home page. The META description is the short text blurb that appear in search engine results.

Most search engines do not use Keywords at this time or give them very little consideration; however, it's worth using in case keywords are given greater consideration in the future and also to help guide your content. If the content doesn’t match with your targeted key words, then you may need to consider your content more carefully.

The Homepage Robots Meta Tags tell search engines how to handle the homepage. Noindex means not to index the page at all, and it will not appear in search results. Nofollow means do not follow any links from this page and noarchive tells them not to make an archive copy of the page.

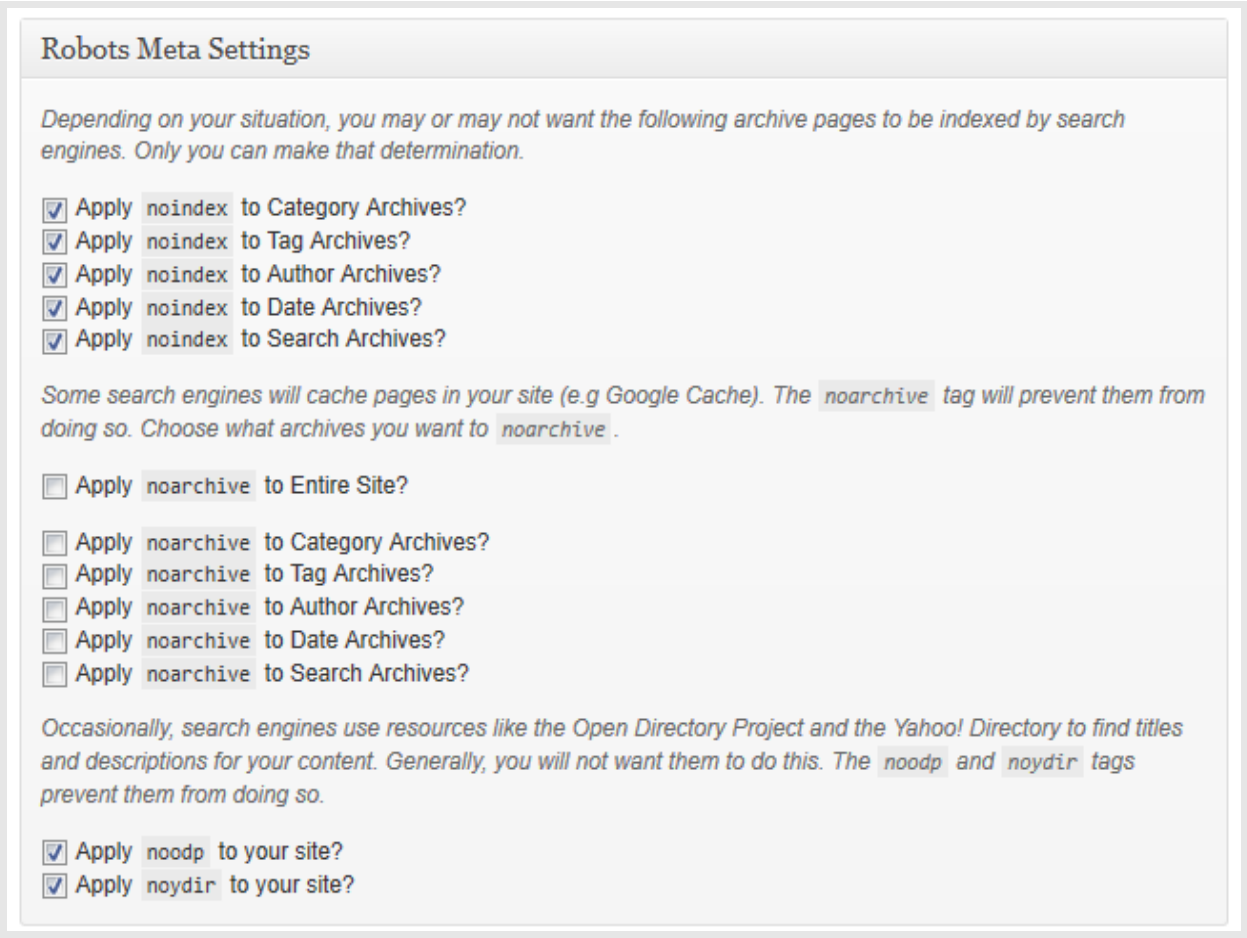
Document Head Settings



The Relationship Link Tags are tags added by WordPress that currently have no SEO value but slow your site load down. They're disabled by default, but if you have a specific need -- for a plugin or other non typical use -- then you can enable as needed here.

You can also add support for Windows Live Writer if you use software that supports this and include a shortlink tag if this is required by any third party service.

Robots Meta Settings

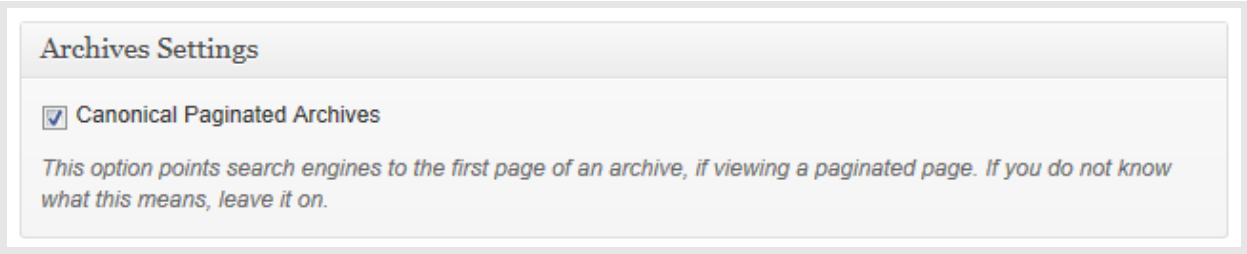


Noarchive and noindex are explained in the home settings. Here you can select what other parts of the site to apply these options to.

At least one archive should be indexed, but indexing multiple archives will typically result in a duplicate content penalization (multiple pages with identical content look manipulative to search engines).

For most sites either the home page or blog page (using the blog template) will serve as this index which is why the default is not to index categories, tags, authors, dates, or searches.

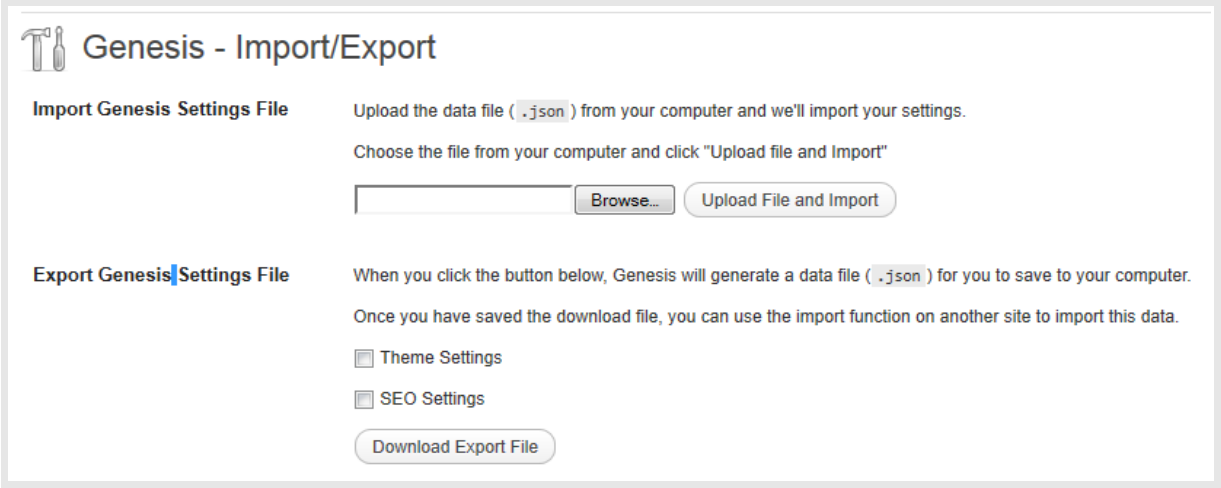
Archives Settings



Canonical links will point search engines to the front page of paginated content (search engines have to choose the “preferred link” when there is duplicate content on pages).

This tells them “this is paged content and the first page starts here” and helps to avoid spreading keywords across multiple pages.

0.2 Import/Export



This allows you to import or export Genesis Settings.

This is specific to Genesis settings and does not includes posts, pages, or images, which is what the built-in WordPress import/export menu does.

It also does not include other settings for plugins, widgets, or post/page/term/user specific settings.

1 How Home Pages Work

Most Genesis child themes include a custom home page.

To use this type of home page, make sure your latest posts are set to show on the front page. You can setup a page with the Blog page template to show a blog style list of your latest posts on another page.

This home page is typically setup via widgets in the sidebars for the home page. This can be accessed via the Widgets menu item under Appearance.

Child themes that include this type of home page typically include additional theme-specific tutorials which can be accessed via a sticky post at the top of that child theme support forum.

If your theme uses a custom home page and you want to show the latest posts in a blog format, do not use the blog template. Instead, you need to rename the home.php file to home-old.php instead.

Another common home page is the “blog” type home page, which is common to most of the free child themes. This shows your latest posts and requires no additional setup.

The third type of home page is the new dynamic home page. This is common on the newest child themes. It will show your latest posts in a blog type listing unless you put widgets into the home page sidebars.

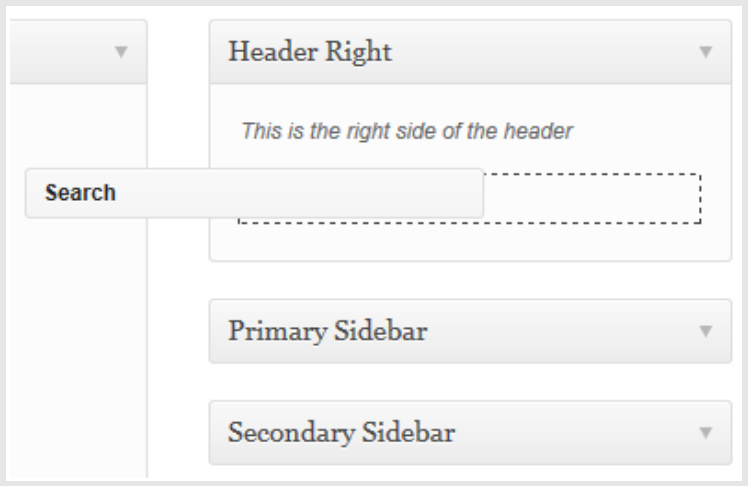
This setup is preferred because it makes it easier to show a blog on the front page (no need to rename the home.php file) and does not have the confusion of no content on the home page when the theme is initially installed.

2 Widget Areas

Most Genesis child themes will include at least three sidebars (AKA Widget Areas).

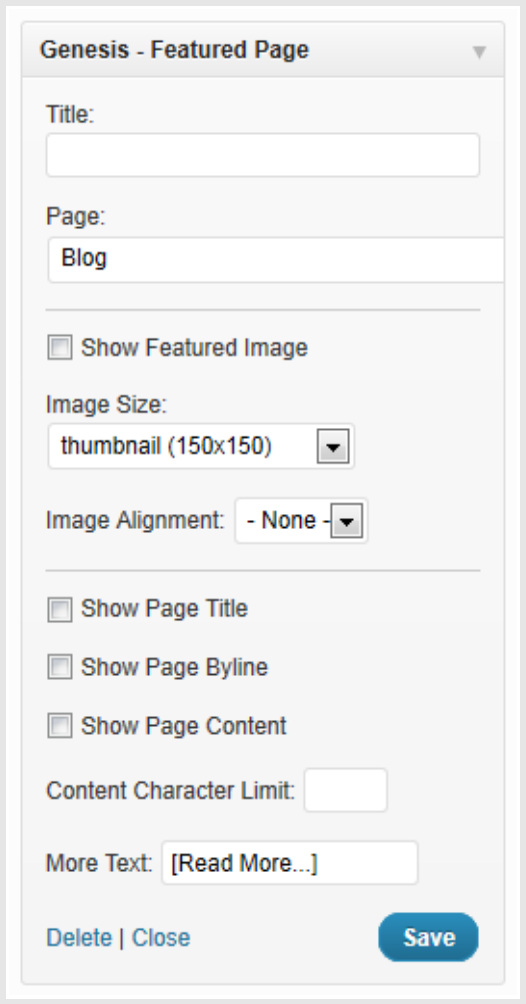
- Header Right (displays on the right side of the header, put a widget in the sidebar to activate it)
- Primary Sidebar (displays next to the Content, it is enabled in all layouts except Full Width Content)
- Secondary Sidebar (displays next to Content or Primary Sidebar, it is enabled only in two sidebar layouts such as Sidebar Content Sidebar)

Additionally, many of the child themes have additional sidebars, mostly related to the home page, but each will include a description of where the sidebar displays.



3 Included Widgets

3.1 Genesis – Add the Featured Pages Widget



Step #1

To add the Featured Pages widget to your sidebar, go to Appearance > Widgets in your WordPress dashboard.

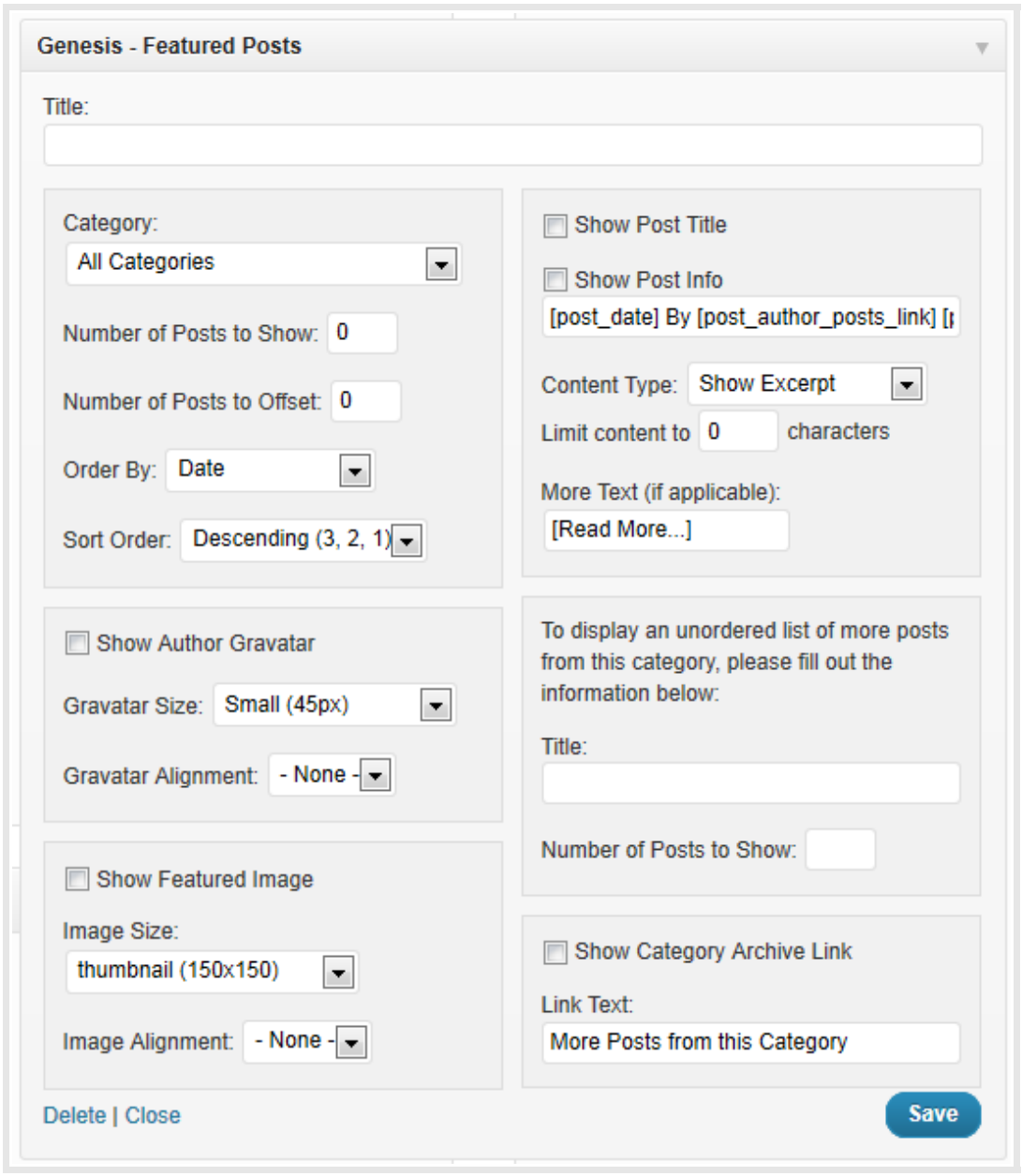
There you will see the “Genesis – Featured Pages” widget as an available widget which you will move into the widget area of your choice. You can use this widget as many times as you like, with different configurations in each instance of the widget.

Step #2

The widget interface should be self-explanatory. Here's what each option does:

- *Title – the title of the widget*
- *Page – the page you want to display*
- *Show Page Image – Shows the page image – depending upon your child theme, a variety of sizes will be available*
- *Image Alignment – allows you to display the image on top of the content, or to the left or right of the content*
- *Show Page Title – displays the title of the page*
- *Show Page Byline – this is the post meta info (Date, Author, and a link for the visitor to comment)*
- *Show the Content – shows the complete content of the post, including images (not recommended if you have large images in the post content). Use the "more" button to split post content. Everything above the "More" will display in the widget.*
- *Content Limit characters – use this to avoid having to use the "More" button – set the number of characters you want to be shown in the widget. This will remove HTML formatting.*
- *More Text (if applicable): – links to the rest of the page's content*

3.2 Genesis – Add the Featured Posts Widget



Step #1

To add the Featured Posts widget to your sidebar, go to Appearance > Widgets in your WordPress dashboard.

There you'll see the “Genesis – Featured Posts” widget as an available widget which you will move into the widget area of your choice. You can use this widget as many times as you like, with different configurations in each instance of the widget.

Step #2

The widget interface should be self-explanatory. Here’s what each option does:

- *Title – the title of the widget*
- *Category – you can display posts from all categories, or just from one specific category*
- *Number of Posts to Show - how many posts to display*
- *Number of Posts to Offset – this is useful when you have one or more posts displayed in full on the main portion of your page – simply offset by the number of posts in the main area, and only distinct content will show in the widget.*
- *Order By*
  - (date) – the date on the post
  - (title) – alphabetical order
  - (parent) – useful for when you are displaying all categories – keeps your posts grouped by category
  - (ID) – the order in which the posts were created
  - (Comment Count) – shows those with the most comments first
  - (Random) – random order
- *Show Author Gravatar – the author must have a gravatar from http://gravatar.com associated with the email address in their profile. You can set the gravatar size, and choose if the image should be to the left or right of the text, or display above it.*
- *Show Post Image – this will display the first image uploaded to the post as a 150 x 150 thumbnail. You don’t have to display the image in the post, or use a custom field. As with the Author Gravatar, you can choose to place this image on the left, right, or above the text.*
- *Show Post Title – displays the title of the post*

- *Show Post Byline – this is the post meta info (Date, Author, and a link for the visitor to comment)*

- *Hide the Content – hides all content and only displays Title/Byline*

- *Show the Excerpt – a teaser which refers to the first 55 words of the post's content. All HTML tags and graphics are stripped from the excerpt's content.*

- *Show the Content – shows the complete content of the post, including images (not recommended if you have large images in the post content). Use this if you want to show an excerpt of the post that contains images and HTML – use the "more" button to split post content. Everything above the "More" will display in the widget.*

- *Content Limit characters – functions just like the excerpt, but gives you more control over the number of characters shown.*

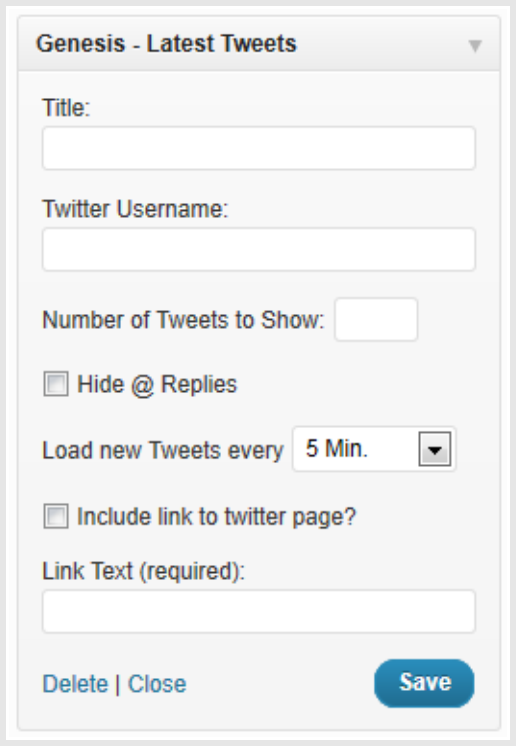
- *More Text (if applicable) – links to the rest of the post's content*

- *Unordered List of Posts – this will display just the titles of posts in the category or categories chosen, and will automatically exclude the posts shown above*

- *Show Category Archive Link – if only one category is selected for the widget, use this to display a link to the rest of the posts in that category*

- *Link Text – links to the rest of the category's content*

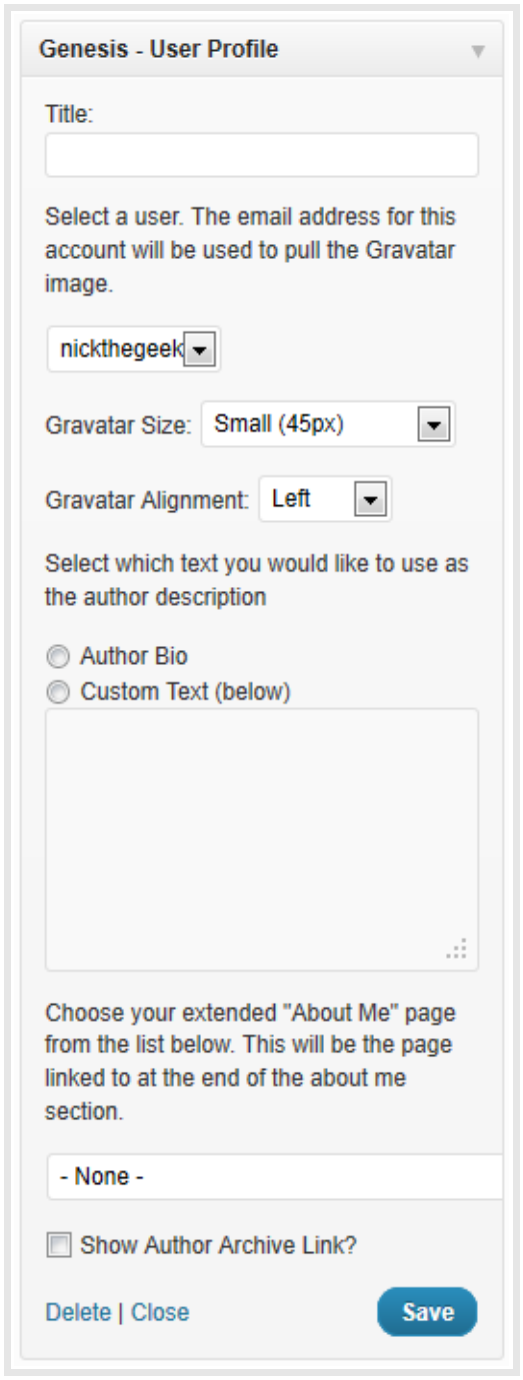
3.3 Genesis - Latest Tweets Widget



1. To add the Latest Tweets widget to your sidebar, go to Appearance > Widgets in your WordPress dashboard. There you will see Genesis – Latest Tweets as an available widget which you should move into the widget area of your choice.

2. The widget interface should be self-explanatory. All you need to do is full out the options and click save.

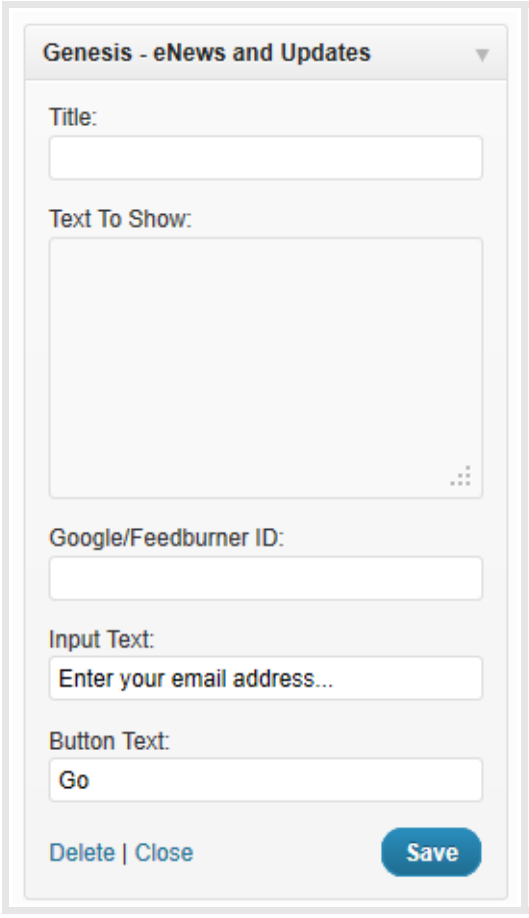
3.4 Genesis - User Profile Widget



1. To add the User Profile widget to your sidebar, go to Appearance > Widgets in your WordPress dashboard. There you will see Genesis – User Profile as an available widget which you should move into the widget area of your choice.

2. The widget interface should be self-explanatory. The image that will be the Gravatar that is associated with the user's email address. The author bio is pulled from the user's Biographical Info section in the About Yourself section on the user page of your WordPress dashboard.

3.5 Genesis - eNews and Update Widget



1. To add the eNews & Updates widget to your sidebar, go to Appearance > Widgets in your WordPress dashboard. There you will see Genesis – eNews & Updates as an available widget which you should move into the widget area of your choice.

2. The widget interface should be self-explanatory. If you want to know what to place in the Google/Feedburner ID option, it would be the name you have in your Feedburner Feed Address.
    a. If your feed link is feeds.feedburner.com/MyFeedID then
    b. Your feed id is MyFeedID
    c. Only put MyFeedID in this field

3.6 Additional Widgets

Many of the child themes include additional widgets or require the use of plugins with additional widgets.

Please see the setup tutorials for your child theme to see theme specific instructions.

4 Logo/Header

As of now there are two basic ways of interacting with the logo/header depending on your child theme.

If there is not a “Header” menu item under “Appearance” in your WordPress dashboard, then your child theme should be using the older method of working with the header. In the Genesis Theme Settings you will have a “Header Settings” box where you can select to show the “Image Logo” or “Dynamic Text” logo.

The dynamic text will show the site title and description from the General Settings. If you select “Image Logo” it will show the logo.png file from your theme images directory (in a few themes this may change the header.png file instead). The text will be hidden using an SEO friendly text replacement technique.

To change your image logo, you will need to access your site via FTP and navigate to the child theme images directory, wp-content/themes/child-theme/images (for example), and replace the logo.png file with your own.

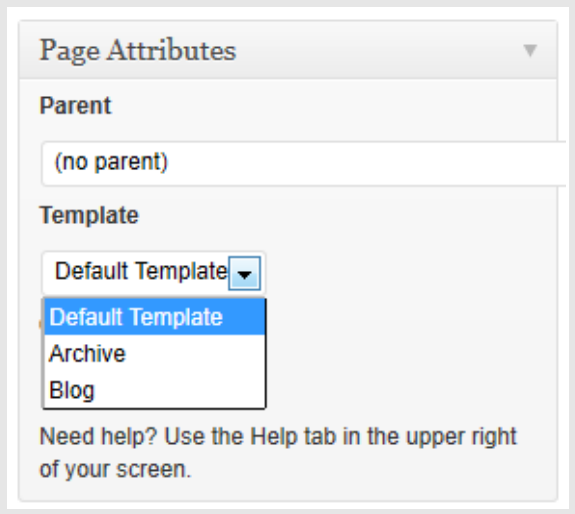
If you have the Header menu item, click on this menu and upload the header. You will be uploading a full width header file. If you only want to use a small logo on the left side, then put it on a blank canvas set to the same height and width specified in the Header page. Save this as a png file with a transparent background and upload.

If you get a black background, verify that the file is exactly the same height and width indicated.

The Header page also includes an option to display the header text. This will show or hide the site title/description based on the setting you choose.

Please note that references to a header usually refer to the header area that is the full width of the content. The logo usually refers to a smaller graphic within the header area.

5 Genesis Templates



There are two page templates included with every Genesis child theme.

Some themes may include additional templates, and you can see the child theme specific tutorials for details on using those templates.

Templates are set on the page editor (unless you are using a plugin, page templates are not available on posts) on the right hand side under “Page Attributes.”

5.1 Blog Template

The blog page template shows the latest posts in a blog list format.

The page title and content are not available with this template without theme customization. There are some hidden features which can be accessed via a custom field that let you alter what posts will show. Here is another link to an article explaining this feature.

5.2 Archive Template

The archive template creates a site-map. The page title and content are not available with this template without customization.

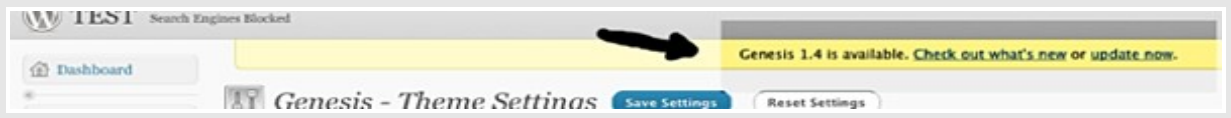
6 Upgrading Genesis

The Genesis Framework was the first theme package to include an auto-update feature.

We make updating to the current version of Genesis a very simple process. Everything is integrated, so you don't have to call your developer. All updates are thoroughly tested, so you're not playing guinea pig.

NOTE: If you have made any changes directly to files in the /genesis/ directory, upgrading will overwrite these changes. Therefore, we recommend that you NEVER make changes this way. Alternatively, use the CSS (style sheet computer language) in the child theme directory to make stylistic modifications, and use the proper PHP files in the child theme directory, along with the Genesis Hook system, to make functional/output modifications.

6.1 Using the Automatic Upgrade feature



1. Before you upgrade anything, make sure you have backup copies of your child theme.
2. Click the "update now" link in the upgrade notification at the top your your dashboard page.
3. Confirm the upgrade.
4. After the new version is installed, click the link to complete the upgrade.
5. All done!

NOTE: If the "update now" link is not displaying, enable it by going to the Genesis Options section of your dashboard: Genesis > Theme Settings > Information … and click on the "Enable Automatic Updates" checkbox.

6.2 Upgrading Manually

1. Before you upgrade anything, make sure you have backup copies of your child theme.
2. Delete the old genesis directory from your wp-content/themes directory
3. Unzip and upload the new genesis directory to your wp-content/themes directory
4. Log into the dashboard to complete the upgrade process.

7 Additional Resources

7.1 Plugins

The great thing about how Genesis is designed is that it can be easily extended by plugins.

Here is a set of very user friendly plugins to help you customize your site. To install these plugins through your WordPress dashboard, visit the Plugins menu, click to add a new plugin and then search for the plugin title.

Genesis Simple Edits

This plugin lets you make three of the most common edits to Genesis (Post Info, Post Meta, and the Footer) through a very easy to use interface with shortcodes (WordPress shortcuts), and if you want even more you can use some simple HTML to extend it further.

Genesis Simple Hooks

Working with hooks can be confusing and requires some very specific php knowledge.

With Genesis Simple Hooks it is … well, simple. If you need to put an adsense code in before your post content, just add it to the field for genesis_before_post_content. That's it. The plugin also allows use of short code and php, so it can be very flexible and powerful.

Genesis Simple Sidebars

Genesis Simple Sidebars lets you create new sidebars and replace either the Primary or Secondary sidebar on each page, post, tag, or category of your site.

This is great if you need different sidebar content in different parts of your site.

Genesis Simple Menus

With Simple Menus, you can create additional custom menus and replace the secondary navigation on each page, post, category, or tag.

Genesis Simple Breadcrumbs

The ability to choose where the breadcrumbs will show is great, but there are a lot of things you can change about the way the breadcrumbs show up on your site. Genesis Simple Breadcrumbs makes this easy. Just change the text in the breadcrumb fields and it will change on your site.

Genesis Nav Menu Amplified

If you need a few more options on your nav menu, like the ability to automatically build a menu from your pages or categories or add the primary nav menu extras to the secondary nav menu, then check out this plugin.

Genesis Featured Widget Amplified

This plugin takes the already great Genesis Featured Posts widget and kicks it up a few notches. Included is the ability to select more post types, use tags (or other taxonomies), exclude by term ID, post/pageID, and use custom fields to find and organize your posts. You can also control image position from the widget interface. Plus, everything is run from hooks, so you can change and extend everything.

Genesis Admin Bar Plus

Add helpful Genesis links to the admin bar so you can quickly access Genesis settings from anywhere in your site.

Genesis Favicon Uploader

The favicon is the small image that represents your site in the address bar and bookmark menu of most browsers. Changing this image with the Genesis Favicon Uploader is as easy as uploading your image from the dashboard.

So Much More

There are so many more Genesis plugins for you to try out. Just do a search for “Genesis” in the WordPress plugins repository and you will get 55 results (as of this publication).

To make it easier, just follow this link: Genesis Plugins.

7.2 Helpful Links

Whether you are just getting started or want to learn more, you will find these resources helpful.

WordPress Resources

- About WordPress
- WordPress Docs (The Codex)
- Getting Started with WordPress
- New To WordPress - Where to Start
- WordPress Lessons
- Learn WordPress
- WordPress.tv
- WordPress FAQ
- Finding WordPress Help

Genesis Resources

- Dev.SP - StudioPress site with tutorials for using and customizing Genesis. Don't let the "Developer" title scare you away, much of this document was adapted from this site.
- Genesis Tutorials - This is a third party resource that is not affiliated with StudioPress. There are a number of useful tutorials on the site.
- Genesis Explained - If you are looking for more instruction on the nuts and bolts of Genesis, then this developer's guide tutorial series is a great place to start.
- StudioPress Plugins
- HELP! - The Easiest Way to Get it

Additional Resources for Installation & Getting Started

- http://dev.studiopress.com/genesis-sample-child-theme.htm
- http://dev.studiopress.com/import-demo-content.htm
- http://dev.studiopress.com/site-recovery-tips.htm

8 Troubleshooting

8.1 Common Installation Error Messages

Genesis Not Found

The Problem:
One issue that comes up regularly in the forums is accidentally activating the child theme without Genesis being installed, or accidentally deleting Genesis (sometimes for a manual upgrade) with the child theme already active. Either of these actions will result in an error like this

> Warning: require_once(%path-to-wordpress%/wp-content/themes/genesis/lib/init.php) [function.require-once]: failed to open stream: No such file or directory in %path-to-wordpress%/wp-content/themes/%child-theme%/functions.php on line 3

The solution:
You will need to access your site via FTP. Once there navigate to your site theme directory. This will vary by host and site setup, but it is usually **/public_html/wp-content/themes/**. The error code will actually tell you exactly where this is, but typically you will not have access to the first part of the path, but will have access starting around the public_html(or similar) directory.

If you already have Genesis backed up on your computer, find that directory. Otherwise, you will need to download the latest version of Genesis from the forums and unzip it to a directory on your computer. Make a note of where the file is and navigate to it in your FTP client.

Make sure the directory you are about to upload is “genesis” spelled exactly like that and that directly inside the directory is “style.css” (along with several other files and directories).

If you are using FileZilla on a Windows system then right mouse click the “genesis” directory and select to upload. On Mac you have to activate the context menu by holding ctrl when clicking unless you have a mouse with a secondary button or other means of accessing the context menu.

WordPress Needs Upgrade

The Problem:
When a function doesn't exist, it is often caused by WordPress being out of date. Always upgrade to the latest version of WordPress. Of course, the simple upgrade isn't available if this error happens. The error might look something like this:

> Fatal error: Call to undefined function add_theme_support() in /%path-to-wordpress %/wp-content/themes/genesis/lib/init.php on line 17

The Solution:
You will have to upgrade WordPress. Of course this can't be done since you can't get to your dashboard. To get to your dashboard you will need to access your site via FTP and navigate to the theme directory. This is usually wp-content/themes/. Then you need to either remove the active theme, or just move it out of the theme directory. This disables the theme and enables the default theme. Once the default theme is enabled you can login, upgrade WordPress, and put your theme back or reinstall in (depending on if you moved or deleted the theme), then reactivate the theme.

And That's It!

As we said above, there's so much to the Genesis universe we can't cover here, unless you want to be reading for days on end ;)

The good news is, Genesis takes care of all the heavy lifting and basic functions for you.

So get started and then get back to making a great website with Genesis.

We're always here to help in the forums:

http://www.studiopress.com/support/

Best Regards,
The StudioPress Team