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How to copy the Elemental theme to use as a base for new themes

Posted by admin for on Apr 3, 2015   💬 0   ♡ 16

Here are the steps required to copy the Elemental theme to create a new theme called Test.

1. copy the elemental folder from the core themes directory into the application directory

copy from:
concrete\themes\

copy to:
application\themes\

2. rename the "elemental" folder to "test"

the theme folder name:
- must be lowercase
- cannot use spaces
- cannot use hyphens
- underscores can be used to separate words
Example:
my_theme

3. go to the Pages & Themes area in the dashboard

4. first error:

```
An unexpected error occurred.
Cannot redeclare class Concrete\Theme\Elemental\PageTh
eme
```

5. first error fix: in page_theme.php

find:

```
namespace Concrete\Theme\Elemental;
```

change to:

```
namespace Application\Theme\Test;
```

when using folder names with underscores
- the underscore must be removed and replaced with CamelCase formatting
Example:
folder name: my_theme

```
namespace Application\Theme\MyTheme;
```

6. in your Test theme directory
version 5.7.4.2 or earlier
- open description.txt
- change "Elemental" to "Test"

if the folder was named my_theme
- change "Elemental" to "My Theme"

version 5.7.5 or later
- open page_theme.php
- look for getThemeName()

Tags

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```
public function getThemeName()
{
    return t('Elemental');
}
```

change "Elemental" to "Test"

```
public function getThemeName()
{
    return t('Test');
}
```

7. install the Test theme

8. activate the Test theme

9. return to website

10. second error:

```
An unexpected error occurred.
File `../../../css/build/core/include/mixins.less` not
found. in main.less
```

**11. second error fix: in main.less (application\themes\test\css
\main.less)**

find:

```
@import "../../../css/build/core/include/mixins.less";
```

change to:

```
@import "../../../../concrete/css/build/core/include/m
ixins.less";
```

12. return to website

13. the site works and is now using a copy of Elemental called Test

8 Messages   Earliest First

(https://legacy-documentation.concrete5.org/)rdealmeida
(https://www.concrete5.org/profile/-/view/121134) | Posted on
Mar 20, 2016

I followed this tutorial line by line. When I get to step #9 I get
"Cannot redeclare class Concrete\Theme\Test\PageTheme"
Anybody know what is missing from this tutorial ??. Also why is
the header saying that this tutorial is for 5.6 ??

Bob

Reply

(https://legacy-documentation.concrete5.org/)rdealmeida
(https://www.concrete5.org/profile/-/view/121134) | Posted on
Mar 20, 2016

Ok.. forgive the senior moment..
For anyone else who gets stuck at #9 and gets "Cannot
redeclare class Concrete\Theme\Test\PageTheme".
Change that line to "Application\Theme\Test\PageTheme".
and have at it..

Bob

Reply

Anon User (none) | Posted on Mar 30, 2016

Followed all the steps, I get the error: Call to a member function
hasPageThemeGridFrameworkOffsetClasses() on null

Reply

Marcel (www.online-chinesisch-kurs.de) | Posted on Apr 23, 2016

Followed this tutorial step by step, tried out naming my new theme "Ock" and it didn't work at all.
Repeated the steps 3-4 times now, the copied theme won't show on the themes list.

Is this tutorial outdated / missing something?

Reply

Marcel | Posted on Apr 23, 2016

Ups, I copied my theme to concrete\themes instead of application\themes - works now! :)

Reply

Holly McCarthy (twistedtastes.com) | Posted on Aug 26, 2016

I thought if you put anything in the concrete folder and not applications that it would get overwritten during updates. Is that not the case?

Reply

(https://legacy-documentation.concrete5.org/)jasteele12 (https://www.concrete5.org/profile/-/view/13433) | Posted on Oct 6, 2016

This is definitely not "legacy".

Reply

Maria (solanum-webdesign.de) | Posted on Jan 12, 2017

A very good tutorial, I followed it many times. But it is important that in your page_theme.php you should not use uppercase letters for your template or else you will get a lot of errors.

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VE6Tg

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