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Overview

The Brisk Theme started with the Coroline Theme version 1.2. The idea was to add some features that make the life of a website developer easier. There are also a number of features speed up theme.

You end up with a very capable theme as a starting point for your next project.

Features added by Brisk

- A optional non-scrolling bar at the top of the screen that can contain a link. It appears on every page and post. Great for linking to a particular page or service or product.
- Clicking on the tag line takes you to the login screen or Dashboard.
- Optional separate menus for logged in and logged out.
- Three new widget areas. One above the header image; One below header image; And one full width footer widget. You can see them at widget.pdhodges.com
- Optional pagination for categories, archives and searches.
- The ability to set the excerpt word count.
- The ability to use excerpts separately for categories, archives and searches.
- The six individual page layouts can be selected on a page/post basis in the edit screen.
- A template for a splash page. It has no header or side bar. The css is in the template to make the page load as fast as possible. This shows up on the edit page screen.
- The style.css file and the color.css files are automatically minified, have comments removed and are added inline in the header. The file modification dates are checked to determine when the minification is needed. This allows adding lots of comments without effecting the download size.
- All the html, minified css, custom css and custom javaScript is gzipped if the browser can handle gzipped files. All modern browsers can handle gzipped files.

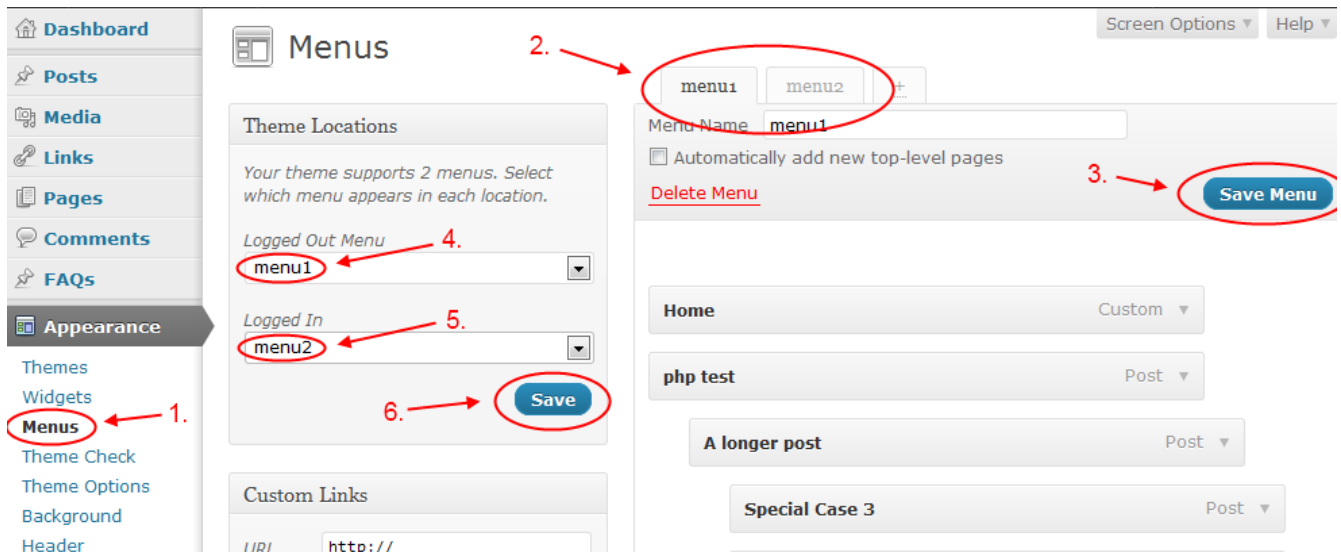
Features That Come With Coraline 1.2

- Eight color schemes
- Six page layouts
- Flexible Width
- Custom Background
- Custom Header Image
- Custom Menu
- Editor Style
- Theme Options
- Sticky Post
- Micro Formats
- Right To Left Language Support
- Translation Ready
- Featured Image Header

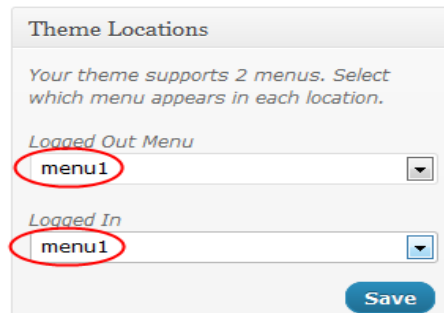
Menus

The Brisk Theme supports two menus. They both appear in the same location. The first shows when the viewer is logged out. The second appears when the viewer is logged in.

1. Click the Appearance → Menu item in your dashboard.
2. Create a couple of menus.
3. Save the menus.
4. Set the location of the Logged Out Menu.
5. Set the location of the Logged In Menu.
6. Save the locations.

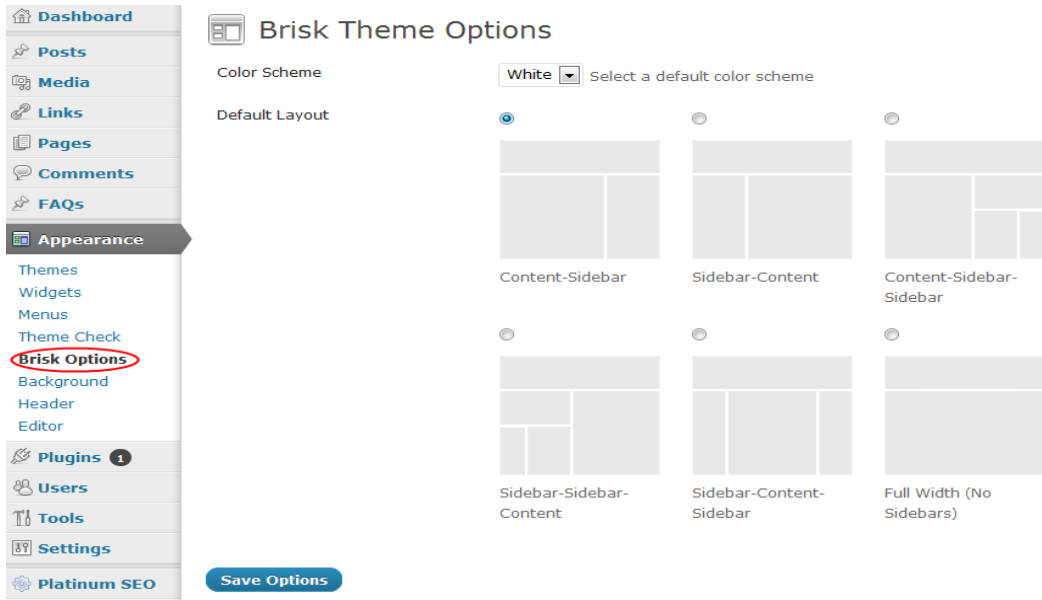


If you want the same menu to appear for both the logged in and logged out menus then just specify the same menu for both locations.



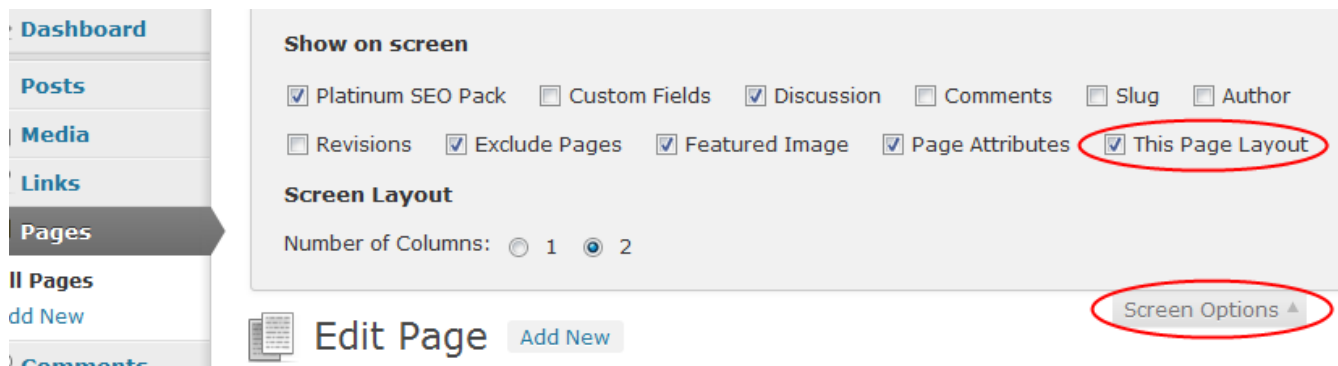
Page Layouts

The first place to set the layout is in the Appearance → Brisk Theme Options. This becomes the the default setting for the web site.

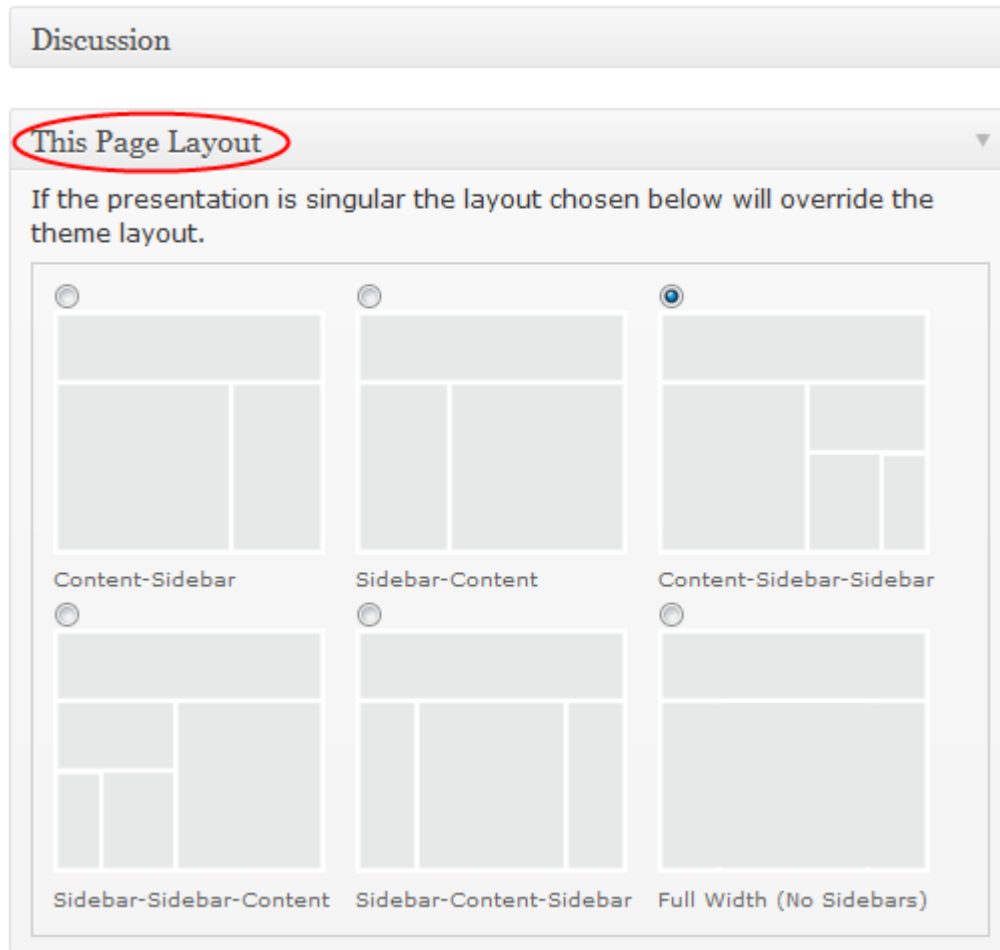


There is also a setting on the edit page for both pages and posts. When the post or page is the single item in the content area, this setting will override the theme default setting.

The first thing to do is click on the Screen options tab at the upper right of the edit page. Make sure the This Page Layout is checked.



Then scroll down the page and you will see the "This Page Layout" bar. If the box below it is not open just click on the bar.



When you first start editing a page the default layout for the theme will be selected. You can change it to any of the layouts shown. When you Publish or update the page any of the changes you made in this panel will be saved.

Speeding Things Up

The Brisk theme does a number of things to enhance the speed of the website. There is one thing it does not do. It DOES NOT traverse @include statements in a .css file.

The first is to gzip the entire page. Any HTML or inline CSS or javaScript is gzipped. The function that does this asks the browser if it can handle gzip files. If the answer is yes then the data is gzipped. If the answer is no then there is no change. All modern browsers can handle gzipped files.

The second is to minify the style.css and the color css file and put them inline in the header.php file. Minify means to remove all extra white space and comments. It saves a copy of the minified css files in the database. Anytime one of these files is updated the database record is also updated. This reduces the HTTP:// requests. One added benefit is that it allows you to add as many comments as you want without increasing the download size.

The third is to have the browser cache static home pages.

Brisk is based on the Coraline 1.2 theme. To test the results I set up two websites. One for Brisk and another for the Coraline them. The only plugin is Akismet. Brisk downloads jquery from a Google server. I added the following lines of code to the Coraline functions.php file to make things equal.

```
function more_enqueue() {  
    wp_enqueue_script( 'jquery' );  
}  
add_action('wp_enqueue_scripts', 'more_enqueue');
```

I chose an optional color scheme because that loads another css file. The only other change was to make a static home page. There were no other changes or plugins.

I have tried all the popular caching plugins. None of them made a significant speed up. Many of them slow things down.

The file test site used was webpagetest.org
 The Coraline Theme results are shown here.

Page Speed 1.12 Score: 55/100 [Need help](#)

C A F A F

First Byte Time | Keep-alive Enabled | Compress Text | Compress Images | Cache static content

Summary Details Performance Review Page Speed Content Breakdown Domains Screen Shot

Re-run the test [Raw page data - Raw](#) [Export HTTP Ar](#)

	Load Time	First Byte	Start Render	DOM Elements	Document Complete			Fully Loaded		
					Time	Requests	Bytes In	Time	Requests	Bytes In
First View	1.678s	0.432s	1.372s	154	1.678s	7	148 KB	1.678s	7	148 KB
Repeat View	0.766s	0.367s	0.630s	154	0.766s	7	12 KB	0.766s	7	12 KB

The Brisk Theme results are here.

Page Speed 1.12 Score: 90/100 [Need help](#)

C A A A A

First Byte Time | Keep-alive Enabled | Compress Text | Compress Images | Cache static content

Summary Details Performance Review Page Speed Content Breakdown Domains Screen Shot

Re-run the test [Raw page data - Raw](#) [Export HTTP Ar](#)

	Load Time	First Byte	Start Render	DOM Elements	Document Complete			Fully Loaded		
					Time	Requests	Bytes In	Time	Requests	Bytes In
First View	1.172s	0.404s	0.967s	159	1.172s	4	59 KB	1.172s	4	59 KB
Repeat View	0.167s	0.000s	0.108s	159	0.167s	0	0 KB	0.167s	0	0 KB

Brisk is about 43% faster on the First View.

Brisk is about 4.6 times faster on the Repeat View.

The gzipping is reducing the download size by about 60%.

In order to achieve the 0 Requests on the Repeat View you need to have the .htaccess file set up correctly. You can get a copy of the .htaccess file and some WordPress set up tips from a free ebook at WordPressSpeed.com

Another test site is GTMetrix.com



Options

- [Re-Test Page](#)
- [Compare to another URL](#)

I got my scores; what now?

Start optimizing your site! But before you do:

Latest Performance Report for: <http://coraline.pdhodges.com/>

Report generated: Sun, Mar 25, 2012, 7:55 AM -0700
Test Server Region: Vancouver, Canada
Using: Firefox 10.0.2, Page Speed 1.12.0.1, YSlow 3.0.4



Summary

Page Speed Grade:
(64%)↓

D

YSlow Grade:
(84%)↑

B

Page load time: 1.17s
Total page size: 144KB
Total number of requests: 7



Options

- [Re-Test Page](#)
- [Compare to another URL](#)

I got my scores; what now?

Start optimizing your site! But before you do:

Latest Performance Report for: <http://brisk.pdhodges.com/>

Report generated: Sun, Mar 25, 2012, 7:55 AM -0700
Test Server Region: Vancouver, Canada
Using: Firefox 10.0.2, Page Speed 1.12.0.1, YSlow 3.0.4



Summary

Page Speed Grade:
(93%)↑

A

YSlow Grade:
(95%)↑

A

Page load time: **0.78s**
Total page size: 58.3KB
Total number of requests: 4

Pagination

If you select pagination in the Appearance → Brisk Theme options this is what you get.



If you do not select pagination you get the following.



Top Ad Bar



The optional bar stays on the screen even when you scroll. It appears on every page and post.



These are the options for the ad bar in the Appearance → Brisk Theme Options.

Use Top Ad Bar



Top Ad Bar Text

Only used for Ad Bar.

Top Ad Bar Link

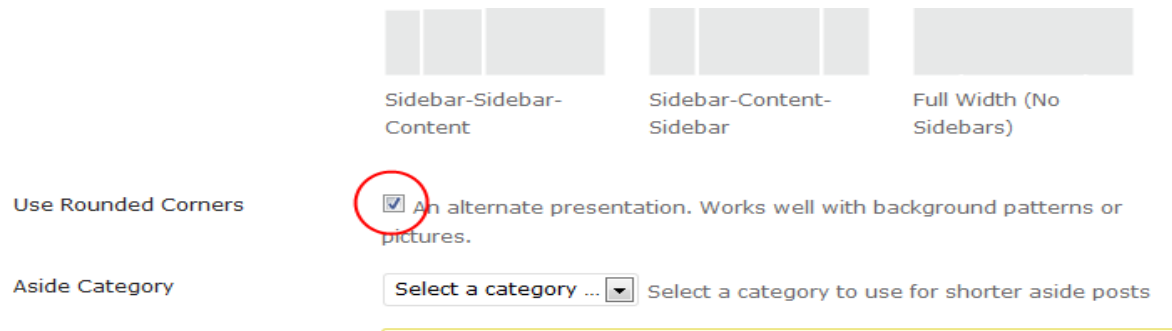
Only used for Ad Bar.

Top Ad Bar Opens Link in New Window



Use Rounded Corners

This option in Appearance → Brisk Theme Options gives you an alternate presentation.



The page and post backgrounds are semi transparent. This makes it good for background pictures and patterns.



The CSS for this is in the brisk/colors/rounded.css file if you want to change something.


Widget Areas

Brisk Widget Areas

Just another WordPress site

HOME BRISK WEBSITE LAYOUTS SPLASH PAGE

Header Widget Area Above Image



Header Widget Area Below Image

Available Layouts

There are six page layouts. You can try them out using the Layouts tab in the menu above.

- Sidebar – Content
- Content – Sidebar
- Content – Sidebar – Sidebar
- Sidebar – Sidebar – Content
- Sidebar – Content – Sidebar
- Content only

There is also a template for a Splash Page.

FEATURE WIDGET AREA

This is a text widget.

PRIMARY WIDGET AREA

This is a text widget.

SECONDARY WIDGET AREA

This is a text widget.

CATEGORIES

- layouts

ARCHIVES

- March 2012

FULL WIDTH FOOTER WIDGET

This is a text widget.

FIRST FOOTER WIDGET

This is a text widget.

SECOND FOOTER WIDGET

This is a text widget.

THIRD FOOTER WIDGET

This is a text widget.

FOURTH FOOTER WIDGET

This is a text widget.

Theme: brisk by Pete Hodges. Proudly Powered by: WordPress.

Excerpts

There are a number of ways to present the posts and pages on your website. Three of the allow the use of excerpts in the Brisk Theme.

1. Categories. Categories are determined by the categories you select or create when you add or edit a page or post.
2. Searches. The results when you do a search with the search widget.
3. Archives. Archives are created every month based on new posts.

In the Appearances → Brisk Themes page you can set the word count of excerpts and which of these presentations use excerpts.

Excerpt Word Count	<input type="text" value="20"/>	Min = 10. Max = 100.
Use excerpts on searches	<input type="checkbox"/>	No check uses full text.
Use excerpts on archives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No check uses full text.
Use excerpts on categories	<input type="checkbox"/>	No check uses full text.

Here is an example of an a 20 word excerpt. An excerpt also has a read full article link.

This page was created with the color purple scheme, the top ad bar checked and use rounded corners checked.

The screenshot shows a WordPress theme interface with a purple color scheme. At the top, there is a blue banner with the text "Advertise Here". Below this, there are three main content areas. On the left, there is a post excerpt with the text: "I never tried to prove nothing, just wanted to give a good show. My life has always been my music. [Read the full article...](#)". The link is circled in red. Below the excerpt, it says "Comments Off" and "Posted on June 9, 2008". In the middle, there is a "RECENT COMMENTS" widget listing several comments. On the right, there is a "PAGES" widget listing several pages.

Custom CSS and javaScript

At the bottom of the Appearance → Brisk Theme Options page there are two text areas. One for adding custom css in the header portion of the web page and another for adding custom javaScript in the footer section.

There is no error checking in either of these blocks. It is a good idea to use separate or existing files for CSS or javaScript. If you just have a few lines of custom code these text blocks will work great. They have the added advantage of not being overwritten or deleted if the theme is updated.

Insert css in the header.

Your custom CSS inserted in the header after style.css and the color.css.

```
.example {  
  margin:0;  
}
```

The <style> and </style> are not needed.

Insert javaSript in footer.

Your custom javaScript inserted in the footer.

```
jQuery(document).ready(function()  
{  
  jQuery('.wp_syntax').bind(  
  {  
    mouseover: function()  
    {  
      var w = jQuery(this).find('table').outerWidth();  
    }  
  }  
});
```

The <script> and </script> are not needed.

Save Options