

WordPress – Modifying css

In all WordPress themes there is a section called 'Additional CSS'. This is located within the Appearance, Customise menu on the Dashboard.

It would appear that any code put in here will override that written in the template.

For example:

If the code for the items in a sidebar menu is

```
.widget a {color: #0000ff;}
```

then we can change the colour by using an entry in the css such as

```
.widget a {color: #bb000000;}
```

The real trick is finding the name of the object that we want to change.

The way to do this is by using a browser to look at the item we want to change. Chrome is my preferred browser and this example uses that.

Note: If you have protection against right-click switched on, it needs to be disabled first.

1. Navigate to the page that shows the item you want to change.
 - a. In this example I want to change the colour of the menu header in a menu on the sidebar.



2. Highlight the heading text, right click, choose Inspect
3. This will open up a panel at the right hand side of the browser
4. It is the **Styles** area that we are interested in [Bordered in red on main diagram].
5. The item we had highlighted in step 2, is now shown in the yellow bordered box on main diagram.
6. We can see from here that the item is called `.widget .widget-title`

```
.widget .widget-title { <style>
  position: relative;
  margin-bottom: 0.8em;
  font-size: 1.2em;
  font-weight: 300;
  text-transform: capitalize;
}
```

7. So we now know that the code we want to use is `.widget-title`
8. So we can now insert a piece of css into the Additional CSS box to affect the title.
 - a. `.widget-title {color: #ff0000;}`
 - b. This will change the title of the widget to ff0000 which is Red
 - c. This affects **all** widgets in the side bar
9. Looking at the code in the Inspect panel we can see where the original has been overridden.
10. In this example we can see that the colour for the widget has been set to #ff0000
 - a. In the box below we can see the original has been struck out.

```
.widget a { (index):189
  color: ■ #ff0000;
}

.widget a { <style>
  color: ■ rgb(107, 107, 107);
}
```

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=js8GIJq5-jU>

Also: https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_syntax.asp and associated pages.

The screenshot displays the Chrome DevTools interface. The top pane shows the DOM tree with the following structure:

```
<!doctype html>
<html lang="en-GB" prefix="og: http://ogp.me/ns#">
  <head>...</head>
  <body class="page-template-default page page-id-53 logged-in admin-bar wp-custom-logo header-menu-enabled sticky-header right-sidebar-s1 header-row customize-support" style="padding-top: 132px;">
    <a class="skip-link screen-reader-text noscroll" href="#content">
      Skip to content</a>
    <header id="header" class="header sticky" role="banner">...</header>
    <main id="main" class="main-page" role="main">
      <article id="post-53" class="main-inner post-53 page type-page status-publish hentry">
        <header class="title-box">...</header>
        <div class="container-outer">
          <div class="container">
            <div id="content" class="content">...</div>
            <aside id="sidebar-s1" class="sidebar-s1" role="complementary">
              <div class="sidebar">
                <div class="sidebar-inner">
                  <section id="nav_menu-8" class="widget widget_nav_menu">
                    <h2 class="widget-title">Dave's Families</h2>
                  <div class="menu-daves-families-container">...</div>
                </div>
              </div>
            </aside>
          </div>
        </div>
      </article>
    </main>
  </body>
</html>
```

The bottom pane shows the Styles pane with the following CSS rules:

```
Filter: :hov .cls +
element.style {
}
.widget .widget-title {
  position: relative;
  margin-bottom: 0.8em;
  font-size: 1.2em;
  font-weight: 300;
  text-transform: capitalize;
}
.widget-title {
  color: #0000ff;
}
h2 {
  font-size: 1.56em;
}
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 {
  color: #0000ff;
}
```

The box model diagram on the right shows the following values:

- position: 0
- margin: -
- border: -
- padding: -
- Content area: 260 x 25
- Width: 14.438
- Height: 0

The bottom of the screenshot shows a notification for the Chrome 76 update, highlighting features like "Autocomplete with CSS keyword values" and "A new UI for network settings".

Removing sidebar on specific pages

The Coldbox theme doesn't, by default, allow the option to remove sidebars on selected pages. Sidebars are either on or off.

The following code was sent to me by the theme's author following a request on the forum.

```
/*REMOVE SIDEBAR ON 'Ruth's Tree [page-id = 12]*/
/*Remove the sidebar on a given page. Code from theme creator.*/

body.page-id-13 #main #wrapper > .container {
  display: block;
}
/* Appears to remove all L/R padding*/
body.page-id-13.right-sidebar-s1 .content {
  padding-right: 0;
  padding-left: 0;
}
/*Appears to hide the sidebar*/
body.page-id-13.right-sidebar-s1 .sidebar-s1{
  display:none;
}
```

Structure

If we look at the following code we can see that it refers to the sidebar `.sidebar`, further, it refers to the widget(s) in the sidebar `.widget`

We can see that the structure is hierarchical.

It starts with `.sidebar` (the outer construct) then has several `.widget` commands within it

```
.sidebar .widget { style.min.c..ver=1.7.2:1
  background-color: #fff;
  webkit-box-shadow:
  0 1px 3px 0 rgba(0,0,0,.1);
  box-shadow: 0 1px 3px 0 rgba(0,0,0,.1);
}

.widget { style.min.c..ver=1.7.2:1
  margin-bottom: 24px;
  padding: 20px;
  font-size: .94em;
}
```

From this example we can see various items that we could change:

`.background-colour`

`.box-shadow`

`.margin-bottom`

`.padding` [Note the arrow. This means that all 4 sides are equal.]

If we click the arrow in the inspection pane, it will show the

Individual settings for top, right, bottom, left.

`.font-size`

On 13th Sept 2022 I added a Function to WordPress that puts Last Modified on each page. The code came from <https://www.wpbeginner.com/wp-tutorials/display-the-last-updated-date-of-your-posts-in-wordpress/>

The function is added to the Coldbox 'function.php' file

You will need to add this code to your theme's [functions.php](#) file or a [site-specific plugin](#).

```
function wpb_last_updated_date( $content ) {
    $u_time = get_the_time('U');
    $u_modified_time = get_the_modified_time('U');
    if ( $u_modified_time >= $u_time + 86400 ) {
        $updated_date = get_the_modified_time('F jS, Y');
        $updated_time = get_the_modified_time('h:i a');
        $custom_content .= '<p class="last-updated">Last updated on '. $updated_date . ' at '. $updated_time . '</p>';
    }

    $custom_content .= $content;
    return $custom_content;
}

add_filter('the_content', 'wpb_last_updated_date');
```

The code checks to see if a post's published date and last modified dates are different. If they are, then it displays the last modified date before the post content.

Note: If a page hasn't been modified then no date will show.

Then need to add some css to the Customise page.

You can add [custom CSS](#) to style the appearance of the last updated date. Here is a little CSS snippet that you can use as a starting point:

```
.last-updated {
    font-size: small;
    text-transform: uppercase;
    background-color: #ffdd4;
}
```

Note: For testing purposes, many of these settings can be adjusted in the Inspect pane. (the do not affect the real code – just that on display at the moment.