

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 shows the Chrome DevTools interface. The top bar includes tabs for Elements, Console, Sources, Network, and Performance. The Elements pane displays the DOM tree, with the following structure visible:

```
<!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>
            <!--/.content-->
            <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 Styles pane is open, showing the following CSS rules for the selected element:

```
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: #001277;
}
```

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 the Console pane with the text "Highlights from the Chrome 76 update" and a blue graphic.

Various other settings

/*Reduces padding around title box i.e. page name*/

```
body .title-box-inner {  
  padding-top: 0px /* Customize this value, 40 is default */;  
  padding-bottom: 0px /* Customize this value, 40 is default */;  
}
```

/*Reduces padding around header*/

```
body .site-info {  
  padding-top: 1px;  
  padding-bottom: 1px;  
}
```

/*Hides the path to the current page. e.g. Home > Dave's Tree */

```
.breadcrumb {  
  display: none;  
}
```

/*Set the font colour for menu items on sidebar*/

```
.widget a {  
  color: #ff0000;  
}
```

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

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