

# Digging into the WordPress Customizer

An advanced look at the Customizer API,  
improvements in WordPress 4.0, and the future

Slides: <http://nick.halsey.co/presentations/>

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“A framework for live-previewing *any* change to WordPress”

- Weston Ruter

# Customizer



Develop WordPress 1 0 New

Dashboard

## Dashboard

Home

Updates 1

Posts

Media

Pages

Comments

Appearance

### Welcome to WordPress!

We've assembled some links to get you start

#### Get Started

[Customize Your Site](#)

or, change your theme completely

## Activity

×

Saved

You are customizing  
Develop WordPress

Site Title & Tagline

Menus

Lucidus

Header Image

Footer

Widgets

Static Front Page

← Collapse



# Agenda

- Sections, Settings, & Controls
- When should you use the Customizer?
- Contextual Controls
- postMessage Setting Transport
- Custom Controls, in PHP and JS
- Panels – Customizer Contexts
- Custom Setting Types
- Custom Panels, Settings, Sections: sub-classing
- The Future

# Panels, Sections, Settings, Controls

The diagram illustrates the relationship between Panels, Sections, Settings, and Controls in a WordPress theme customizer. It shows two side-by-side screenshots of the customizer interface.

**Panel:** The left screenshot shows a list of panels. The "Menus" panel is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this panel to the right screenshot.

**Section:** The right screenshot shows the "Menus" panel expanded, displaying a list of menu sections. The "Testing Menu" section is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this section to the left screenshot.

**Setting:** The left screenshot shows the "Footer" section expanded, displaying settings for the footer. The "Proudly Powered By WordPress" setting is highlighted with a blue box. A blue double-headed arrow points from this setting to the right screenshot.

**Control:** The right screenshot shows the "Testing Menu" section expanded, displaying a list of menu items. The "New Menu" control is highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this control to the left screenshot.

The overall flow is: Panel (Menus) → Section (Testing Menu) → Setting (Proudly Powered By WordPress) → Control (New Menu).

```
add_action('customize_register', 'my_customize_register');
function my_customize_register( $wp_customize ) {
    $wp_customize->add_section();
    $wp_customize->get_section();

    $wp_customize->add_setting();
    $wp_customize->get_setting();

    $wp_customize->add_control();
    $wp_customize->get_control();
}
```

# Customizer Sections

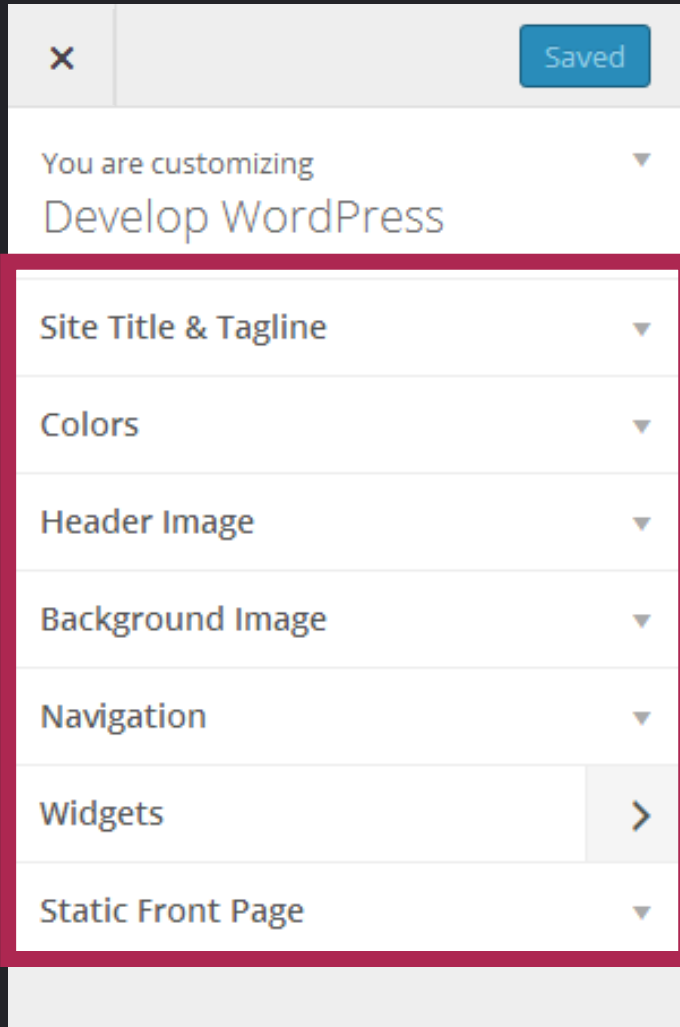


```
$wp_customize->add_section( 'custom_css', array(
    'title'           => __( 'Custom CSS' ),
    'description'     => __( 'Add custom CSS here' ),
    'panel'           => '', // Not typically needed.
    'priority'        => 160,
    'capability'       => 'edit_theme_options',
    'theme_supports' => '', // Rarely needed.
) );
```

# Customize Meta Capability

```
function allow_users_who_can_edit_posts_to_customize( $caps, $cap, $user_id ) {  
    $required_cap = 'edit_posts';  
    if ( 'customize' === $cap && user_can( $user_id, $required_cap ) ) {  
        $caps = array( $required_cap );  
    }  
    return $caps;  
}  
  
add_filter( 'map_meta_cap', 'allow_users_who_can_edit_posts_to_customize', 10, 3 );
```

# Core Section Priorities



Section	id	Priority
Site Title & Tagline	title_tagline	20
Colors	colors	40
Header Image	header_image	60
Background Image	background_image	80
Navigation*	nav	100
Widgets (Panel)	widgets	110
Static Front Page	static_front_page	120

\* Navigation section will move to Menus panel in the Menu Customizer project, priority 30.

# Example: Footer Section for a Theme's Options

```
// Add a footer/copyright information section.  
$wp_customize->add_section( 'footer' , array(  
    'title'      => __( 'Footer', 'themenname' ),  
    'priority'  => 90, // Before Navigation.  
) );
```

No need for a description,  
so don't add one!

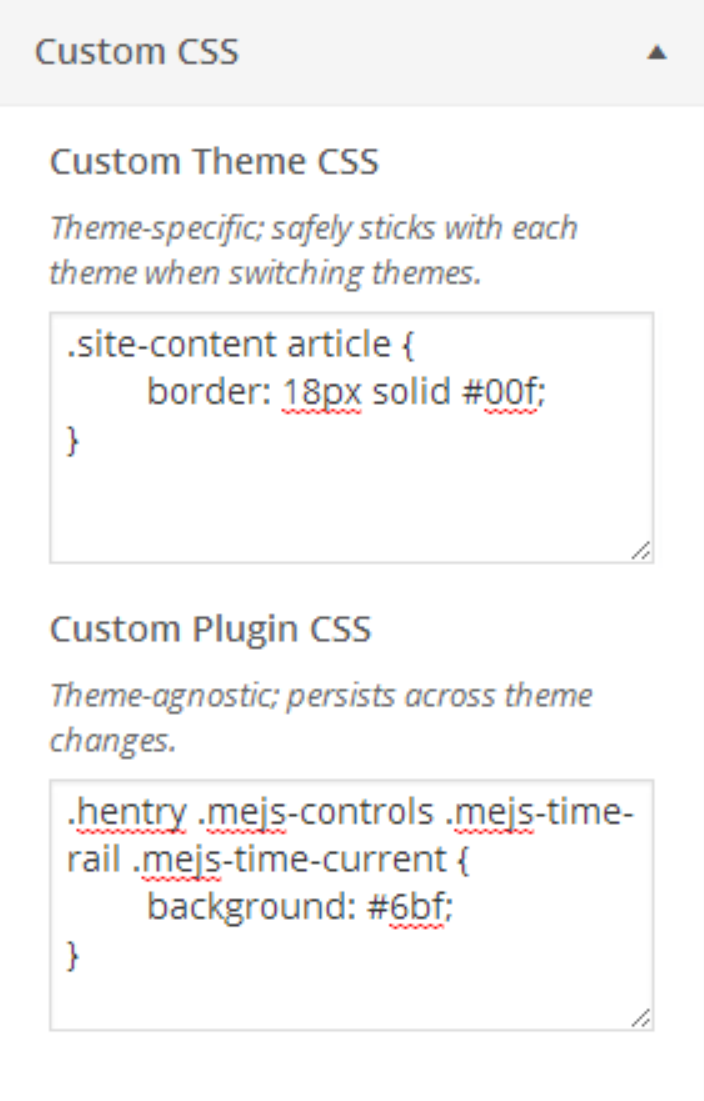
# Customizer Settings

```
$wp_customize->add_setting( 'setting_id', array(
    'type' => 'theme_mod', // or 'option'
    'capability' => 'edit_theme_options',
    'theme_supports' => '', // Rarely needed.
    'default' => '',
    'transport' => 'refresh', // or postMessage
    'sanitize_callback' => '',
    'sanitize_js_callback' => '', // Basically to json.
) );
```

# Theme\_mods vs. Options

```
$wp_customize->add_setting(  
    'custom_theme_css' , array(  
        'type'          => 'theme_mod',  
    ) );
```

```
$wp_customize->add_setting(  
    'custom_plugin_css' , array(  
        'type'          => 'option',  
    ) );
```



The screenshot shows the 'Custom CSS' section of the WordPress Customizer. It is divided into two main areas: 'Custom Theme CSS' and 'Custom Plugin CSS'. The 'Custom Theme CSS' section is described as 'Theme-specific; safely sticks with each theme when switching themes.' and contains a CSS rule for `.site-content article` with a border of `18px solid #00f`. The 'Custom Plugin CSS' section is described as 'Theme-agnostic; persists across theme changes.' and contains a CSS rule for `.hentry .mejs-controls .mejs-time-rail .mejs-time-current` with a background of `#6bf`.

Custom CSS ▲

Custom Theme CSS

*Theme-specific; safely sticks with each theme when switching themes.*

```
.site-content article {  
    border: 18px solid #00f;  
}
```

Custom Plugin CSS

*Theme-agnostic; persists across theme changes.*

```
.hentry .mejs-controls .mejs-time-rail .mejs-time-current {  
    background: #6bf;  
}
```

\* This is not pseudo-code, this is it. Copied and pasted from the Modular Custom CSS Plugin.

# Typical Theme Usage

```
$wp_customize->add_setting( 'accent_color', array(  
    'default'           => '#f72525',  
    'sanitize_callback' => 'sanitize_hex_color',  
) );
```



# Typical Plugin Usage

```
$wp_customize->add_setting( 'quickshare_options[color]', array(  
    'type'           => 'option',  
    'capability'     => 'manage_options',  
    'default'        => '#ff2525',  
    'sanitize_callback' => 'sanitize_hex_color',  
) );
```

# Output

```
function cxnh_custom_css_output() {  
    echo '<style type="text/css" id="custom-theme-css">' .  
        get_theme_mod( 'custom_theme_css', '' ) . '</style>';  
    echo '<style type="text/css" id="custom-plugin-css">' .  
        get_option( 'custom_plugin_css', '' ) . '</style>';  
}  
add_action( 'wp_head', 'cxnh_custom_css_output');
```

# Customizer Controls

```
$wp_customize->add_control( 'setting_id', array(
    'type'           => 'date', *
    'priority'       => 10, // Within the section.
    'section'        => 'colors', // Required, core or custom.
    'label'          => __( 'Date' ),
    'description'    => __( 'This is a date control.' ), *
    'input_attrs'    => array(
        'class'       => 'my-custom-class-for-js',
        'style'       => 'border: 1px solid #900',
        'placeholder' => __( 'mm/dd/yyyy' ),
    ),
    'active_callback' => 'is_front_page', *
) );
```

\* New & Improved in WordPress 4.0.

# Core Control Types

- checkbox
- textarea
- radio \*
- select \*
- dropdown-pages

\* Pass an array of options to  
`add_control(), $args['choices']`

# Additional Types

Think:

```
<input type="$type">
```

- text
- hidden
- number
- range
- url
- tel
- email
- search
- time
- date
- datetime
- week

# Example: Custom CSS textarea

```
$wp_customize->add_control( 'custom_theme_css', array(  
    'label'    => __( 'Custom Theme CSS' ),  
    'type'    => 'textarea',  
    'section' => 'custom_css',  
) );
```

# Example: Range (Slider) Control

```
$wp_customize->add_control( 'setting_id', array(
    'type'           => 'range',
    'section'        => 'title_tagline',
    'label'          => __( 'Range' ),
    'description'    => __( 'This is the range control description.' ),
    'input_attrs'    => array(
        'min'         => 0,
        'max'         => 10,
        'step'        => 2,
    ),
) );
```

```
<input type="range" min="0" max="10" step="2" >
```

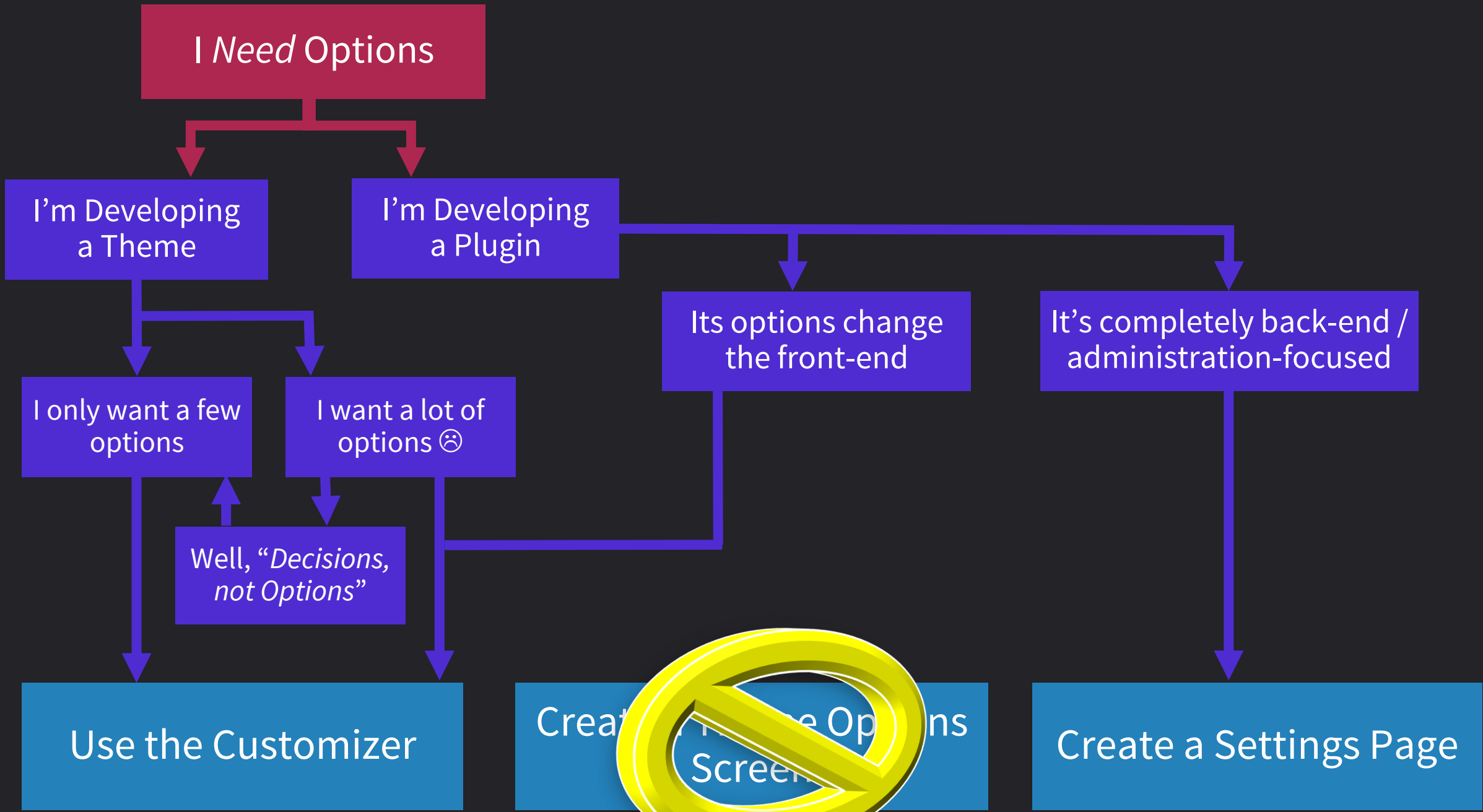
Range

*This is the range control description.*



When should you use the  
Customizer?





I Need Options

I'm Developing a Theme

I'm Developing a Plugin

Its options change the front-end

It's completely back-end / administration-focused

I only want a few options

I want a lot of options 😞

Well, "Decisions, not Options"

Use the Customizer

~~Create an Options Screen~~

Create a Settings Page

# Contextual Controls

Only show controls that are relevant to the current preview context.

Let's say your theme only displays the header image and the site tagline on the front page.



Customize Lucidus — Wo x

localhost/develop/src/wp-admin/customize.php?theme=lucidus

Site Title & Tagline

Tagline

Just another WordPress site

Site Title

Develop WordPress

Browser Icon

Browser icons (favicons) must be either 16 or 32px square, in either .ico, .png, or .gif format. Other file formats and sizes will be converted automatically.

Lucidus

Collapse

Develop WordPress

Just another WordPress site

Home Blog About The Tests Clearing Floats

# Adding a Contextual Core Control

```
$wp_customize->add_control( 'front_page_greeting', array(  
    'label'           => __( 'Home Page Greeting' ),  
    'type'           => 'textarea',  
    'section'        => 'title_tagline',  
    'active_callback' => 'is_front_page',  
) );
```

# Adding a Contextual Custom Control

```
class Customize_Greeting_Control extends WP_Customize_Control {  
    // ...  
  
    function active_callback() {  
        return is_front_page();  
    }  
}
```

Using `postMessage` for truly  
live-previewing settings



Customize Twenty Twelve x

localhost/develop/src/wp-admin/customize.php?theme=twentytwelve

Save & Publish

Custom CSS

Custom Theme CSS

*Theme-specific; safely sticks with each theme when switching themes.*

```
.site-content article {
  border: |
```

Custom Plugin CSS

*Theme-agnostic; persists across theme changes.*

```
.hentry .mejs-controls .mejs-
time-rail .mejs-time-current {
  background: #6bf;
}
```

Collapse

### Audio

[Leave a reply](#)

Embedded audio player:

Embedded playlist:

	"Etude #1"	
	<i>Etudes for Cello Choir</i>	
	NICK HALSEY	

1. "Etude #1" — NICK HALSEY	0:48
2. "Etude #2" — NICK HALSEY	0:35
3. "Etude #3" — NICK HALSEY	0:53

This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) on [July 28, 2014](#) by [Nick Halsey](#). [Edit](#)

Manage Themes < Dev x

localhost/develop/src/wp-admin/customize.php?theme=twentytwelve

Save & Publish

Custom CSS

Custom Theme CSS

*Theme-specific; safely sticks with each theme when switching themes.*

```
.site-content article {
  border: |
```

Custom Plugin CSS

*Theme-agnostic; persists across theme changes.*

```
.hentry .mejs-controls .mejs-
time-rail .mejs-time-current {
  background: #6bf;
}
```

Collapse

### Audio

[Leave a reply](#)

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	NICK HALSEY	

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This entry was posted in [Uncategorized](#) on [July 28, 2014](#) by [Nick Halsey](#). [Edit](#)

'transport' => 'refresh'

'transport' => 'postMessage'

```
function my_preview_js() {  
    wp_enqueue_script( 'custom_css_preview',  
                        'path/to/file.js',  
                        array( 'customize-preview' ),  
                        );  
}  
add_action( 'customize_preview_init', 'my_preview_js' );
```

```
( function( $ ) {  
    wp.customize( 'custom_theme_css', function( value ) {  
        value.bind( function( to ) {  
            $( '#custom-theme-css' ).html( to );  
        } );  
    } );  
    wp.customize( 'custom_plugin_css', function( value ) {  
        value.bind( function( to ) {  
            $( '#custom-plugin-css' ).html( to );  
        } );  
    } );  
} )( jQuery );
```

# Custom Controls

In 4.0, odds are you don't need most that you've created before.

```
class WP_New_Menu_Customize_Control extends WP_Customize_Control {
    public $type = 'new_menu';

    /**
     * Render the control's content.
     */
    public function render_content() {
        ?>
        <span class="button button-primary" id="create-new-menu-
submit" tabindex="0"><?php _e( 'Create Menu' ); ?></span>
        <?php
    }
}
```

See [wp-includes/class-wp-customize-control.php](#) for more info

```
(function( wp, $ ){
    var api = wp.customize;
    api.Menus.NewMenuControl = api.Control.extend({
        ready: function() {
            // Do stuff.
        },
        toggle: function ( active ) { // Used when the active_callback state changes.
            if ( active ) {
                this.container.fadeIn(); // Default is slide, fade instead.
            } else {
                this.container.fadeOut();
            }
        },
    });
    $.extend( api.controlConstructor, {
        new_menu: api.Menus.NewMenuControl Custom_Customize_Control::$type
    });
})( window.wp, jQuery );
```

See [wp-admin/js/customize-controls.js](#) for more info

# Core Custom Controls

Core comes with a few ready-to-use custom controls.

- WP\_Customize\_Color\_Control
- WP\_Customize\_Upload\_Control
  - *Needs to be re-done in core.*
- WP\_Customize\_Image\_Control
  - *Needs to be re-done in core.*

```
$wp_customize->add_control(  
    new WP_Customize_Color_Control(  
        $wp_customize, // WP_Customize_Manager  
        'accent_color', // Setting id  
        array( // Args, including any custom ones.  
            'label'     => __( 'Accent Color' ),  
            'section'   => 'colors',  
        )  
    )  
);
```



# Customizer Panels

Creating distinct control contexts

Save & Publish

Develop WordPress

You are customizing  
Develop WordPress

Site Title & Tagline

Menus

Colors

Header Image

Figure/Ground

Footer

Widgets

Static Front Page

Custom CSS

Settings

Collapse



07 27 14



# Unattached Image in Contents, No Featured Image



```
$description = __( '<p>This screen is used for managing your custom navigation menus. You can add pages, posts, categories, tags, and custom links to your menus.</p><p>Menus can be displayed in locations defined by your theme, and also used in sidebars by adding a "Custom Menu" widget on the Widgets screen.</p>' );
```

```
$wp_customize->add_panel( 'menus', array(
    'title'      => __( 'Menus' ),
    'description' => $description,
    'priority'   => 160, // Mixed with top-level-section hierarchy.
) );
```

```
$wp_customize->add_section( $section_id , array(
    'title' => $menu->name,
    'panel' => 'menus',
) );
```

# Custom Settings

```
$wp_customize->add_setting( $nav_menu_setting_id, array(  
    'type'    => 'nav_menu',  
    'default' => $item_ids,  
) );
```

Now the setting is not saved or previewed as an option or a theme mod.

# Custom Setting Types

No saving/previewing by default.

Actions (setting instance is passed to each):

`customize_update_$setting->type`

`customize_preview_$setting->id*`

`customize_preview_$setting->type*`

See `wp-includes/class-wp-customize-setting.php` for more info

```
function menu_customizer_update_nav_menu( $value, $setting ) {
    $menu_id = str_replace( 'nav_menu_', '', $setting->id );
    // ...
    foreach( $value as $item_id ) { // $value is ordered array of item ids.
        menu_customizer_update_menu_item_order( $menu_id, $item_id, $i );
        $i++;
    }
}

add_action( 'customize_update_nav_menu', 'menu_customizer_update_nav_menu', 10, 2 );
```

```
function menu_customizer_preview_nav_menu( $setting ) {
    $menu_id = str_replace( 'nav_menu_', '', $setting->id );
    add_filter( 'wp_get_nav_menu_items', function( $items, $menu, $args ) use ( $menu_id, $setting ) {
        $preview_menu_id = $menu->term_id;
        if ( $menu_id == $preview_menu_id ) {
            $new_ids = $setting->post_value();
            foreach ( $new_ids as $item_id ) {
                $item = wp_setup_nav_menu_item( $item );
                $item->menu_order = $i;
                $new_items[] = $item;
                $i++;
            }
            return $new_items;
        } else {
            return $items;
        }
    }, 10, 3 );
}

add_action( 'customize_preview_nav_menu', 'menu_customizer_preview_nav_menu', 10, 2 );
```



# Custom Panels, Sections, & Settings

Just like custom controls

Use sub-classes

Pass the object to  
`$wp_customize->add_`

```
// Display all metaboxes from an admin screen in a panel.
class WP_Customize_Screen_Panel extends WP_Customize_Panel {
    // WordPress screen identifier.
    public $screen = '';

    // Override the panel contents (control sections) with metaboxes.
    function render_content() {
        // Equivalent to do_meta_boxes(), rendered in an accordion.
        do_accordion_sections( $this->screen, 'normal', $post );
    }
}
```

\* For panels in 4.0, override render() with the container and contents.

```
$wp_customize->add_panel(  
    new WP_Customize_Screen_Panel(  
        $wp_customize, 'post', array(  
            'title' => __( 'Post: [Post Title]' ),  
            'priority' => 10,  
            'screen' => 'post',  
        )  
    )  
);
```

# The Future of the Customizer

# Menu Customizer

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/menu-customizer>

# Theme Customizer

<http://celloexpressions.com/blog/proposed-wordpress-customizer-theme-switching-ux/>

# Post Customizer

## Front-end-editor Integration

<https://github.com/x-team/wp-customize-posts>

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-front-end-editor/>



UI Improvements & Customizing  
with a front-end context

Performance & Mobile

Media

Better JS API

Partial Preview Refreshes

# Customizer Roadmap

Coming soon to make/core

# Contributors Needed!

WCLA Contribution Day Tomorrow

Weekly office hours in #wordpress-dev on IRC

Fridays at Noon PDT