

Roots: The starter theme that will make you a better developer

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Hello, I'm Julien.

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Things I like to use...

- Sublime Text Editor
- Git (SourceTree GUI) for version control
- Roots Theme Framework
- Twitter Bootstrap + LESS
- Vagrant (local development), [VVV](#), [VVV-site-wizard](#)
- WordPress managed hosting (WP Engine + Pressable)

What is Roots?

Hit the ground running. Delete key friendly.

When use Roots?

- Brand new *custom* theme
- Quick, responsive site or application
- Want to sharpen your skills, with real-world example (not just starting from scratch)

Who should use Roots?

- Theme developers who want a reliable toolkit they don't want to maintain
- People getting into more advanced theme development
- People who need a working but delete-key friendly starter theme
- <http://roots.io/roots-should-not-be-your-first-wordpress-theme/>

Disclaimers/Downsides

- Not good in a parent/child theme situation
- Slight learning curve
- Potential theme-wrapper conflicts with other plugins/frameworks
- Opinionated
- Development moves fast/can be difficult to update

Prerequisites

- Node/NPM Installed: <http://nodejs.org/>
- Grunt CLI Installed: <http://gruntjs.com/getting-started>
- Bower: <http://bower.io/>

Installing Roots

- Documentation: <http://roots.io/roots-101/>
- Set WP_ENV
- Download zip/git clone repo (also can use bedrock/composer)
- Add theme into Git repository
- Customize `style.css` and `screenshot.png`
- Install/Add Soil Plugin
- Notice file structure - partials are encouraged!

The Wrapper

- Reduces extra calls for `get_header()`, `get_footer()`, `get_sidebar()`, keeps things DRY
- Follows/extends template hierarchy
- Easy to customize single page template designs
- Read more: <http://roots.io/an-introduction-to-the-roots-theme-wrapper/>

Example

Create `template-home.php`, and `base-template-home.php`, add `hero.php` in templates, and remove content from container

The /lib/ folder

- `config.php`: Configure Sidebars / Google Analytics
- `nav.php`: rewrites WordPress default Walker Class to work with Bootstrap-specific navbar markup
- `scripts.php`: calls the correct assets for the page
- `titles.php`: powers the logic behind the `roots_title()`; function

Assets: Grunt.js

- Grunt: js console tool to take care of those tasks that we need to do every time we hit “save”
- Grunt is used for minifying code, live reload, and other common tasks. “Grunt work”
- Commands:
 - `grunt dev`: compiles un-minified, development CSS and JS
 - `grunt watch`: watches for code changes, performs grunt dev
 - `grunt build`: compiles minified assets (and manifest.json)

Assets: Bower

- Bower: package manager for front-end tools
- Bower is used for pulling in/downloading required assets like jQuery, Bootstrap, and others you can add yourself
- I recommending adding dependencies to the `bower.json` file, but you can also use bower commands

Assets: Editing CSS

- All files funnel into `main.less`
- `_variables.less` overrides Bootstrap variables, but it also good for you to add your own variables
- `/components` folder is for re-usable elements in your site
- `/layouts` folder is for common layout elements, and `/pages` folder is for page-specific styles

Example

Go into `_home.less` and add page-specific styles, add `_hero.less` file in `/components` and add styling for that

Assets: Editing JS

- `_main.js` file uses DOM-based routing based on a post from Paul Irish's blog - has you use the `body` class to target code that will fire on that specific page
- If body class contains '-', replace it with '_' (for example `.about-us` would become `about_us`)
- If you don't want to use Bower, you can add any additional JS into the `/plugins` folder and it will be compiled

Deployment Methods

- Bedrock
- Git deploy service (like Beanstalk or FTPloy)
- Grunt build and good ol' FTP

Learning More/Getting Help

- Site/Blog: <http://roots.io> (has some learning resources)
- Dedicated forum: <http://discourse.roots.io>
- Ping me!
- Contributions are always welcome on github, we're always making improvements and everyone's opinion counts

Roots Forks

- Roots SASS: <https://github.com/roots/roots-sass>
- Roots Gulp.js Branch: <https://github.com/roots/roots/tree/gulp>
- Shoestrap: <http://press.codes/>
- Gromf: <https://github.com/schikulski/gromf>
(Roots w/ Foundation and Gulp)

Thanks!

Any questions?