

Element Browser themes quick start



Element Browser™
Your Internet. Evolved.®

Creating themes for Element Browser

- A quick and short guide for developers –

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Introduction

Creating themes for Element Browser is relatively simple. There is no special coding to be done, except for your artistic skills and Photoshop skills, of course. Element Browser themes are composed of bitmaps and Portable Network Graphics (PNGS) which are used from within the Element Browser interface. Simply replacing these bitmaps with ones of your own will achieve a custom look in Element Browser.

Files explained

There are a total of 44 files in each Element Browser theme. All 44 files are required for a theme to display and operate properly in Element Browser, and most importantly, to look good!

This is the complete list of all files used in an Element Browser theme :

ActivityIndicator.gif- This is an animated gif file which is displayed when Element Browser is loading a webpage. By default, it is a glowing orb, but if you have good skills with packages such as Animation Shop, the sky is the limit for unleashing your creativity for Element Browser themes.

AddressBarFocused.png- This PNG shows the background of the address bar when it is focused.

AddressBarUnfocused.png- This PNG shows the background of the address bar when it unfocused.

BackDown.png – The back button pressed.

BackHover.png – The back button focused.

BackNormal.png – The back button in its normal state.

Bookmark.png – bookmark this page icon

Bookmark_high.png – bookmark this page icon focused

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BookmarkDown.png- The bookmarks pane button pressed.

BookmarkHover.png – The bookmarks pane button focused.

BookmarkNormal.png- The bookmarks pane normal state.

BookmarksGrad.png – The gradient used on the background of the bookmarks pane.

BookmarksGradWithDock.png – The gradient used on the background of the bookmarks pane when the web apps dock is open. This png is also used on other elements which hover above the dock, including the main menu.

ExposePreviewBG- Background of the tab expose feature.

ExposePreviewBGHover.PNG - Background used when a tab is hovered on.

ForwardDown.png- The forward button pressed.

ForwardHover.png – The forward button hovered on.

ForwardNormal.png- the Forward button in its normal state.

GoButtonDown.png- the go button pressed.

GoButtonNormal.png- the go button in its normal state.

GoButtonHover.png- The go button hovered.

Home.png – The home button in its normal state.

Home_over.png – The home button in its hovered state.

Home_clicked is not implemented since the ElementKit GoHome request does not support the onclick method. Sorry.

HoverTab.png – used when a tab in the shelves pane is hovered on.

MainPanel.bmp- bitmap image used for the background in ALL dialogs in Element Browser and on the main toolbar. The default image is copyright, so DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE IT.

Newshelfstyle.bmp- shelf background image.

NewTabAnimation.gif- Animation used when a new tab is created.

PanelGradient.png- background gradient used on panels.

Pearl.png – PNG used for the Element Browser pearl. Again, the default image is copyright, so do not attempt to use it.

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ThemePreview.png- The preview image of your theme.

There are also images used in Element Browser that can not be changed for copyright reasons. E.g About box, icons etc.

Markup

The Element Browser theme algorithm does not require any markup to display your images. However, it is not possible to add additional images / or rename images in your theme. They must be the exactly the same names in order to display. If there are images missing in your theme, Element Browser will **crash**.

There are 5 very important txt files that must be edited according to your theme. They are;

menu_gradient1.txt- The first gradient used in the Element Browser menu. The default is White. NOTE: YOU MUST USE COLORS AVAILIABLE WITHIN System.Windows.Color class. For more information, visit MSDN regarding System.Windows.Colors. **Not doing so will crash the browser.**

menu_gradient2.txt- The second gradient used in the Element Browser menu. The default is AliceBlue. NOTE: YOU MUST USE COLORS AVAILIABLE WITHIN System.Windows.Color class. For more information, visit MSDN regarding System.Windows.Colors. **Not doing so will crash the browser.**

panes_color.txt- The second gradient used in the Element Browser menu. The default is LightBlue. NOTE: YOU MUST USE COLORS AVAILIABLE WITHIN System.Windows.Color class. For more information, visit MSDN regarding System.Windows.Colors. **Not doing so will crash the browser.**

Theme_author.txt- Enter the name of the author in this text file.

Theme_name.txt- The name of your theme. DO NOT make this name too complicated, since users are required to enter the name of your theme upon installation. Names such as My\$Cool@theme are not recommended.

Guidelines

Element Software only allows themes to be displayed on the Gallery Store if they meet the following guidelines.

Orb- The orb images must stay orb shaped, and within the original default image guidelines and dimensions.

MainPanel – We do not accept images on an unwanted nature. Please do not attempt to use unwanted natured images in your theme.

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There must be a certain amount of professionalism with your theme. Please do not send us Paint produced themes, they are not desirable. ☺

Packaging

Element Browser themes are packaged and distributed as Compressed Zip files. Your Zip file must contain your zipped theme directory as a folder in your zip folder. Simply creating a zip file with just your images will not install properly. They must be contained in a folder with the same name as your theme, stated in theme_name.txt.

To produce your zip file, we recommend software such as WinRAR, WinZip and 7-Zip.

A COMMENT IS REQUIRED FOR THEMES THAT YOU WISH DISTRUBUTED ON THE ELEMENT BROWSER GALLERY STORE.

Comment should be produced like this:

```
Element Browser THEMENAME theme
Author name
Disclaimer
How to install
=====
Open Element Browser 3.1.
Click the Orb.
Click on your account picture.
Select themes.
Click choose theme
Type the name of this theme. (THEMENAME)
Select this zip file.
The theme is now installed.
```

Requirements

Element Browser **3.1** or higher is required for custom themes to display. Element Browser 3.0 does not support unofficial themes.

Getting your theme on the gallery

Element Software must approve all themes before they are added to the gallery. Exceptional themes will be displayed on the gallery main page!

When you have your Zip (and zip only, other formats are not supported), send it to patternjake@hotmail.com and you will receive an e-mail when your theme has been approved.