Theme Developer Quick Reference Guide

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As themes grow more powerful, there's more to remember about how they work. We have loads of detailed documentation under #theme-guides, but if you just need something to jog your memory, this guide may help.

General Resources

:scroll: Beginner's guide :scroll: Designer's guide :scroll: Developer's guide :paintbrush: Theme Creator :desktop_computer: Theme CLI :notebook_with_decorative_cover: Theme Directory :jigsaw: Component Directory :wrench: Theme Modifiers :wrench: Themeable site settings

File/Folder Structure read more

```
about.json
settings.yml
common/, desktop/, mobile/
  {common|desktop|mobile}.scss
  head_tag.html
```

```
  header.html
  after_header.html
  body_tag.html
  footer.html
  embedded.scss (common only)
locales/
  en.yml
  ...
assets/
  (arbitrarily named files, referenced in about.json)
stylesheets/
  (arbitrarily named files, can be imported from each other, and common/desktop/mobile.scss)
javascripts/
  (arbitrarily named files. Supports .js, .gjs and .hbs)
```

about.json structure info, available metadata

```
{
  "name": "My Theme",
  "component": false,
  "license_url": null,
  "about_url": null,
  "authors": null,
  "theme_version": null,
  "minimum_discourse_version": null,
  "maximum_discourse_version": null,
  "assets": {
    "variable-name": "assets/my-asset.jpg"
  },
  "color_schemes": {
    "My Color Scheme": {
      "primary": "222222"
    }
  }
}
```

SCSS

:link: Available CSS Variables

Javascript read more

```
// {theme}/javascripts/api-initializers/init-theme.gjs
import { apiInitializer } from "discourse/lib/api";

export default apiInitializer((api) => {
  // Your code here
});
```

:link: JS Plugin API

:link: Multi-file Javascript

Settings read more

`settings.yml`:

```
fruit:
  default: apples|oranges
  type: list
  description: # Old method. It's better to define these in the locale files (see below)
    en: English Description
    fr: Description Française
```

Access from JavaScript:

```
console.log(settings.fruit);
```

Access from gjs templates:

```
<template>{{settings.fruit}}</template>
```

Access from scss:

```
html {
  font-size: #{$global-font-size}px;
  background: $site-background;
```

```
}
```

Themeable site settings [read more]

`about.json`:

```
"theme_site_settings": {
  "enable_welcome_banner": false
}
```

Access from JavaScript:

```
@service siteSettings;

this.siteSettings.enable_welcome_banner;
```

Access from gjs templates:

```
<template>{{this.siteSettings.enable_welcome_banner}}</template>
```

Translations [read more]

`locales/en.yml`

```
en:
  my_translation_key: "I love themes"
  theme_metadata: # These are used in the admin panel. They are not made available to your
js/hbs files
    description: This theme lets you do amazing things on your Discourse
    settings:
      fruit: A description of the whitelisted_fruits setting
```

Access from JavaScript:

```
import { i18n } from "discourse-i18n";
i18n(themePrefix("my_translation_key"));
```

Access from gjs templates:

```
import { i18n } from "discourse-i18n";


<template>
  {{i18n (themePrefix "my_translation_key")}}
  <DButton @label={{theme-prefix "my_translation_key"}} />
</template>
```

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