

# Child Themes

Never modify a parent theme again

# Questions During Today's Session?

- ✓ Head to [chat.yourwebsiteengineer.com](https://chat.yourwebsiteengineer.com)
- ✓ Username: FirstLast
- ✓ Password: child

Example

U: DustinHartzler

P: child



# What are Child Themes?

- ✓ Child themes are the professional way to modify WordPress themes
- ✓ Matt Mullenweg (founded WordPress) said “child themes are the only way you should build your WordPress site on top of a [another theme]”



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# What are Child Themes?

- ✓ A child theme inherits all of the functions, CSS and design features from a parent theme
- ✓ This allows you to create the look you want, without modifying the default code
- ✓ For our example, we will be using WordPress' default theme twentyeleven as our example



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# Why Use Child Themes?

- ✓ Easy Updates
- ✓ You know what you've changed
- ✓ Easy to restore



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# Files

- ✓ fuctions.php - loads before the parent's functions.php
- ✓ Any other file type you create will over write the parent's default like single.php, page.php, index.php, etc.
- ✓ This is perfect for creating a custom template that's not included in a theme like 404.php or tag.php



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# Let's Create a Child Theme

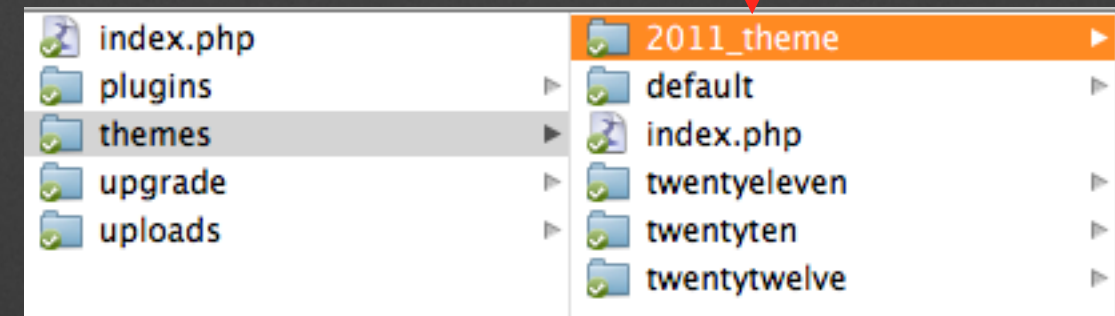


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# Create a New Folder

- ✓ Create a folder for your child theme
- ✓ You can name the directory anything you'd like

New Folder





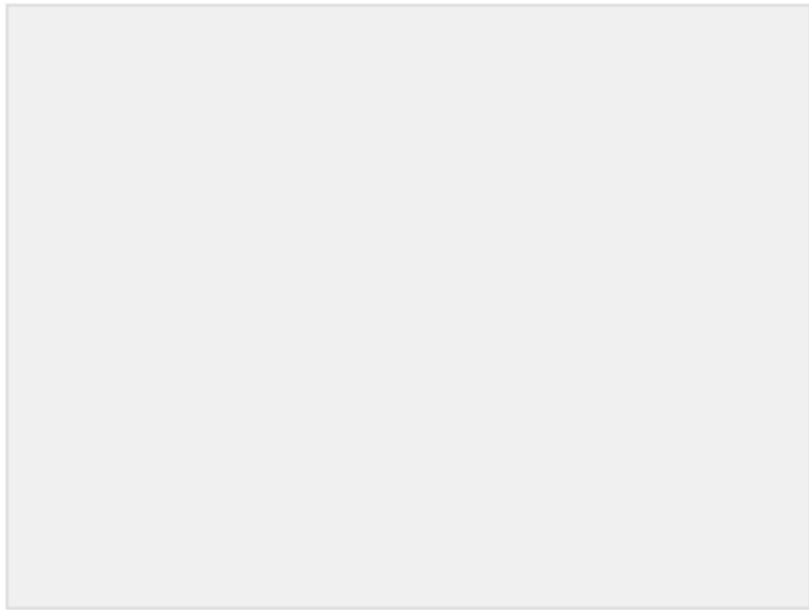
# Create style.css In Folder

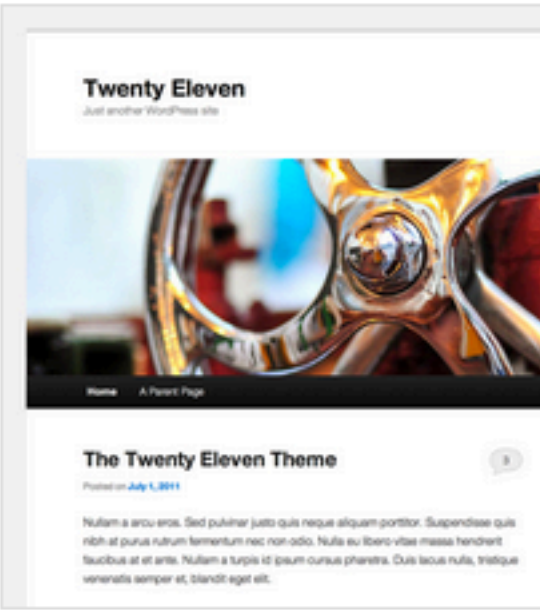
```
/*  
Theme Name: twentyeleven_child  
Theme URI: http://YourWebsiteEngineer.com  
Description: A custom child theme of twentyeleven to  
be used as an example  
Author: Dustin Hartzler  
Author URI: http://YourWebsiteEngineer.com  
Template: twentyeleven  
Version: 1.0  
  
.  
General comments/License Statement if any.  
  
.  
*/  
  
@import url(../twentyeleven/style.css);
```

# Activate Stylesheet

- ✓ Go to Dashboard > Appearance > Themes
- ✓ You will see your child theme is listed and activate

**Available Themes**





**Twenty Eleven**  
Just another WordPress site

**The Twenty Eleven Theme**  
Posted on July 1, 2011

Nulam a arcu eros. Sed pulvinar justo quis neque aliquam portitor. Suspendisse quis nibh et purus nunc fermentum nec non odio. Nunc eu libero vitae massa hendrerit faucibus at et ante. Nulam a turpis id ipsum cursus pharetra. Quis laore nulla, tristique venenatis semper et, blandit eget elit.

**2011\_child**  
By [Dustin Hartzler](#)

[Activate](#) | [Live Preview](#) | [Details](#) [Delete](#)

**Twenty Eleven**  
By [the WordPress team](#)

[Activate](#) | [Live Preview](#) | [Details](#)

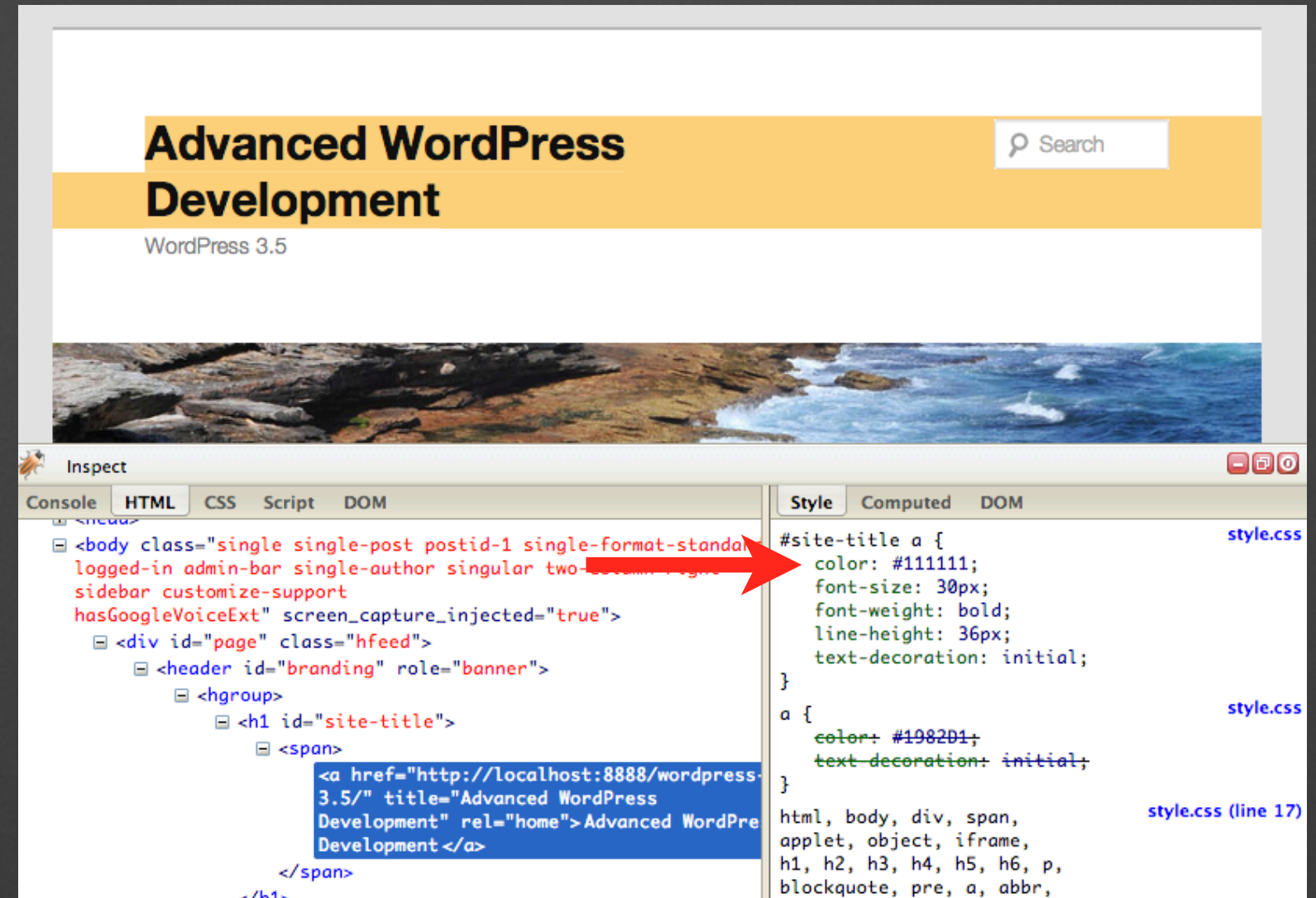
# View New Site

- ✓ Your site will look exactly the same, since we haven't modified any code yet



# Make a Change

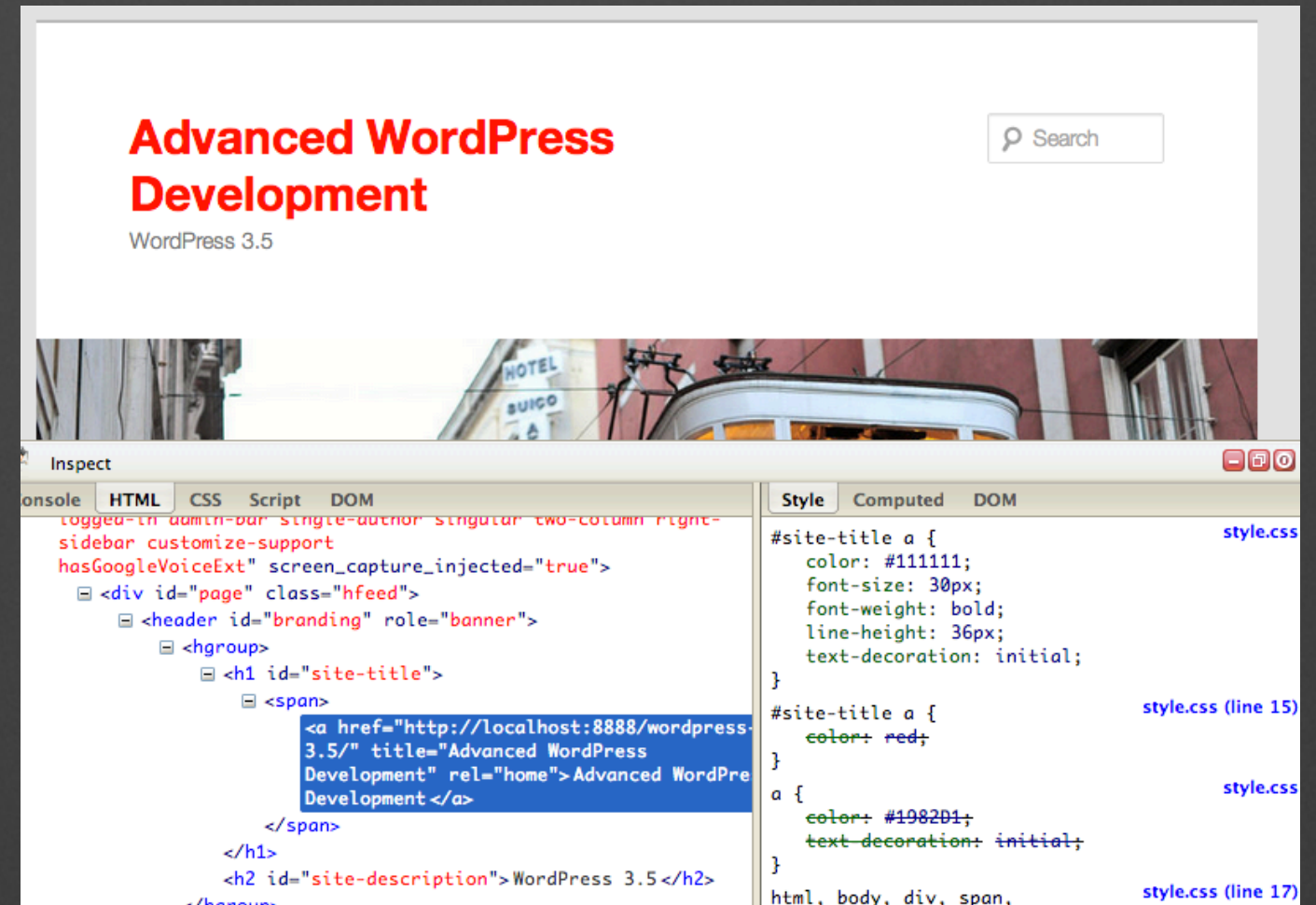
- ✓ I use a tool called Firebug to help me find code's current properties
- ✓ Extension for Firefox and Chrome



# Change Header to Red

```
/*
Theme Name: 2011_child
Theme URI: http://YourWebsiteEngineer.com
Description: A custom child theme of twentyeleven to be used as an example
Author: Dustin Hartzler
Author URI: http://YourWebsiteEngineer.com
Template: twentyeleven
Version: 1.0
.
General comments/License Statement if any.
.
*/
@import url(../twentyeleven/style.css);

#site-title a {
    color: red;
}
```



The screenshot shows a WordPress website header with the title "Advanced WordPress Development" in red. Below the title is the text "WordPress 3.5". A search bar is visible in the top right corner. The browser's developer tool is open, showing the HTML structure of the header. The `<a href="http://localhost:8888/wordpress-3.5/" title="Advanced WordPress Development" rel="home">Advanced WordPress Development</a>` element is selected, and the CSS rule `#site-title a { color: red; }` is highlighted in the style pane. The original color `#111111` is crossed out, and the new color `red` is added.

# Add screenshot.png



Current Theme  
**2011\_child**

By [Dustin Hartzler](#) | Version 1.0

A custom child theme of twentyeleven to be used as an example

*This [child theme](#) requires its parent theme, *Twenty Eleven*.*

[Customize](#)    OPTIONS: [Widgets](#) | [Menus](#) | [Theme Options](#) | [Header](#) | [Background](#)



Your **WEBSITE**  
Engineer<sup>co.</sup>

# Modify Theme Templates

- ✓ Find the template that you want to modify, like page.php or single.php
- ✓ Copy that page to child theme folder
- ✓ Modify away!

# Live Demo

