

Welcome to Cirrus Theme!

If you would like to get all the extended features of the full theme, as outlined in the chart below, sign up to be a [Nimbus Member](#)!

FEATURES	Free	Single Theme	Membership
Access to download ALL Nimbus WordPress Themes			✓
Unlimited support		✓	✓
Frontpage slideshow		✓	✓
Responsive Custom CSS		✓	✓
Image Logo & Favicon		✓	✓
Basic Social Media	✓	✓	✓
Hundreds of Shortcodes		✓	✓
Custom Widgets		✓	✓
Design customization	✓	✓	✓
Typography customization	✓	✓	✓
Comprehensive SEO options		✓	✓
Load demo content		✓	✓
Whitelist MIME Types		✓	✓
Additional Script Integration		✓	✓

Best Value!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Steps for Setting Up Your Nimbus Theme

View a [live demo](#) of how the site will look once you set it up.

- 1) **Sign up for web hosting** if your site is not already being hosted somewhere. We recommend [Bluehost](#)—it is inexpensive and has great 24/7 customer service. Read the Bluehost documentation more information on how to get started using Bluehost.
- 2) If it's not already installed, **install WordPress** through your server's control panel using a quick-install application like Simple Scripts, or by installing manually by following the directions provided at [http://codex.wordpress.org/Installing WordPress](http://codex.wordpress.org/Installing_WordPress).
- 3) Download your theme to a location on your desktop that you can easily find.
- 4) Log in to the **WordPress dashboard** on your website (www.yourwebsite.com/wp-admin).
- 5) Navigate to **Appearance >> Themes** in the left menu.
- 6) Deactivate any old versions or "Lite" versions of the theme you are going to install/update. This will move previous versions of the theme to the **Available Themes** section of the page, where you can choose to delete them to prevent confusion. (You need to delete the old version if you are updating.)
- 7) Select the **Install** tab at the top of the page.
- 8) Select **Upload** from the options at the top of the **Install** page.
- 9) Click **Choose File** and select the downloaded theme from your desktop.
- 10) Once the theme is installed, select the **Activate** option under the theme heading on the **Manage Themes** (aka **Appearance >> Themes**) page.

Ideally, you are accustomed to using FTP, which is the best way to install or update a WordPress theme. You will want to set up an FTP account with your host and load the new version directly on top of the old in the directory `wp-content/themes/`. It is a little more technical and takes some getting used to, but it's the easiest way to perform future updates to the theme when new releases become available.

Now you can get started customizing your theme!

Getting Started With Your Nimbus Theme

From your WordPress dashboard:

If you want to get a head start on your theme setup, click the blue **Theme Options** tab in the left menu and select **Theme Setup** from the tabs. Click **Load Demo Content** (*Available to Nimbus Members*), then click **Save**. This will create some sample pages, posts, and a menu for navigation.

Next, add the pages you want on your site (including any subpages). Go to **Pages >> Add New** and enter the title of your page in the *Enter title here* field. Hit the **Publish** button. **Select Pages >> Add New** and add the rest of your pages, making sure to **Publish** each one.

From the left menu, go to **Appearance >> Menus** to create your navigation menu. If you loaded the demo content, your primary menu will be created and will be called "Main Menu." Feel free to change the name. The primary menu will appear as the website's navigation menu on monitors, laptops, and tablets.

If you did not load the demo content, you will need to create the menu. In the **Menu Name**, call it whatever you want. Then add it to the **Primary Menu** in the **Theme Locations** window. If you'd like to use this same menu for mobile devices too, then click the Mobile Menu button. If you'd like to use an abbreviated or targeted menu when mobile devices access

If you are new to WordPress and would like to acclimate yourself to the content management system, check out <http://codex.wordpress.org/> for all WordPress-related questions and help. The general info and support forums are awesome.

your website, **create a new menu** and assign it to the **Mobile Menu** in the **Locations** tab.

Go back to **Appearance >> Menus** and select all the pages you want to appear in each navigation (including subpages) from the **Pages** box on the left. Click **Add to Menu**, then organize the menu according to the order you want the pages to appear by clicking and dragging on each object (top will be the left-most menu item, bottom will be the right). For subpages, click and drag to the right under the parent page and an indented box will appear, indicating placement for the subpage.

Make sure to click **Save** when finished.

Now that you have the bones of the site, it's time to get started putting in your content!

To preview how your site will look, select "Visit site" in a new tab from the top-most gray menu (it will be under your "My Site" tab). It's good to keep this window open in a new tab so you can switch back and forth to view your work.

Customizing Your Site with the Nimbus Control Panel

General Settings

1) Image Logo: *Available to Nimbus Members* If you have a logo, enter it here. The dimensions of the logo image you upload will be the dimension you see on your website, so make sure it's the size you want. Select **Browse** and go find the file on your computer. After it's uploaded, select **Insert into Post** and this will auto-populate the **Logo** field with the new URL of the uploaded logo file. Make sure to select **Save**.

To erase the logo, **clear the field** and **Save**.

2) Text Logo: If you don't have a logo, you can use our preset Google fonts to create a quick logo. Just type in the text you want for the logo in this space. You can style the text on the typography tab later on.

3) Favicon: *Available to Nimbus Members* A favicon is the icon that is displayed in the address bar of every browser. You can customize your favicon to match your site's branding by creating a favicon of your own—either in Photoshop or [GIMP](#) if you're familiar with the process, or by using one of the many favicon generators online. Once you have your **favicon.ico** file (it must be named that), select **Browse** and drop it in the upload box.

*Always make sure to **Save** changes when you're finished customizing your theme from the Nimbus Panel in the Theme Options tab, otherwise your changes will be lost. If you select **Reset**, **ALL** your changes in the entire Nimbus Panel will be reset to the original default settings.*

4) Default Gravatars: The default avatar is the image that appears in the comments section of the blog if a commentator doesn't have a personal avatar through Gravatar. The theme already has a default avatar but if you'd like to put one of your own in, this is where you do it. The avatar image can be any size as long as it's a square; it will be resized automatically to fit the 75x75px default commentator image. Once you've uploaded the avatar, select **Save** and then go to **Settings >> Discussion** and scroll down to **Avatars**, select the new default avatar and **Save Changes**.

5) Copyright Text: The copyright text will show up in the footer. Just put your site/company name and year in place of the default "Cirrus Theme" text.

Frontpage

Choose whether you'd like an image or a slideshow (*Available to Nimbus Members*) on the frontpage, and upload the banner image (1170x315px) on this tab if you choose a static image. If you would like to use the slideshow, upload Featured Images on the corresponding Pages/Posts you'd like to link to from the slideshow and choose the "Include in Slideshow" option from the top right box on the individual Post/Page.

Slideshow

Available to Nimbus Members

Control the slideshow settings on this tab.

Social Media

We've equipped all our themes with incredibly flexible social media capabilities: just enter in your information one time and it will be displayed in all relevant parts of your theme.

To enter your information, go to your social media profile page and copy the URL in the address bar. If there's a Public View option, make sure to copy the URL from the Public View. Then paste the URL in the corresponding social media field in the Nimbus Panel and click **Save**.

Contact Info

Simply enter in your contact info and it will be displayed in the contact info sidebar widget if you choose to use it.

Blog

1) Number of Posts on the Blog: You can change the default number of posts visible on the Blog, Archives, Tags, and other Blog-related pages. If you would like pagination instead of Older/Newer at the bottom of these pages, install the WP-PageNavi plugin (see the end of the document for references).

2) Display Meta Information on Posts: The information you select will be displayed on single post pages. If you are not going to use tags, deselect it. Same with categories, authors, etc.

3) Display Meta Information on Blog and Archive: The selected information goes on the **Blog** main page and **Archive** pages.

4) Display Author Bio: The author bio will be displayed at the bottom of the post. This information is coming from the **Profile** page located under **Users >> Your Profile**.

Design

You can change the color of every element of the layout on this panel. Click the **Color Picker Box** to the left of the **hexadecimal color code** (ex: #ffffff) and you can choose what color you want for that particular layout component of the site.

Note that you will most likely want to make font color changes in the **Typography** section if you change the background colors in the **Design** section of the control panel, especially if you create a dark background.

Typography

1) Body Settings: The **Body** font is the default font that will show up in most instances on your website. If you want your type to be legible, keep the majority of the default settings as they are. You can play around with the Font Face, Size, Line Height, and Color, but the others should probably stay as they are.

- **Font Face:** These are all the font options you have for the body text. We've included our favorite and the most popular Google Fonts as well. If you want to know what a font looks like, search for the font online. Note that the body text is the text that will be displayed in small, paragraph format, so you want to pick a very readable font (not a display font that should be used only as a **Header** font)
- **Font Size:** The typical size for a **Body** font ranges between 10 and 14 pixels depending on the font. Bottom line, it should be readable.
- **Line Height:** This is the space in between the lines. 1 em is equal to whatever the font size is that you've chosen. Generally, 1.4-1.6 is a good line height. If in doubt, keep the default and then play around with it to see the difference.
- **Font Style:** **Normal** would be good for a body font, but you can also choose bold, italic, or bold italic.
- **Font Case:** This allows you to choose to capitalize every letter, or make every letter lowercase. For a body font, this should remain in the **Normal** setting.
- **Font Color:** Use the **Color Picker Tool** to the left of the **hexadecimal color code** (ex: #535353) to choose a new body font color.

2) Link Color: This is the color all your links will be in.

3) Link Hover Color: This is the color your links will be when you hover over them.

4) Default Logo Typography: Allows you to change the typeface of your logo if you are using text instead of an image. Also allows you to change all other attributes we described in the **Body Settings** section above.

6) Navigation Font: Allows you to choose the font settings for the main and drop-down navigation.

7-8) Navigation Font at Varying Browser Sizes: Allows you to choose the font settings for the main and drop-down navigation at smaller browser sizes to optimize for those browsers.

6) Action Text Settings: This is the font preferences for the action text on the frontpage, located underneath the main banner area.

13-20) Header Settings: An H1 tag is a heading, which is simply a title. H1 is typically the largest heading, H2 the next largest, and so on. To test out what the default headings look like, go to our [Cirrus Preview](#) to see all our features in action.

29) Blockquote Settings: The blockquote is a way to highlight a piece of text so it's separated from the rest of the paragraphs. Go to our [Cirrus Preview](#) to see what the default blockquote looks like (there's also a more stylized blockquote)

SEO

Available to Nimbus Members

We've built in all the SEO features you'll need to get started—simply fill out the fields in the SEO panel to get started.

6) Turn on URL Canonicalization: The default is checkmarked and should stay active if you want URLs to be modified and standardized. Visit this [Google page](#) for further information.

Scripts and Tracking

Available to Nimbus Members

This is where you can add Javascript libraries and enter tracking scripts into various areas of your blog.

Custom CSS

Some Features Only Available to Nimbus Members

The Custom CSS tab is where you can put custom CSS code without having to get into the .php files, as theme updates will override any changes you make to the .php files. The **Responsive Custom CSS** is available to members only and allows you to specify custom CSS changes at each browser size so your site is optimized for all viewers.

Outside the Control Panel

How to Add Subpages/Dropdowns

Use the **Menus** editor (under **Appearance**) to add pages. Find the page you want to add in the **Pages** box on the left side of the page, select it and click **Add to Menu**. Then drag the page to the correct position within your existing menu and select **Save Menu**.

Widgets

The Cirrus Theme is widgetized, and in addition to the standard widgets that come packaged with your WordPress installation, we've added custom widgets for you to use on the site. To access the widgets, go to **Appearance >> Widgets**. There you will see all available widgets for use on your blog. Activate the widgets by clicking the **arrow down** on the sidebar or footer widget spot and drag the desired widget from the left into the blank space of the desired box on the right. Click the arrow down on the widget to make changes. Make sure to **Save** each widget after activating it and making changes. We've customized the default color/width/style of each widget to work with the Cirrus Theme so you don't have to worry about making detailed changes to the widgets.

For general information about widgets, see http://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress_Widgets.

Here's a summary of the widgets we've added:

- **About Me Widget:** *Available to Nimbus Members* This widget allows you to enter information about yourself or your business such as name, gravatar image, description of you or your business, educational history, interests, and custom information you'd like displayed. **Save changes** when done.
- **Box Widget:** *Available to Nimbus Members* This widget is a simple box and is the one featured on our demo front page in the newsletter spot (Frontpage Right Widget). You can choose to change the background color, border color, and then enter in whatever content you want in the **Box Content** space. **Save changes**.
- **Contact Info Widget:** *Available to Nimbus Members* The contact info widget can be used to display your contact info in the sidebar.
- **Popular Posts Widget:** *Available to Nimbus Members* You can change the title and number of posts on this widget if you'd like. **Save changes**.

Sidebars and Alternate Sidebars

To format the sidebar go to **Appearance >> Widgets**. The **Default Page Sidebar** is the default sidebar and will appear on each page unless you create **Alternative Sidebars** also. Drag and drop available widgets from the left over to the right in the **Default Page Sidebar** box.



If you would like to use several different sidebars on various pages of your website, drag and drop the relevant content into **Alternative Sidebar 1 (or 2-20)**. Make sure to **Save**. Then, remember what the **Alternative Sidebar number** is and go to the page where you want that sidebar to be used. In the top right, second blue box down from the top, you will see the **Nimbus Sidebar Options** box. Enter the number of the alternate sidebar you would like to apply to that page. Save changes by clicking **Update or Publish**.

Featured Image

A featured image is a special image attached to a post or page that is used to represent that particular page in other areas of the site, for example on the home page or at the top of a page. To insert a featured image into a post or page, go to that post/page, scroll down and on the right side you'll see a **Featured Image Box**. Click **Set Featured Image** and select the image you want to attach. The lightbox will show the image details once the image is uploaded; scroll down and select **Use as Featured Image** to the right of the **Insert into Post** button. You can then close out of the lightbox by clicking the **X** in the top right corner. Now you have an image attached to that page/post and it will be resized to fit all the various places it may be used on the site (blog thumbnails, single post images, slideshow, etc.) Just make sure the image size is at least 1170px wide if you're going to set it as a full-width image to maintain clarity.

If you would like the image to appear at the top of the page, click the **"Include Image at the Top of Page"** option, and if you would like it to appear in the slideshow, click **"Include in Slideshow"** (*Available to Nimbus Members*).

To change or remove the featured image, click **Remove featured image**.

Shortcodes

Available to Nimbus Members

View our complete list of our custom shortcodes at our [Cirrus preview site](#).

Find out the shortcodes WordPress ships with here: <http://en.support.wordpress.com/shortcodes/>

More Questions?

If you are new to Wordpress, a lot of your questions can be answered by visiting Wordpress.org and either reading through the relevant pages or searching the codex. If you have a theme-specific question that was not covered in this document, please consider becoming a member. By becoming a member of Nimbus Themes, you gain access to reliable, user-friendly support.

Recommended Plugins

Akismet protects your blog against awful spammy comments.

WP-PageNavi for pagination (Page 1 of 20, etc instead of Older/Newer)

Other Resources

[GIMP](#) is an open-source image editor akin to Photoshop.

[Inkscape](#) is an open-source vector program akin to Illustrator.

[Notepad++](#) is an awesome, free source code editor. It's always a good idea to work in the text editor and save a copy of the original code if you're making HTML changes to a page or template file so you don't lose your work.

[Bluehost](#) for cheap, great domain hosting.

MeasureIt is a great browser plugin on Chrome and Firefox. It allows you to measure anything on a website.

[ColorZilla](#) is another browser plugin for Chrome and Firefox. You can grab hexadecimal colors from anywhere on the web.

The Web Developer package is another amazing plugin, helps you pull up code, get image information, easily clear your cache, and a host of other great functions. Get it today and save yourself time and headaches!

*****If you would like to get all the **extended features** of the full theme, plus **ongoing support** and the option to download all our other themes, sign up to be a Nimbus Member at nimbusthemes.com!***



Access **HUNDREDS** of additional theme features, download **ALL** of our themes, and get **UNLIMITED SUPPORT** on the Nimbus forums.

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