

The Evolution of Open edX Theming



OpenCraft_

Matjaz Gregoric
matjaz@opencraft.com

What is theming?

What is theming?

Change the look and feel of your site.

Usually end-user facing parts (LMS).

Change colors, images, and text.

Modify the layout.

Why theme your site?

Branding

Use your own logo.

Use your own color palette.

Make it look similar to your corporate sites.

Differentiate from competition.

Legal

Add your own terms of service.

Add copyright notices.

Functional

Add custom links to header or footer.

Replace login button with 3rd party SSO.

Make site responsive.

The Evolution of Theming

Forking

Fork `edx/edx-platform` and make changes inline.

Forking

Allows you to change anything.

Horrible to maintain.

DON'T DO IT.

Stanford Theming

Developed by Stanford for their launch.

Override static content, templates, add static pages.

Includes sample theme.

<https://github.com/edx/edx-platform/pull/57>

<https://github.com/Stanford-Online/edx-theme>

Stanford Theming



ABOUT

REGISTER NOW

Log in

The Future of Online Education

for anyone, anywhere, anytime



Stanford Theming

Officially supported theming system.

Override any static file, any template.

SASS support built in.

Easy to make common customizations.

Stanford Theming

Cannot override arbitrary *.sass files.

No support for Studio.

Hackish implementation in some areas.

Single theme only.

Microsite Theming

Multitenancy with limited theming, developed by the Solutions team.

Custom additional CSS per microsite.

Ability to override specific images.

Ability to override any template.

Microsite Theming

Multitenancy: different (sub)domain – different look.

Can only override specific images.

No SASS support.

Comprehensive Theming

Comprehensive Theming

First released in dogwood, significant improvements in eucalyptus.

Similar to Stanford theming, but more consistent and cleaner internals.

Supports multitenancy.

Comprehensive Theming

Supports LMS, Studio and ecommerce.

Override any static file, any template.

Override any SASS file/partial!

Comprehensive Theming

<https://github.com/edx/sample-themes>

Sample themes for LMS and ecommerce.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
ad mea dictas audiam, nec id
graecis explicari hasnain

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ad mea dictas audiam

150x150

Participants

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ad mea dictas audiam, nec id graecis explicari.

150x150

Faculty

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ad mea dictas audiam, nec id graecis explicari.

150x150

Courses

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ad mea dictas audiam, nec id graecis explicari.

[More about this site](#)

Examples

Welcome to BIT's edX platform

Please select from our course offerings below.



THE
BEHAVIORAL
INSIGHTS TEAM

What Works Cities | Behavioral Insights

BIT
LCE
Low Cost Evaluation: A
How To Guide

Starts: Mar 1, 2017



Evidence for Policy Design Online Learning

uniting research and practice for smart policy



epodx
BCURE-CBA

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Starts: Private enrollment, self-paced



epodx
BCURE-DES

Descriptive Evidence

Starts: Private enrollment, self-paced



epodx
BCURE-IMP

Impact Evaluations

Starts: Private enrollment, self-paced



epodx
BCURE-SYS

Systematic Approaches to
Policy Decisions

Starts: Private enrollment, self-paced

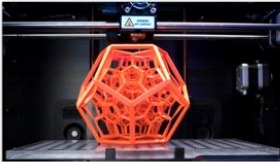
OPEN ONLINE COURSES

ENROLL TODAY



edX
DemoX
edX Demonstration Course

Starts: Feb 5, 2013



DukeExtend
3DP101
3D Printing at Duke

Starts: May 16, 2016



Innovation Co-Lab
996010
Introduction to Linux

Starts: Jan 1, 2017



DukeExtend
Patents101
An Introduction to Patents at Duke

Starts: Feb 1, 2017

A Gateway to MIT Knowledge & Expertise for Professionals Around the Globe



Explore our most popular courses



MIT xPRO
Models in Engineering

May 1, 2017 - May 29, 2017



MITProfessionalX
Data Science: Data to Insights

May 30, 2017 - Jul 11, 2017



MITProfessionalX
**Model-Based Systems
Engineering: Documentation
and Analysis**

Jun 5, 2017 - Jul 2, 2017





MOOC Réseaux Sociaux

Starts: May 15, 2017



Ecrire pour le Web

Starts: Nov 9, 2015



Ecrire pour le Web

Starts: Nov 9, 2015

Best Practices

Best Practices

Keep your themes small.

Prefer CSS changes over template overrides.

... but still try to keep CSS small.

Override existing SASS variables if possible.

Potential Improvements

Template Block Overrides

Template Block Overrides

Ability to override specific template block(s), without having to duplicate entire template.

Example: override “navigation_sign_in” block from navigation.html template.

github.com/stephenmcd/django-overextends

Template Block Overrides

Provide more blocks!

Improved SASS Variables

Improved SASS Variables

Provide more overrideable SASS variables.

Example: `$header-bg` and `$footer-bg` exist, but there is no variable to set header/footer text color.

Conclusion

Comprehensive theming has evolved from quick and dirty solutions into a decent theming system.

Open edX theming has come a long way, but some areas still need improvement.

Conclusion

Overriding chunks of templates is still too hard/impossible.

Keep template overrides to a minimum!

Looking forward to further evolution.

Thanks!



OpenCraft_

Matjaz Gregoric
matjaz@opencraft.com