Basics of Images in WordPress

Tutorial · https://mhthemes.com/support/knb/basics-of-images-in-wordpress/

When running a website, especially modern online magazines, dynamic news websites or vivid blogs, it is all about visual context. While writing much text in an informative article, blog post or a journal entry it usually is a great idea to add some pictures to compliment the stories you are trying to tell, and this same concept applies to content that comes from fields such as technology, web development, business, and especially food and animals.

The WordPress CMS has been built with images in mind. Oftentimes websites heavily rely on images to create a comfortable (browsing and reading) experience that captures the attention of each visitor who visits your website. Let's take a look at ways you can better understand WordPress images and how they work.

Difference between featured images and manually embedded images

When working with WordPress, you will often come across a term called *Featured Image*. A featured image is basically an image that will be featured across your posts, and more often than not displayed in multiple locations all at the same time. To better understand how featured images in WordPress work, take a look at the following information.

Featured images displayed as thumbnails in widgets



As you can see, there are two different posts on each side of the column, and both have their own unique images in WordPress. But, once you click on one of the posts, you are taken to the actual content page, where you once again meet with one of the images that was used in previous screenshot, which is what you also call a *Featured Image*.

Featured image displayed in full size on a post



Image Credit: liushuquan - Pixabay.com / CC0 Public Domain

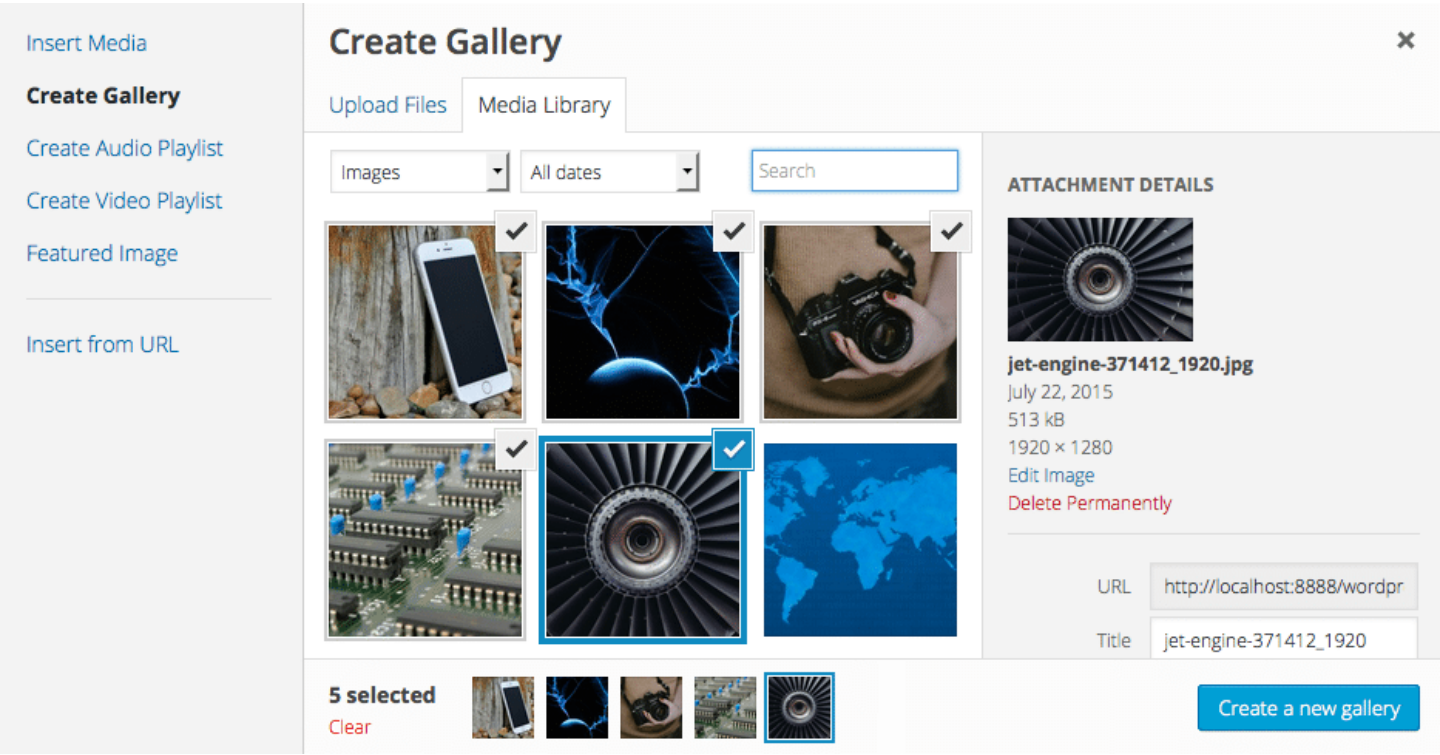
Tatvero accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum. Stet clita kasd gubergren, no sea consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam.

The featured image may appear on your new posts pages, search pages, categories pages and much more, but will often only display in full size when a user clicks on the actual content that this image is used for. Whereas images in WordPress that are used inside of the post will usually compliment whatever you're writing about at that particular paragraph.

You should fully be able to understand how featured and embeddable images work to understand how and why your website displays images in a certain way. Regarding the use of featured images in WordPress, please see the following article: How to use featured images in WordPress.

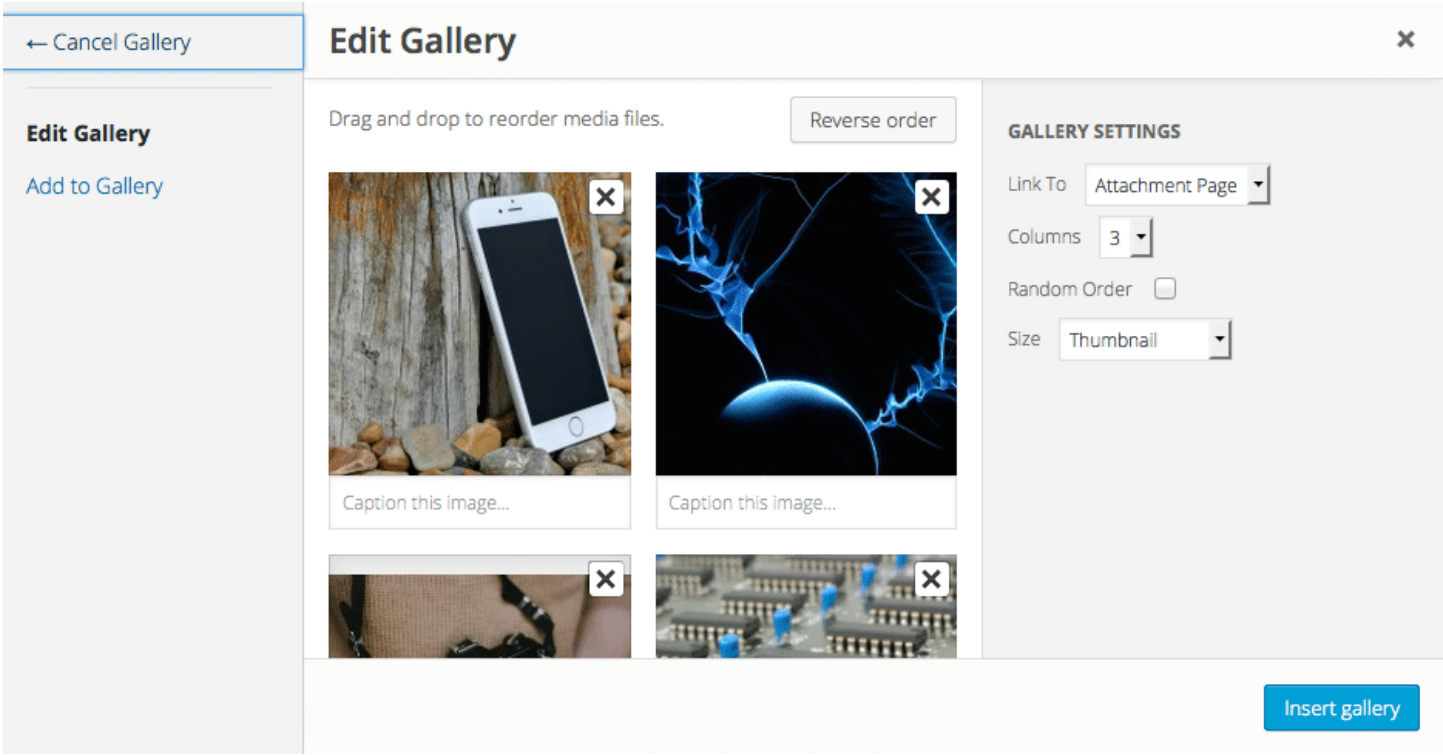
The WordPress Gallery feature

Those of you who are writing articles about travel trips, photo shoots and other similar types of activities, will want to look inside the *WordPress Gallery* feature which lets you create a collage of the photos you have to share, this way letting you to upload multiple photos of the same nature and throw them together in one convenient gallery. The way it works is, you first access the *Add Media* button in your *New Posts* page:



You can see on the left-hand side that you have to click on the *Create Gallery* link, rather than *Add Media*. Once you do, you will be prompted with all the available images in your WordPress media gallery, you will usually want to use this feature right after you upload all the photos you want to put into a gallery, but that isn't always necessary. (Just saves time!)

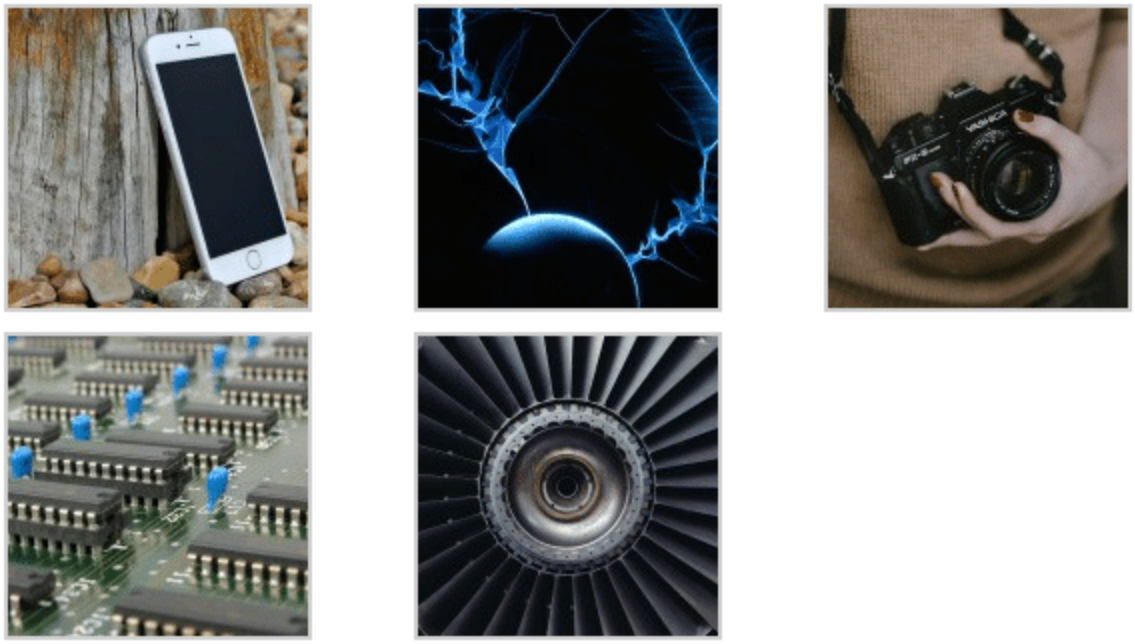
After you select your images, you can click the *Create Gallery* button at the right-hand side bottom of the screen, which will take you to the following screen, showing the images you have selected:



Here you can make any final adjustments and click the *Insert Gallery* button at which point WordPress will automatically output a shortcode similar to this inside of your post:

```
[gallery ids="1060,1061,1098,1110,1277"]
```

The individual numbers (IDs) being the photos you are going to be using for your gallery. At which point you can *Preview* your post and you will see all your gallery images beautifully aligned. The default WordPress gallery integration is flexible enough for beginners to get a taste of what WordPress can do for specific types of websites.



What are thumbnails in WordPress?

Thumbnails are exactly what they ought to be. When you upload images in WordPress, you have the opportunity to adjust the size of this image, either by making it smaller, medium-sized, or a thumbnail. As you can see in the above screenshot displaying the demo of the WordPress Gallery within a post, all those square images are actually thumbnails, and full-sized images are displayed once you click on them individually.

How does WordPress handle image sizes / cropping?

By default, WordPress handles image sizes and/or cropping images on your behalf, which usually is based on the default image sizes in WordPress or the image dimensions which are defined by your WordPress theme. When you upload images through your WordPress dashboard, WordPress will automatically create several thumbnails (via cropping if necessary) out of the original image for use on your website in widgets, on posts, archives or else.

After you've switched your WordPress theme, the best way to make sure that all of your WordPress images are cropped and resized to your theme requirements, is by using a WordPress plugin called *Regenerate Thumbnails*. You can either regenerate the thumbnails for all image uploads, individual image uploads, or specific multiple image uploads. Please see the following article for more

information: How to regenerate thumbnails after a theme change.

Where are images in WordPress stored?

All WordPress installations store uploaded images by default in the same folder, which is **/wp-content/uploads/** and all uploads are then individually sorted by yearly and monthly upload dates, making it very easy for you to find images in case you ever need them.