

## **Art Gnome**

There are some Critical Points to check:

1. Navigation
2. Start Page
3. Thumbnails
4. Descriptions to Themes on different places
5. Simplifying of layout

## Navigation

*This is a hardes part of whole review*

There is tree part of navigations. Important links, selecting themes type to navigate and filter functions to listing of selected themes.



### Important links

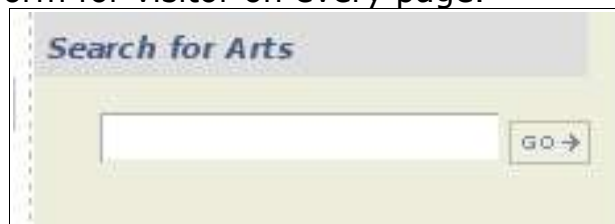
You dont need "Updates" link if you show recent themes on start page.

Search can be placed elsewhere and give user search form without to have do one more click.

So you have 5 links to place. This are important to website, but visitor dont use it much for navigation thow whole site. Maybe it should be located elsewhere (not on rightsite panel) but i dont know how it would be better at this moment.

### Search

Give simple search form for visitor on every page.



It should search for themes names. If its dont find nothing just do automatically ask user (select) what fild he is looking for (author, authornotice, all fields, something else). This would make search more quickier.

Place search as separate navigation part. It can be placed anywhere, in navigation sidebar, in header part of site, or somewhere on top of the page.

### **Selecting themes type**

This would be most used part of navigation. Imho it should be easy as it can. For me there is no different between "Gnome Backgrounds" and "Other Backgrounds". So there should be "Backgrounds" at first level.

I dont understand differents between "Desktop Themes" and "Other Themes", just put this together with Backgrounds in one level.

So what theme types we realy have?

- Backgrounds
- Gtk+
- Metacity (or windowborders)
- Splashes
- Login Manager
- Icons

I dont see any other theme types for normal user needs here. "applications" are "gtk+". And "gtk engines" are "gtk+".

This is first level what visitor should choose if he comes on webpage.

But there should be second level of navigation. Background can have different sizes. Gtk+ can be theme or engine.

There are two way to do this. Build second level navigation, or just transform this functionality to next station – filter functions.

### **Filter Functions**

Everybody who browse throw theme lists shold can easy get sorting, like show latest first, most rated first, or sort by names. Where is not such much.

Nobody realy need more than this 3.

Next visitor will change – filter out only special kind of themes, like 1024px Backgrounds.

And, at the end, filter on rating. Show only themes with >50% rate value.

Now a part of this is done by dropdown box. But maybe "just links" are better to user to see what filter he can use without to click on dropdown box.

Imho, selection count of showed themes on one page is not needed. The same for art how to show list "icons only" or as "list".

I am not sure about sorting order. 99% you just need latest, or best, or name sorted.

## **Start Page**

*Start page shows most interesting things from whole site*

So what should be showed on start page? Most latest News, recent updated themes and most used themes.

News cannt get a half of the page! If visitor use 768px in height, there should be place to show most recent themes. This information can get changes every hour, and latest news do not change about days mostly. So visitors dont read it every time, but they looks to themes update.

Is is good if you can show as many recent themes without scrolling as you can, without to change thumbnails size(quality). So site layout should be simplified to give more place for theme lists.

Two columns is very good choice to give user possibility to compate between most used and latest updated (which mean theme is continuesly reworked) themes.

**Notice** *add some more statistic info to start page*

Its easy to give some information how much themes are uploaded to the site some where. Maybe show count about how much themes are uploaded today and so on. Little community feeling.

**Notice** *more talks for visitors*

Place dirrect links to comments of the themes.

Show this page lives from users who use it.

## Thumbnails

*Little notice about thumbnails on the page.*

It should be clickable. And there should be two types of thumbnails. One is small preview of the theme, or image. Another one should be full-sized picture.

Small thumbnail should be placed on lists and on description of the theme. If you click on thumbnail placed in the list, you would be pointed to theme descriptions site. If you click on thumbnail on the description page, you get popup window with full-sized picture.

Why popup is good in this situation? Because you take a look at picture, and can close this window to do some other action, like download the theme, or just go back to the theme list.

I like way how it's going on "<http://gnome-look.org>".

Generate own previews. Ok this part is not so easy, but it should increase usability. Let users only upload the theme files. And do server generate "full-sized" and "thumbnail" pictures.

With background images it's easy. You only need have good resize algorithm in PHP.

With metacity this should unpack the file, open metacity.xml file and read the setting, then take images and build an border or window preview.

And so for gtk+ themes.

This gives you as result very comparable outputs in thumbnails.

Let authors upload own preview files. Another good idea from [gnome-look.org](http://gnome-look.org) to let authors upload additional files, to show how theme looks in whole desktop, or so.

## Deskriptions to Themes on different places

*How much info you should show, and how show themes attributes*

There are two locations where you show themes. Lists (like top rated, latest, or just showing all themes) and description.

### Themes List

## Top Rated

The five top rated items



**gnome\_wall**  
Other Themes - Splash Screens  
Date: 2005-05-04  
Author: mola

Thumbnail

**foo**  
GTK+ Engines  
Date: 2005-05-04  
Author: james

On lists you dont need to show all attributes of the Theme. On this place web site visitors only look for nice preview, name and type of theme(background, splash, gtk+,metacity) and second attribute depends on place where the list is. If it is on "Top Rated" you need to show rate value, if this was "top recent" so you need to show date of latest update from the theme.

*Recent Updated* **get.gnome.org**



eXperienceCristal - Today 10:30 PM  
icons



Gnome DeepBlue2 - Today 08:30 PM  
wallpaper

Another info on this place do only make site unreadable.

### Theme Description

Place right things to right locations.

This is how its looks now:



Some information are hard to read. I dont see what information are important and what not. Notice from theme autor is not easy to find.

I dont like idea with showing "fullsized" picture on this place.



Description Page should have primary and secondary attributes.

At the end we place "Download" object. This is placed more to "center" of the page, so user easy find it.

Name is very important attribute, so as Author and Popularity.

Update time is very, like theme name and more important then author name for website visitors, but not for all so we should place it very visible (big font size) but little transparent, so this dont take your first look on new loaded page, but its easy to see and notice if theme is old, or fresh.

Attributes like Version, License and so on mostly dont have any mather for nomal visitor.

Mostly Visitors will read Author notice, to take an image about what this theme is about befor get fullsized preview. It should take best place on the page, and should be good readable, little distanced from other theme infos.

### **Notice** about showing fullsized image on description page

At first you produce traffic for website user. He should download preview image even if he only wish to read comments. If user use some theme, he is interested on comments from another users about this theme. But he dont need to view fullsized preview from theme for checking only comments.

If you will build community around this place, you need to give people easiest way to communication.

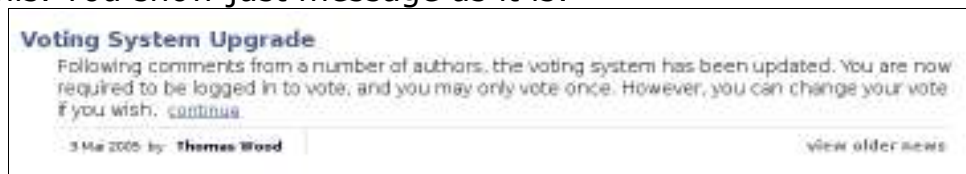
## Simplifying of layout

There are some items on web page, who nobody need, why dont give any information, but take much place.

Like this:



- "Latest News" - if you show only one news, you dont need to explain this. You show just message as it is:



So, your user can concentrate to content off the message and not to any thing else.

- Presentation of Date and time on different locations should be simpler. On pictures befor, for new, there was 2005-04-23 format. This should be changed to 3 Mai 2005 format, if news is older than a week. In other case it should show "Yesterday", "Monday"(name of day of week).



For themes it can look like this:

