

# Break Your Theme

WordCamp Columbus 2011

Saturday, June 18, 2011

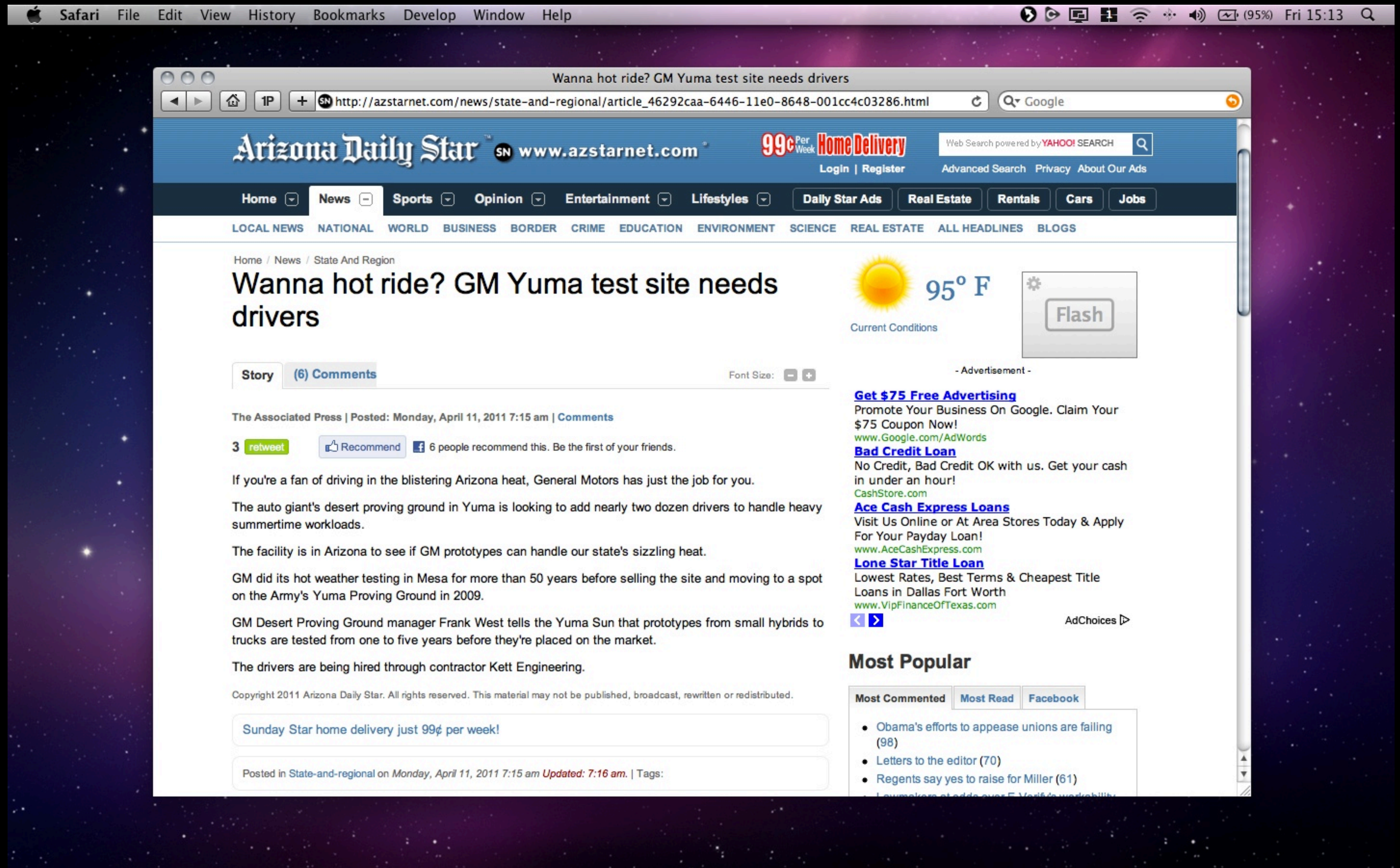
Hi, I'm Lance Willett. I'm a Theme Breaker.  
Ohio is beautiful, so green and moist  
So different from where I live  
And I bring up Ohio so I can bring up Arizona

# Break Your Theme

Saturday, June 18, 2011

And I'd you to be a theme breaker, too





Saturday, June 18, 2011

They do this not only here, but in many other places  
What's their goal? Quality and safety. Making the best possible automobile.  
Theme design? Same thing. Quality and best possible experience.



# I Love Themes

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Themes are awesome! Everyone loves themes.  
They are super important within the WP ecosystem  
For many people who use WP their theme is their site.  
This is important stuff



# I Break Themes

Saturday, June 18, 2011

I think as theme designers we should work just as hard to break our themes  
As the crazy car people driving around in extreme weather conditions

Then talk about what I think are the keys to successful theme breaking:  
Including some specific examples, tools, and also my process for breaking themes.

# Breaker, Buster, Tester

Saturday, June 18, 2011

What I'm NOT going to talk about: advanced unit testing or WordPress programming.

Break = push it to extremes to simulate real world usage.

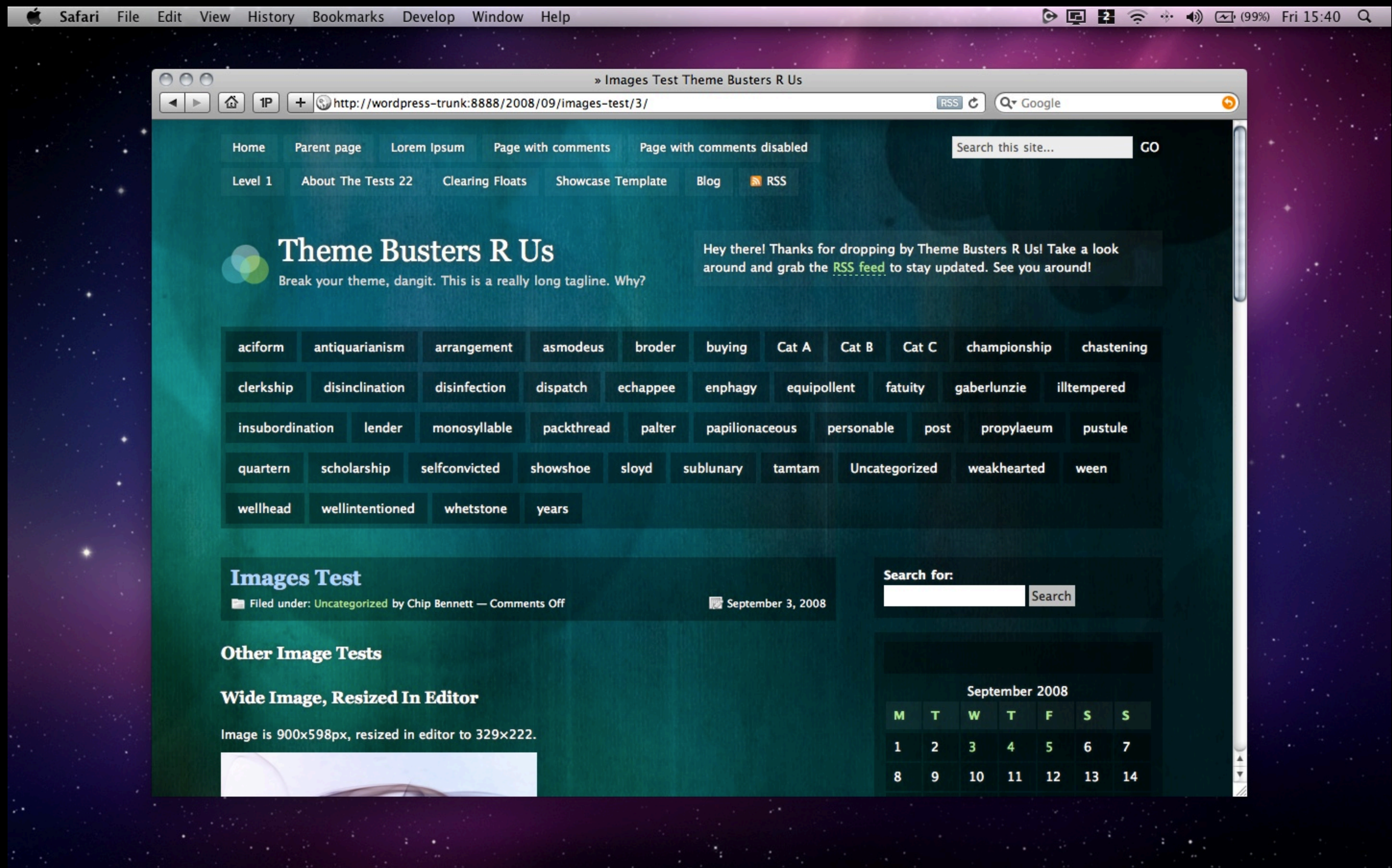
Testing is often considered a dirty word. That's why I prefer to call it breaking. It's more fun!

# Examples

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Wide images, huge menus, super long title

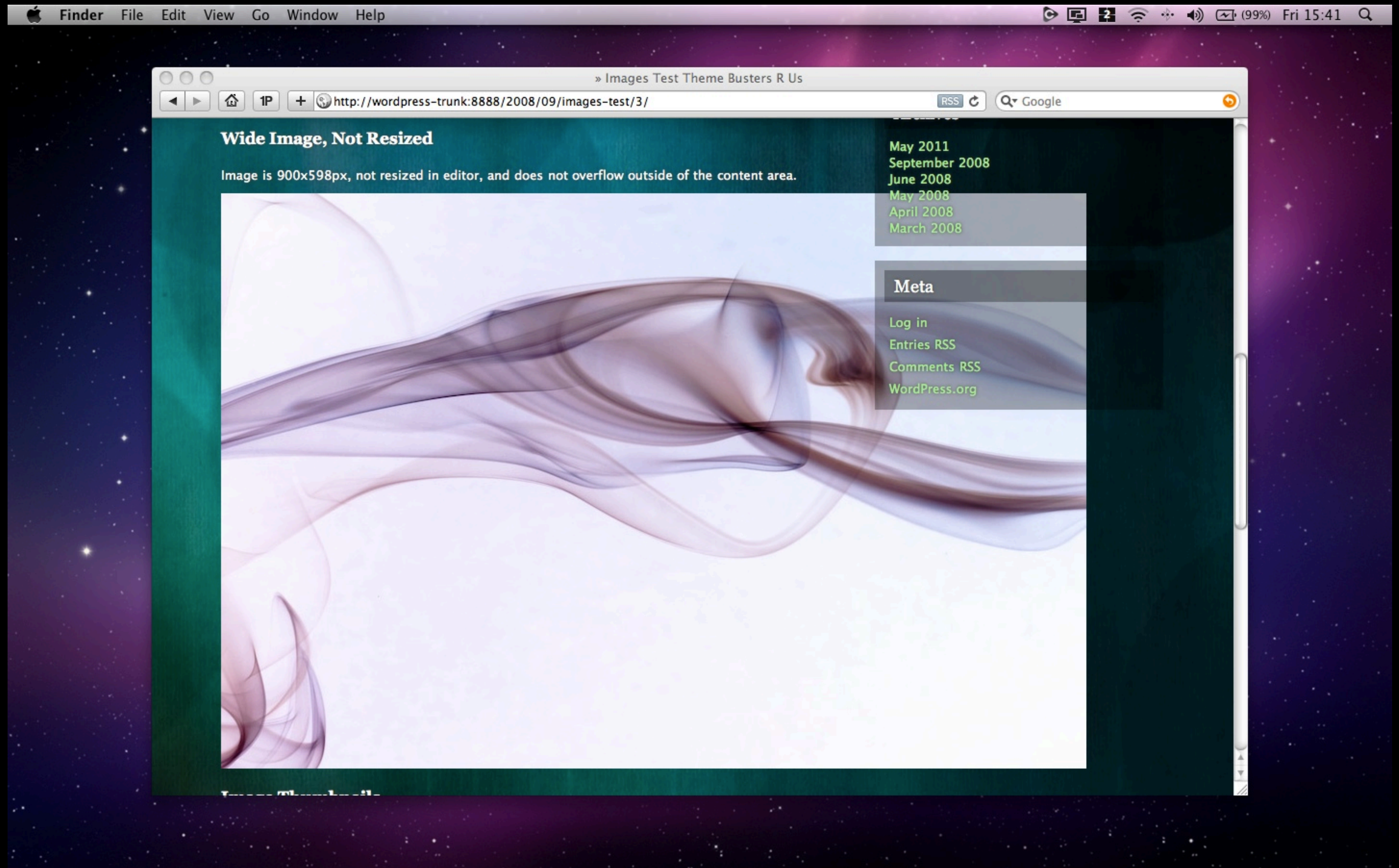




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Motion, a theme I launched on WP.com  
It's now in our top 10 most popular  
Example 1: Huge images

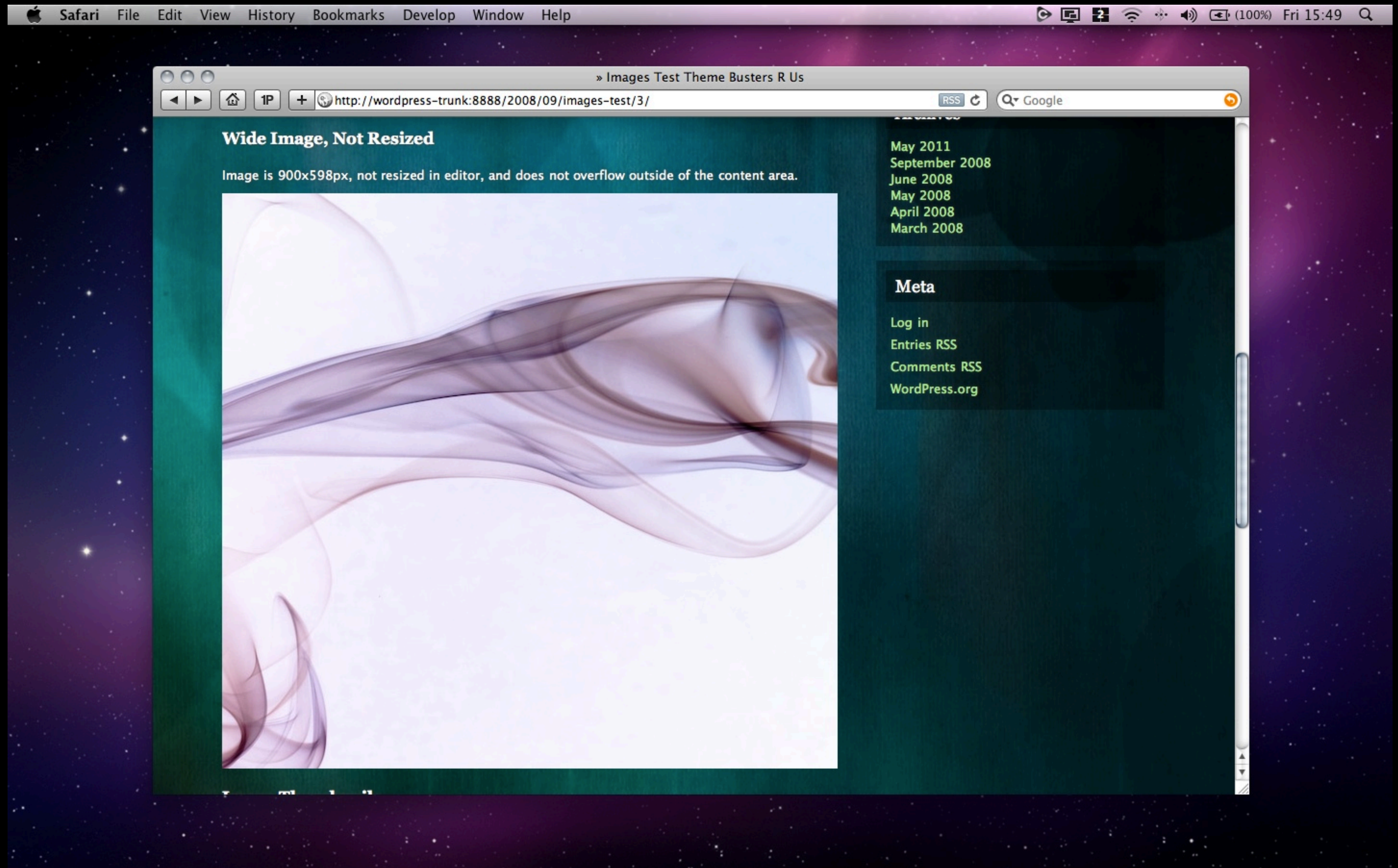




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Full-size images uploaded, do they fit in the main content?

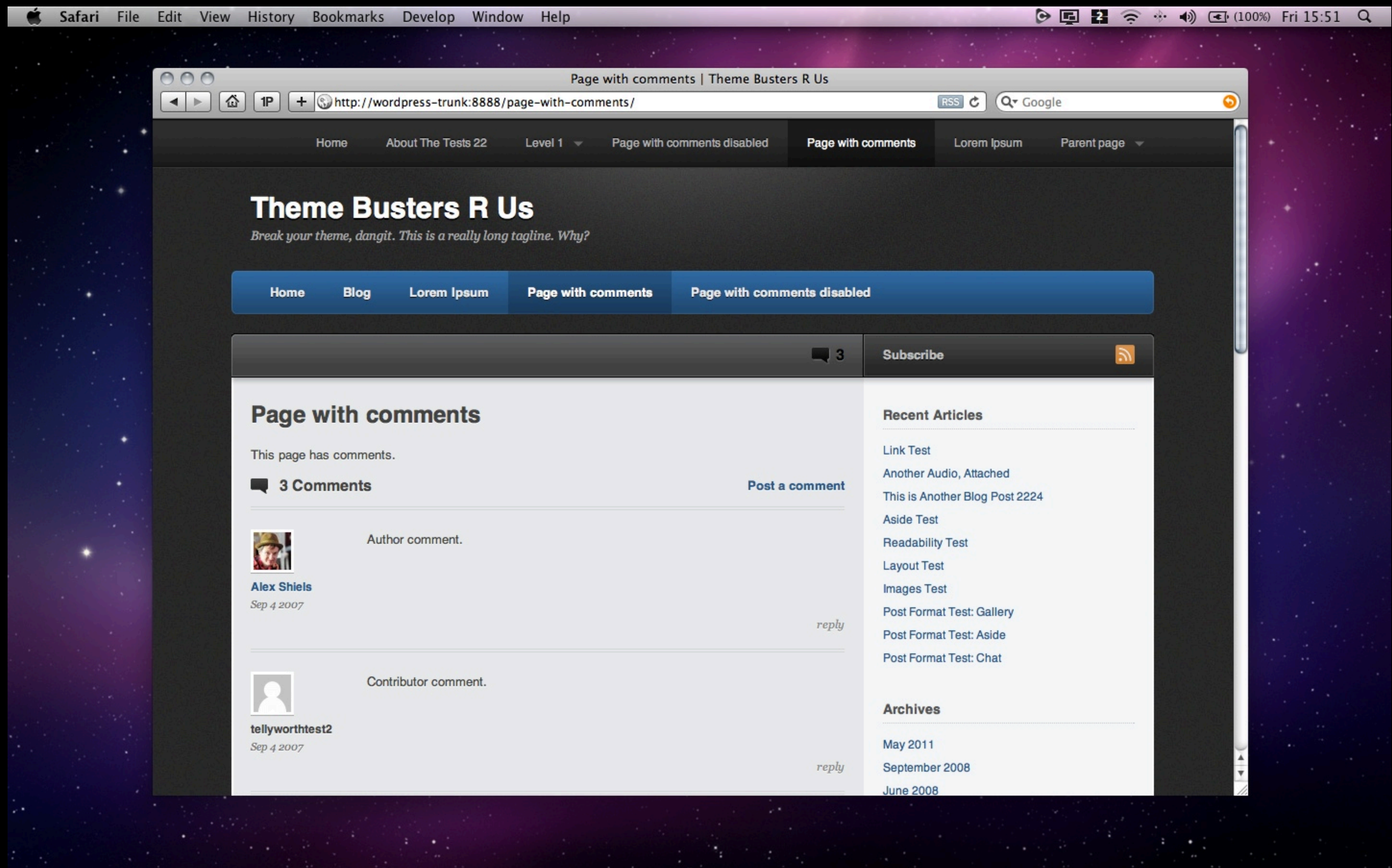




Saturday, June 18, 2011

HTML attribute adjustments by users  
Maybe pasting in an image URL from Flickr or somewhere else

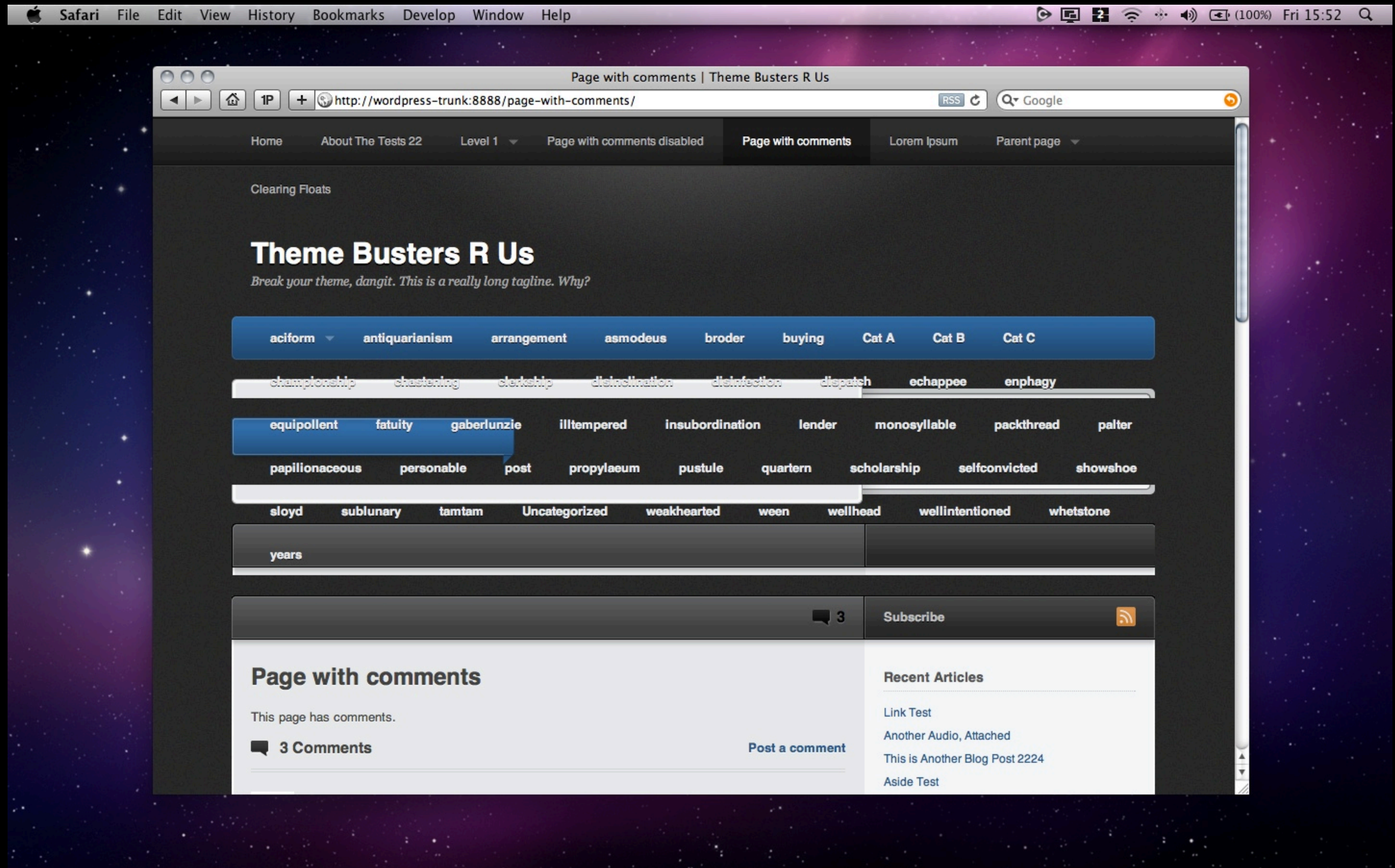




Saturday, June 18, 2011

This is Traction, a cool theme for The Theme Foundry

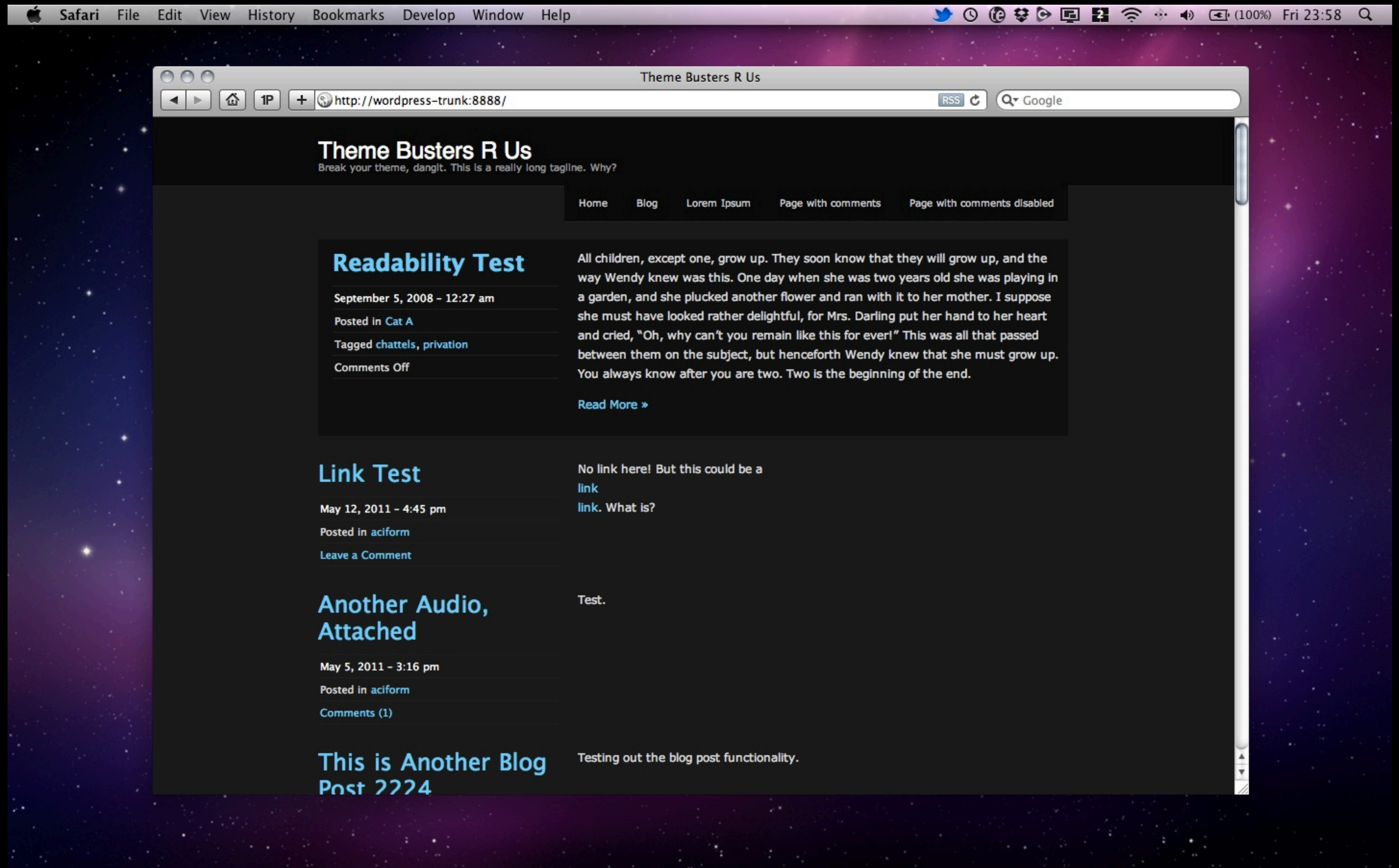




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Example 2: Too many menu items  
This can happen when you use a custom menu  
or if your site has a lot of pages

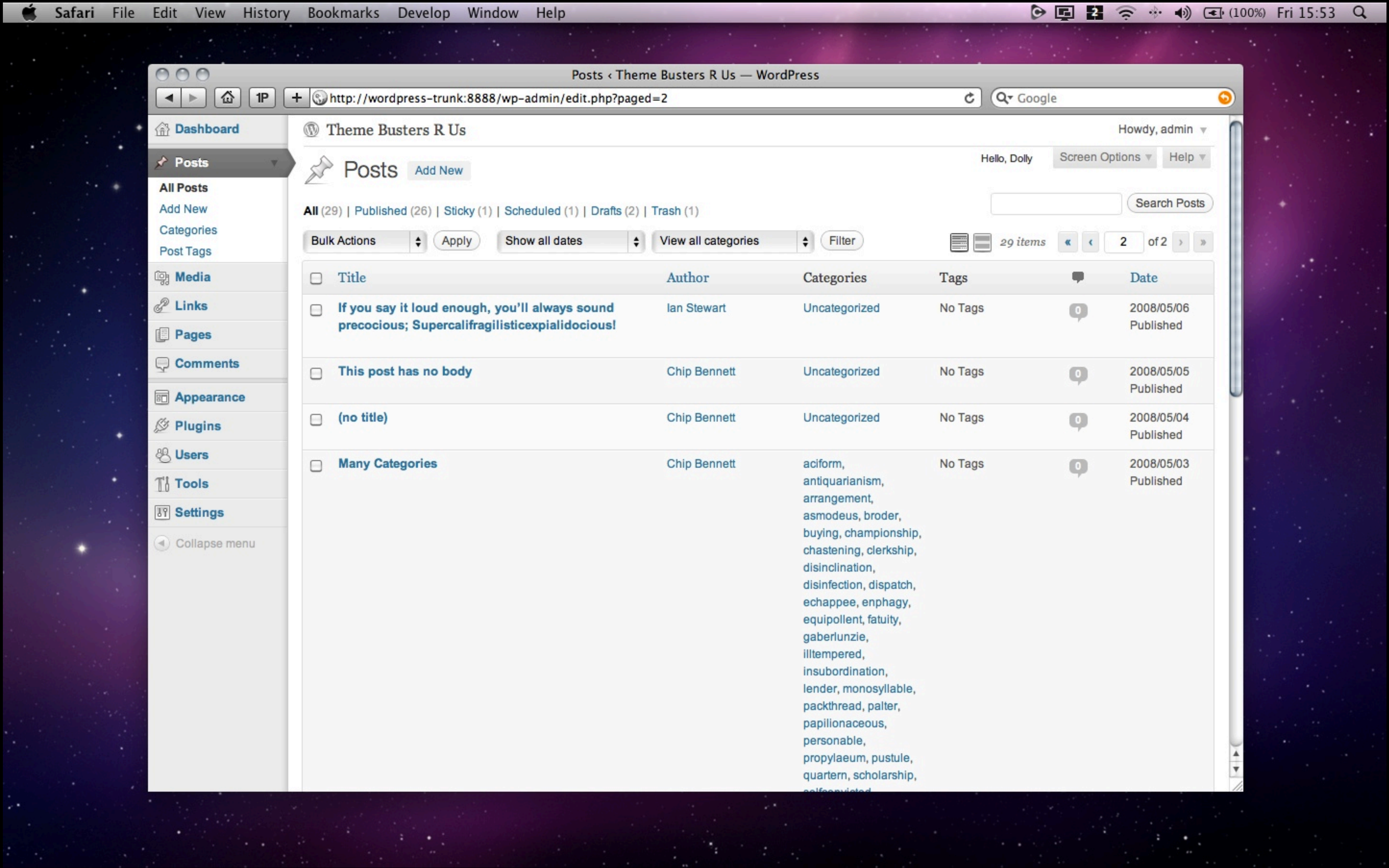




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Example 3: Super long titles  
This is ChaosTheory, a theme developed for WP.com  
That I recently revamped and released to WP.org

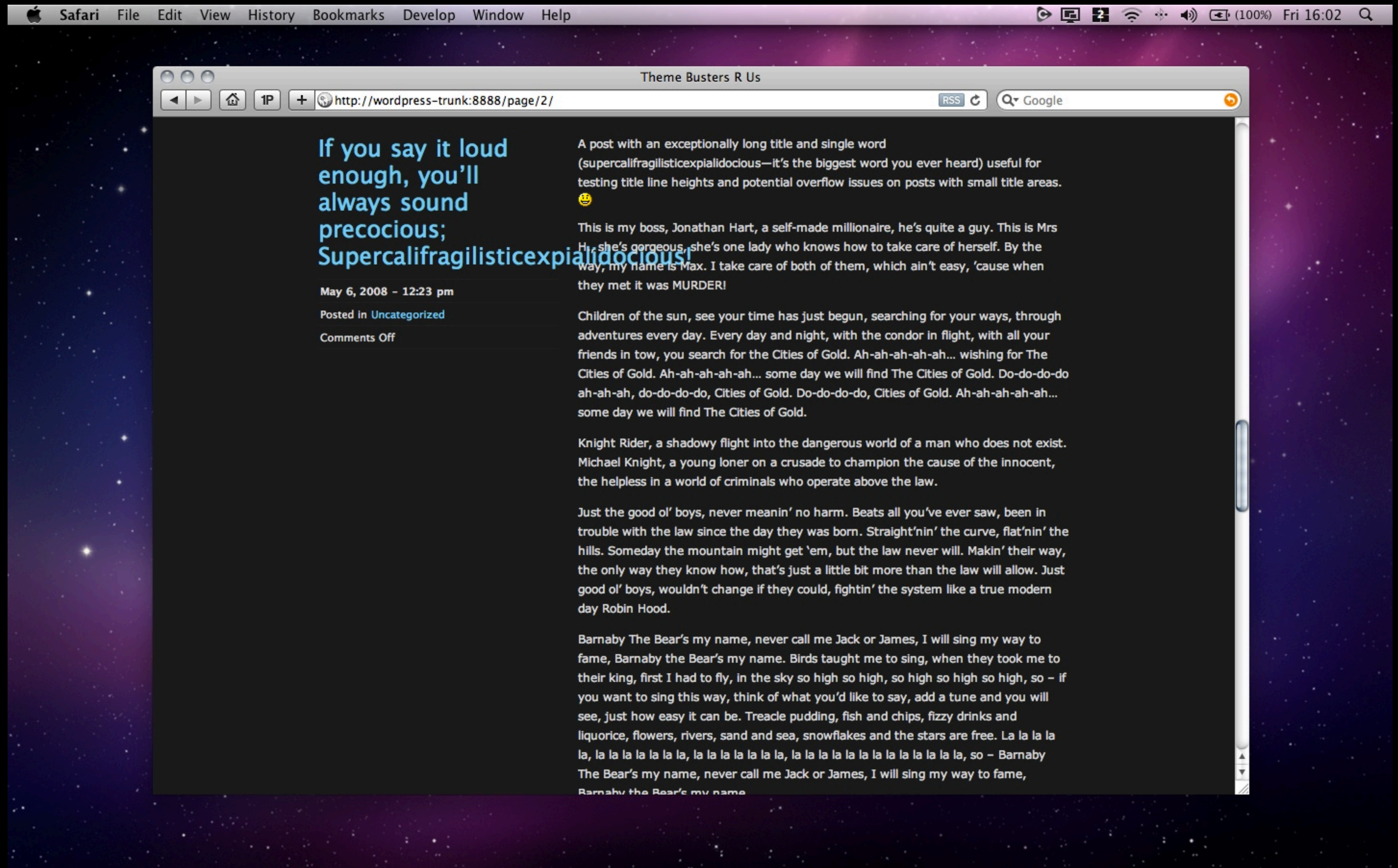




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Super long title!



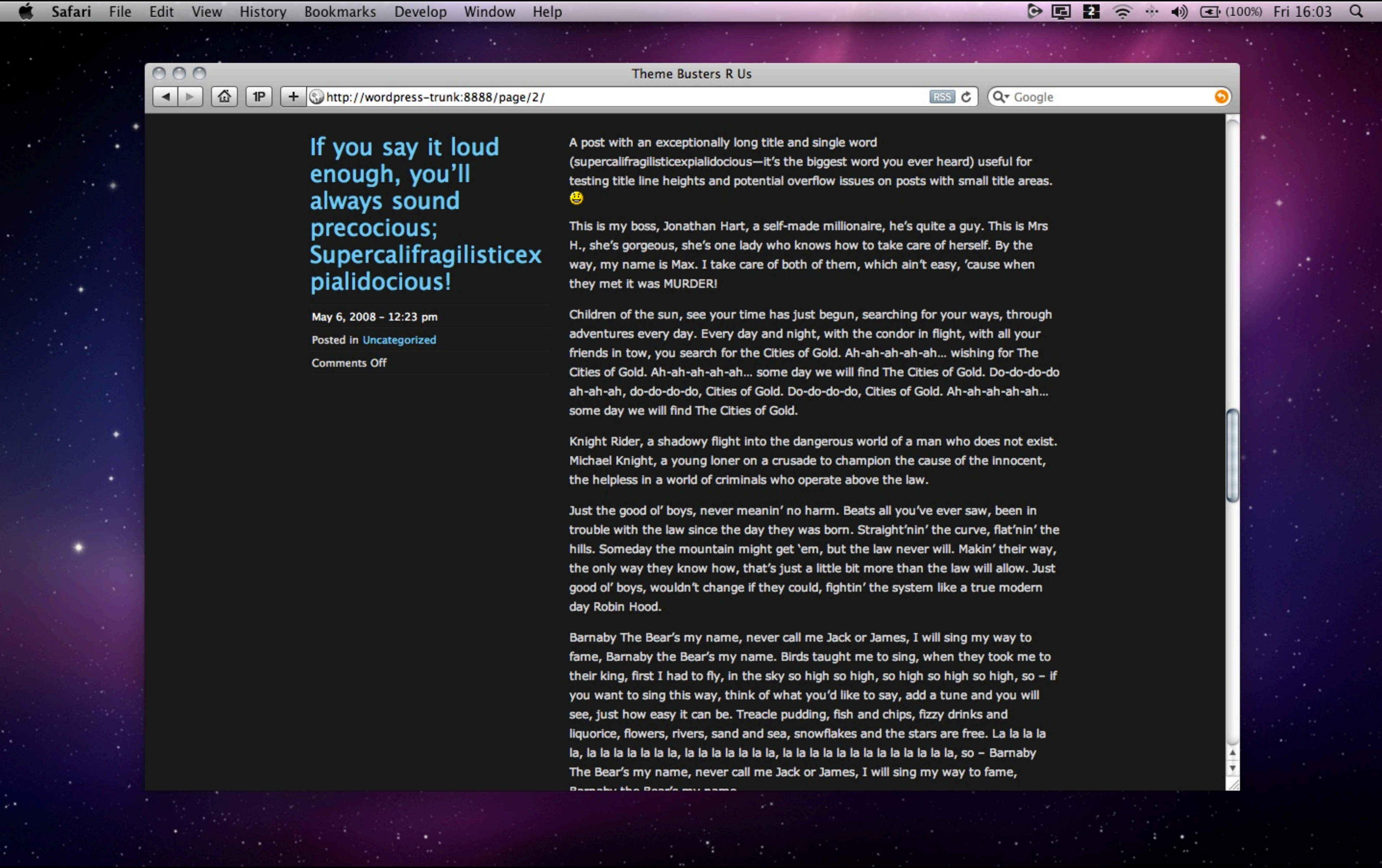


Saturday, June 18, 2011

In this case someone may type the title like sentence

1. can the theme gracefully handle long titles? (layout stable)
2. does the title look good if it's wrapped to two lines (line-height)







# Content

Saturday, June 18, 2011

What do these example have in common?

The theme breakage comes not from bugs in the code, or the server environment

No, it's content that's entered into WP that the theme has trouble displaying





Saturday, June 18, 2011

Give you a quick look inside my head  
Don't worry it's safe  
This is what I picture when I'm breaking themes  
Car bashing is fun!



# Content = Hammer

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Content is my hammer

Images of all shapes and sizes

Crazy long posts

Make huge galleries

Add as much data and content as you can. The more the better.

# ALOT of Content

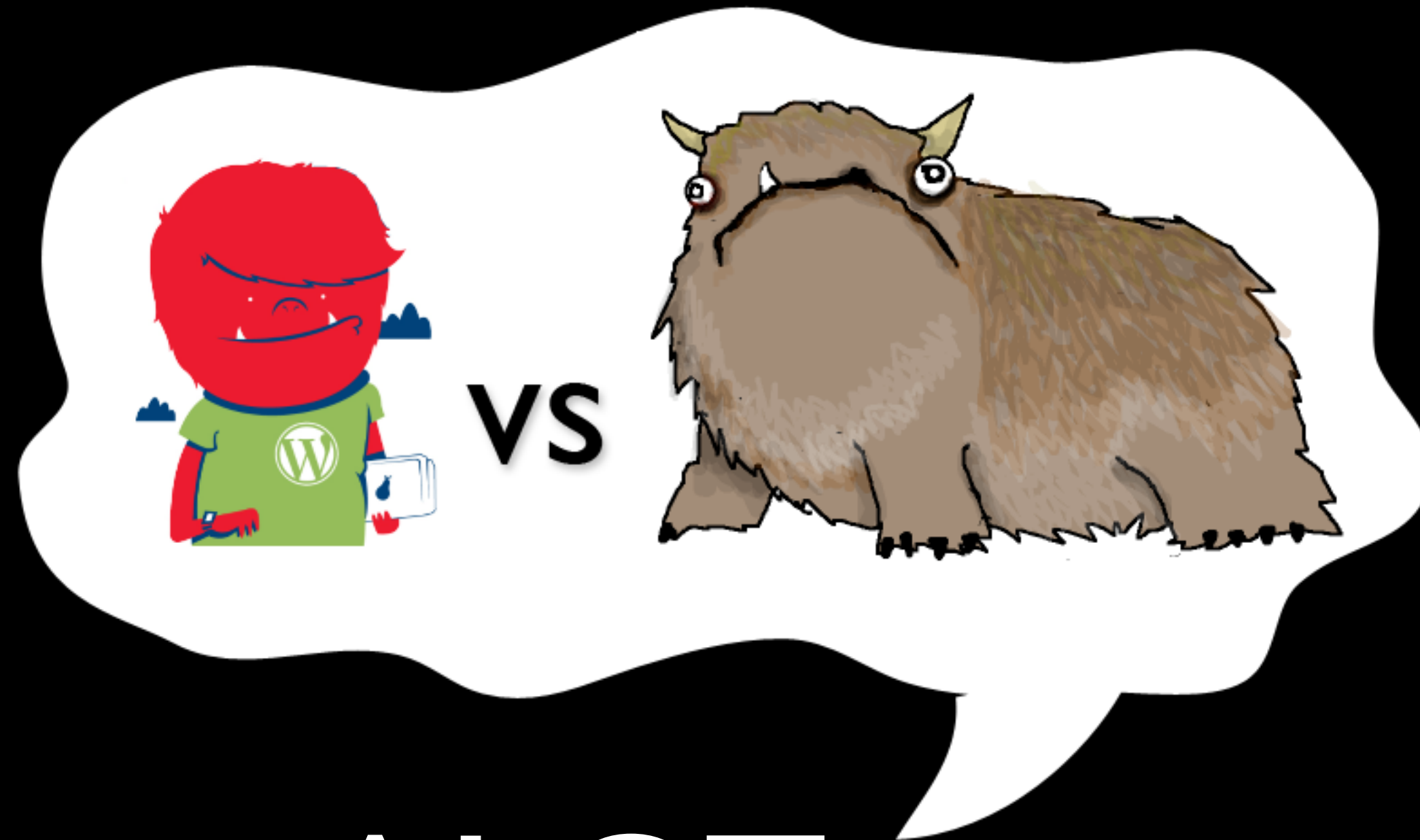
Saturday, June 18, 2011

Variety

Quantity

Use real content if you can

Real content means you can break things more spectacularly

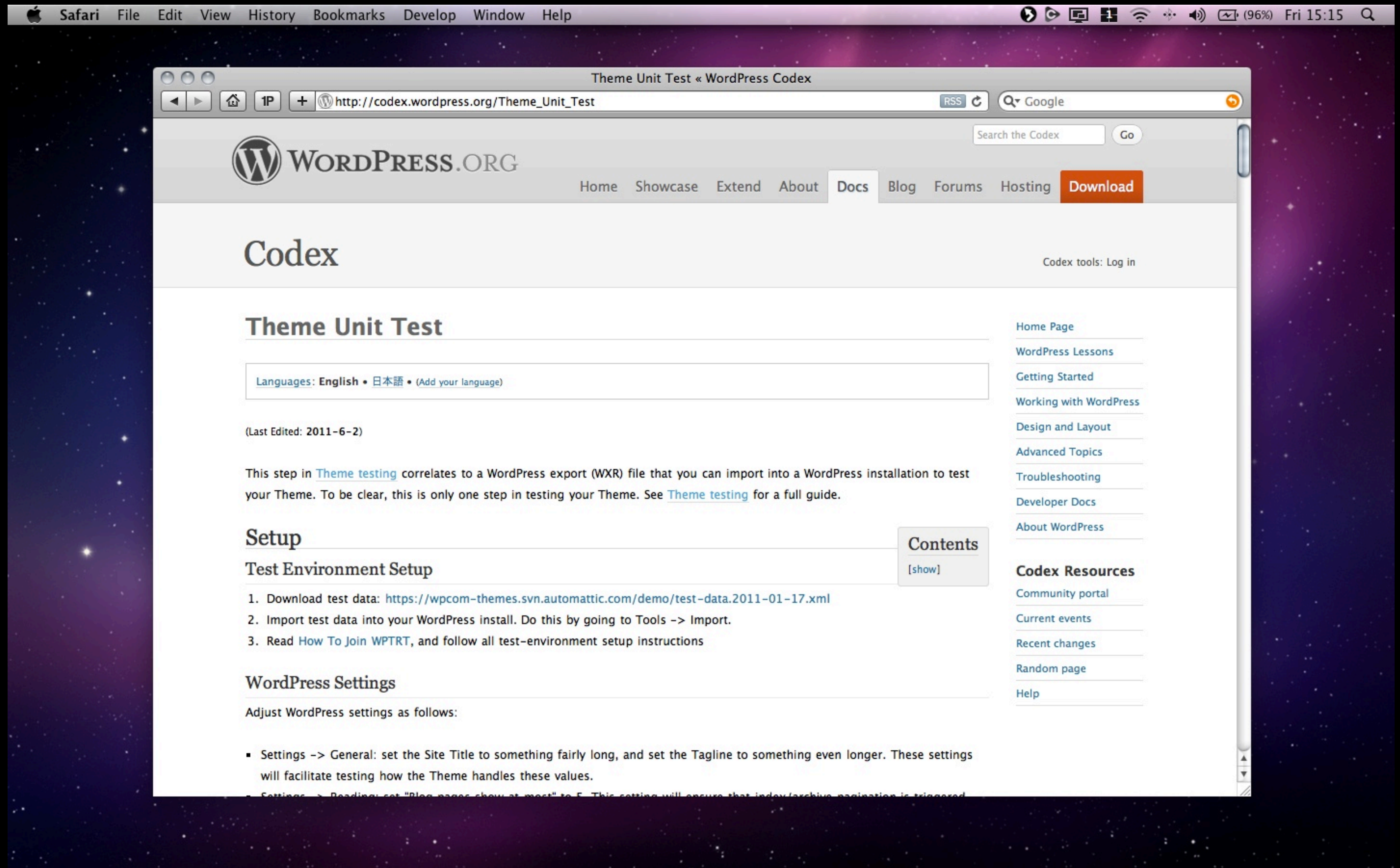


*This is ALOT*

Saturday, June 18, 2011

I don't want to meet these two characters in a dark alley  
THAT would break MY theme, for sure  
“Monster mascot”





Saturday, June 18, 2011

You can make your own dummy data, or use the freely available Theme Test Data WP export file, on Codex Noel in 2009, Lance in 2010, Chip in 2011



⌕ Dashboard

📁 Posts

All Posts

Add New

Categories

Post Tags

📁 Media

🔗 Links

📄 Pages

💬 Comments

📁 Appearance

Themes

Widgets

Menus

Theme Check

Background

Editor

🔗 Plugins

👤 Users

🔧 Tools

Available Tools

Import

Export

Deprecated Calls 3

⚙️ Settings

⏪ Collapse menu

Import < Theme Busters R Us — WordPress

⏪ ⏩ ⌕ 1P + http://wordpress-trunk:8888/wp-admin/admin.php?import=wordpress 🔍 Google

📄 Theme Busters R Us

Howdy, admin ▾

Golly, gee, fellas Help ▾

🔧 Import WordPress

Howdy! Upload your WordPress eXtended RSS (WXR) file and we'll import the posts, pages, comments, custom fields, categories, and tags into this site.

Choose a WXR file to upload, then click Upload file and import.

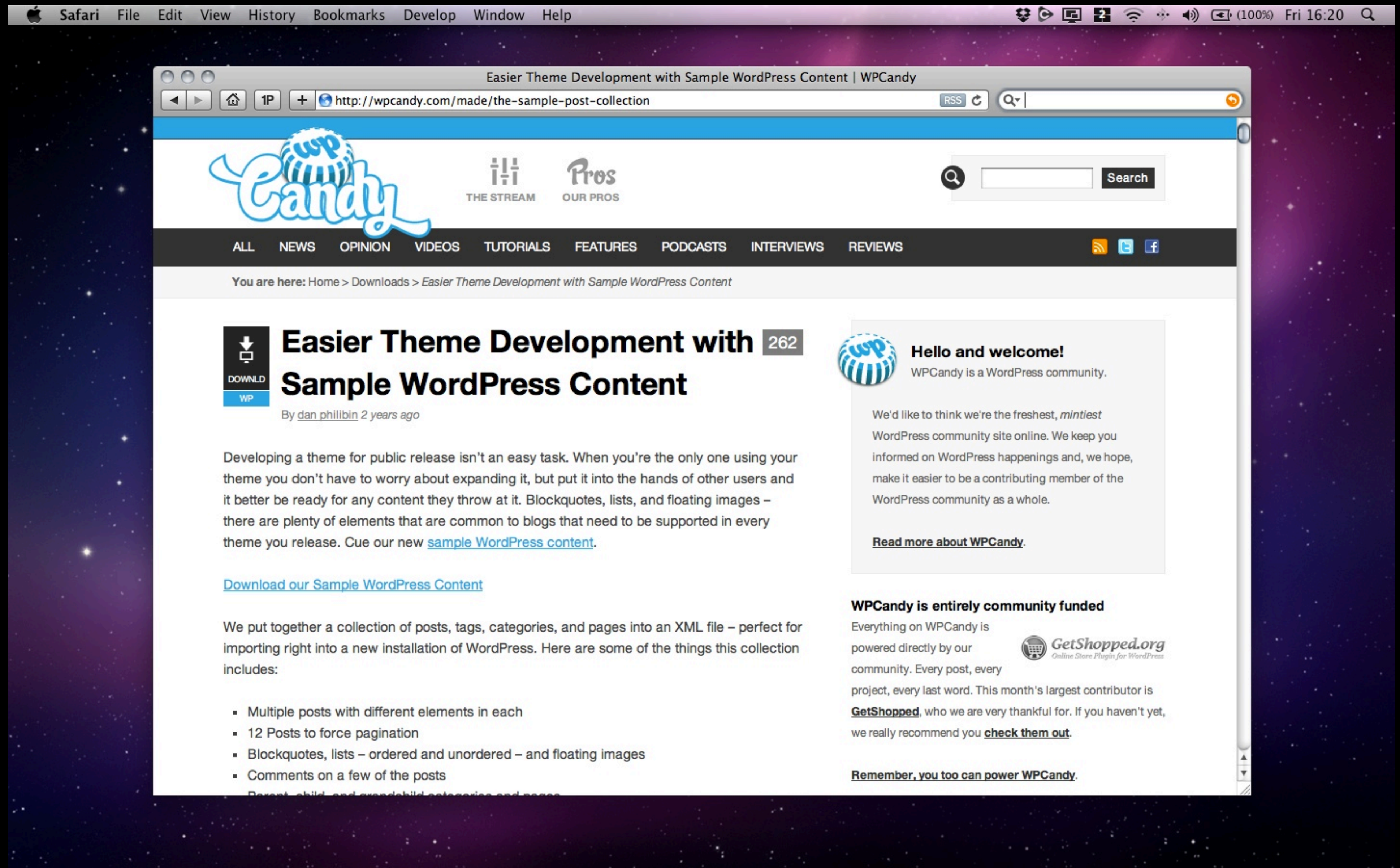
Choose a file from your computer: (Maximum size: 32MB) Choose File no file selected

Upload file and import

Thank you for creating with WordPress. • Documentation • Freedoms • Feedback • Credits

You are using a development version (3.2-RC1). Cool! Please stay updated.

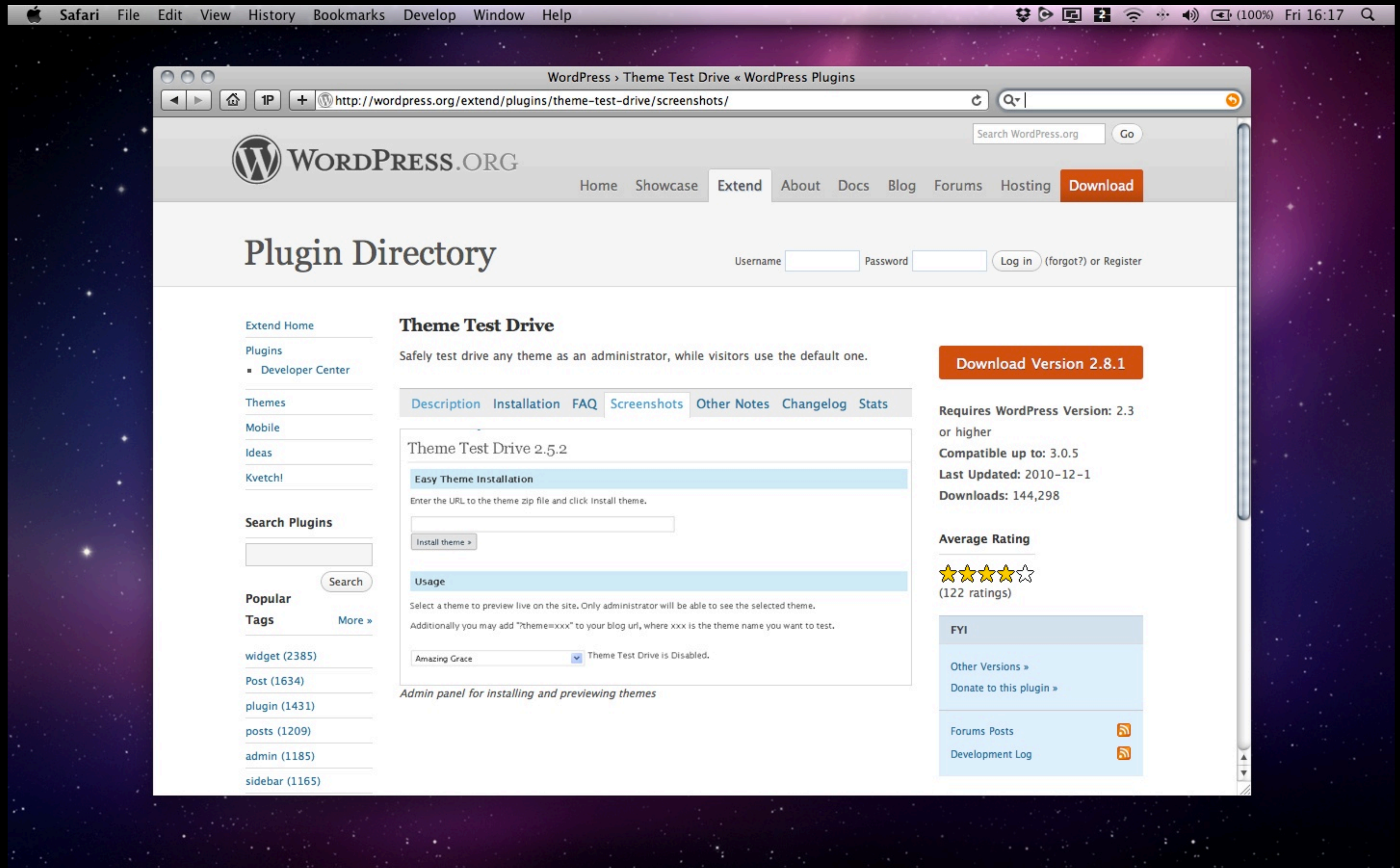




Saturday, June 18, 2011

WPCandy also has a sample set of content





Saturday, June 18, 2011

Use your own blog!  
I put themes on my personal blog, and see how they do with my real content  
You could also use the Theme Test Drive plugin  
To load it up so just you -- as admin -- could test it out, and see it break :)



# How I Break Themes

Saturday, June 18, 2011

My process

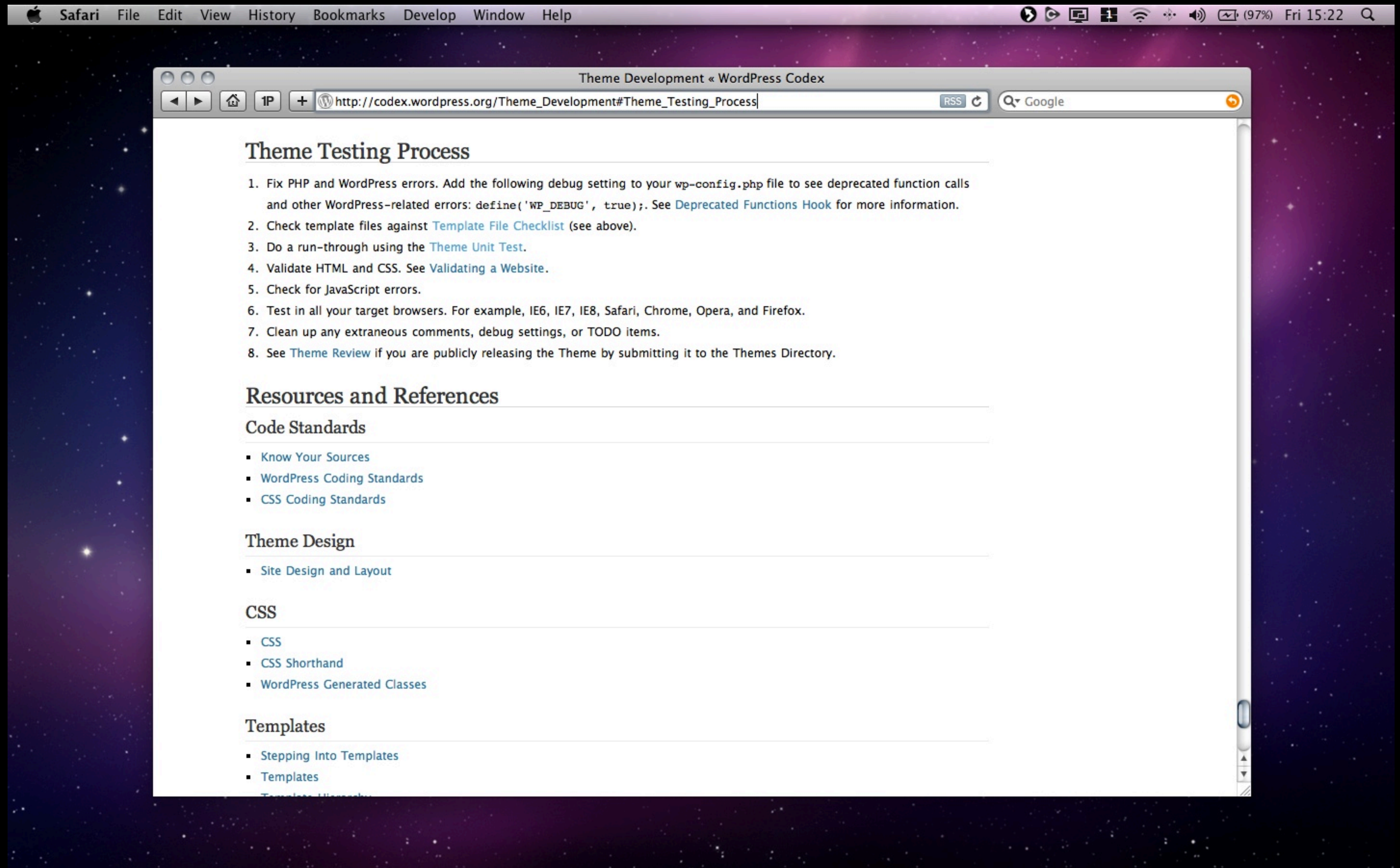
I believe it's good to have a process.

Even if it's just a post-it note on your monitor or a hand-written list.

Improve it each time you work on a theme, and share your experiences with others.

Here's mine:

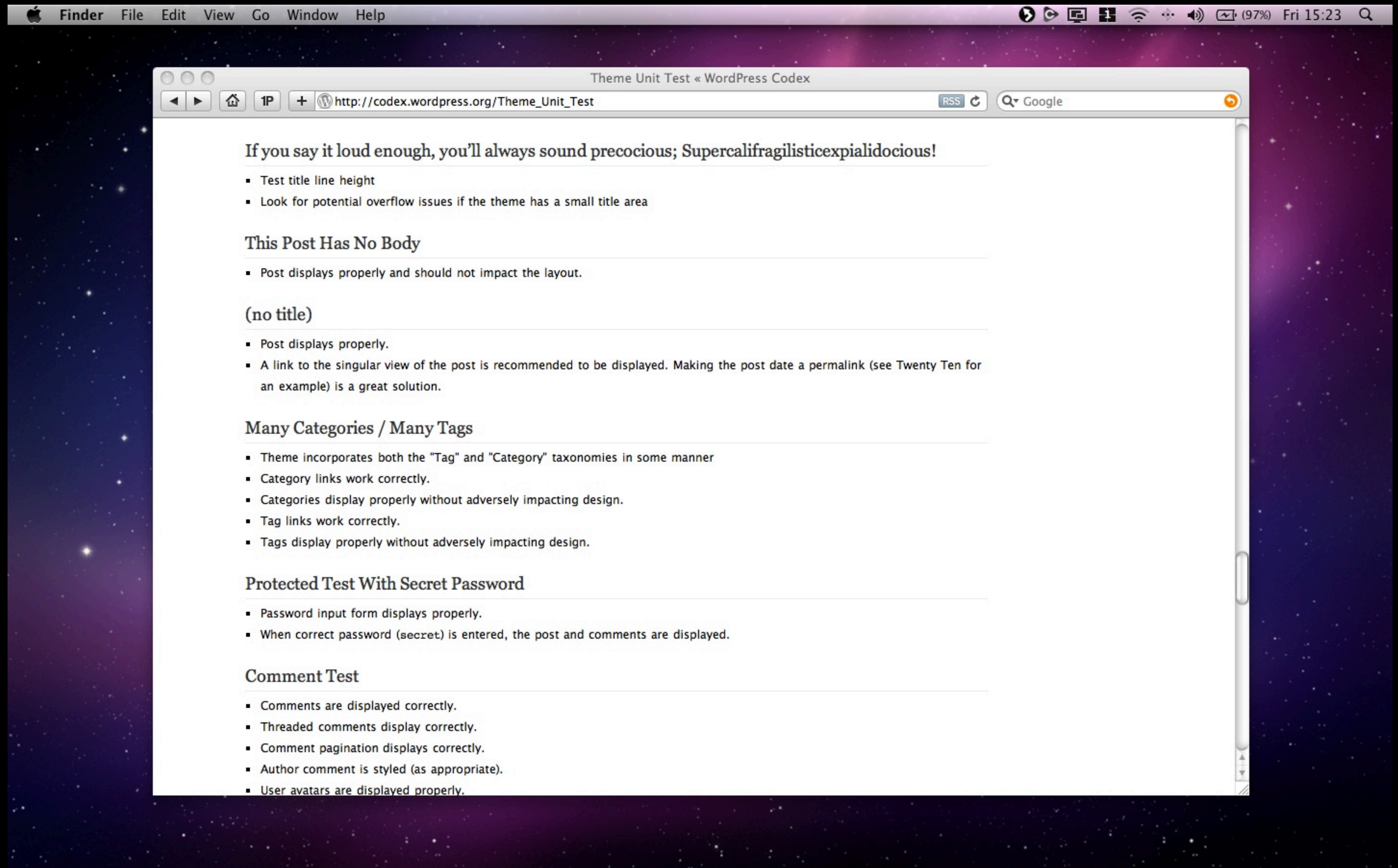




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Codex theme testing checklist  
Create, load, and use test data (content!)





Saturday, June 18, 2011

One item to highlight on that list is the Theme Unit Test  
My process is pushing the theme to extremes to simulate real usage  
But I have to remember I can only test so much -- as some point I have to share it and see how it goes

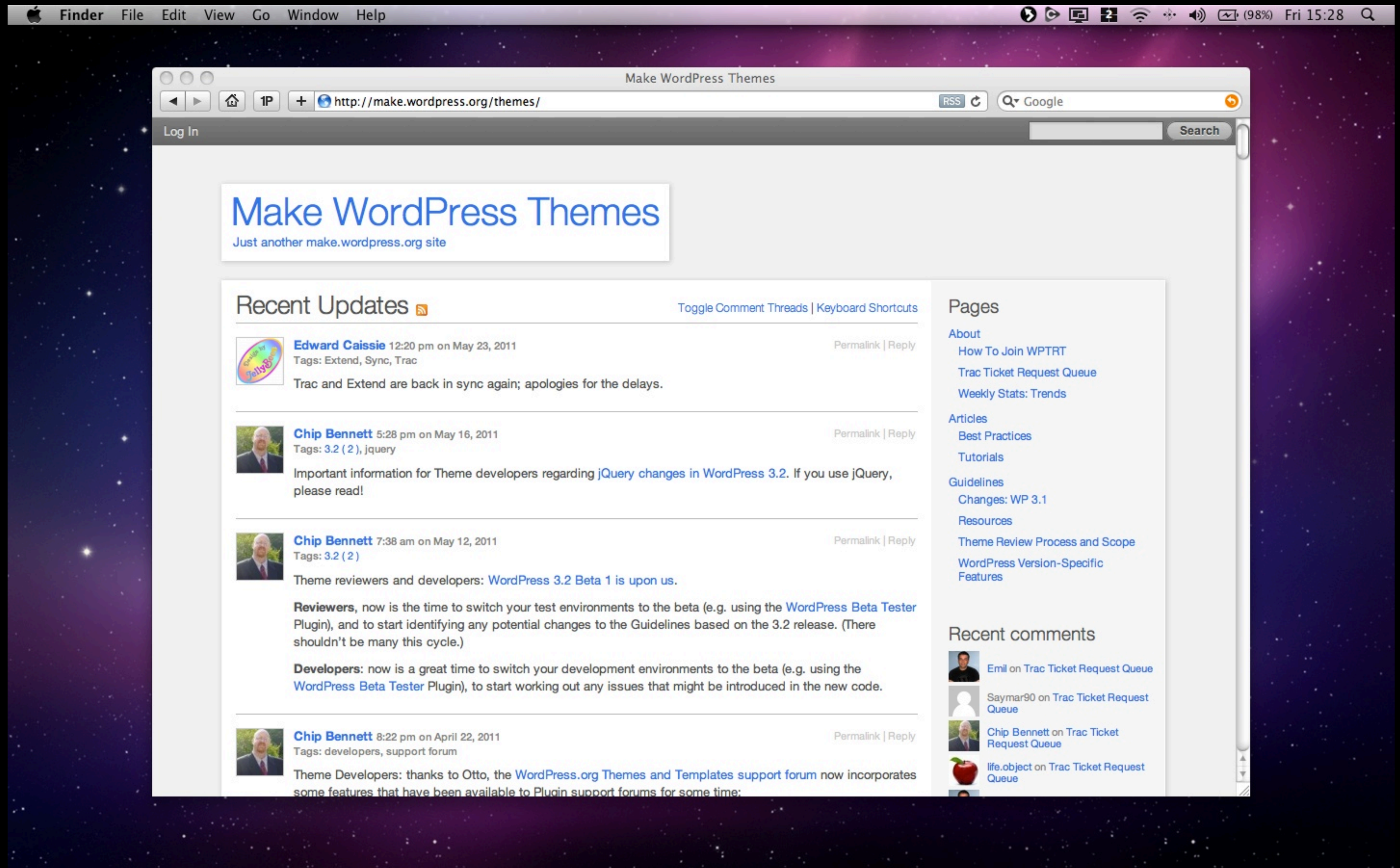


# Share

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Another important aspect of the theme breaking process is sharing  
Share the load with a friend, team  
Ask for feedback and help breaking it

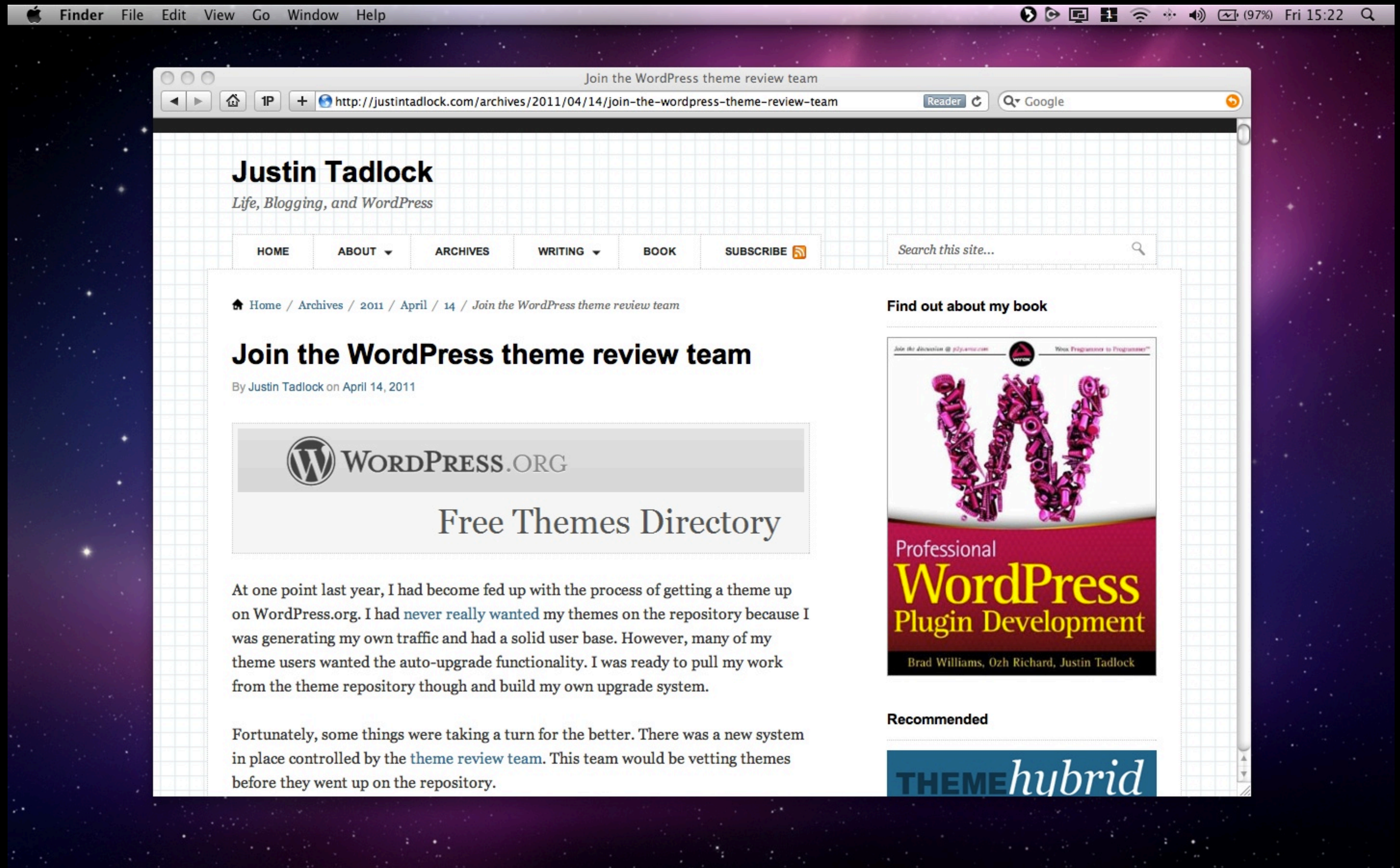




Saturday, June 18, 2011

You might join the WP Theme Review Team  
Help review (BREAK) themes for the WP.org themes directory

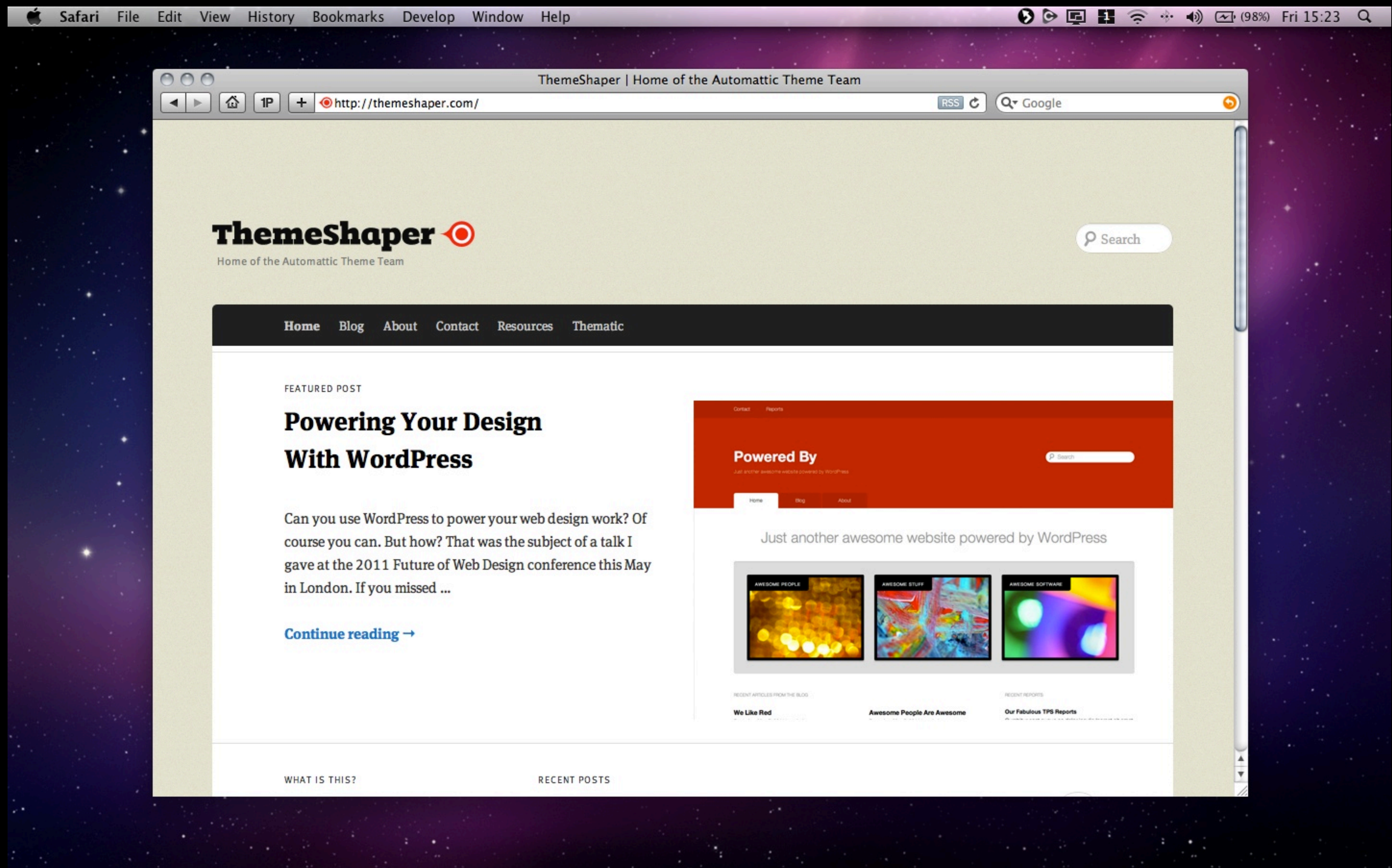




Saturday, June 18, 2011

Share your findings, after you break it  
Write \*Tadlockesque\* blog posts.  
Subliminal! Justin wants you to join the WPTRT, too!

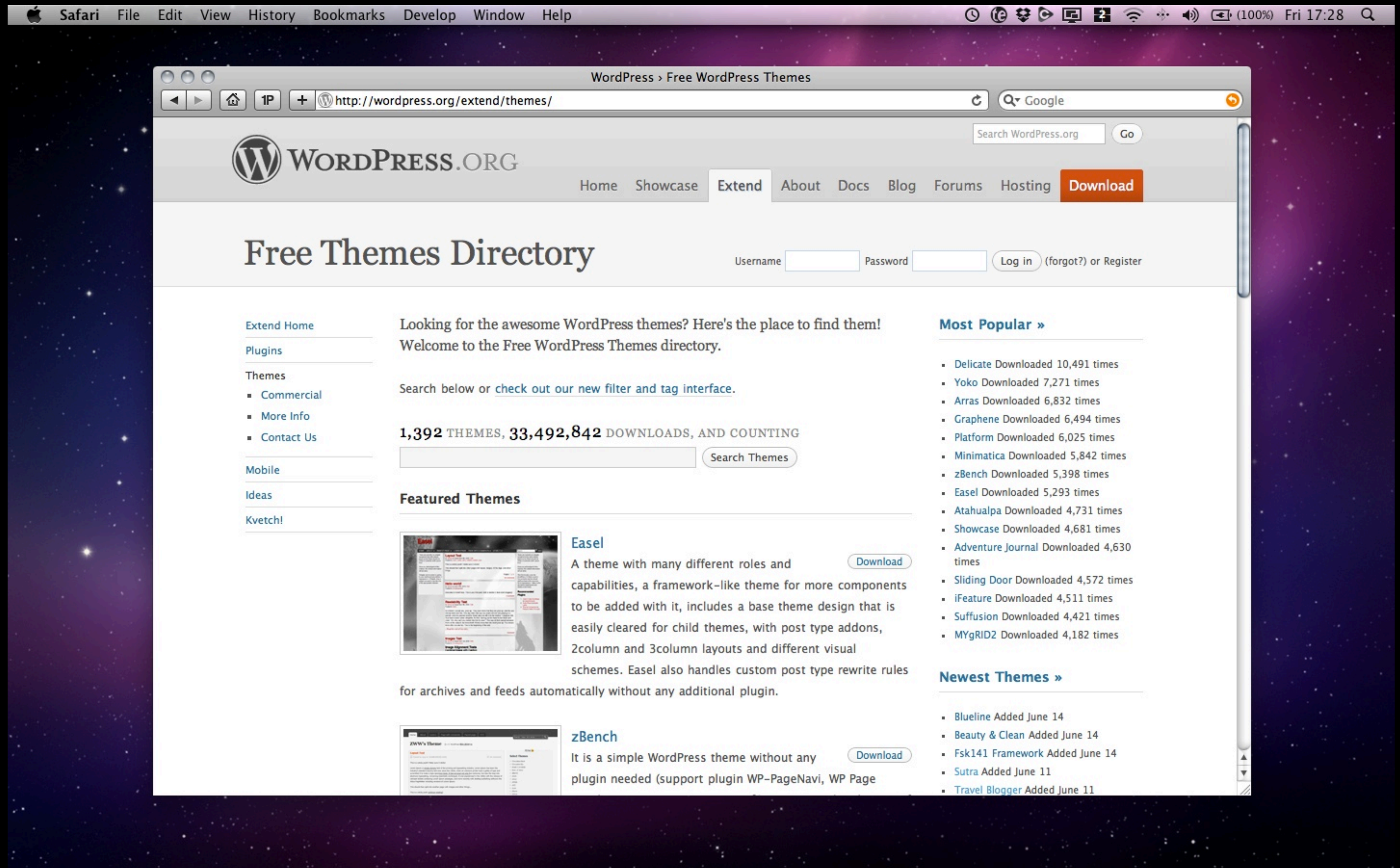




Saturday, June 18, 2011

I blog at ThemeShaper.com, along others on my team





Saturday, June 18, 2011

Share your themes, your designs  
Releasing it actually the best way to break a theme  
You're widening the audience and getting lots more content into your design



# Break Your Theme To Make It Better

Saturday, June 18, 2011

If you take one thing away from today, it's not the exact tools, examples, or process I've shared.  
You'll come up with something better tomorrow  
What I want you to come away with is the "why" behind breaking your theme.  
Breaking themes makes them better!





Saturday, June 18, 2011

@magichat bottle cap, the new fortune cookie  
Velociraptors never knock on doors

Have no fear, break your theme, and have fun with it



ThemeShaper.com

@simplifiedream

Saturday, June 18, 2011

Thank you!

I'll post the links and slides to ThemeShaper soon.