

Creating Multiple Widget Enabled Sidebars in WordPress

This is a quick 'How To' on creating different sidebars for different pages on your WordPress site. It does take a little bit of knowledge of coding and editing your template, but this tutorial should be able to show you how it is done with very little knowledge.

Step 1.

Open up sidebar.php and make a copy of the file and save it as a new sidebar page. I use a naming convention that relates to the page I want to add the sidebar to so it is easier to figure out what sidebar goes where. For example sidebar-home.php or sidebar-pages.php

Step 2.

Open the file functions.php and change the section that looks like

```
if ( function_exists('register_sidebar') )
    register_sidebar(array(
        'before_widget' => '<li id="%1$s" class="widget %2$s">',
        'after_widget' => '</li>',
        'before_title' => '<h2 class="widgettitle">',
        'after_title' => '</h2>',
    ));
```

To something similar to this:

```
if ( function_exists('register_sidebar') )
    register_sidebar(array('name'=>'Sidebar Home',));
    register_sidebar(array('name'=>'Sidebar Home Lower',));
    register_sidebar(array('name'=>'Sidebar Pages',));
    register_sidebar(array('name'=>'Sidebar Blog',
    ));
```

Where the array name is the name of the new sidebar you want to create.

Make a note of which sidebar goes first, second and third etc. The format will be that Sidebar Home is sidebar # 1, Sidebar Home Lower is #2, Sidebar Pages is #3, etc. You can add as many as you like.

On the page for www.coactivetech.net I used two sidebars on the home page – Sidebar Home and Sidebar Home Lower. These sidebars use the **SidePosts Widget** <http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/sideposts/> which allows posts from a single category to show in the feed.

Another sidebar is used on the 'Pages' of the site – example <http://www.coactivetech.net/technology-consulting/> - this sidebar uses a plugin **Sub Pages widget** -

<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/subpages-widget/> that allows link to the child page in the sidebar navigation.

The third sidebar was used on the blog at <http://www.coactivetech.net/category/blog/> and uses basic WordPress blogging widgets like Search and Categories.

Step 3.

Now you need to write an include function to include the sidebar on the right page. On the template page I created for the Home page I called the sidebars with the following code. This just replaces the section `<?php get_sidebar(); ?>`

```
<?php include('sidebar-home.php'); ?>
<br />
<?php include('sidebar-home-lower.php'); ?>
<br />
```

Step 4

The last step is to get the correct sidebar to show up on the sidebar-home.php or sidebar-home-lower.php. To do this you go back to the file you created – like sidebar-home.php and add the number of the sidebar into the function. Like so:

```
<div id="sidebar-home">
<ul>
    <?php /* Widgetized sidebar, if you have the plugin installed. */
        if ( !function_exists('dynamic_sidebar') || !dynamic_sidebar(1) ) : ?>
        </ul>
    <?php endif; ?>
</div>
```

Now when you go to your admin area to the 'Appearance' section and click on 'Widgets', you will see the different sidebars that are available to you where you can add different widgets for each sidebar that will show different content on different pages.

Example:

