



Hello

Ready to build a website?

Our easy-to-use software allows you to create and customise the style and layout of your site without having to understand any coding or HTML.

In this guide we'll take you through the basics, from creating your account and choosing a template to editing a page and changing your background. Everything you need to know to get your site started!

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Before you start

Warning: don't dive in!

It makes sense to plan as much as you can before creating your site. Not only will you save time, but it will also help you take a strategic approach. Boring as that may sound, it really will help you with the process and ensure your website is as amazing as it can be.

Here's what you need to plan

→ Your site name and address

The name you give your site will appear on your homepage (in the form of your logo), in the browser window and in search engine listings, so make it relevant, memorable and not too complicated. Your site name could be your business, a snappy title or, say for portfolios, your own name. You should also consider SEO [search engine optimisation] when deciding this – see our guide 'Writing a site name and description for SEO' for more details.

 The 'site address' is the URL address used to access the site [e.g. `mysiteaddress.moonfruit.com`] and should therefore include your site name

→ Style and layout

What look and feel do you want for your site? Do you want it to be clean and minimal, or colourful and packed with features and information? What you choose will ultimately depend on you, your personal taste, your audience and what your website is about.

Do some research before you decide. Check out other websites for inspiration. Note how they use space and present information. It might even be worth sketching out a few rough drawings as this will help you crystallise what's important to you from the outset.

→ Pages

It's helpful to decide what pages you'll need before you start creating them. Do you want a welcome page? About page? A shop? Image gallery? Contact page? Now's the time to decide.

→ Content

Once you've decided what pages you want, it's worth planning what you'll put on them. When it comes to your text (copy), try to keep it relevant and concise. Say too much and you'll risk switching people off...

...Images are a great way to prevent this happening. Engage visitors with striking visuals that tell them about you and what you do and you should be able to sustain their interest (cute cat pics are great but we'd suggest you refrain from using them unless they reflect what your website's about).

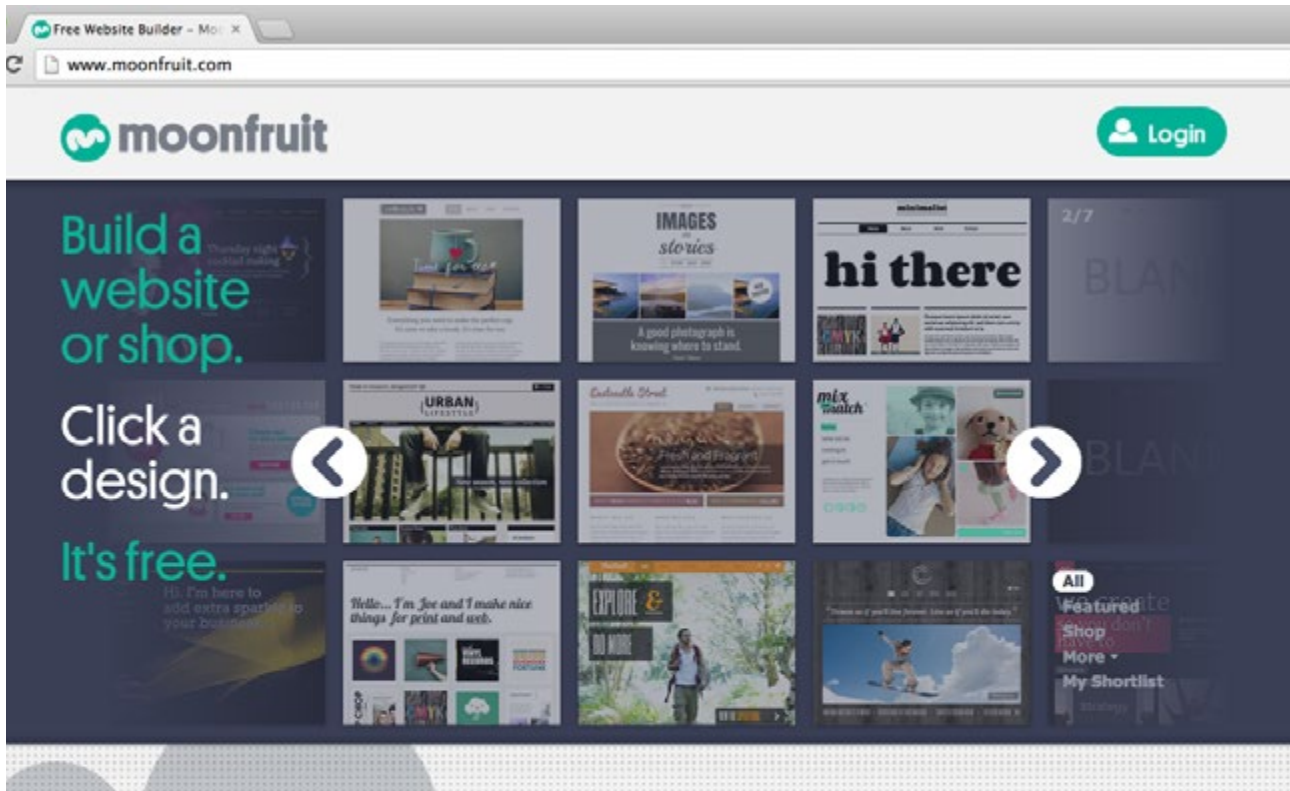


Your images should be in jpeg, gif, png or animated format.

Choose a design

The first thing you need to do is pick from one of our designs...

→ Go to **moonfruit.com**



→ Select a design... and go to **Click to build**.

→ You'll then be asked to choose a **username**, valid **email address** and **password**.

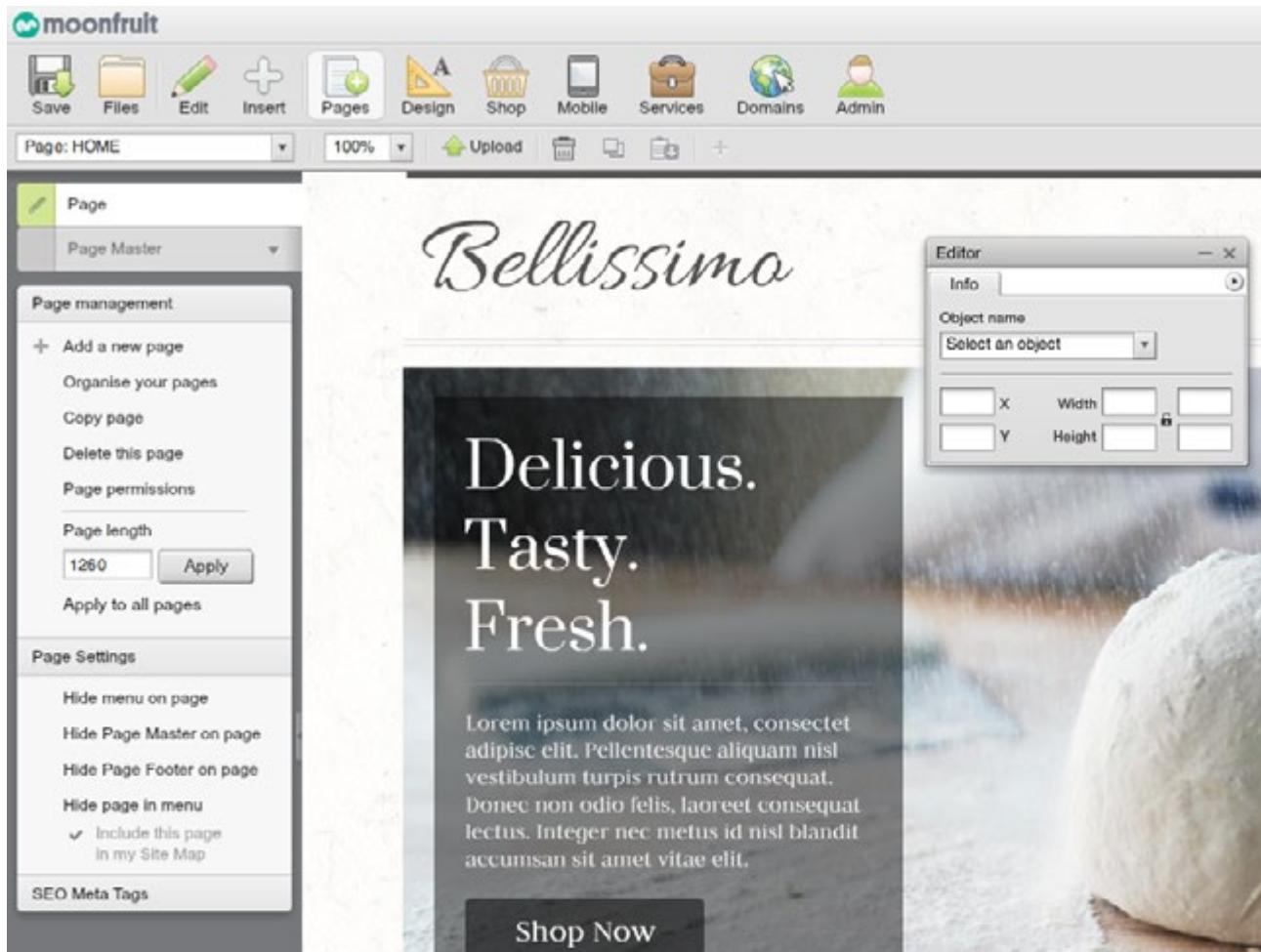
The username can be anything between 3 and 32 characters [letters or numbers]

The password between 7-100 characters [all character types allowed].

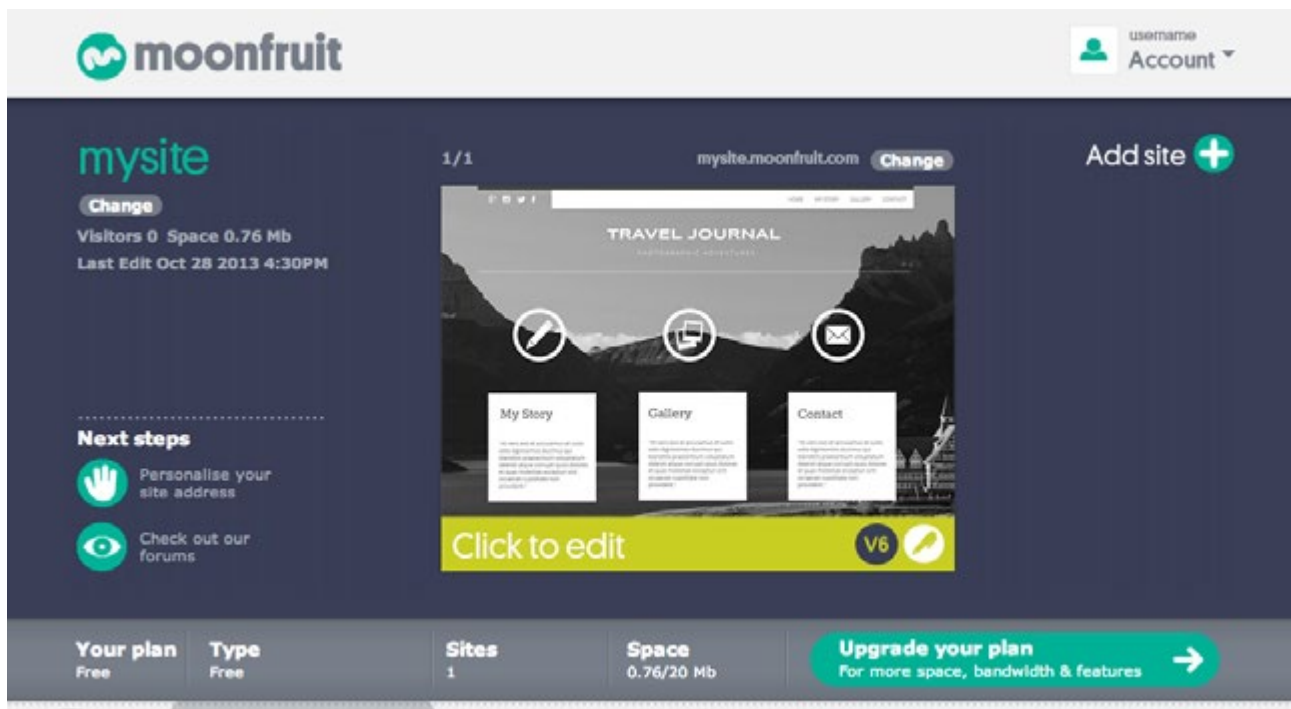
→ Make a note of your details and then click **Launch my site** to create your account.

Your template

Once signed in, you'll see your template ready to edit.



The template is the basic site design - a starting point from which you can customise to your heart's content and put your stamp on it. Some are themed and others aimed at specific areas like photography portfolios and shops. If you can't find one that's quite right, you can always choose a blank template and start from scratch.



Now let's add your **Site name** and **Site address**.

→ Click on **Moonfruit** at the top left of the screen. Go to **Change** under your username and type in the name of your site and address. Press **Submit**.

👉 You can purchase a non-branded domain name [i.e. without 'moonfruit.com' in the URL] or transfer an existing domain you own to your site.

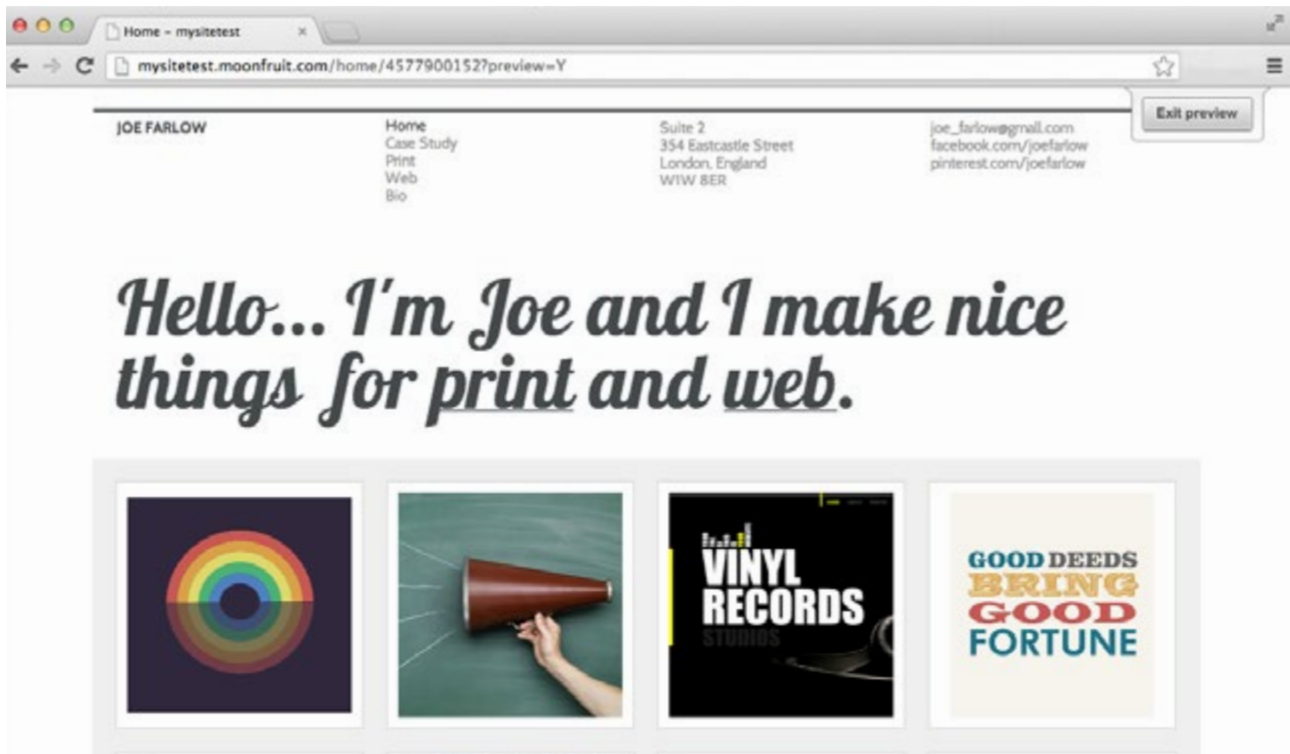
All Moonfruit sites start out as a free trial, which lasts for 15 days. You can keep your website for free [yay!] or choose to upgrade at any point during the trial - but please make sure you choose one of these options before the end of this time, otherwise your new site won't continue past the end of the 15 days.

👉 Upgrade to get additions like royalty free photos from Getty Images, more online storage and mobile optimisation. Click on the links in the top right corner of the editor to see the packages. Alternatively, click Admin on top toolbar then billing to the left.

→ Press **Click to edit** to return to your template.

Part 1. Homepage

Adding an intro or welcome section

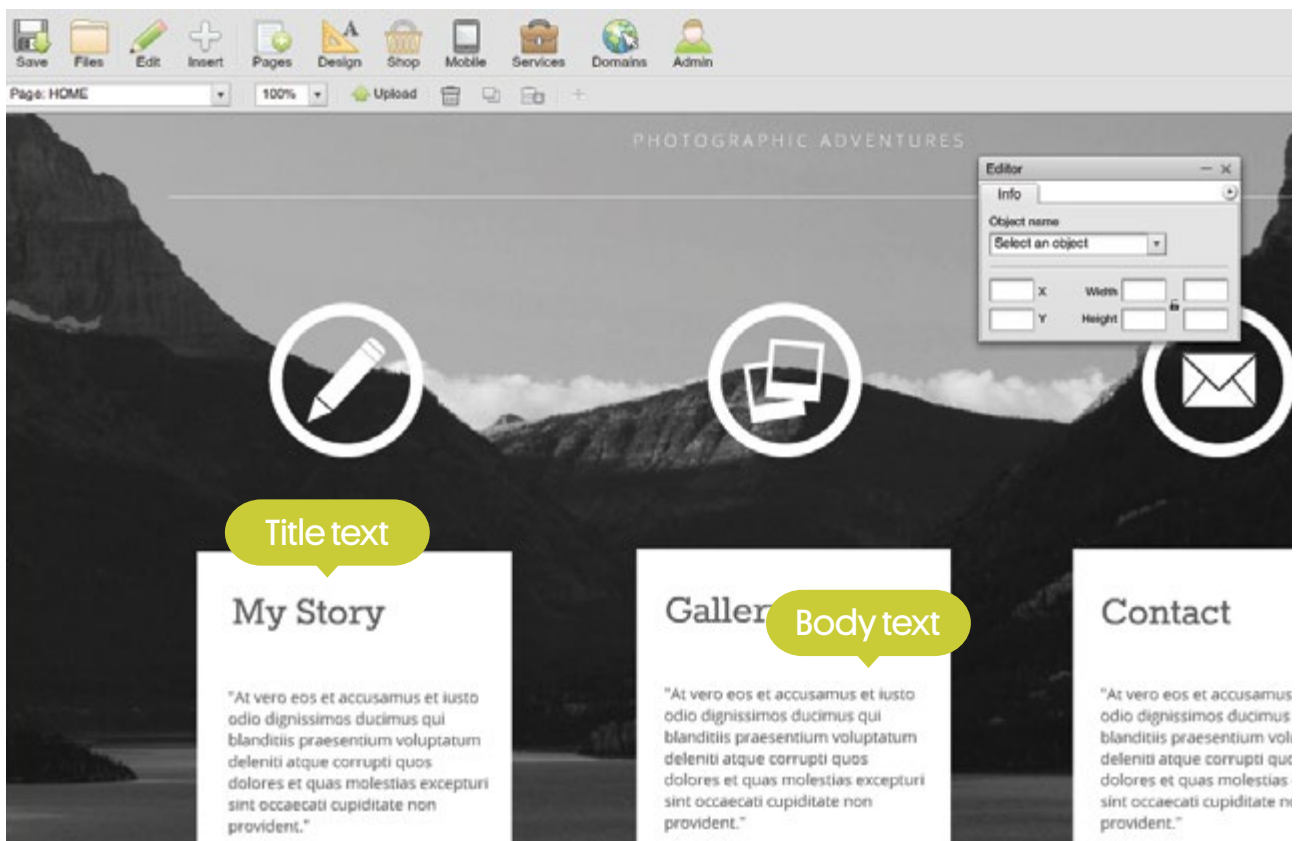


Your homepage, or landing page, is the most important page of your site. It's your welcome to visitors and should sell what your site is about.

Key to this is your introduction. A paragraph or two that explains who you are and what you have to offer should do it. Remember to keep it concise though. Nobody wants to read through a huge amount of text at this stage.

→ Editing text:

Most items on the page can be edited just by clicking on them. Generally one click will select the object to move and a double-click will allow you to edit it. For example, in the site above you can see some text starting 'Hello...'. To change that to something else, double-click the text box, highlight the text you want to change, and type 'Welcome' for example.



As you can see above, there are two types of text box. **Title text** for headings that usually sit at the top of your page (in the above's case 'hi there') and **body text** for lengthy pieces of text content. Both are edited in exactly the same way but, for particularly lengthy pieces of text, you may want to type it in a Word or text document first, then copy and paste it in the text box. If you find you can't select or highlight your chosen text, it means the text is located within the **Page Master** (see next chapter).

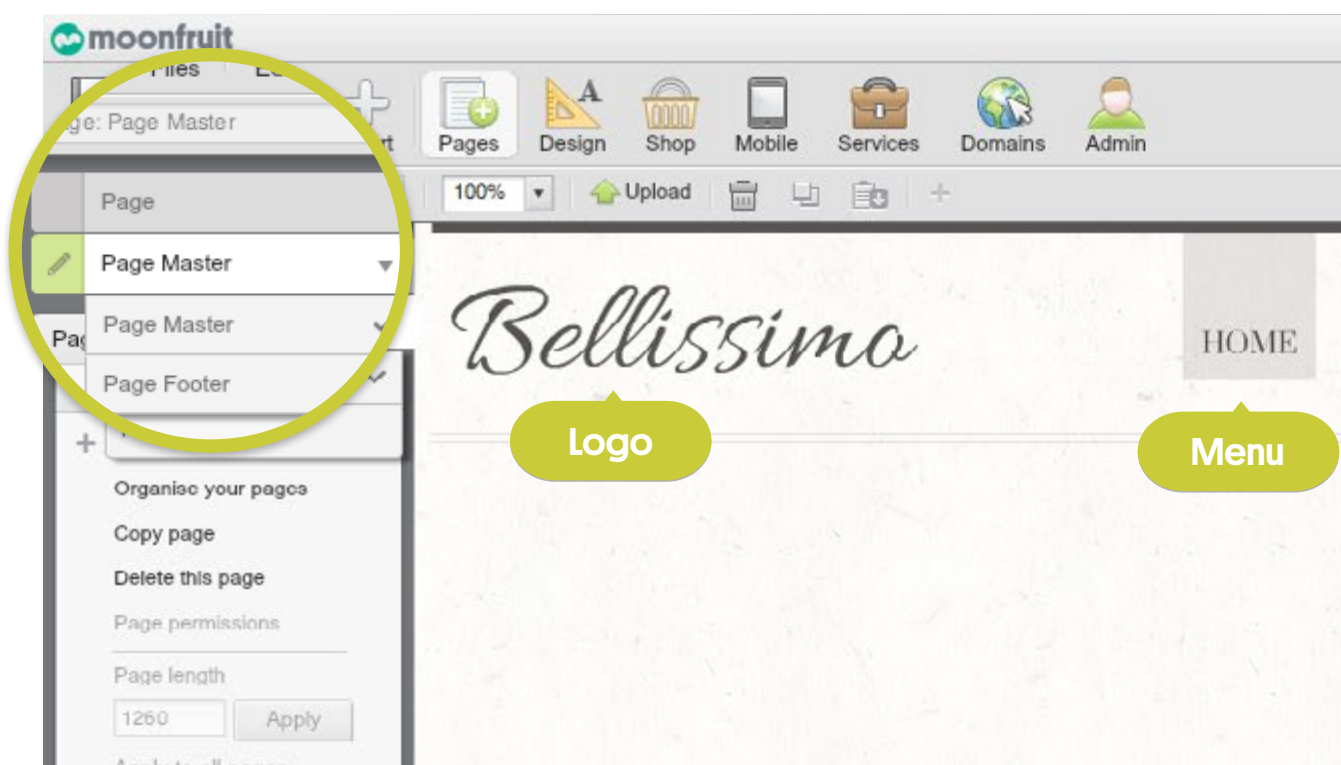
 The size of the text box will automatically adjust to accommodate the text you type. You can also adjust it manually.

 You can also change the properties of the text, including font, point size, style and colour through the **Editor > Fonts**

The Page Master

The Page Master is a layer that sits behind every page of your site - any object that's placed on it will appear in the same place across your site. This is really useful for things such as your logo (sitename or title text) or adding contact details.

→ To access it, go to **Page Master** to the left of your screen.



→ Adding your logo

Your template probably already has a placeholder logo in place, but if it doesn't, you can add one by clicking **Insert > Title** on the top tool bar

This can then be highlighted and edited like any other text - so you can choose any font and style that suits your brand and the rest of your site.

If you already have a logo, you can upload it here as an image.

→ Menu

While here, you may have noticed this is also where the menu lives. You can reposition it by selecting it, and you can amend the properties via the pop-up 'Editor'.

👉 You can't change the menu page names at this point. You can find out how to do it in the Organising pages section.

When you're happy with any changes you've made, click **Save** on the tool bar and then **Page** in the top-left corner to switch back to the normal page view.

Adding images

It's a good idea to personalise your site with a logo image, if you have one, along with any photos that can bring what you do to life - be they your finest landscape shots to promote your photography services, or close-ups of your latest hand-printed t-shirt collection.

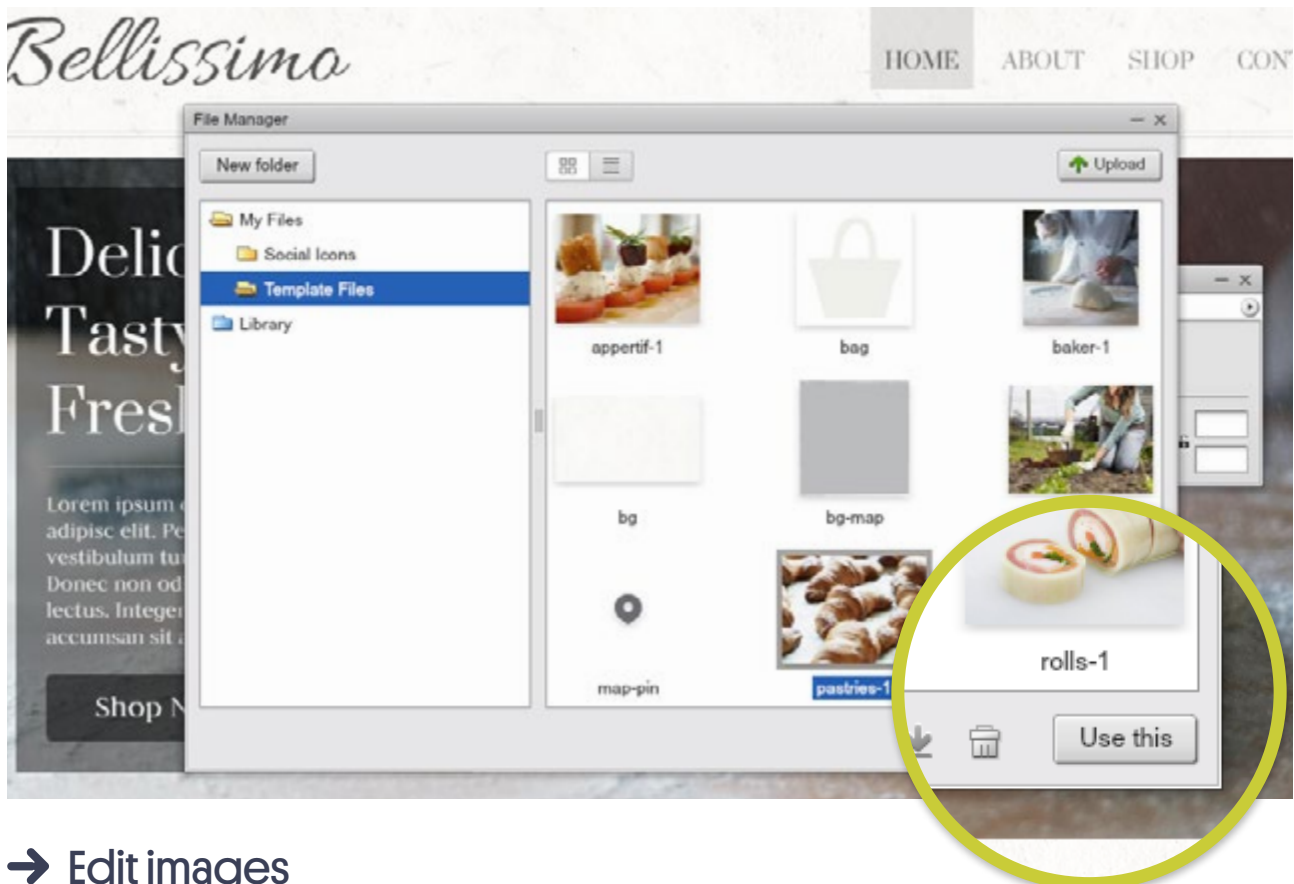
→ Upload your images

Uploading your own files couldn't be easier. Just head over to **Upload** on the top tool bar. Browse to find your file and select it. The image will then upload to the file manager of your site.

👉 Any content you upload is stored, managed and accessed in the file manager.

→ Add images

You can then add images to a page by clicking **Use this** in the bottom-right of the file manager panel [shown below].



→ Edit images

As with text boxes, you can click and drag images around the page and use the resize handles to change the size or shape of the image. You also have the option to rotate.

To rotate, click once on the image and then use the rotate button on the Editor. Grab the rotate handles and drag the item round to the preferred angle.



If you can't see the rotate option in the Editor, then rotation isn't possible on that particular object.

To delete an image or any other item, click on it and press the 'bin' icon on the top toolbar.

As you've seen, you can edit text, images and other objects in pretty much the same way - it's just a case of clicking, dragging and re-styling through the Editor.

So, have a play around until you find a layout that suits and use the homepage as the starting point for a style you can develop throughout the site. If you find that you do need a bit more space to work with...

Part 2 . Design settings

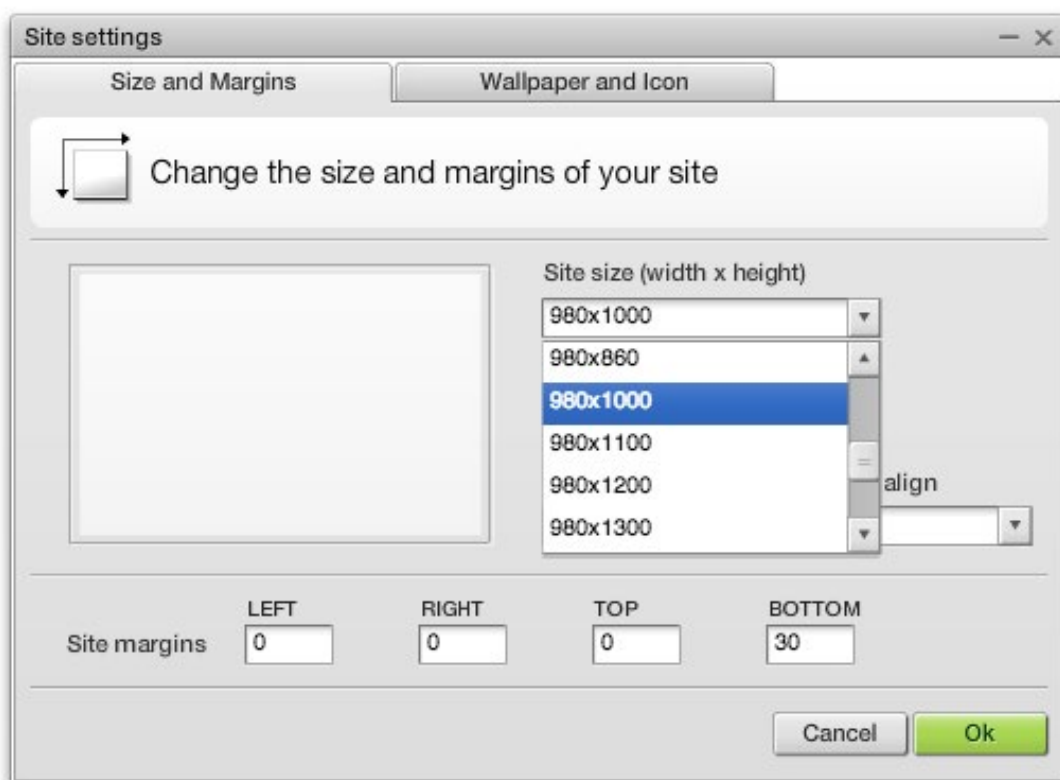
Site structure

→ Site size

To change the size of your site, click **Design** in the top tool bar, then **Site size** in the panel on the left, then up pops the **Site settings** box.

In this panel you control the dimensions of the site. There's a drop-down menu for height and width, or you can pick the **Custom** option to manually input the settings. You can also position the page and reduce or increase margins here.

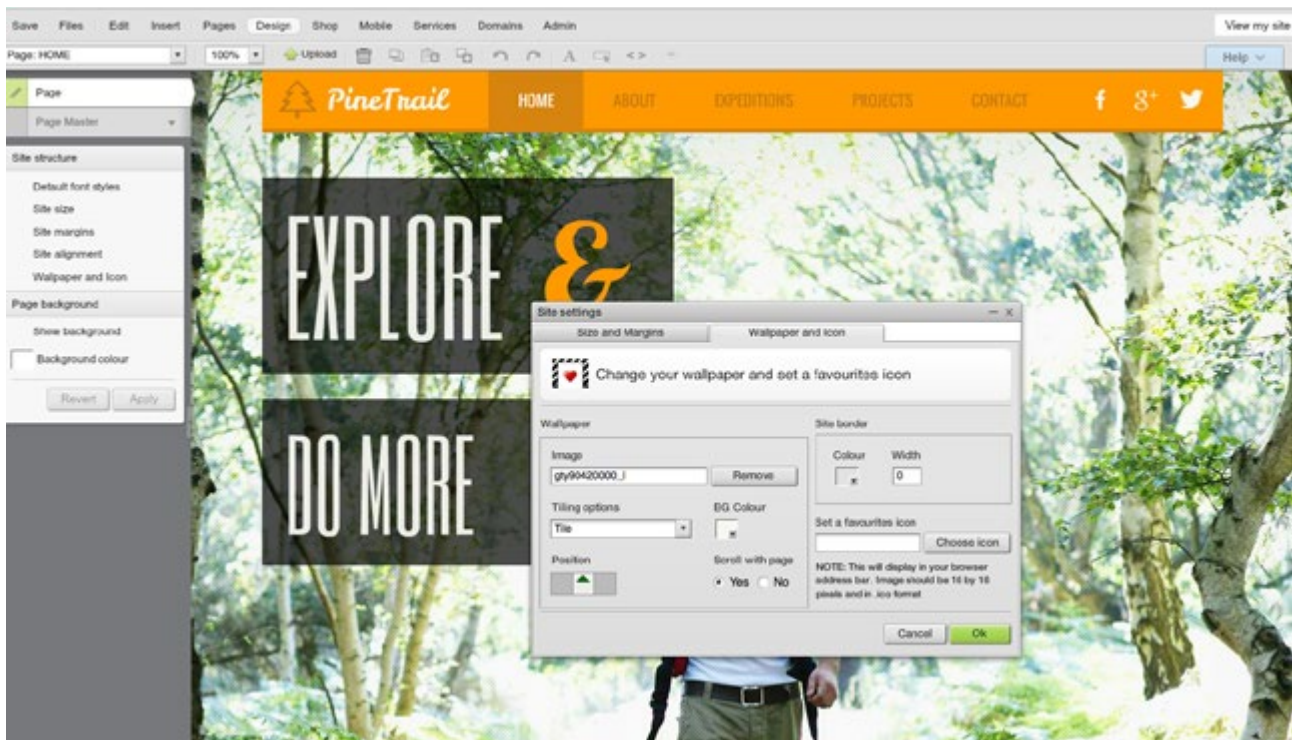
👉 Changing these settings will affect the space surrounding your main content area. If you decrease the margins, you'll have more content space to play around with.



→ Wallpaper and icon

The 'Wallpaper' is the image or colour you choose to be shown as the backdrop across your website - it applies to the area behind all of the text and image boxes. The **Wallpaper and Icon** tab [accessed as above] allows you to add, remove

or change the image and colour, as well as gives you control over how they're displayed.

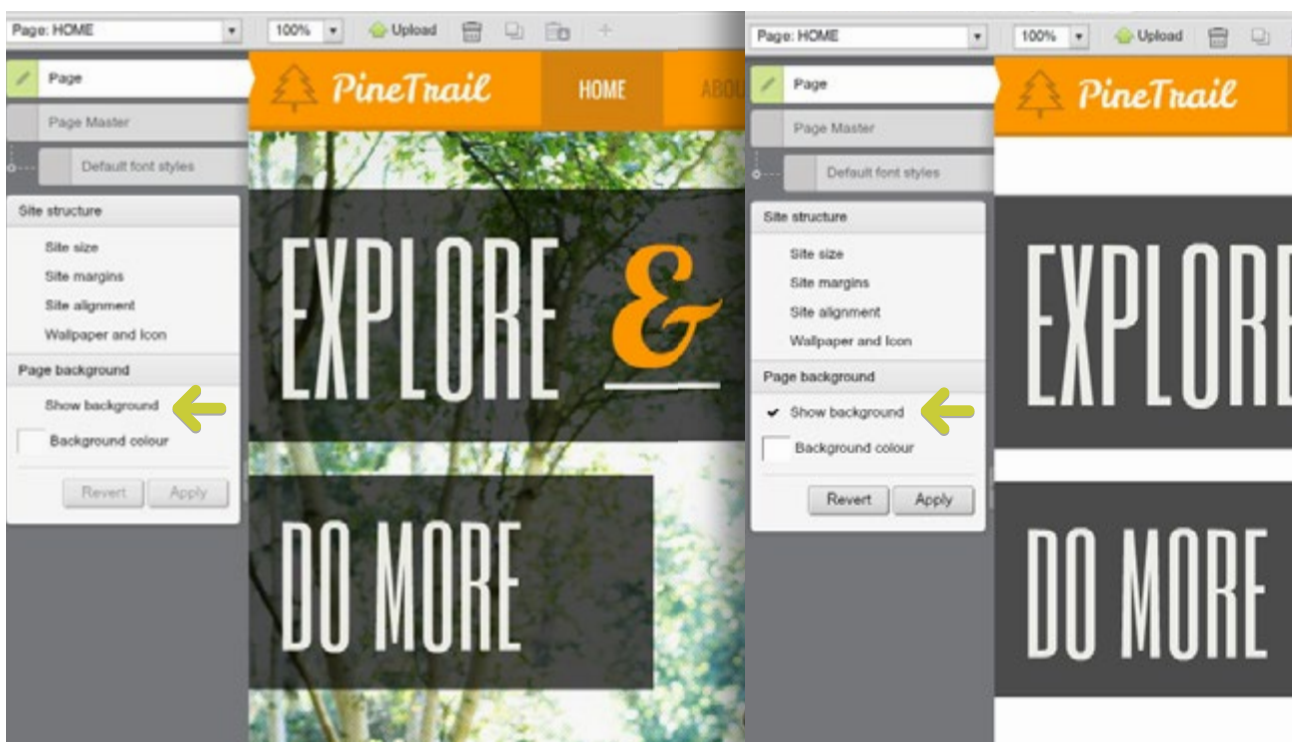


The wallpaper you choose will provide the backdrop across your site, on all pages, so choose well! You can, however, choose a different background to apply to the main content area, should you wish. You do? Then the next section's for you!

Site background

So, you want to apply a different background to the core content area of your site, separating it from your wallpaper. You can do this by selecting Design > Page Background. Then...

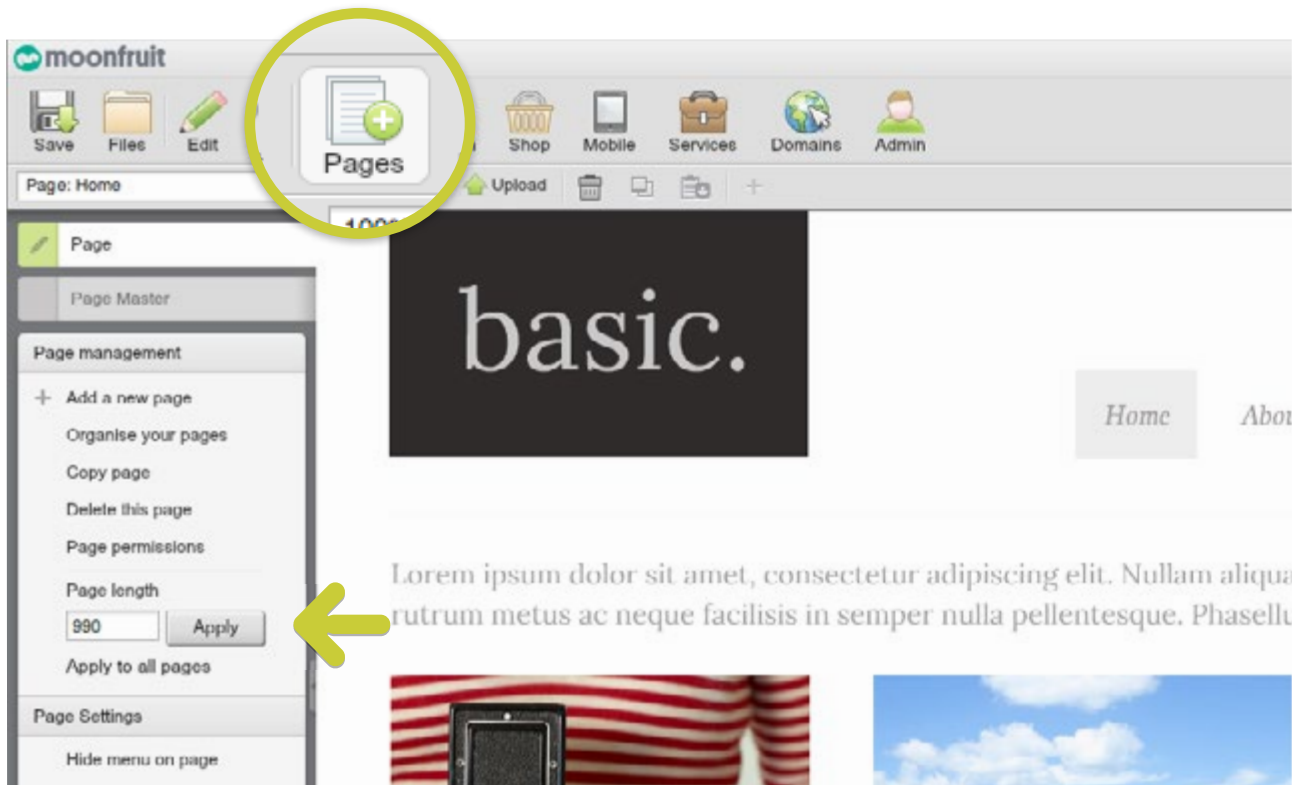
- Click Show background. You can then change the colour by clicking on Background colour and choosing from the colour palette. Should you need to, you can change your mind by clicking Revert or deselecting Show background.



So, this has hopefully given you a good introduction to the design settings and creating your homepage. Let's move on to your other pages...

Page length

→ Go to **Pages** on the top tool bar, then **Page length** on the menu to the left.



Here you can increase (or decrease) the length of the page you're working on, as well as **Apply to all pages** throughout.

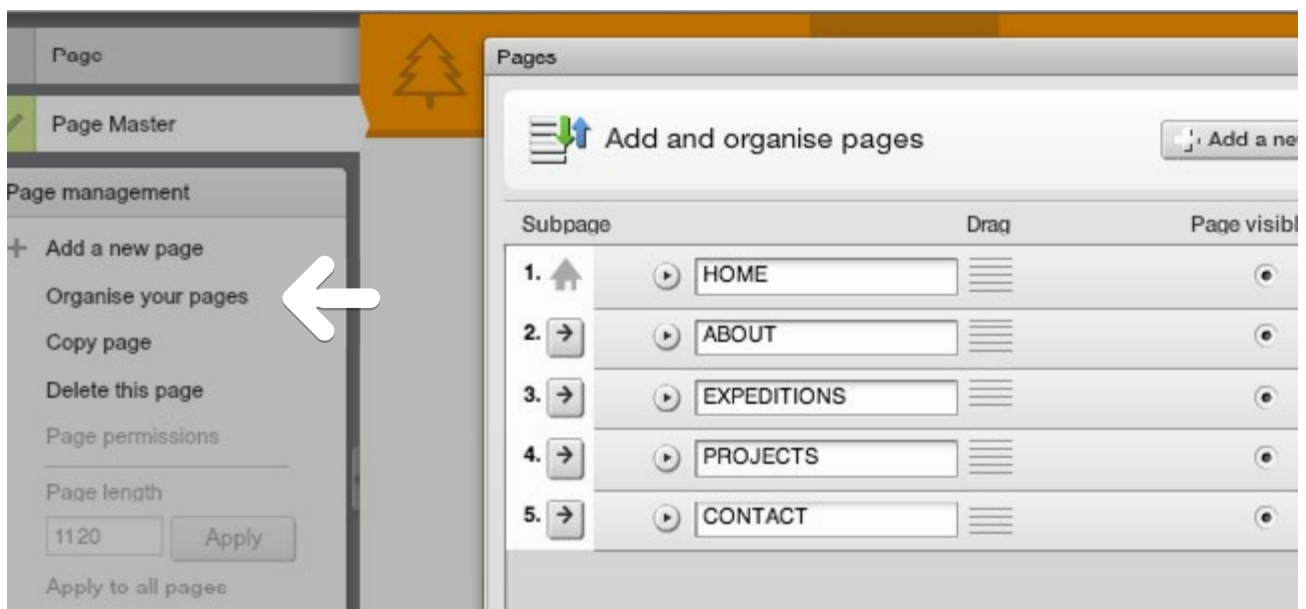
There isn't an option to change the width of an individual page but you can alter the width of your site through **Design > Site size**.

Part 3 . Pages

Organising pages

To access a particular page on your site, go to the drop-down menu on the top-left of the tool bar and select the page you want to edit.

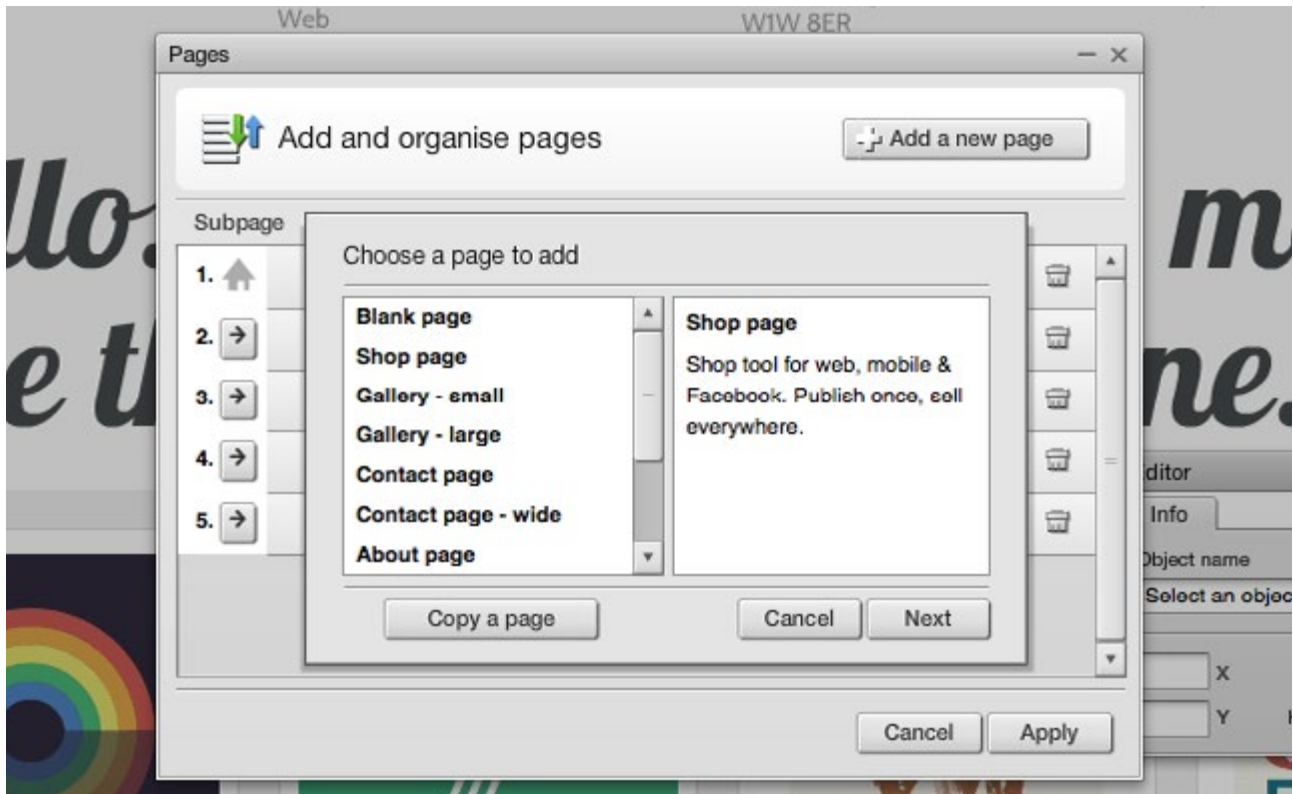
To add pages, change the name of existing pages, and change the order in which your pages appear, click on **Pages** in the tool bar, then **Organise your pages** in the menu on the left. This will bring you to the **Pages** panel, as below.



Changing page names in the menu

The name of each page appears in the same order as presented on your site e.g. 'Home' then 'About' and so on.

If you want to rename a page, simply delete the existing page text and type a new one.



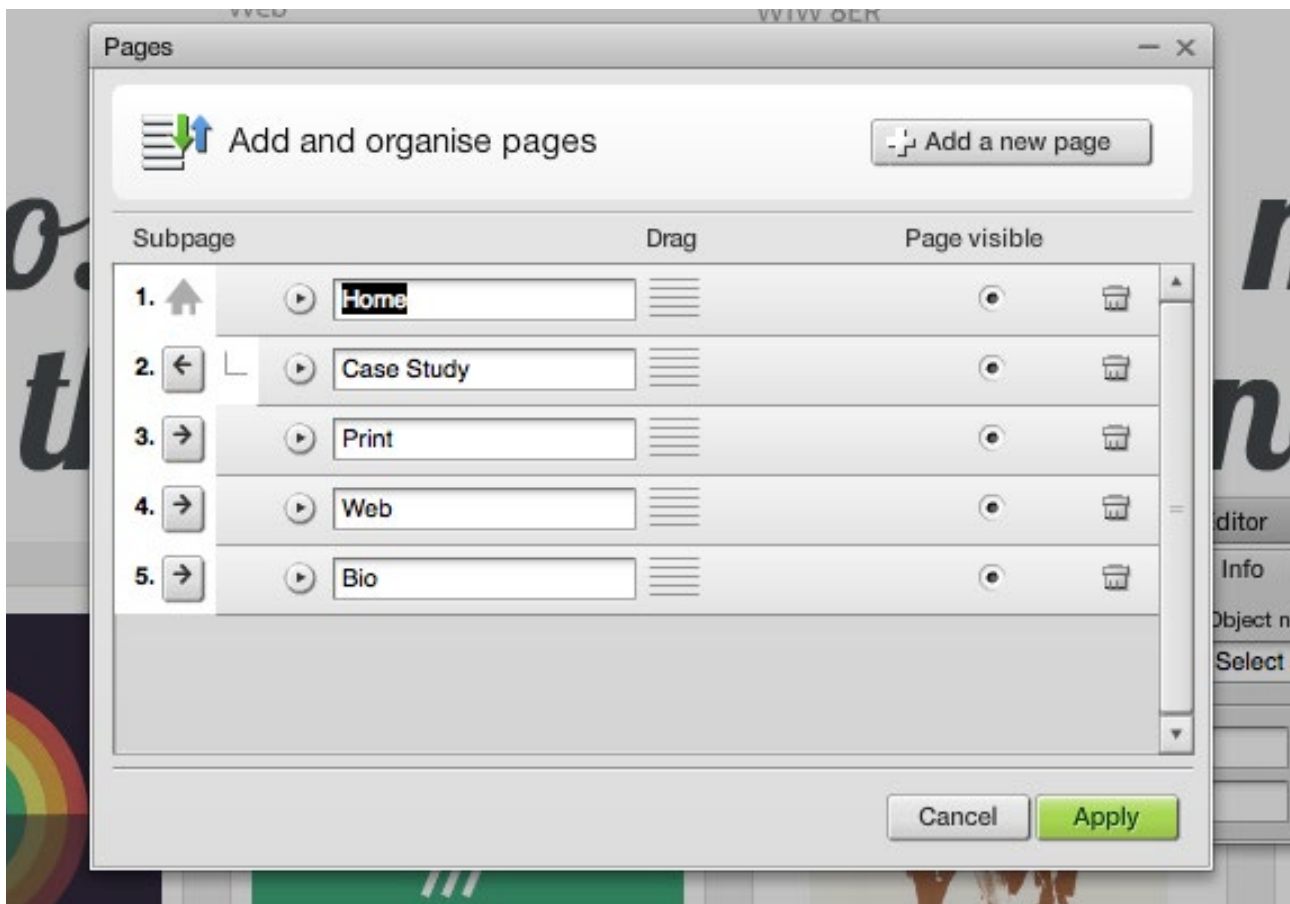
Changing the order of your pages

Your pages are shown in a numbered list, reflecting the order in which they appear on the menu. To change this order, use the 'Drag' feature (shown in the column to the right of the page titles) to drag that page up or down. The order of the other pages will adjust accordingly.

Adding a new page

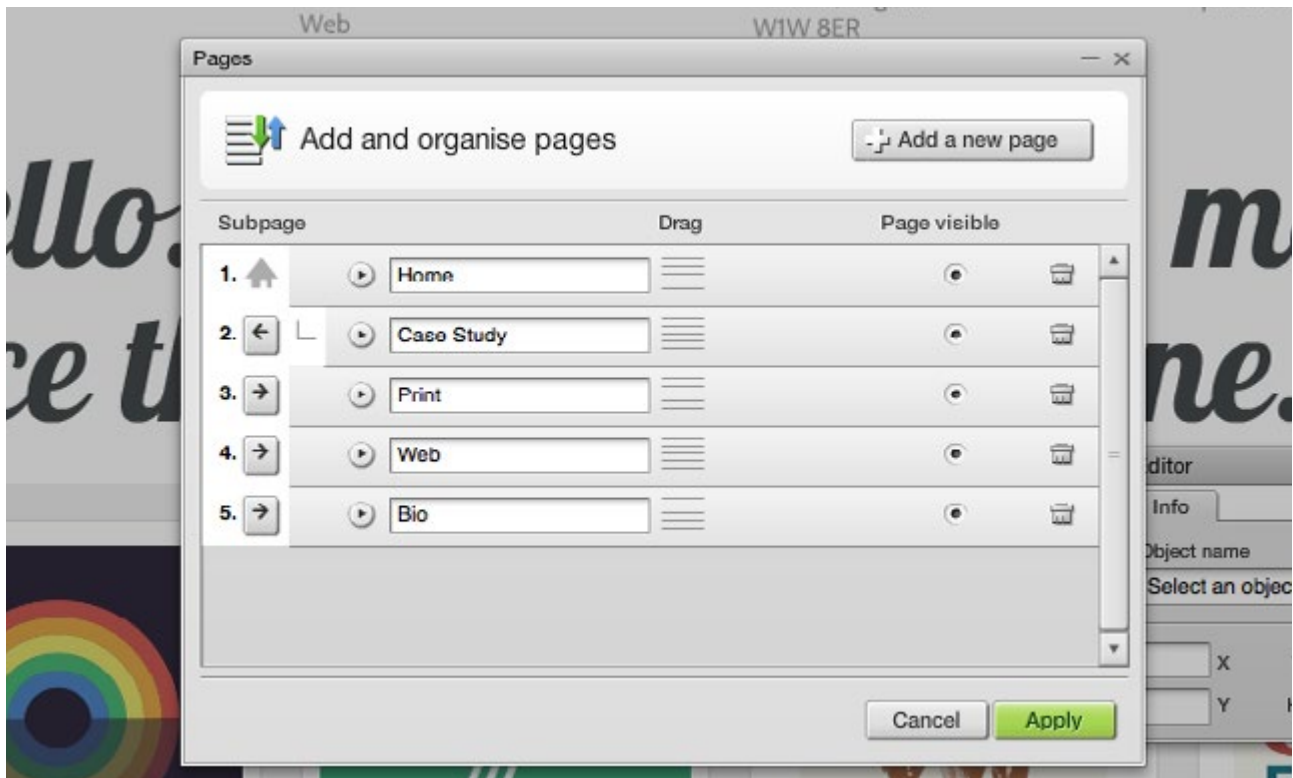
You can add a new page to your site by clicking the 'Add a new page' button in the top-right corner of the Pages panel.

You'll then be asked to select the type of page you want to add, e.g. 'Blank page'. Pick the one that's closest to your purpose, but don't worry, you can add anything you like to your page later.



Next you'll be asked to give the page a name (which will also appear in the website menu). After you've chosen its name, you can 'hide' the page while you work on it or publish the page straight away. Once you click 'Next' you'll be able to determine where it sits in your menu. 'Finish' will complete the process.

When you've finished adding and organising your pages, click 'Apply' and your site will reload with everything in its rightful place!



Making a sub-page

You can make one of your pages a sub-page, or child page, of another page. It won't be displayed in the main menu, but it will appear as an option for visitors to click through to when they hover over the 'parent' page or menu item. To do this, click on the numbered arrow of the page you want to become a sub page.

Once you've done this, it will be indented beneath the parent page. If you want to make it a sub-page of a different parent page, just use the drag feature to change its position.

...And that's pretty much it for now.

Now that you've introduced yourself to the various tools and features, have a play around, get a feel for things, and move on to our other guides if and when you need to.

And don't forget to check out our blog, forum and social channels for heaps of tips, tricks and inspiration.

Tips and inspiration aplenty:

Moonfruit Lounge [our blog]: www.moonfruit.com/blog

Facebook: www.facebook.com/moonfruit

Twitter: www.twitter.com/moonfruit

Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/moonfruit

Forum: <http://support.moonfruit.com/home>

The Moonfruit team