

# Characteristics of a back-office theme

## Table of contents

- [Characteristics of a back-office theme](#)
  - [The theme's folders](#)
  - [CSS and image files](#)
  - [Controllers' view files](#)
  - [Helpers' view files](#)

## Characteristics of a back-office theme

PrestaShop's administration area is completely customizable, as it uses the same template language as the front-office themes, Smarty.

Each employee can use a customized theme:

- if you are the employee: click the "My preferences" link at the top of every page, and select the theme using the "Theme" drop-down list.
- if you have to change any employee's back-office theme: go to the "Employees" page under the "Administration" menu, click the "Edit" button for the employee, and select the theme using the "Theme" drop-down list.

## The theme's folders

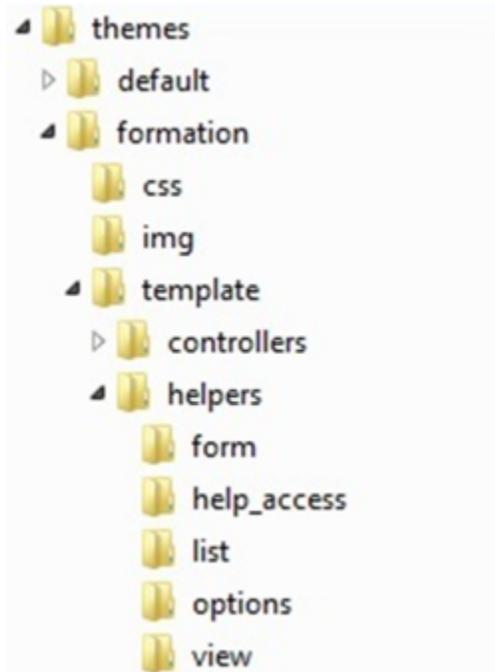
A back-office theme share many characteristics with a front-office theme, but has obviously its own set too.

One of the main characteristics is that a back-office theme is tied to a front-office theme: its back-office files and folders are stored along those of the front-office theme.

The back-office theme is built using the following standard folders, within the main theme folder:

- `/css`: contains the style sheets. The back-office theme's CSS files are only two (see below).
- `/img`: contains the theme's images.
- `/templates`: this folder is specific to the back-office theme. It contains all the template files for the theme:
  - `/templates/controllers`: contains the templates used by the back-office controllers.
  - `/templates/helpers`: contains the templates used by the back-office helpers.

Note that there is no `/js` folder: you should not fiddle with the back-office's JavaScript code, which is stored in the `/js` folder, under the root of PrestaShop's folder.



## CSS and image files

The back-office theme uses only two CSS files:

- `admin.css`: the main CSS rules for the back-office.
- `modules.css`: the module-specific CSS rules, used for the module's back-office controllers. See `AdminModulesControllerCore::initContent()`.

Image files for the back-office theme should mostly be in PNG format. This makes it possible to use transparency in order to work with the background color setting.

## Controllers' view files

The back-office controllers (`AdminController*` classes) use View files that are located in the `/themes/name_of_the_theme/template/controllers/name_of_the_controller` folder.

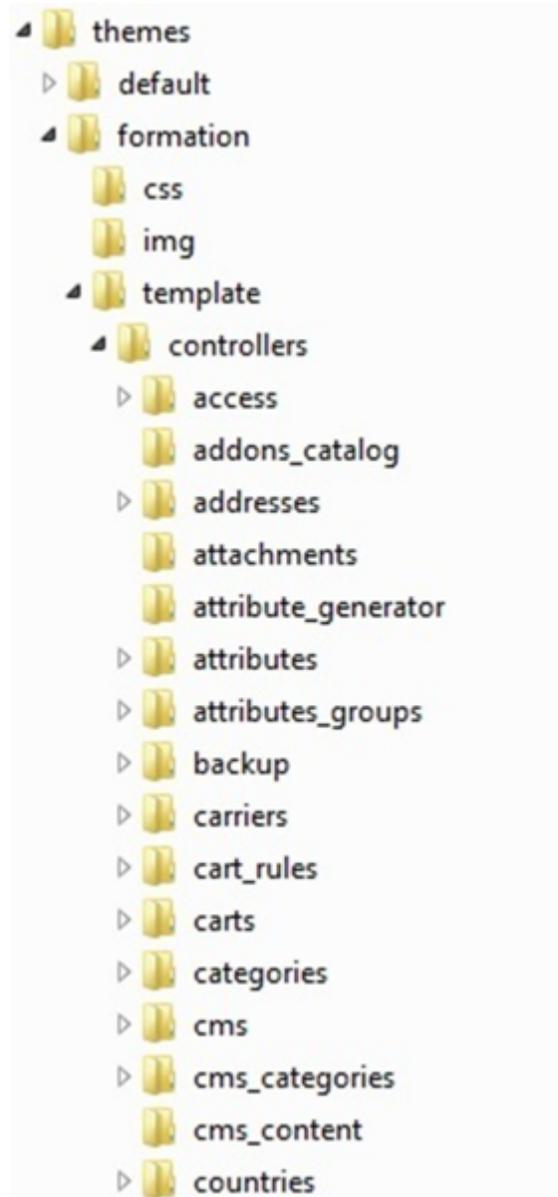
You can override the View of a back-office controller by using the `/override/controllers/admin/templates/name_of_the_controller` folder.

The modules which have back-office controllers (`ModuleAdminController*` classes) use View files that are located in the `/modules/name_of_the_module/views/templates/admin/name_of_the_controller` folder.

You can override the View of a module's back-office controller by using the `/admin/themes/name_of_the_theme/template` folder.

 While the name of the controller must use [CamelCase naming convention](#), the matching view file must use lowercase letters and underscore signs for its name.

For instance: the `RangePrice` controller's matching view file must be named `range_price`.



## Helpers' view files

PrestaShop looks for View files in a specific order for each type of controller.

For a back-office controller (`AdminController*`), the order is thus:

1. `/override/controllers/admin/templates/name_of_the_controller/helpers/name_of_the_helper/list_content.tpl`
2. `/admin/themes/name_of_the_theme/template/controllers/name_of_the_controller/helpers/name_of_the_helper/list_content.tpl`
3. `/admin/themes/name_of_the_theme/helpers/name_of_the_helper`

For a module (configuration page), the order is thus:

- `/modules/name_of_the_module/views/templates/admin/_configure/name_of_the_module/helpers/name_of_the_helper/list_content.tpl`
- `/admin/themes/name_of_the_theme/helpers/name_of_the_helper`

For a module's controller (ModuleAdminController\*), the order is thus:

- /modules/name\_of\_the\_module/views/templates/admin/name\_of\_the\_controller/helpers/name\_of\_the\_helper/list\_content.tpl
- /admin/themes/name\_of\_the\_theme/helpers/name\_of\_the\_helper



While the name of the controller must use CamelCase naming convention, the matching view file must use lowercase letters and underscore signs for its name.

For instance: the RangePrice controller's matching view file must be named range\_price.