

## Image Caption Stack

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### Updated 13/11/09, changes in this include:

- Images now set as a container background, not a floating HTML image tag
- Removed Image ALT tag attribute
- Removed image Title attribute
- Added stack width setting
- Added stack height setting
- Removed surplus code and asset files

### What does this stack do?

This advanced stack was originally developed for the News Media theme and displays an image. When a user hovers their mouse over the image, a caption is displayed presented on a semi-transparent background. This caption fades in and fades out using jQuery. Use this stack to make pages more interesting and give visitors an element of interaction. This stack is ideal for use in photography portfolios and e-commerce pages. You can safely use more than one Image Overlay stack per page to build up a complete collage of images.

Static image:



Image hovered over:



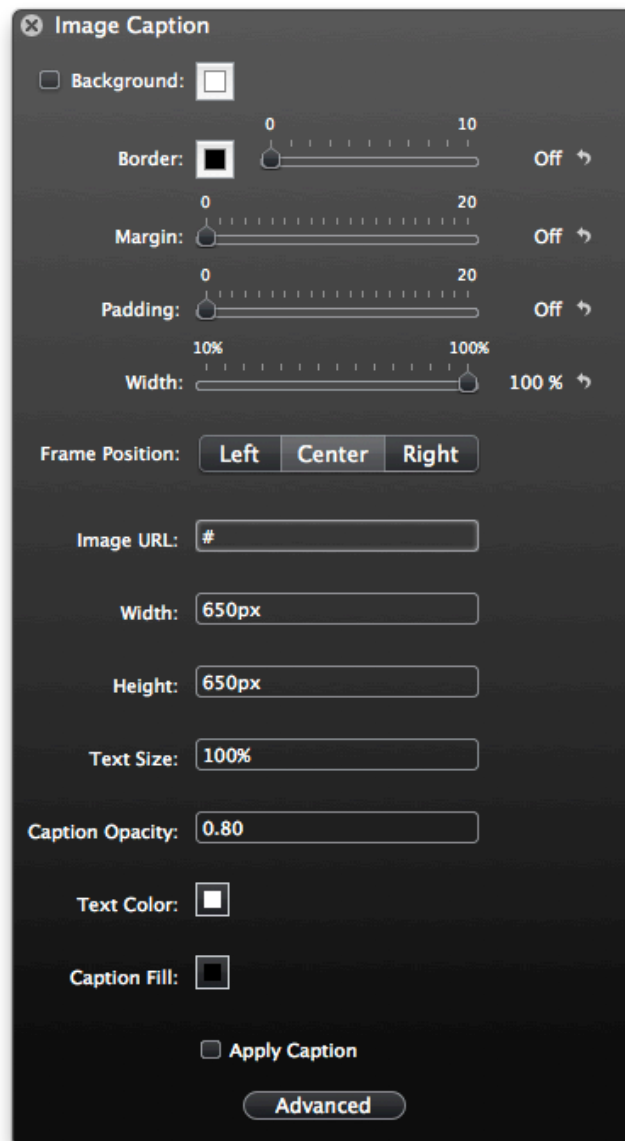
Unlike Flash (swf) hover techniques, this stack is safe on devices such as the iPhone. Tapping an image will bring up the overlay, tapping the image again will hide the overlay and load the link.

The caption container is formed of an empty stack. Into this stack you can add other stacks such as text, links, images or columns. This stack validates as XHTML strict when the page mode is set to Tidied under the RapidWeaver page inspector.

## How do I use this Stack?

Start by installing the stack. New stacks are installed into ~/Library/Application Support/RapidWeaver/Stacks/ where '~' is the name of your home directory. Quit and restart RapidWeaver for the new stack to become available under the stacks library.

Drag and drop the image caption stack into your stacks page like you normally do. In edit mode in RapidWeaver, single click your image overlay stack within the page and then click the 'i' button to open the stack inspector, pictured below.



Start by adjusting the stack padding and margin to 0px (off). Padding or margins can be applied later and this makes it easier to setup this stack to begin with. Then untick the 'Apply Caption' option at the bottom if it is already ticked. Drop your image into the image placeholder. Slide the width setting down so that the image sits comfortably within the stack without whitespace left or right. You may need to keep previewing and then changing the width slider to get the layout correct.

**Image URL** is the web address your image is stored at. This can be an image uploaded as a page asset or an image stored on an external website like Flickr or Ember. Any image in JPG, PNG or TIFF format will work providing it can be sourced from a public-accessible location. Include 'http://' in the Image URL field e.g. <http://www.example.com/1.jpg>

**Width** controls the width of your image caption stack. Ideally the width you specify should equal the size of your image. If for example your image is 450px wide, the width should be set as this to prevent the image being cropped or repeating.

**Height** works like the width setting. Ideally the height you specify should equal the size of your image. If for example your image is 450px wide, the width should be set as this to prevent the image being cropped or repeating.

**Text Size** enables you to change the size of your caption text. It is recommended you specify text sizes in relative units like percent or em's inline with website accessibility guidelines. Only use pixels or other dimensions if essential.

**Caption Opacity** enables you to change the opacity (transparency) of the overlay. The default value is 0.80 (equal to 80%). Setting opacity to 1.00 would give zero transparency and a solid colour fill background. Setting opacity to 0 would remove the background overlay altogether leaving just the text.

**Text Colour** allows you to change the colour of your overlay text. By default it is white, but clicking the white square opens the colour picker with options to change the colour. It is highly recommended you choose a colour which contrasts the dark background to improve text clarity.

**Caption Fill** gives control over the background colour of your overlay. By default, the overlay colour is black. By clicking the small black square you can open the OS X colour picker and choose an alternative colour.

After you have edited your image caption settings, ensure the **Apply Caption** option has been ticked. This will activate the caption. We have an on / off option here so that you can easily drag new stacks into the caption placeholder. If you find that you cannot see or drag images into the caption placeholder, make sure this option is unticked while you make edits.

### **Important notes:**

This stack is only compatible with RapidWeaver themes with jQuery built in. Most themes which feature functions such as Extra Content or animated drop-down menu's are compatible. Other themes without jQuery are not compatible unless you add jQuery yourself which can be difficult.

Code used in this stack contains the `jQuery.noConflict()` function to limit conflicts with other scripts and functions running in the page. Care should still be taken when integrating this stack into a page where other complicated scripts are already running.

Styling of caption text is often influenced by the theme you are using. The caption itself is formed of a class divider, and it is possible to customise using CSS code. In some web browsers like Safari, the Caption Opacity setting will make both text and the background semi-transparent. In some other browsers only the background is made semi-transparent.

You can add other effects to your image overlay stack such as background colour fills, borders, padding and margins under the image caption stack inspector. This is best done after you have initially setup your image caption stack.

This stack has been tested and is fully compatible with Internet Explorer 6, Internet Explorer 7, Internet Explorer 8, Safari, Firefox, Chrome, Flock and Opera.

Images you use in this stack should already be scaled to the correct size for your page. Do not rely on CSS or HTML to scale your images to size because results are often disappointing and varies greatly between web browsers. Use a graphics application to crop or scale images. At the same time try to strike a balance between image quality and image size so that your images load as quickly as possible.

A CSS validator may incorrectly mark the code used in this stack as invalid. This is because the code used to make backgrounds semi-transparent uses the CSS3 specification which has not yet been finalised. Some proprietary code has to be used to force Internet Explorer and older versions of Firefox to support background opacity correctly.

This stack will offer no form of copyright protection for your images. If you are concerned about images being downloaded or re-distributed on the internet, the safest method is not to publish them on the internet in the first place!

### **Can I make the entire image caption stack function as a link?**

Unfortunately it is not possible to make the whole image caption stack link to a file or location. The problem is that the W3C stipulate in their XHTML standards that all links are inline elements. Therefore we are not permitted to nest block elements (such as captions) inside a link. Doing so causes XHTML errors and the stack breaks if RapidWeaver is switched into "Tidied" mode. The best workaround is to apply your links to text or images inside the caption container itself.

### **Questions, comments or suggestions for improvements?**

Please contact me via the ThemeFlood website: <http://www.themeflood.com>

RapidWeaver forums: <http://www.realmacsoftware.com/forums/index.php/forums/>