

# Templating Overview

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## Overview

The Joomla Template system is amongst the easiest to learn in the Content Management System family.

Templates are located in the /templates directory. The following shows a typical directory structure for a template:

```
/templates
/basic_template
/css
  template_css.css
/images
index.php
template_thumbnail.png
templateDetails.xml
```

This is the minimum set of files you need to make a template. The filenames must be adhered to as each one is expected by the core script. Note that while there are no images shown in the /images directory, this is typically where you would place any supporting images for your template, like backgrounds, banners, etc. Let's have a look at each of these files.

index.php

This is the template layout file.

template\_css.css

The css stylesheet for the template.

templateDetails.xml

This is a metadata file in XML format.

template\_thumbnail.png

A reduced screenshot of the template, usually around 140 pixels wide and 90 pixels high.