

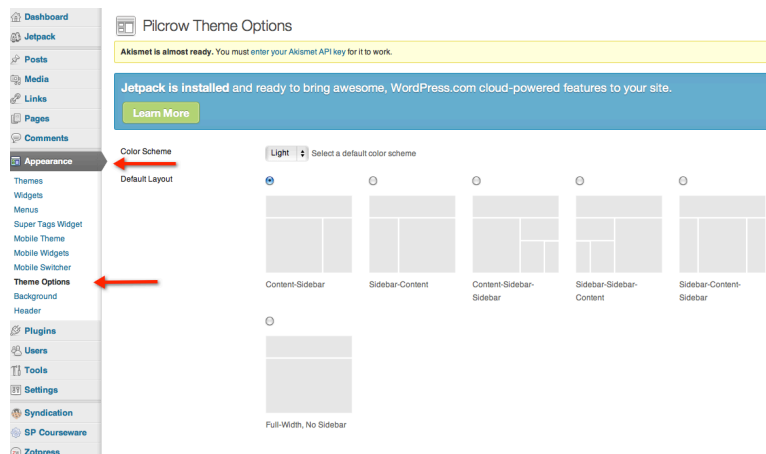
## Tricking out Your Blog

There are some cool tools that you can enable or add to your blog to customize it. Besides changing your theme and the header image, you can change the layout, add widgets and pages, and utilize plugins to make your blog more personal.

### Changing the Layout


You can change the layout of your page within the options of your themes (some themes will offer more options than others).

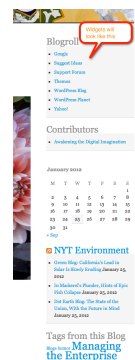
1. Click on Appearance
2. Click on Theme Options
3. Choose a color scheme and or layout
4. Click Save Options



### Adding Widgets

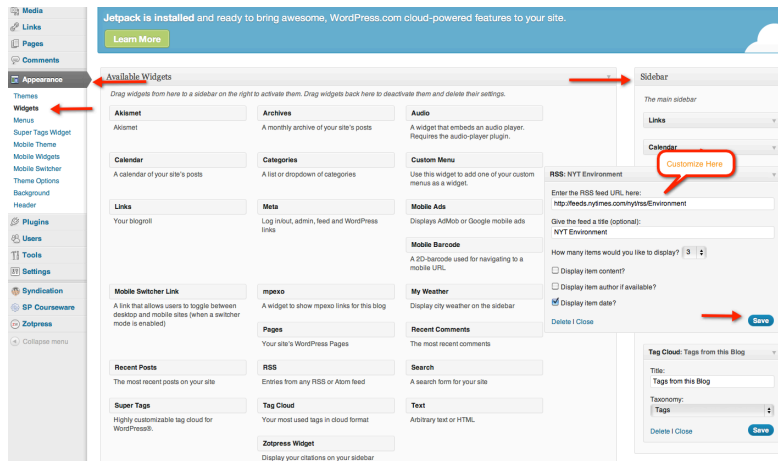
Widgets allow you to customize the content and look of your sidebar(s). You can get really creative with the content you put on a widget. You might have some of the following:

- A blogroll: a list of the blogs you read or that are related to your content
- An RSS feed: real-time content from an RSS enabled website (look for:  RSS )
- A tag cloud: a visual representation of the tags you've used on posts
- A calendar: highlights dates you've posted
- Custom HTML or Menus: custom content you've created, with your own knowledge of HTML or with a free widget creator (Widgetbox)



To add widgets:

1. Click on Appearance
2. Click on Widgets
3. Drag available widgets to the sidebar or drag inactive widgets to the available box.
4. Customize your widget
5. Save



## Plugins

Plugins are additional tools that can add some customization to your blog. For example, you might want Google Analytics to see who is visiting your site or Google Maps to embed in your posts. To activate plugins:

1. Click on Plugins
2. Click on Activate under the individual plugin
3. Be sure to check the pink-shaded box to see if you need to do any additional activation. Follow those instructions carefully.

