



Category icons: Now with background colors and descriptions!

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We've added two more settings for category icons and the icon panels displays:

- Category icon background colors
- The ability to show category descriptions within icon panels

Category icon background colors

When we first built category icons, we assumed people would use colored icons on a white background. But almost as soon as we released the feature, people started asking if they could add a background color to the icon.

While we've had some [instructions on changing the color of the entire icon panel through Custom CSS](#), we also wanted to give you a way to add a color swatch only to the category icon itself.

We've now done that. You'll see the change in two places:

- **Settings > Style > Colors** now lets you set a default Category Icons Background color
- The Font Awesome [icon picker](#) now includes an option for you to select the background color for a given icon (it will pre-populate with whatever your default in Settings > Style is set to).

If you use the background color, it will create a small box of color around the icon only (here's an all-blue example, but the possibilities are endless!):



Narwhal

The backgrounds look particularly nice if you use a white or light-colored icon against a dark background--scroll down just a bit for a sample of that!

Icon panels with category descriptions

We're also excited to announce another quickly-requested addition to icon panels: category descriptions!

When you set a default category to use the icon panels display, we've now added a checkbox that will let you choose to include category descriptions.

Icon Panels Options

Limit maximum number of categories shown to

Display categories per row

Show category description



The **Show category description** checkbox will display the category's description beneath the title (the exact color and size will depend on your Style Settings and/or any Custom CSS you've added):

[Home](#)

Avian anomalies



Owls

Owls are amazingly versatile and resilient birds.

Sample icon panel with category description shown

If you want to check it out, we're using this setup in [Security and permissions](#).

We've updated our [Icon panels styles](#) to include CSS to change the font-size and color of those descriptions if you want to have even more fun. We used these to style what you're seeing in Security and permissions, too. 😊

And if you're using icon panels on your homepage, you can achieve the same thing by adding `,desc=1` into your [merge code](#).



One quick warning: In our testing, a little category description goes a loooooooooooooooooong way, so you may want to review your category descriptions to make sure they're not too long or visually overwhelming if you use this setting!