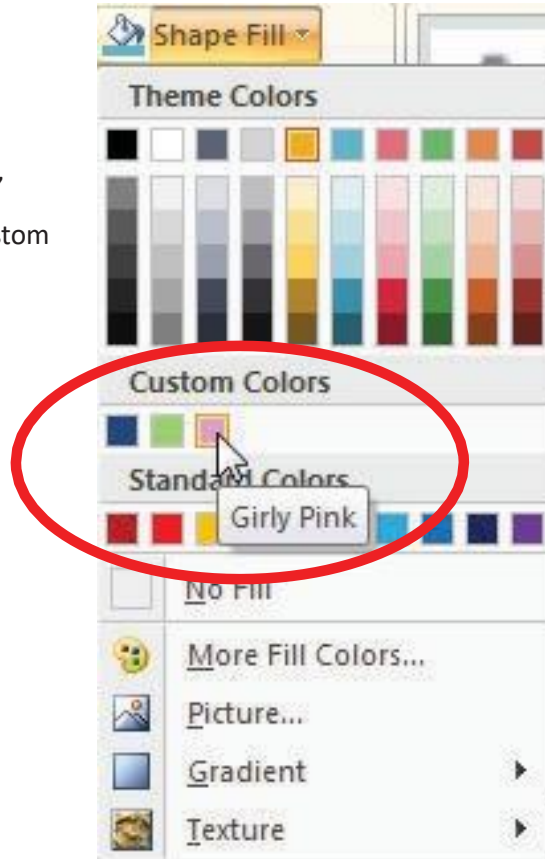


Adding Custom Colors to a THMX file

You can add your own custom colors to an Office 2007, 2010, 2013 or 2016 (Office 365) theme, template or presentation. In the screenshot, you can see three custom colors in their own section on the color picker.



1a

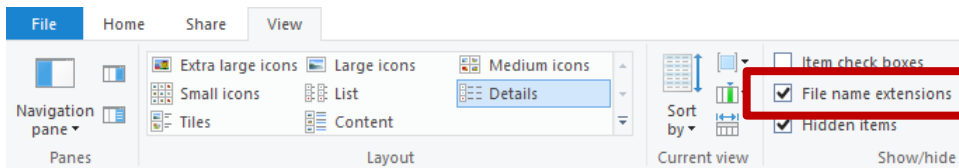
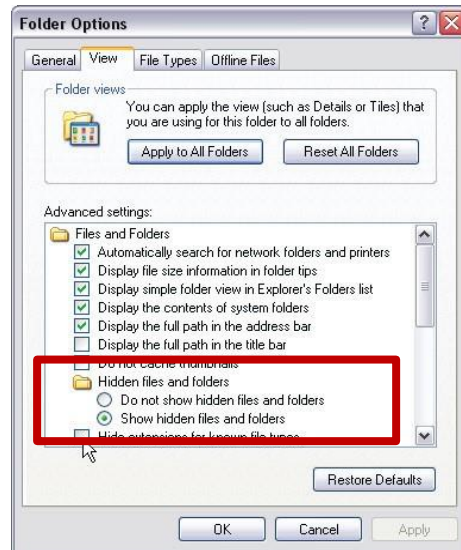
Show File Extensions (Windows XP, Windows 10)

We'll be cracking open the THMX file to get at an XML file inside. To open the THMX file, you must rename it with a ZIP extension. Therefore, you must turn on file extensions in Windows.

In Windows XP, open My Documents.

Choose Tools on the menu, then select Folder Options.

On the View tab, uncheck Hide extensions for known file types.



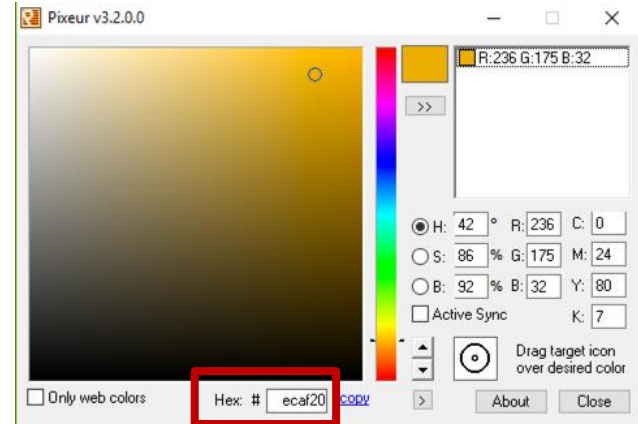
In Windows 10, open Documents.

Choose View tab on the Ribbon, then check the box File Name Extensions to enable these.

2

Determine Your Hex

The custom colors in the color picker are described using hex values, so you need to have the hex values for each color you want to add.



Download a color-picker utility, create an object that's the color you want, and then use the color-picker to get the hex value.

I recommend using this site to generate your hex values: <https://www.rgbtohex.net/>. Or grab the YouTools add-in for PowerPoint. <http://youpresent.co.uk/office-add-ins/youtools-for-powerpoint/> It includes a powerful color-picker and theme color editor.

This screenshot shows Pixeur, which is unfortunately no longer available. You can see that the hex value for this golden yellow color is **ecaf20**. (That is a zero, not a letter O.)

While you're at it, be sure to decide on names for your custom colors, so you have appropriate information in the tool tip when your users hover the mouse over the color chips.

4a

Modifying the theme1. XML File

Right-click the theme1.XML file in your working folder and choose Open With. You can use Notepad to modify XML files, but it's often easier with an actual XML editor.

Scroll to the end of the file.

Just below `<a:extraClrSchemeLst>`, add this code:



```
theme1.xml - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<a:uicPr />
</a:defPrPr />
</a:lstStyle />
</a:txDef />
</a:objectDefaults />
<a:extraClrSchemeLst />
<a:custClrLst />
  <a:custClr name="Dark Blue">
    <a:srgbClr val="1F497D" />
  </a:custClr>
  <a:custClr name="Mint Green">
    <a:srgbClr val="990B73" />
  </a:custClr>
  <a:custClr name="Girly Pink">
    <a:srgbClr val="FF99FF" />
  </a:custClr>
</a:custClrLst />
<a:extLst />
  <thm15:themeFamily xmlns:thm15="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office
  </a:ext />
</a:extLst />
</a:theme />
```

```
<a:custClrLst>
  <a:custClr name="Dark Blue">
    <a:srgbClr val="1F497D" />
  </a:custClr>
</a:custClrLst>
```

This adds a Custom Color section to the color picker and places a dark blue chip (with hex value 1F497D) in that section.

4b

Adding More Color Chips

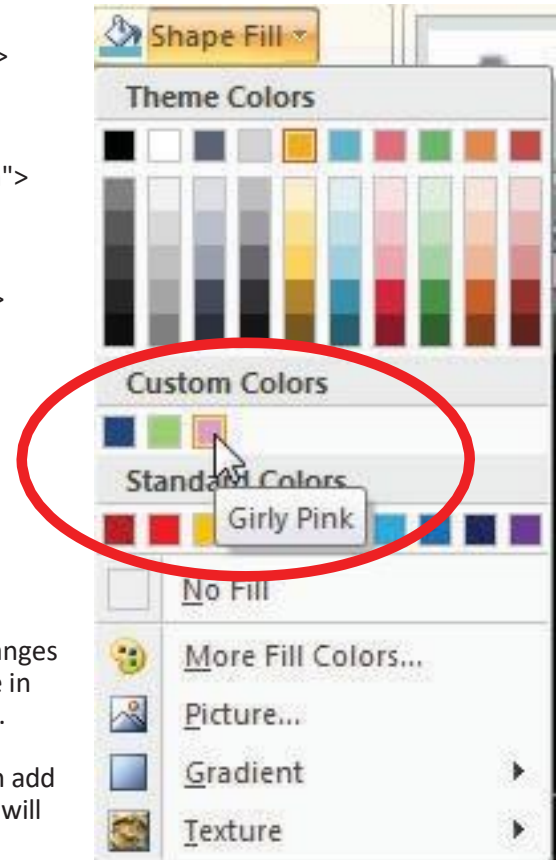
If you want to add more than one color chip to the section, follow this pattern:

```
<a:custClrLst>  
  <a:custClr name="Dark Blue">  
    <a:srgbClr val="1F497D"/>  
  </a:custClr>  
  <a:custClr name="Mint Green">  
    <a:srgbClr val="99DB73"/>  
  </a:custClr>  
  <a:custClr name="Girly Pink">  
    <a:srgbClr val="FF99FF"/>  
  </a:custClr>  
</a:custClrLst>
```

The color names inside the quotation marks are what the tool tip will display.

After you've added all your chips, choose File | Save to save the changes you made to the theme1.XML file in your working folder. Close the file.

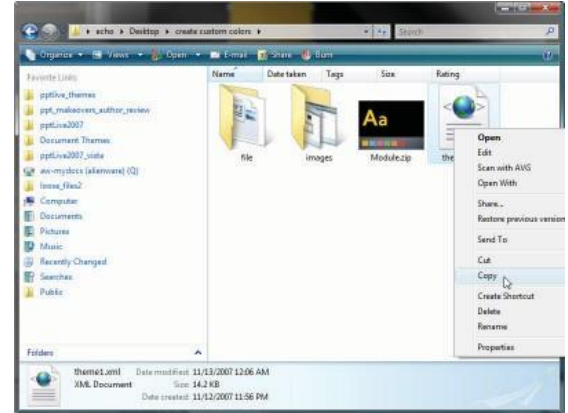
Note: the limit is 50 chips. You can add more in the XML, but PowerPoint will not display them.



5

In Windows Vista, you'll be prompted with a dialog box like the one to the right. Choose Copy and Replace. In Windows XP, you'll be asked if you really want to overwrite the file. Say yes.

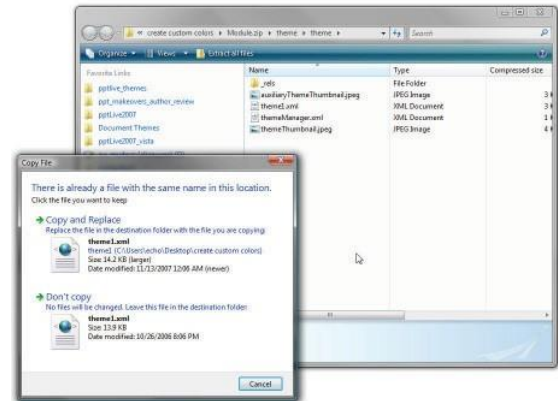
Close the *Module.THM.XIP* file/folders.



Replacing the Original theme1.XML File

Back in your working folder, right-click the theme1.XML file and choose Copy.

Remember the *Module.THM.XIP* folder you left open in step 3? Right-click inside the theme folder and choose Paste.



6

Rename and Open the Modified Theme

In your working folder, right-click *Module.THMX.ZIP* and choose Rename.

Delete the **.ZIP** extension.

Say yes when asked if you're sure you want to change the file extension.

Double-click the *Module.THMX* file. It will open in PowerPoint.

Add a rectangle shape and choose Drawing Tools Format | Shape Fill to see the color picker. Your custom colors should be in the new "Custom Colors" section.

Note that Office is very picky about its XML. It's case-sensitive, and the spelling must be correct. If your modified THMX file won't open, double-check your spelling and typing in the theme1.XML file. One thing you can also try is double-clicking the *theme1.XML* file and letting it open in Internet Explorer; you might see some information there that will help you troubleshoot the problem.

Here is a text file with the code you can add to theme1.XML:

<http://www.echosvoice.com/PPTFiles/code.txt>

Here is a modified THMX file with custom colors for you to deconstruct:

<http://www.echosvoice.com/PPTFiles/Module.thmx>

