

Light and dark mode

Design and templates

Every help center comes in a light and a dark version. It follows each reader's device setting, and with a theme like Compass, readers can switch themselves. Here's how to make both versions look like your brand.

Who can do this: Owners and Admins (Editors through **Customize** on your help center) · **Plans:** All plans

How readers get light or dark mode

- Your help center follows the appearance the reader's device or browser is set to. Someone who uses dark mode on their laptop sees your dark colors.
- Compass, the theme new help centers start with, adds a switch to the header so readers can choose for themselves. Their browser remembers the choice.
- Other themes follow the device setting only.

HELP CENTER

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Your help center follows the reader's device setting

Compass's header switch flips between light and dark.

Set your dark mode colors

1. In the left menu, click **Template editor**, then open the **Theme** tab.
2. Under **Dark mode**, set **Primary**, **Accent**, **Foreground**, **Background**, **Surface**, **Muted text** and **Border**.
3. Above the preview, click **Dark** to check the result.
4. Click **Publish**.

HelpCenter.io keeps text readable in both modes by itself. Muted text, links in your brand color and form field outlines are adjusted when a color you pick would be too faint, and labels on buttons in your primary color turn black or white, whichever reads better. See

[Change colors, fonts and spacing.](#)

Add a logo for dark mode

A dark logo can disappear on a dark background. Upload a light version for dark mode:

1. In the template editor, open the **Brand** tab.
2. Under **Dark-mode logo**, click **Upload** and pick a version of your logo that reads well on dark backgrounds.
3. Publish.

Your main logo keeps light mode. Leave **Dark-mode logo** empty to use the same logo in both. See [Add your logo, favicon and brand name](#).

Check your design in dark mode

In the preview, **Light** and **Dark** show each mode whatever your own device uses. Look for:

- **Your logo**, on every page.
- **Hero text on an image.** The Hero's **Text color** set to **Auto** picks a readable color for each mode, but it can't measure a background image. With an image, choose **Light text** or **Dark text**, which then applies in both modes.
- **Colored text in articles.** Text colors picked in the article editor are lightened automatically in dark mode, keeping their hue, so a dark blue heading doesn't disappear. Text on its own background color is left as it is.
- **Images with transparent backgrounds** in your articles, which can vanish against a dark page.

- **Custom CSS with fixed colors.** Use theme variables such as `var(--hc-color-fg)` instead: they change with the mode. See the [Custom CSS reference](#).

Want the same look in both modes?

There's no setting that turns dark mode off. If you want one look everywhere, give the **Dark mode** palette the same colors as **Light mode** and leave **Dark-mode logo** empty. With Compass, you can also take out its switch: it sits in a Custom HTML component in the header.

Troubleshooting

Your help center is dark on your computer but light on a colleague's. That's expected: each reader sees the mode their own device asks for.

Compass's switch stopped working. Its two scripts under **Advanced** → **Script injections** run the switch. Make sure both are there and enabled. See [Add analytics and other scripts](#).

Related articles

- [Change colors, fonts and spacing](#)
- [Preview on phones, tablets and in dark mode](#)
- [Add your logo, favicon and brand name](#)