LoftLoader

THE DOCUMENTATION BY

loft.ocean

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1. Installation

1.1 Plugin Installation

To install LoftLoader Pro, first you need a working WordPress site. Click the link below to find out how to install WordPress:

http://codex.wordpress.org/Installing_WordPress

We assume that you already have a running WordPress site. Now let's install LoftLoader.

You need to download the plugin zip file from CodeCanyon first. Go to **Downloads** on CodeCanyon, and find LoftLoader Pro. Download the files and find **loftloader-pro.zip** - that's what you need for installation.

1. On your website dashboard, go to **Plugins** > **Add New** > **Upload**.
2. Choose LoftLoader you just downloaded.
3. Install and activate it.

1.2 Plugin Requirements

To use LoftLoader Pro, please make sure your server meets the following requirements:

- WordPress 4.7 or higher
- PHP 5.3 or higher
- MySQL 5.2 or higher

Why do we require a higher PHP version to use this plugin?

The latest version of PHP is 7.2. The minimum PHP version required for LoftLoader Pro is PHP 5.3. And WordPress recommends using PHP 7+ (please refer to this article: https://wordpress.org/about/requirements/).

PHP versions lower than 7.0 have reached the official end of their life cycle and **may expose your site to security vulnerabilities**. We strongly recommend that you no longer use the old PHP version, please always update to the latest version.

Related resources:

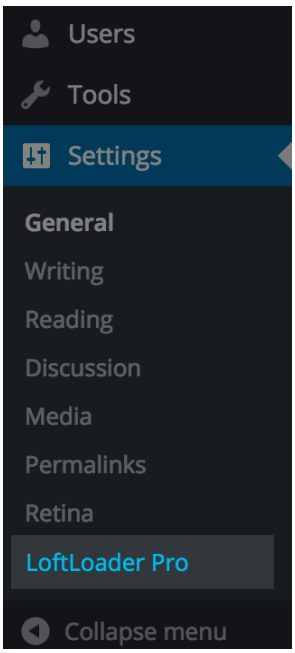
- Host Requirements to run WordPress
- Unsupported Branches – which lists the end of life date for each unsupported branch of PHP.
- Supported Versions – The list of Currently Supported Versions of PHP.

1.3 Online Resources

- LoftLoader Pro online documentation (always up to date)
- When you need our help
- Frequently Asked Questions

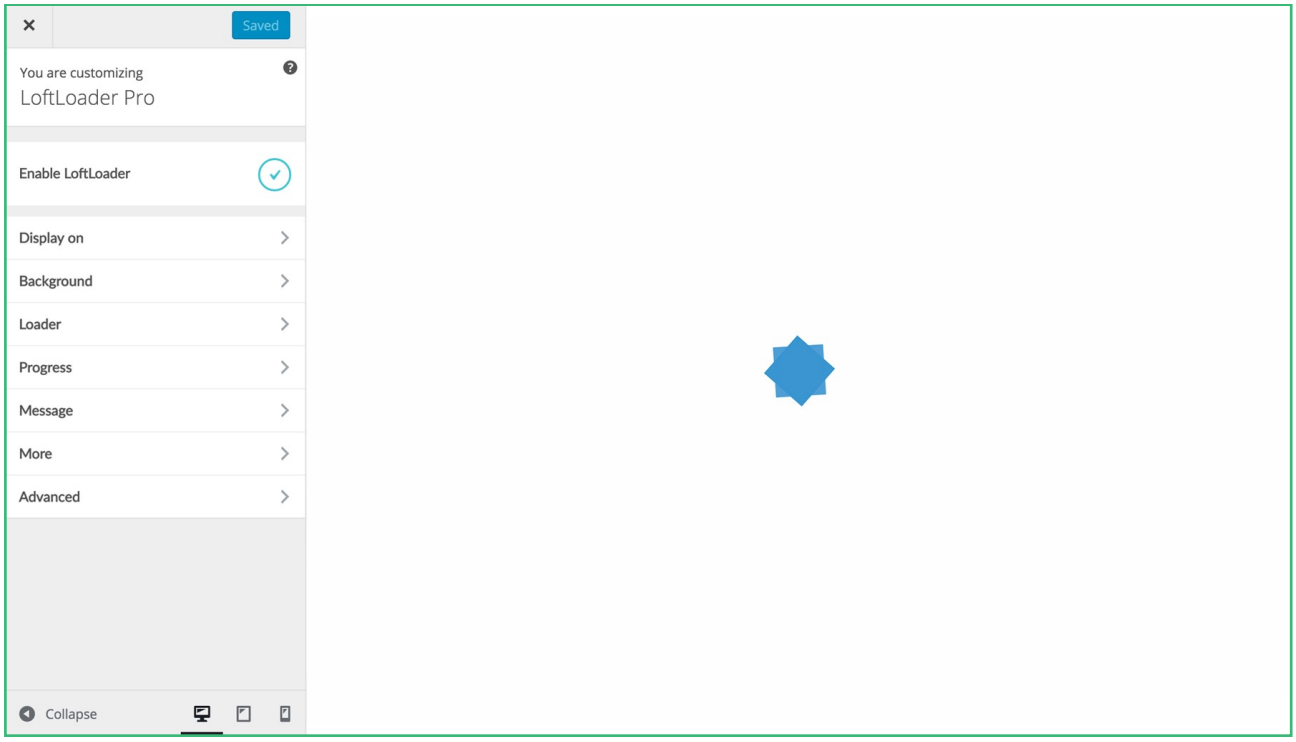
2. How to use

2.1 Settings Panel

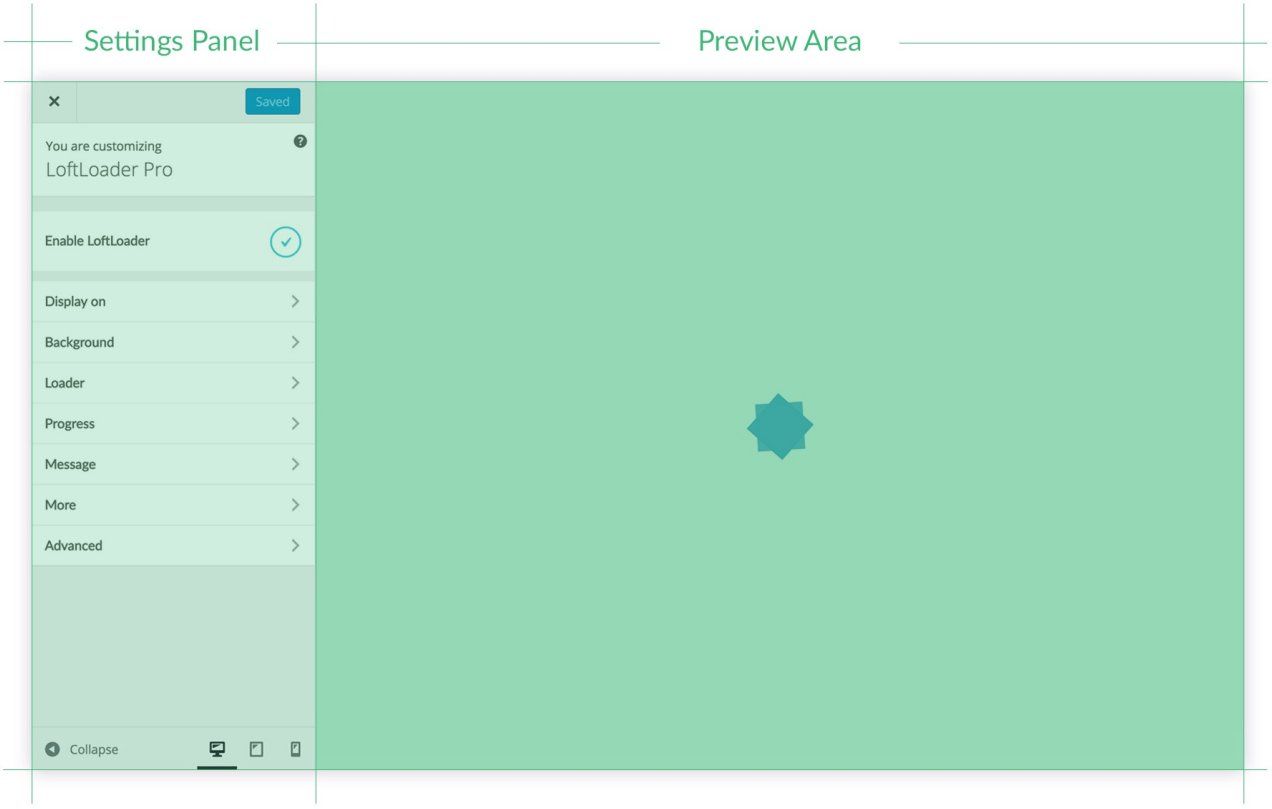


To locate the settings panel, on your WordPress site dashboard, go to **Settings** > **LoftLoader Pro**.

Click on the **LoftLoader Pro** link to open the **settings screen**:



The settings panel is on the left hand side. It allows you to make changes and preview the result easily.



2.2 Enable/Disable LoftLoader

You can choose to turn on or off LoftLoader on your site. It is enabled by default.

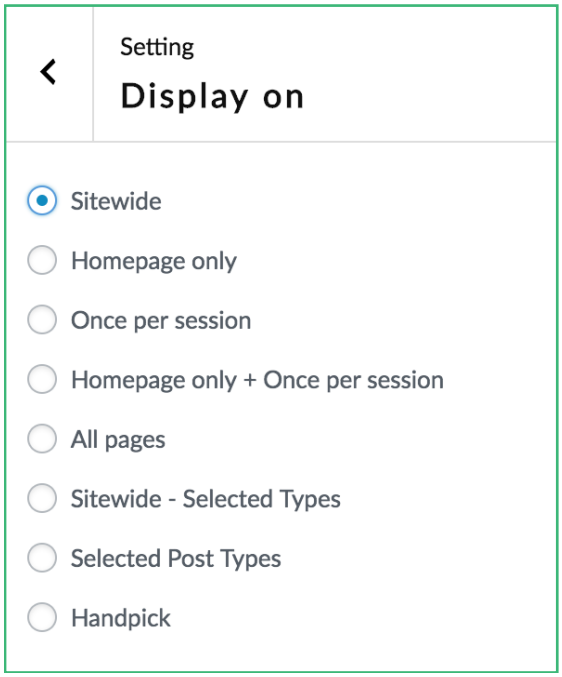
Click on the circle button of **Enable LoftLoader** to switch between on and off state.

When LoftLoader is disabled, all of the settings will be inactivated and turn to grey. It means you cannot make any changes. And the pre-loader will not show on your site.

Turn it on to activate LoftLoader and customize it to fit your site.

2.3 Display On

2.3.1 Display On Options



Click on the **Display On** section, and here you can choose where to display the pre-loader. So you are able to show the pre-loader on pages with heavy content only.

Use it when necessary. Then for those pages with lightweight content, your site visitors can access to the content fast, no need to wait for the loading animation.

- **Site-wide** – Display the pre-loader while loading every page/post of the site.
- **Homepage only** – Display the pre-loader only while loading the homepage.
- **Once per session** – Display the pre-loader once only when a visitor first visits your site. It could be any page. ~~When this visitor leaves your site, and comes back later (after 8 seconds), the loader will show once again.~~ **Updated since v1.1.6**: we use “session cookies” instead of “session” for this feature. Session cookies will be deleted as soon as the visitor close the web browser.
- **Homepage only + Once per session** – Similar to “Once per session”. Display the pre-loader **on homepage once only** when a visitor on your site during the whole session.
- **All Pages** – Display the pre-loader while loading pages. When loading a post, the pre-loader will not show. **Please note:** In this situation, **“All Pages”** means pages listed on your site **dashboard** > **Pages** > **All Pages**, plus your site **homepage** if choose “Your Latest Posts” instead of “A static page” for “Front page displays” setting.

- **Site-wide - Selected Types** – Display the pre-loader on your whole site **except** the post types you have selected in the list.
- **Selected Post Types** – Display the pre-loader on the post types you have selected in the list.
- **Handpick** – Choose this option, then you will be able to select one or multiple pages/posts to turn on the pre-loader on these pages/posts. Please enter a keyword to search your articles, then click on the articles shown in the search results to select them.

2.3.2 Once Per Session

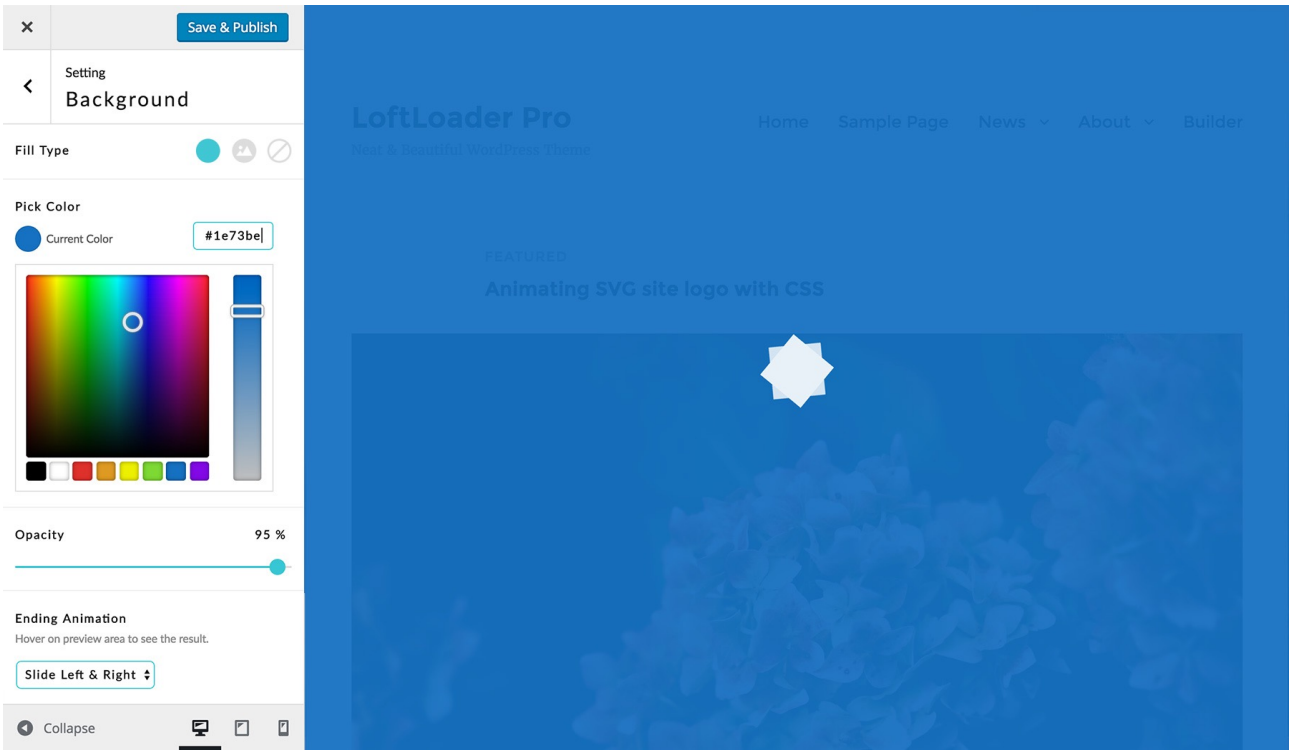
Please read our online documentation for more information about “Once Per Session” feature:

http://loftocean.com/doc/loftloader/display-on/#play-once-per-session

2.4 Background

2.4.1 Basic Options

Click on the **Background** section, then you can set the styles of the pre-loader's background.



- **Fill Type** – **Solid/Background Image/No Color**. If choose **No Color**, then the background will be invisible, and the options below will be disabled. If choose **Solid** or **Background Image**, then you can continue to change the background's style.

- **Background Color** – Click to choose a color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like.

- **Opacity** – Drag to tweak the background opacity. So visitors can see through the content behind the pre-loader.

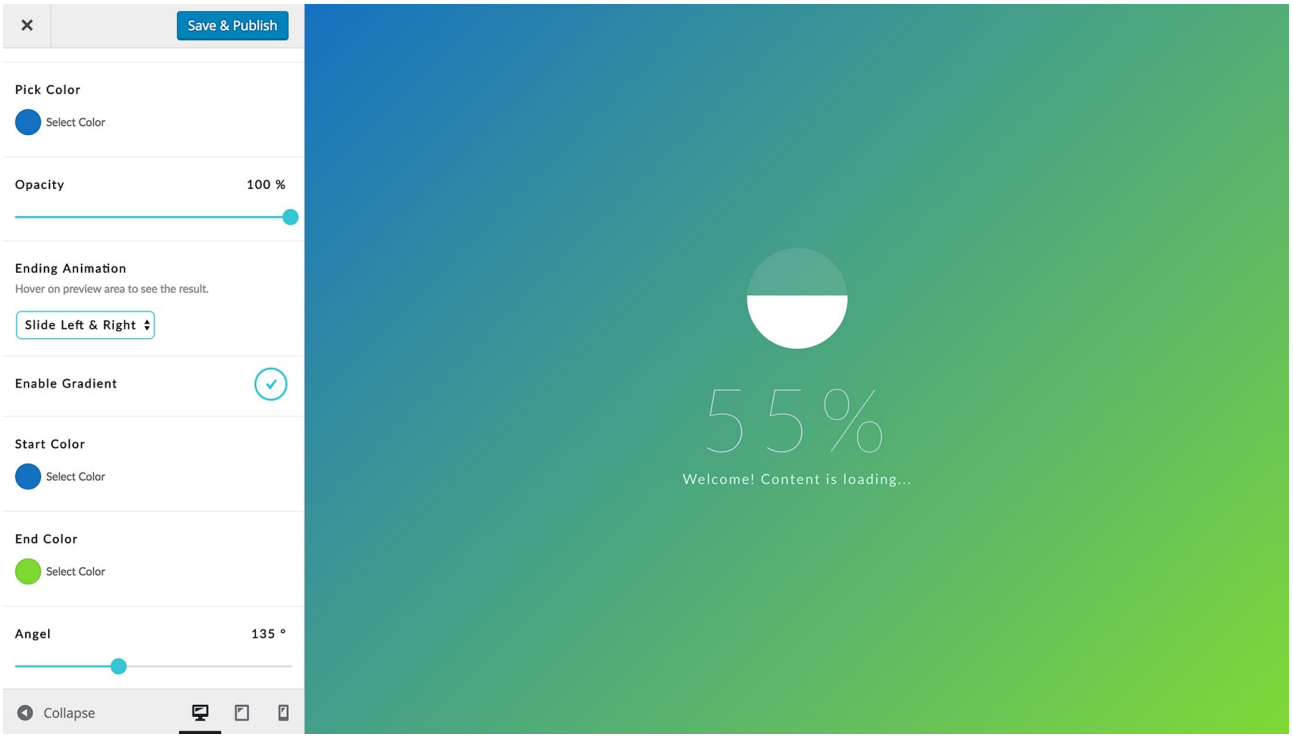
- **Ending Animation** – There are 11 animations: **Fade, Slide Left & Right, Slide to Left, Slide to Right, Slide Up, Slide Up & Down, Shrink & Fade, Split & Reveal Vertically, Split & Reveal**

Horizontally, Split Diagonally - Vertically, Split Diagonally - Horizontally. Choose one and hover your cursor onto the **preview area** to see the result.

2.4.2 Gradient Background

We added support for gradient background since version 1.0.3. Just click to **Enable Gradient**, then pick a **Start Color** and an **End Color**, and drag to change the gradient **Angle**.

Currently we only support linear gradient between 2 colors.



2.4.3 Background Image

We added support for background image since version 1.0.7. Upload an image and choose to repeat it or not:

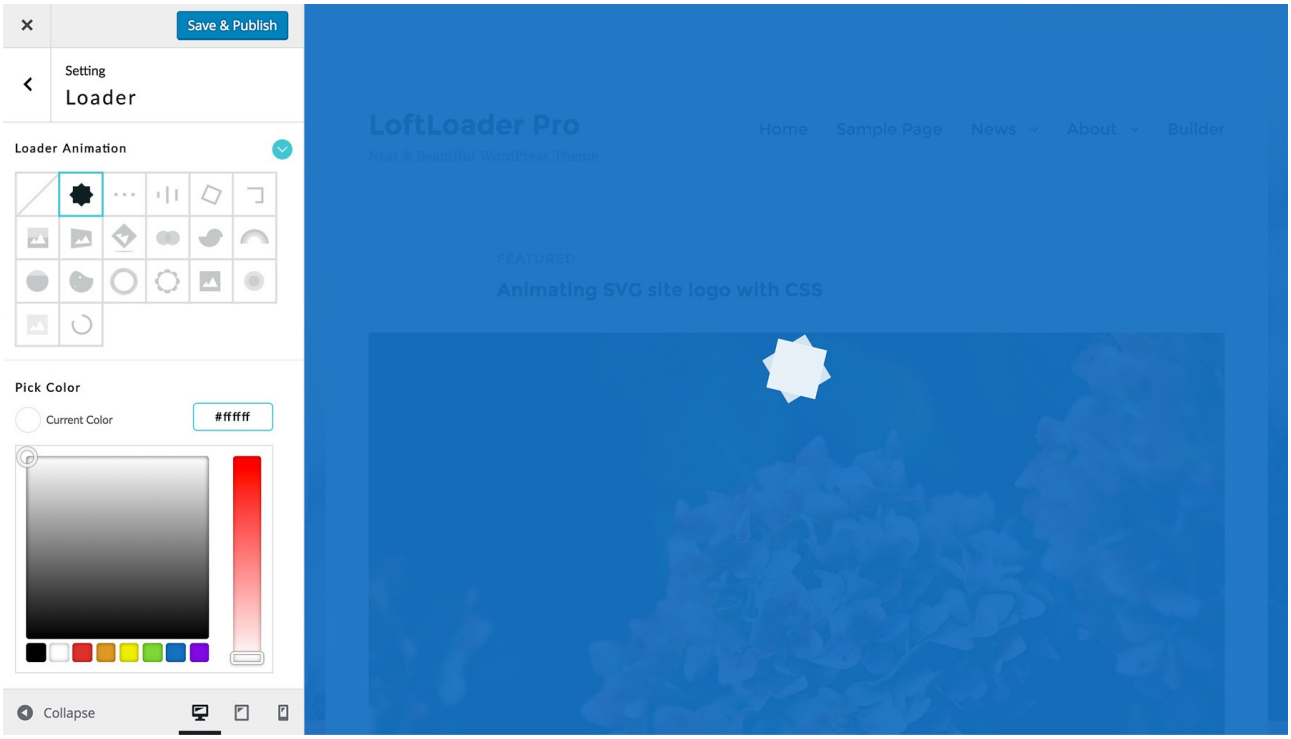
- **No Repeat** – Use it as a **full background image**,
- **Tile** – Use it as a **repeating pattern**.

You are able to choose a background color if you are using a transparent (e.g. .png file) background image, and select an ending animation, adjust the opacity.

2.5 Loader

Click on the **Loader** section, then you can choose a loader animation and tweak its style.

2.5.1 General Options



- **Loader Animation** – We provide 19 types of animations. 6 support custom images. And all animations are created with CSS3, not GIF. So it can be set to any color. You can also disable the loader, and only show progress bar or counting percentage (see in **Progress**).

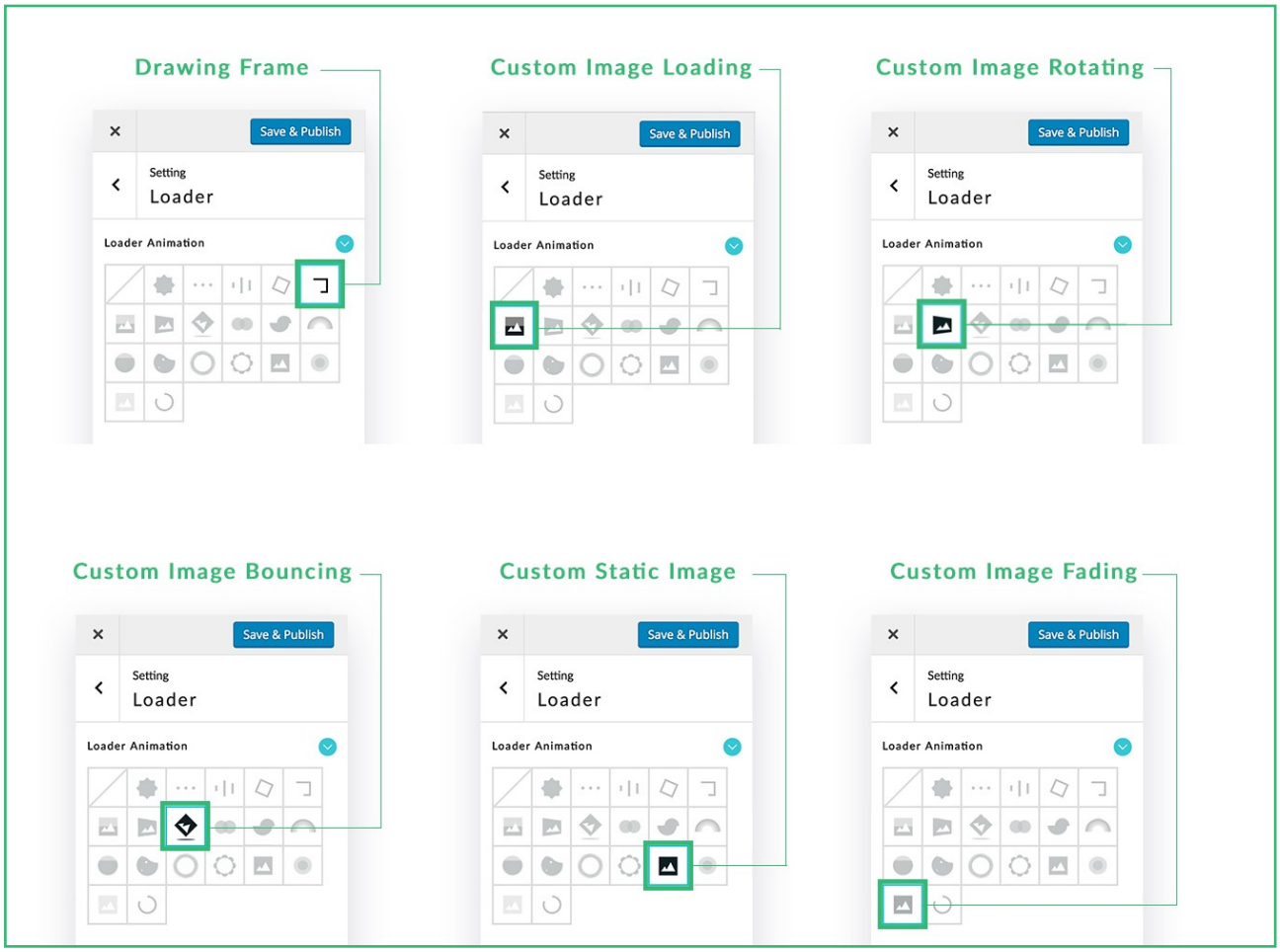
- **Loader Color** – Click to choose a color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like. Please note: some animations support multiple colors.

- **Looping** – All animations are **looping forever** by default. Some support **Loop Once**. When you select an animation supporting **Loop Once**, this option will show. If choose **Loop Once**, the animation will play along with the loading progress, and end when preloading is completed.

2.5.2 Add Custom Image

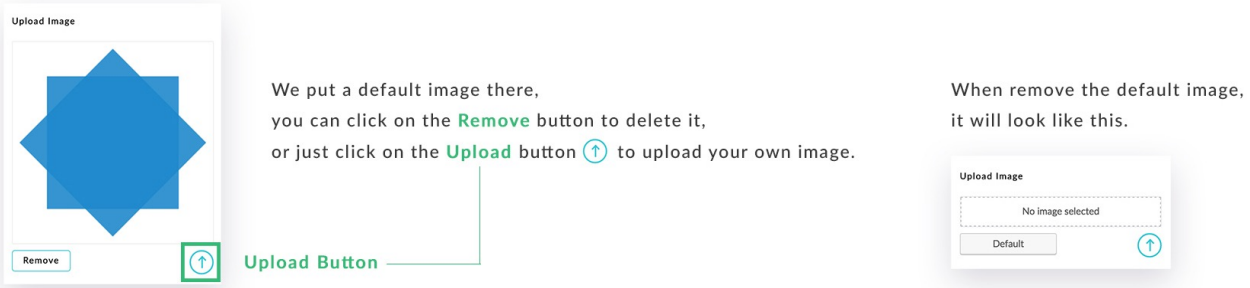
When choose one of these 5 animations, you can upload a custom brand image:

A. **Drawing Frame**
B. **Custom Image Loading**
C. **Custom Image Rotating**
D. **Custom Image Bouncing**
E. **Custom Static Image**
F. **Custom Image Fading (New since v1.1.0)**



Then you will see the options below:

- **Upload Image** – Click on the **Upload** button to add a custom image, for example, the site logo.



- **Image Width** – To keep your custom image look sharp on retina devices, we recommend upload an image with 2x size and give 1x size. For example, upload an image which is 200 x 200 px, and enter 100 px as the image width value. **Please note:** If you choose **Drawing Frame**, then this option is not available because the custom image size will be set to 20% smaller than the frame automatically.

- **Max Width for Responsive Design** – You can set the maximum width of the custom image width by changing this option. For example, you set the **Image Width** of the custom image to 800 pixels, and when the browser width is 800 pixels or more, the image's width will be 800 pixels. When the browser screen width is less than 800 pixels, the image will take up the full width of the screen without any left or right space. If you'd like to leave some space around the image on a smaller screen, you can set the max width value to less than 100%, such as 80%. Then this custom image will only take up 80% of browser width at the most.

- **Direction** – When you choose **Custom Image Loading** or **Custom Image Rotating**, this option will show.
  - **Custom Image Loading** – You can choose loading the image **horizontally** or **vertically**.
  - **Custom Image Rotating** – The image can be rotated in 2D or 3D space.

- **Rotation** – When you choose **Custom Image Rotating - Direction 2D**, this option will show. Then you can choose “Clockwise” or “Counterclockwise”.

- **Also Rolling** – When you choose **Custom Image Bouncing**, this option will show. Check it then your image will be also rolling while bouncing.

2.5.3 Loader - Drawing Frame

We have added the 3 options below for **Loader - Drawing Frame** since v1.0.5.

- **Frame Width** – Enter a number to change the frame width.

- **Frame Height** – Enter a number to change the frame height.

- **Frame Border** – Here you can adjust the border width of the frame.

2.5.4 Loader - Custom Image Rotating

We have added the option below for **Loader - Custom Image Rotating** since v1.0.5.

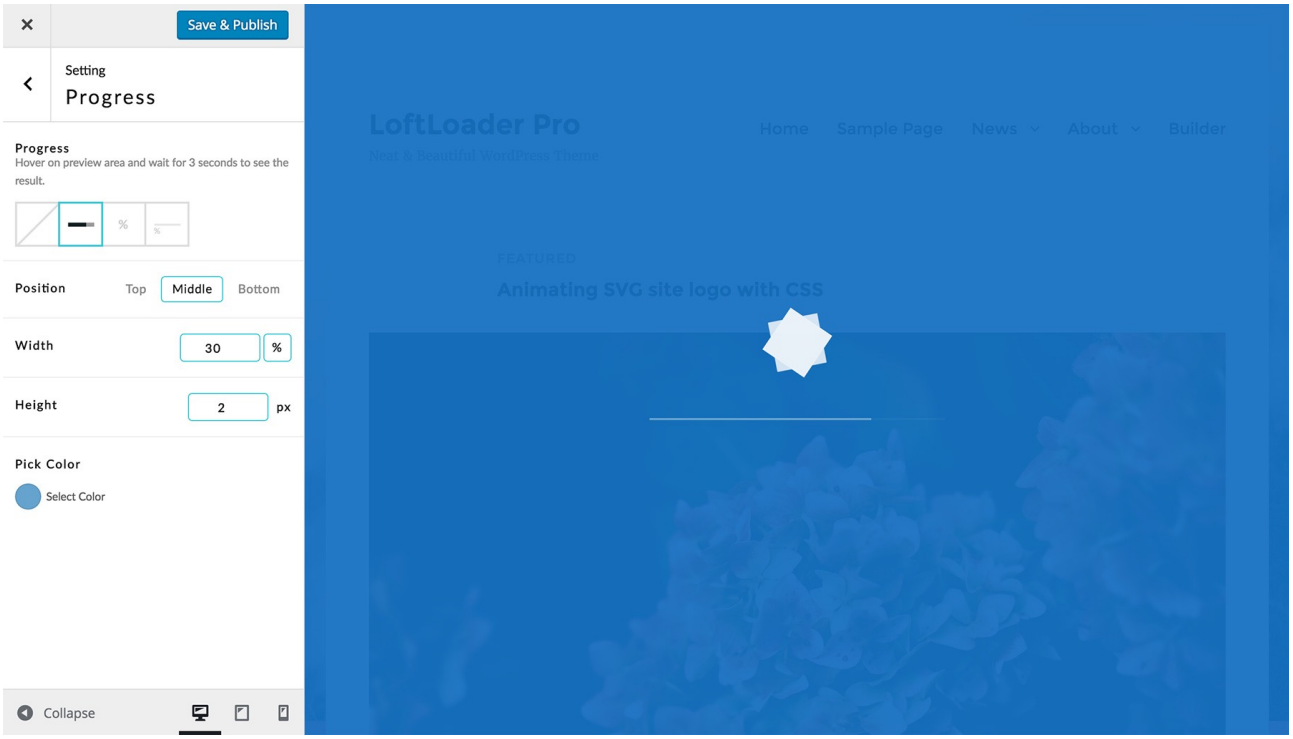
- **Speed Curve** – **Linear** or **Ease Out & Back**. When choose **Linear**, the custom image will rotate at the same speed. When choose **Ease Out & Back**, the custom image will rotate fast at start and get slower, then will rotate a little bit back and start again.

2.5.5 More Options for Specific Animations

And more. Some options only show and work for one type of animation. And you can always play with the options and see the result in the preview area instantly.

2.6 Progress

Click on the **Progress** section, then you can choose a progress indicator and style it.



- **Progress** – 4 options: **None/Bar/Percentage/Bar + Number**.
  - **None** – No progress indicator will show.
  - **Bar** – Display an animated loading bar.
  - **Percentage** – Show loading progress as a counting percentage number from 0% to 100%.
  - **Bar + Number** – Display an animated loading bar and a counting number. (New since v1.1.0)

When choose **None**, then options below will be disabled and turn to grey. You don't need to do any further actions to it.

2.6.1 Progress Bar

When choose **Bar**:

- **Position** – **Top/Middle/Bottom**.

  - When choose **Top** or **Bottom**, the loading bar will be put at the top or the bottom of the browser window.
  - When choose **Middle**, if there is also a loading animation, the bar will be put below the animation. If no animation, the bar will be right in the middle of the browser window.

- **Width** – Give a width value of the loading bar. You can click on the unit to switch between **px** and **%**.

- **Height** – Give a height value of the loading bar. The unit is px.

- **Color** – Click to choose a color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like.

2.6.2 Percentage

When choose **Percentage**:

- **Position** – **Middle/Below Loader**. The position is relevant to the loader. If there is no loader, the percentage will be right in the middle of the browser window.
  - When choose **Middle**, the percentage number will be put at the same place of the loader, which means they are overlapped. Then you can set **Layer** to decide which one will be put on top of the other.
  - When choose **Below Loader**, the percentage number will show below the loader.

- **Layer** – When choose **Middle** as position, this option will show. Choose **Front** to bring the percentage number to the front layer of the loader. Choose **Back**, the percentage will be put behind the loader.

- **Size** – Drag to change font size.

- **Color** – Click to choose a text color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like.

- **Font** – Choose a Google font, or use the website default font (so that LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again). (New option added since v1.2.2)

- **Google Font** – Choose a font family from the Google Fonts list. ~~Or choose "**Default**" to use the font which is using by your site (so LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again).~~ (Updated since v1.2.2)

- **Font Weight** – Select font weight. **Please note:** not every font supports all the font weight values listed.

- **Letter Spacing** – Choose a letter spacing value in the list. It will expand or condense the space evenly between the characters.

2.6.3 Bar + Number

When choose **Bar + Number**:

- **Position** – **Top/Middle/Bottom**.
  - When choose **Top** or **Bottom**, the loading bar will be put at the top or the bottom of the browser window.
  - When choose **Middle**, if there is also a loading animation, the bar will be put below the animation. If no animation, the bar will be right in the middle of the browser window.

- **Width** – Give a width value of the loading bar. You can click on the unit to switch between **px** and **%**.

- **Height** – Give a height value of the loading bar. The unit is px.

- **Color** – Click to choose a color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like.

- **Size** – Drag to change font size for the progress count number.

- **Font** – Choose a Google font, or use the website default font (so that LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again). (New option added since v1.2.2)

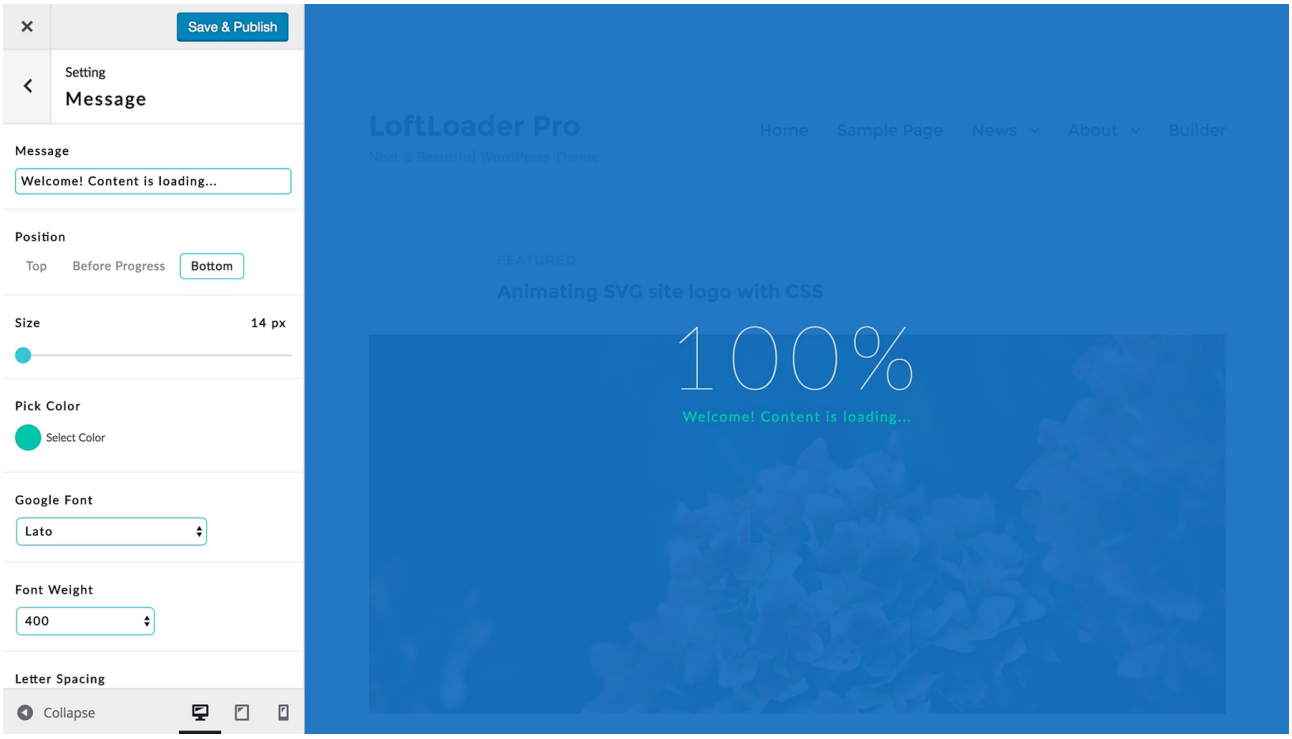
- **Google Font** – Choose a font family from the Google Fonts list. ~~Or choose "**Default**" to use the font which is using by your site (so LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again).~~ (Updated since v1.2.2)

- **Font Weight** – Select font weight. **Please note:** not every font supports all the font weight values listed.

- **Letter Spacing** – Choose a letter spacing value in the list. It will expand or condense the space evenly between the characters.

2.7 Message

Click on the **Message** section, then you can add custom welcome/loading message and style it.



- **Message** – Enter custom message, such as **Welcome** or **Content is loading** or anything else. The message will show after any other element (loader, progress bar, percentage, except the progress bar is set to screen top or bottom). Simple HTML markups are supported (
, <i> ,<b>).

- **Position** – **Top/Before Progress/Bottom**.
  - When choose **Top**, the custom message will be placed above other elements (unless the **progress bar** is enabled and set to **Top**).
  - When choose **Bottom**, the custom message will be put below other elements (unless the **progress bar** is enabled and set to **Bottom**).
  - The option **Before Progress** only appears when progress indicator is enabled, and progress bar's position is **Middle** or percentage's position is **Below Loader**. Choose this option, then the custom message will be placed just above the progress indicator.

- **Size** – Drag to change font size.

- **Color** – Click to choose a text color from the color picker. Or enter the hex value of a color you like.

- **Font** – Choose a Google font, or use the website default font (so that LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again). (New option added since v1.2.2)

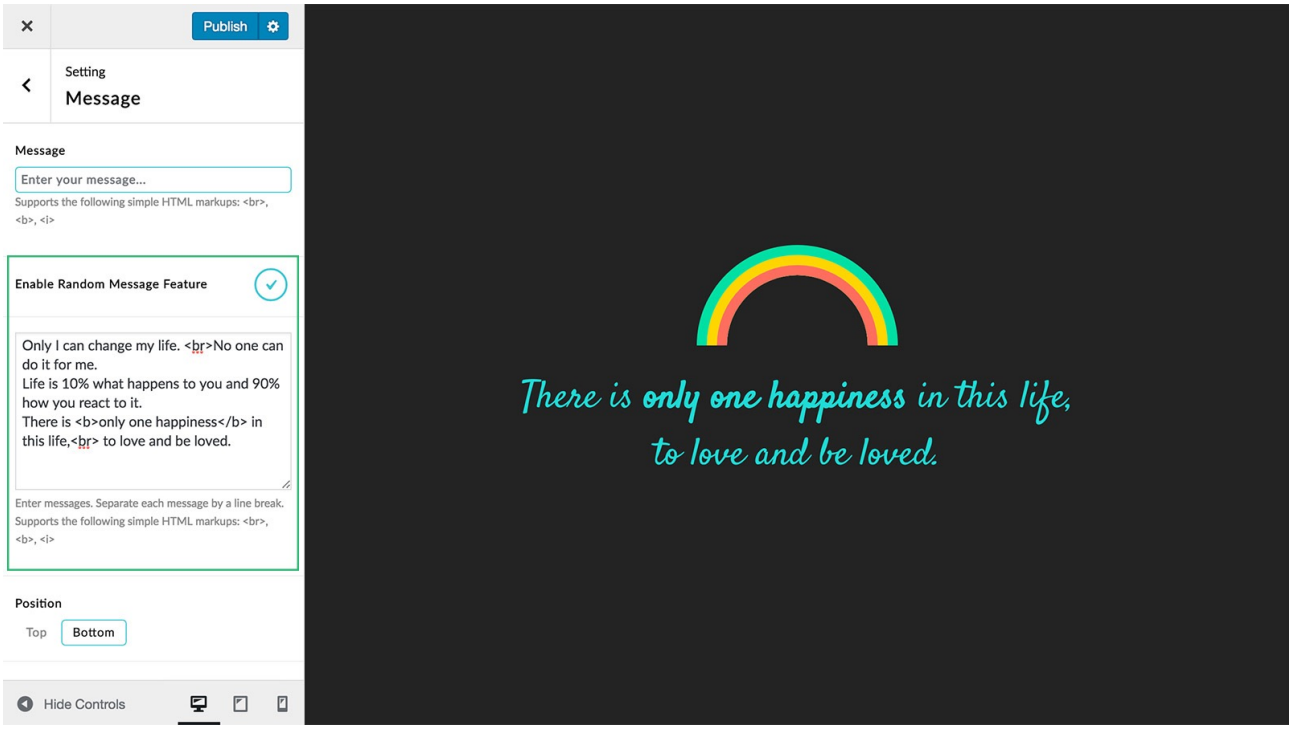
- **Google Font** – Choose a font family from the Google Fonts list. ~~Or choose "**Default**" to use the font which is using by your site (so LoftLoader Pro won't call Google Fonts again).~~ (Updated since v1.2.2)

- **Font Weight** – Select font weight for the custom message. **Please note:** not every font supports all the font weight values listed.

- **Letter Spacing** – Choose a letter spacing value in the list. It will expand or condense the space evenly between the characters.

- **Line Height** – Change the line height for the custom message.

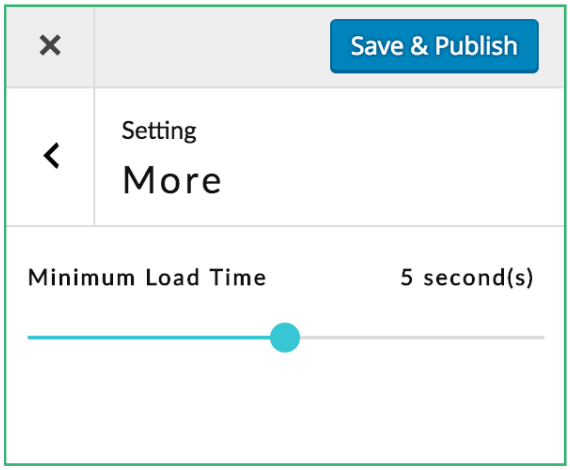
- **Random Message** – Enable this feature, then enter multiple messages. Separate each message by a line break. The loading screen will display a random message each time. (New feature since v1.2.3)



2.8 More

Click on the **More** section, then you can find more options.

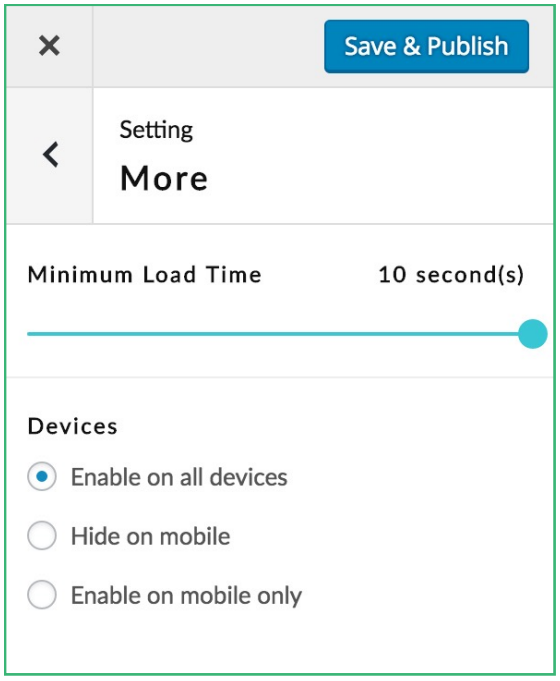
2.8.1 Minimum Load Time



This option lets you to set the minimum value of the pre-loader's load time duration. It prevents the pre-loader from disappearing too fast - you may want to show the pre-loader (with your brand image) clearly to your site visitors.

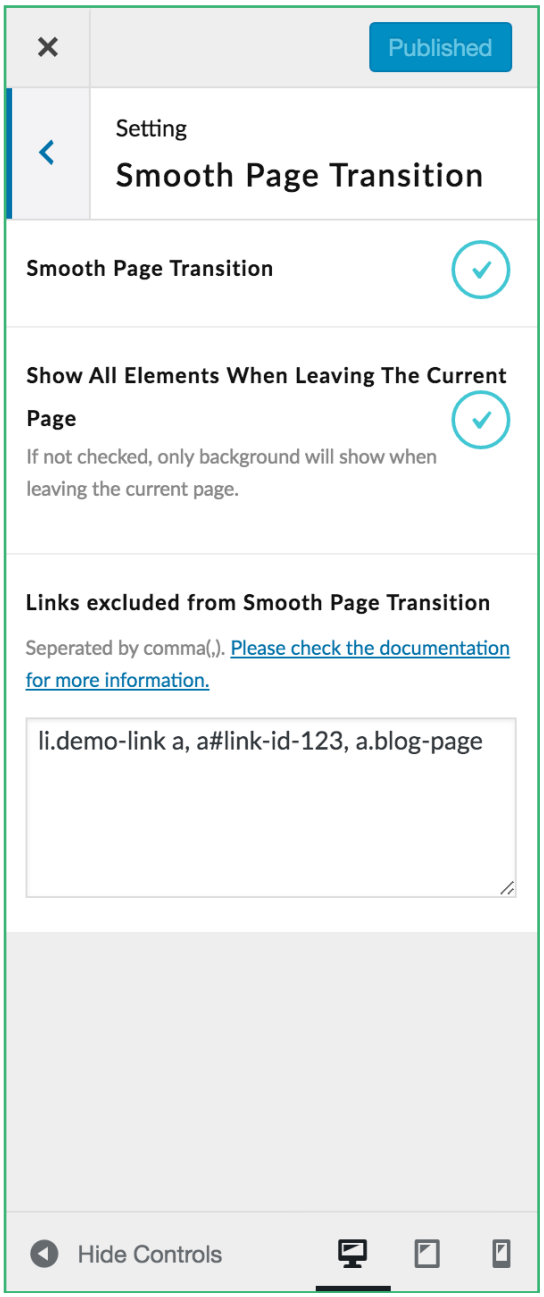
It is the **minimum** value. It means if your page content is light-weight, let's say it only need 1 second to load all content, and you set the Minimum Load Time to 5 seconds, then the pre-loader will show for 5 seconds before it's gone. If your page need 10 seconds to complete loading, then your setting (5 seconds) will not affect the real loading time. The pre-loader will fade away after all content has been loaded.

2.8.2 Devices



You can choose to show the pre-loader on which type of devices. It allows you to hide the pre-loader on mobile devices, or create a splash/launch screen on mobile devices only.

2.8.3 Smooth Page Transition



You can choose to enable **Smooth Page Transition** feature, so when you click a link and leave the current page, the loader will appear with animation again, to fulfil the blank between pages.

By default, **only the background** will show immediately when clicking an internal link. If you want to show other elements (loader/message/progress bar), **please enable "Show all elements when leaving the current page" option**.

Please check this demo site to preview the feature: http://demo.loftocean.com/loftloader-transition/

Please note: to get the best result of this feature, we suggest:

1.Use **the same loader** on one site: **Don't enable** "**Any Page Extension**" and use different loader shortcodes for different pages on one site.
2.Choose to display the loader **sitewide**: every page/ post on your site.
3.It would be better **not** to use a semi-transparent loader background.

And please note: this feature **WILL NOT** work for the situations listed below:

- When choose to display the pre-loader "**Once Per Session**".
- When open the link in a **new** tab/window.
- When a page uses LoftLoader shortcodes (with "**Any Page Extension**" enabled).

- When a page/post doesn't have a pre-loader according to your "**Display On**" settings.
- When a link has been added into **"Links excluded from Smooth Page Transition"** field

Exclude some links from Smooth Page Transition feature

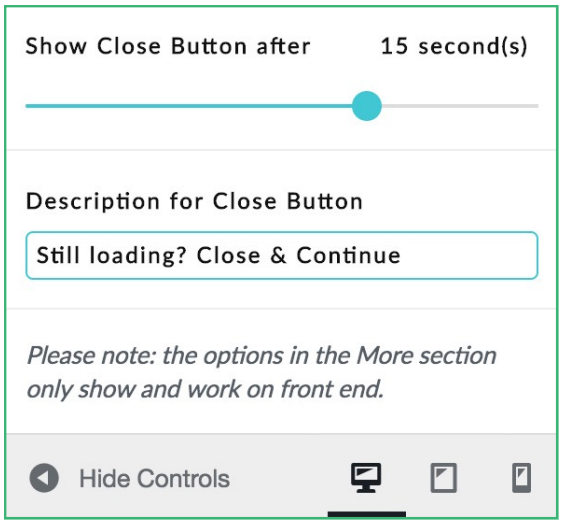
This is a new featured added since v1.1.5.

When and how to use it:

- There might be some internal <a> links you would like to disable this feature when click on them.
- You will need to give these internal <a> links a class name, then use this class name to find and exclude these links.
- You can also use ids or names to exclude these links.
- Separate each <a> link by comma when entering in the field.

For example:
a.link-class-name, div.parent-container-class-name a, a#link-id-name, a[href*="part-of-url"], a[name="exclude-link-name"]

2.8.4 Loading Screen Close Button



Since version 1.1.5, we added a loading screen close button. The loading screen created by LoftLoader only disappears when the preload process is completed. So if the preload process is taking too long, the visitors will have to wait a long time before they can access to page content. That's why we added this close button: visitors can click the close button to quit the loading screen if they don't want to wait.

Options for this feature:

- Option to show/hide the close button (added since v2.1)
- Show the close button after x seconds (range: 5 to 20 seconds)
- And you can add some description for the close button. It's optional. Leave blank if you don't need to show any text.

2.8.5 Disable page scrolling while loading

Since version 1.1.6, we added this feature. Check the option then your page will be not able to scroll during the loading process.

Please note: if your (or your site visitor's) browser has a permanent scroll bar (on PC, or set to "always show scroll bars" on Mac), the scroll bar will always be visible even during the loading process. Therefore, the page content will not move at the end of loading process - this happens if the scroll bar is hidden and then appears after the loading screen disappears, because the page content width will change at this moment.

2.8.6 Inner Elements Animation

Since version 1.2, you can set the **Entrance & Exit Animation** for inner elements of the loading screen.

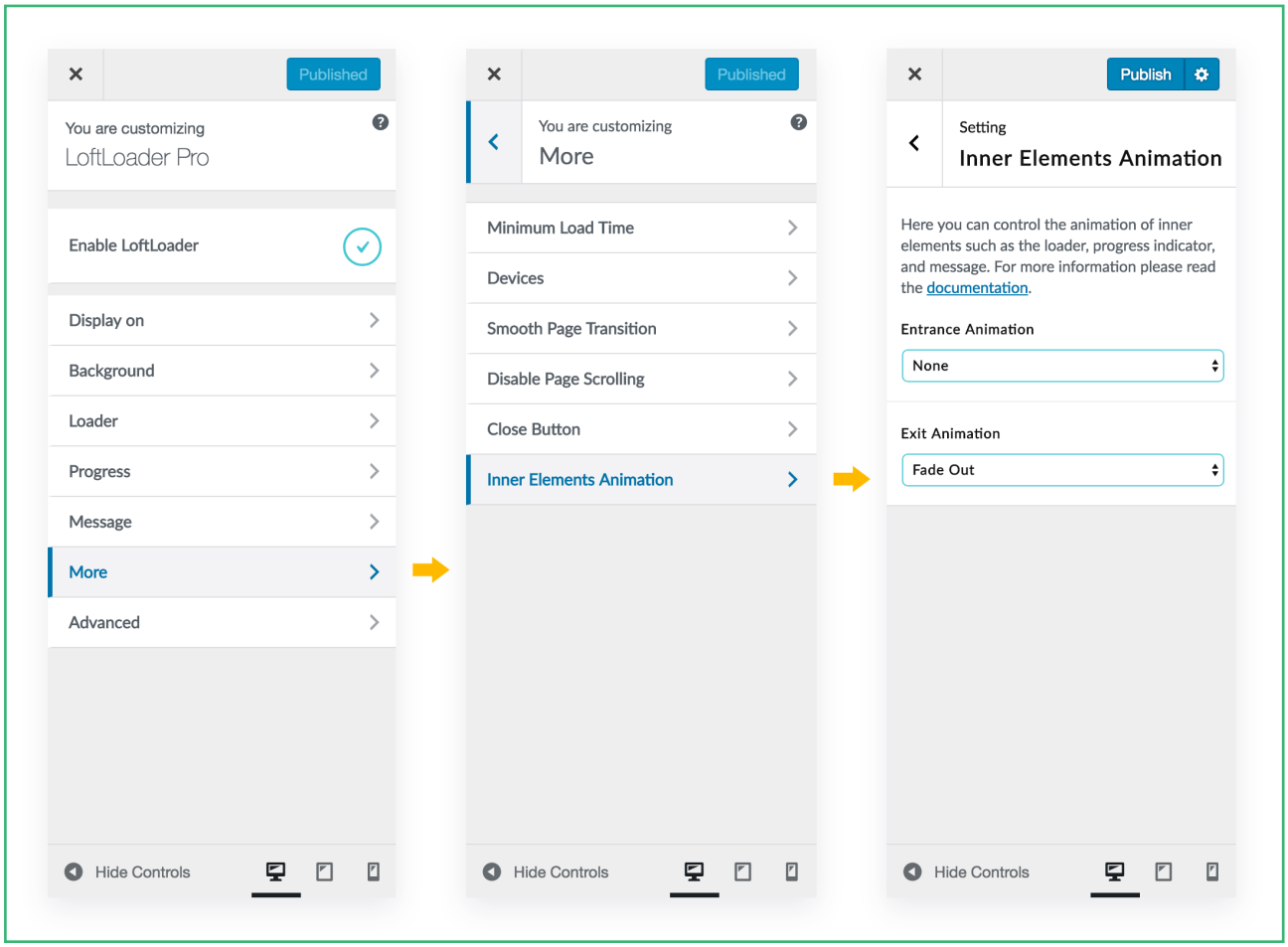
The Inner Elements are: the loader, the progress indicator, and the message. **But please note:** for best results, if you choose to display a progress bar and set its position to "**Top**" or "**Bottom**", then the **Entrance & Exit Animation** will not be applied to this progress bar. Otherwise it will look weird.

Options of Entrance Animation

- **None** - Default. The inner elements will appear in the loading screen without any transition animation effect.
- **Fade In** - The inner elements will appear with a fade in transition: opacity from 0 to 1.
- **Slide Up** - The inner elements will slide in from the bottom of the loading screen.

Options of Exit Animation

- **Fade Out** - When the loading process is complete, the inner elements will disappear with a fade out transition: opacity from 1 to 0.
- **Slide Up** - When the loading process is complete, the inner elements will slide up off the loading screen.



Please note: the options in the **More** section (except **Inner Elements Animation**) only work on front end. It means when you change the settings, nothing will happen in the preview area. Save the changes you have made, they will be applied to your site. Please remember to **clear your site cache and browser cache** before checking your front-end.

2.8.7 Detect Elements

Since version 2.0, LoftLoader Pro can check loading for different elements. To change the settings, please go to LoftLoader Pro **settings panel** > **More** > **Detect Elements**. There are 4 options:

- **Detect all elements**
- **Detect Images** - Default.
- **Detect Videos**
- **Detect Images & Videos**

Please note: When checking video loading, LoftLoader Pro will check **videos from YouTube & Vimeo**, and **video from Media Library**. Other video resources cannot be detected right now.

2.9 Advanced

2.9.1 Where to save customize styles

Here you can choose to save loader customize styles:

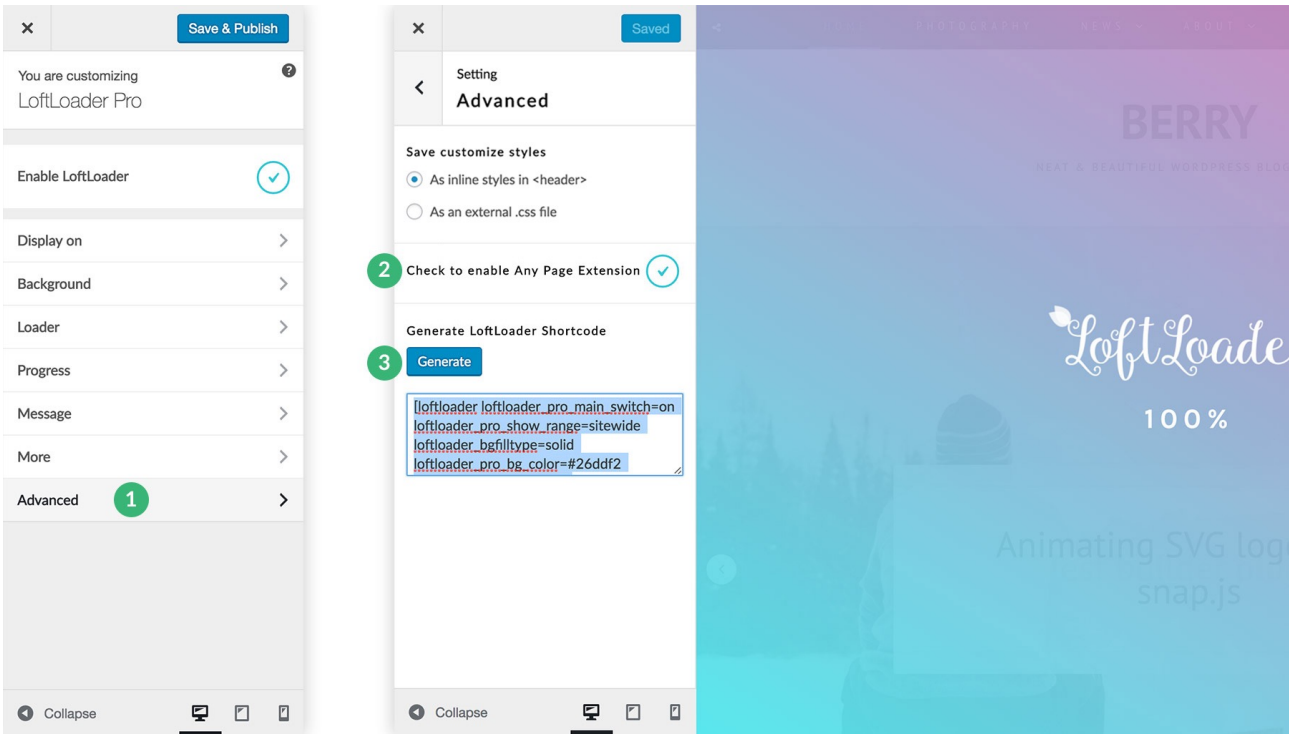
- **As inline styles in <head>** – Default setting.
- **As an external .css file** – When choose this option, please make sure your WordPress has write permission to create files. Or the styles will be saved as inline styles in <head>.

2.9.2 Display different loaders on different pages

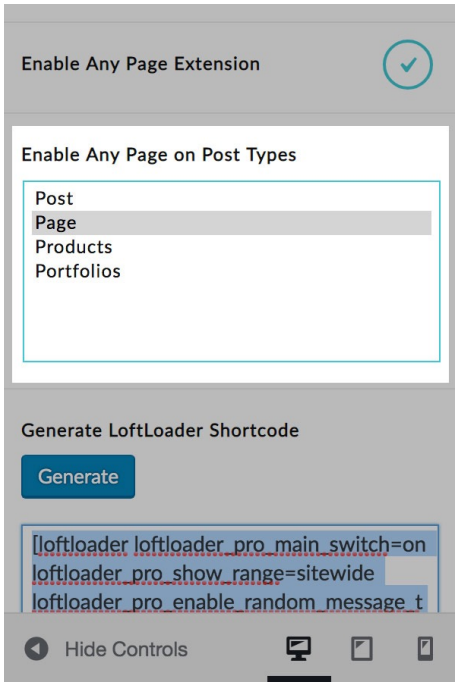
To add different loaders to different pages (like what we do on our demo site), please follow steps below:

1. Open the LoftLoader Pro settings panel, customize the loading screen.

2. Click **Advanced** section, tick to enable "**Any Page Extension**", then click on the "**Generate**" button to generate shortcode for the loader showing in the preview area. **Please note:** don't click on the "**Save & Publish**" button.

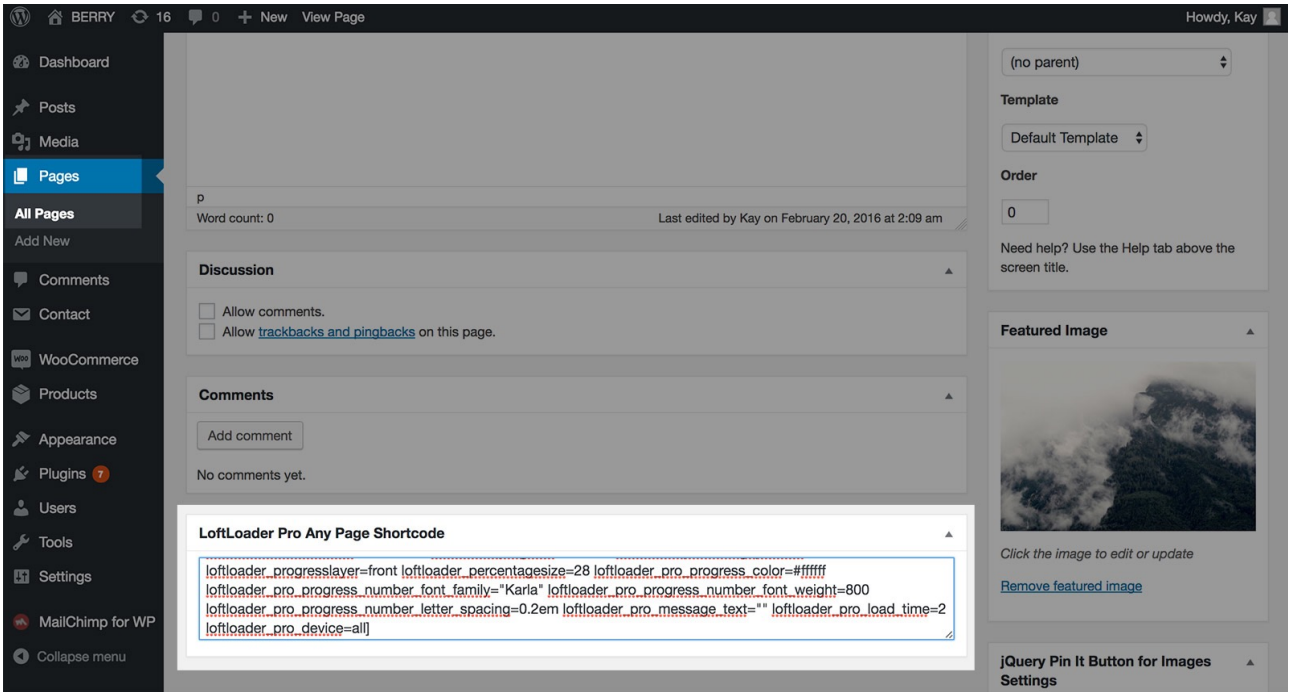


3. Since version 2.0, Any Page Extension can be enabled on all post types, including **Pages**, **Posts**, and **custom post types** created on your website, such as Products, Portfolios, etc. Only "**Page**" is enabled by default. To enable Any Page Extension on other post types, please find the "**Enable Any Page on Post Types**" option, and select the post types.

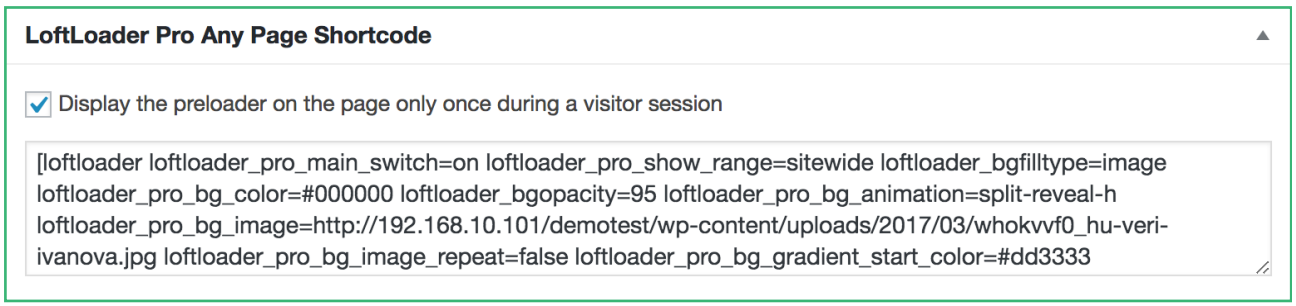


4. Select the generated shortcode and copy it.

5. Go to your site dashboard, create a new page, or edit an existing page. You will see there is a "**LoftLoader Pro Any Page Shortcode**" box on the page. Paste the shortcode into the box. **Save and publish** the page.



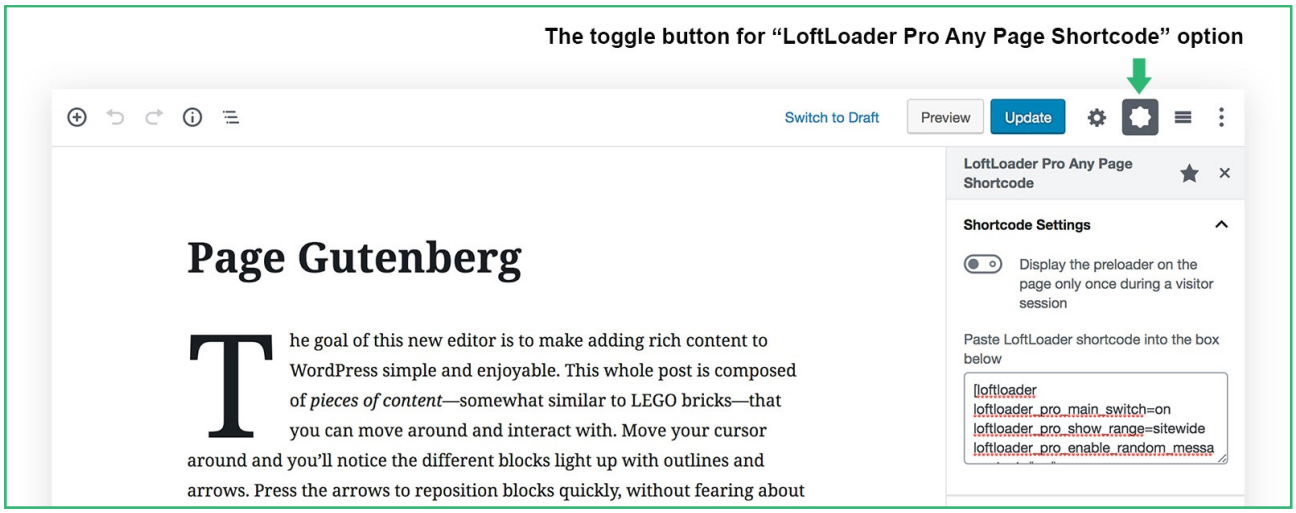
6. Since version 1.1.3, you can display the preloader created by shortcode only once during a visitor session.



7. Done. ~~**Please note:** this feature only works for **Pages**. You will not be able to add shortcode to posts or other custom post types~~ (Updated in version 2.0).

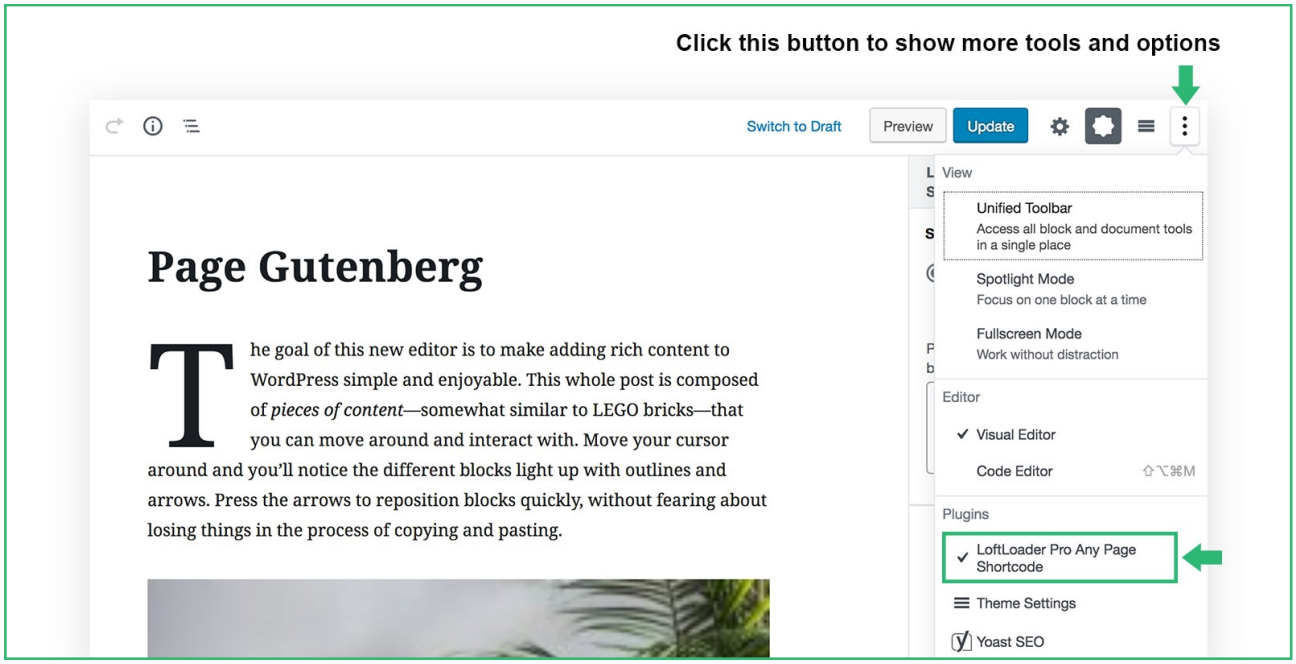
Add shortcode in Gutenberg editor (new editor in WordPress 5.0):

In the **Classic Editor**, the options for adding LoftLoader shortcode are the meta boxes which were displayed below the post editor. Since LoftLoader Pro v1.2.3, we redesigned these settings to fit in the **Gutenberg UI - Sidebar**. So, if you edit a page in Gutenberg, you can find the "**LoftLoader Pro Any Page Shortcode**" options in the editor sidebar.



Please make sure the "star" icon is enabled to pin the "**LoftLoader Pro Any Page Shortcode**" toggle button to Gutenberg Toolbar.

If the toggle button is unpinned from the toolbar and you cannot find it, please click the "**Show more tools and options**" icon, then you can find "**LoftLoader Pro Any Page Shortcode**" in "**Plugins**".



3.0 For developers

Since version 1.2.1, after the loading process is completed, a JavaScript event “loftloaderprodone” is triggered on DOM object “document”. Then developers can bind their own code to this event.

For example:

```
jQuery(document).on('loftloaderprodone', function(e) {
        alert( 'Hello world!' );
} );
```

The result:
After the loading process is completed and the loading screen disappears, it displays an alert box with message “Hello world!”.

When do you need to use this:
If there is a slider on the page and you want the slides to not start moving/rotating before the loading screen disappears, you can write code to hold the slider for a while and let it know when it should start moving/rotating.

4.0 URL Parameter

Since version 2.0, a hidden feature has been added to LoftLoader Pro. When a page has enabled LoftLoader Pro on it, users can add “**?pageloader=false**” to the end of the page’s URL so that the preloader can be hidden when sharing this page link with others (for example, email this page link to others).

For example:
A page URL is “https://www.mywebsite.com/homepage” and LoftLoader Pro is enabled on this page. So when visiting this link, the preloader will be displayed. But when visiting “https://www.mywebsite.com/homepage?pageloader=false”, the preloader will not be displayed.

Thanks for purchasing LoftLoader Pro. Hope you like it!

Sincerely,
The Loft Ocean Team