



uDesign.sk

# uBillboard - Documentation

# Preface

Hello and thank you for choosing uBillboard! In this document we will walk you through the setup and use options and scenarios. We will cover most of the included functionality and potential problems (and their solutions) that you might encounter while using uBillboard.

# Support

If you find this documentation insufficient, the support for this item will be provided on the item page on CodeCanyon via discussion. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or you can just drop us an email at [udesign@udesign.sk](mailto:udesign@udesign.sk). If you were interested, you can check our web at [udesignstudios.net](http://udesignstudios.net) also.

# Features

- Sleek slider front end and admin
- 23 transition effects + Random
- Transition effects based on scaling, sliding, square and column animation, fading, etc.
- Paginator, that lets you easily switch among slides
- Play/pause/next/previous controls
- Loader that displays real loading progress
- Customizable resolution
- Automatic image scaling
- Great looking and easy to use admin interface
- Per-slide options like showing time, description layout, transition effect and more
- Support for HTML markup in descriptions
- Extensible, add your own filters to the billboard
- Import/Export

# Usage Overview

There are three basic steps from purchase to the running product on your site.

1. Install
2. Filling in the slides
3. Embedding into your template

We will go over all three of these steps to get you through as quickly and painlessly as possible.

## Installation

Installation should be fairly straightforward. In a couple of steps you should have the plugin installed.

1. Log in to your Wordpress admin and go to Plugins > Add New
2. Click Upload to bring up the Plugin Upload Dialog
3. Select the plugin and upload it
  - Alternatively, if for some reason this does not work, you can unpack the plugin on your computer and then just upload it to /wp-content/plugins via FTP
4. Go to Plugins > Plugins and you should see uBillboard among your inactive plugins
5. Click Activate in the uBillboard row
6. You're done!

*Note: You might also need to set the correct permissions on the cache folder. In order to do this, open wp-content/plugins/uBillboard with your FTP client and change permissions of the cache folder to 777.*

## Updating to version 2.1

uBillboard 2.1 is designed with 1.0.x users in mind. Once you update your uBillboard installation and open the uBillboard administration panel, your uBillboard will be automatically upgraded to version 2.1 format and all your settings should be preserved. So you can freely continue where you left off. Furthermore, uBillboards exported from earlier versions are compatible with this release, however uBillboards exported with 2.1 can **not** be imported to uBillboard 2.0.

# Post-install setup and use

## General Options

We will take a quick detour here to explain what the individual options mean.

- **Billboard Name** - uniquely name your billboard. You can later refer to this billboard using this name in shortcodes and functions.
- **Billboard Width** - total width of the billboard front end
- **Billboard Height** - total height of the billboard front end
- **Square Size** - some of the effects are composed out of small squares. Here you can set the dimensions of that square. It's in pixels, but you should be aware that setting it too low will drastically decrease billboard performance. We would also love to have it 1x1, but current browsers just aren't there yet. Generally you want to keep around 40 squares, so if your billboard is 940px wide and 380px tall (the defaults), the dimensions of 100x100px will give you exactly 40 slides. You will want to decrease the number once you have billboard with dimensions for example 300x100
- **Column Width** - this is similar to Square Size, but it applies on the transitions that use columns. It is not as sensitive as Square Size performance-wise, but generally you want to decrease this number in proportion with the billboard width
- **Show Paginator** - allows visitor to switch among slides, shows up as little dots in the bottom right corner, using this option you can turn this feature off
- **Show Controls** - Shows playback controls in an overlay over the billboard. Shows Prev/Next/Play/Pause buttons on hover.
- **Show Play/Pause button** - If you uncheck this checkbox, Play/Pause button will not be shown and instead uBillboard will pause on mouse hover.
- **Autoplay** - Automatically advance to the next slide according to the delay specified.
- **Use Automatic Image Resizing** - will use Timthumb to resize your images to the billboard size. Useful if you want to change billboard size after you have uploaded your images. *Requires* the cache folder to be writable (see the Note after Installation chapter)
- **Zoom Disproportionate Images** - if the aspect ratio of the billboard is different to the one of the images, this option will force the images to zoom/crop instead of scaling them disproportionately.
- **Image Quality** - JPEG compression to use for processed billboard images. Values go from 0 to 100, 100 being of the highest quality but largest in size. Generally you'd want to keep this between 60-80

## Fill in your slides

Now is the perfect time to fill your uBillboard. You can access uBillboard's admin panel under uBillboard in the Wordpress admin menu.

- Click the "Click To Add an Image" button
- Upload your images, or choose from the Media Library
- Press "Show" on the selected image
- Make sure you have selected the Full size
- Click "Insert Into Post"

The image will show up instead of the button you clicked previously. Now simply fill in the remaining fields:

- **Title** - If you use a description, this will create a heading for it
- **Link URL** - An url that will be used for a "Read More" button
- **Text** - The actual description of the slide, you can use HTML in here
- **Delay** - Duration of the slide before it transitions to the next one
- **Slide Layout** - You can choose the description layout here, you can choose left, right and bottom and an alternate color configuration for each one. You can also disable description whatsoever
- **Transition** - The Effect used to switch from one slide to the next

To change order of the slides just drag the slide using its handle (cross-arrow icon) to the desired position and then just pre Update to save your changes.

To delete a slide press the Trash icon next to it, confirm deletion and then just press Update to save your changes.

# Embed

## Single uBillboard, called “billboard”

Now that you have installed the uBillboard and filled in your slides, you can insert the Billboard into your site.

There are two ways of including the uBillboard in your site.

1. Use shortcode `[uds-billboard]` anywhere where it is possible to use a shortcode including pages and posts. Be aware though, that uBillboard will always be rendered with dimensions specified in **General Options** and will not resize when it does not fit in the available space.
2. You can also use it anywhere in your theme via the `the_uds_billboard()` function. This function does not take any parameters and does not return anything. It will just echo the markup for the uBillboard.

Note: There is also a function `get_uds_billboard()`. This function is similar to `the_uds_billboard()` but instead of echoing the markup it will return it. Meaning you can call it like this:

```
echo the_uds_billboard();
```

These are PHP functions, so if you are not using them inside a larger PHP block, you need to call them like this:

```
<?php the_uds_billboard(); ?>
```

## Multiple uBillboards

If you use only a single uBillboard and leave its name set to `billboard`, all functions/shortcodes will automatically use this billboard. If you want to display any other named uBillboard, set its name and then you can use the above mentioned functions like so:

Shortcode: `[uds-billboard name="Your Billboard Name"]`

Functions: `the_uds_billboard("Your Billboard Name");`

and similarly:

```
get_uds_billboard("Your Billboard Name");
```

# Extend!

You can build upon uBillboard too! Here's a list of some filters that will let you customize uBillboard even further. All filters take a second parameter - the uBillboard array.

## General Options Filters

These run when outputting JavaScript parameters for the uBillboard Script. Using these you can force a certain value regardless of the user setting.

Filter name	Description
uds-billboard-option-width	Input and output should be an integer e.g. 940
uds-billboard-option-height	Input and output should be an integer e.g. 380
uds-billboard-option-square-size	Input and output should be an integer e.g. 100
uds-billboard-option-column-width	Input and output should be an integer e.g. 50
uds-billboard-option-show-paginator	Input and output is a string ('on' or '')
uds-billboard-option-show-controls	Input and output is a string ('on' or '')
uds-billboard-option-show-pause	Input and output is a string ('on' or '')
uds-billboard-option-autoplay	Input and output is a string ('on' or '')

## Billboard Markup Filters

These allow you to change the content of each slide part by part and then also as a whole.

Filter name	Description
uds-billboard-delay	Integer, number of milliseconds before transition
uds-billboard-transition	String, transition key
uds-billboard-layout	String, layout key
uds-billboard-image	String, image URL
uds-billboard-title	String, slide Title
uds-billboard-description	String, slide Text
uds-billboard-link	String, slide Link URL
uds-billboard-output	String, the whole markup in its final form

# FAQ

Q: I'm experiencing problems with the transitions, slow, sluggish skippy...

A: Try increasing Square Size and Column Width. If you still experience problems Try different transitions. Some are heavier than others.

Q: Some of the transitions do not play nicely in IE.

A: Unfortunately IE, being the dinosaur it is, can not handle all of the advanced transitions, therefore we have included some fallbacks to transitions that are more universal. In particular this problem is with the Scale transitions.

Q: WP Admin in IE freezes

A: Please use a modern browser such as Google Chrome, Safari, or Firefox to administer Wordpress.

Q: I'm getting errors about file writablity

A: Check if the wp-content/plugins/uBillboard/cache is present and writable by the web server. On most web servers this means the folder has permissions set to 777. However some hosts will require you to use 755. Also make sure that the parent directories have sufficient permissions.

Q: I did some changes to the billboard.js but they aren't showing up

A: In billboard.php on line 16 there is a define statements that enables use of the compressed JavaScript file billboard.min.js instead of the default billboard.js. Change that to false to disable compression.