

How to Customise your Twitter page

Most people viewing a Twitter page see a blank column either side of the main tweet area. How wide these columns are depends on the screen resolution being used.

You can design your own, custom background and take advantage of this space.

If you have a business (or personal) website, you might like to design a custom Twitter background to match your own website.

Designing Your Own Custom Background

I use the free Paint.net software, but you can design your background in any graphics software.

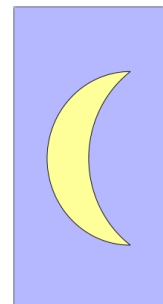
You can design your background so that is relatively small and then tell Twitter to “tile” it – repeat your background graphic to fill the screen, or you can design one that is large enough to fill most screens without tiling.

Here are some examples:

1) Plain or repeated pattern

If you want a plain background, or a simple repeating background, you only need to upload one occurrence of the design – the tiling option will automatically repeat it for you:

Here I’m going to use a simple picture of a yellow crescent moon against a blue background. If I click on “Image” and then “Resize” in Paint.net I can see that my original image is 200 pixels wide by 410 pixels high.



I’m going to upload this to Twitter and click the option for tile (see p2).

Here it is “in action” – the repeated graphic covers the whole of the background of your viewer’s screen.



2) Non – Repeating graphic.

If you want a larger picture, or a “sidebar” effect you will want to design a wider graphic. My live Twitter graphic is 2000 pixels wide by 1500 pixels high. My photo and text are placed at the top left, so that on a live Twitter page they appear as a left hand sidebar. I have still chosen the “tile” option.



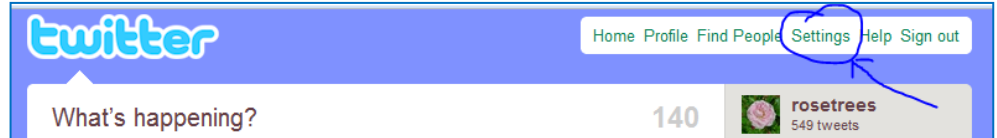
(Note: If you don't choose the tile option and someone is viewing you on an extra large screen, they might see white space beyond the edges of your non-tiled graphic.

Also Note: if someone is using a very low screen resolution your sidebar might start to disappear behind the main body of the Twitter page.)

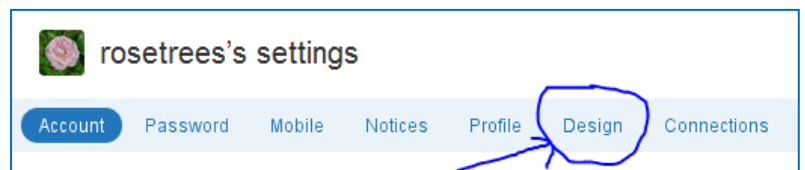
I made my custom graphic 2000pixels wide by 1500pixels deep. Don't be afraid to experiment with sizes – it's easy to reupload and change your background.

Uploading your Custom Background

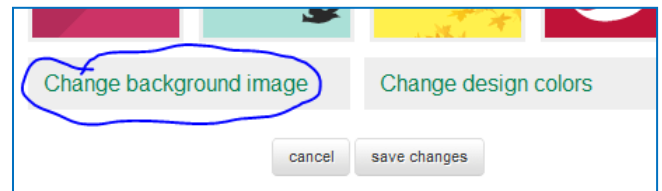
- Log into your Twitter account and choose Settings



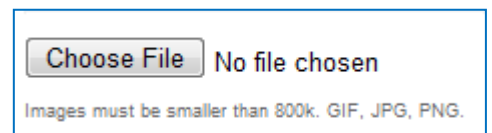
- Then click on Design



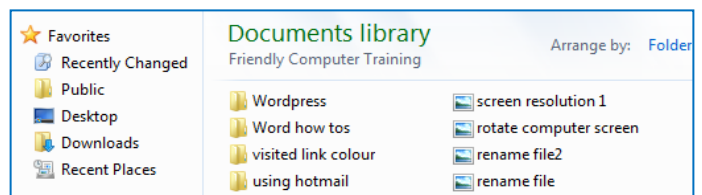
- Scroll down and click on "change background image"



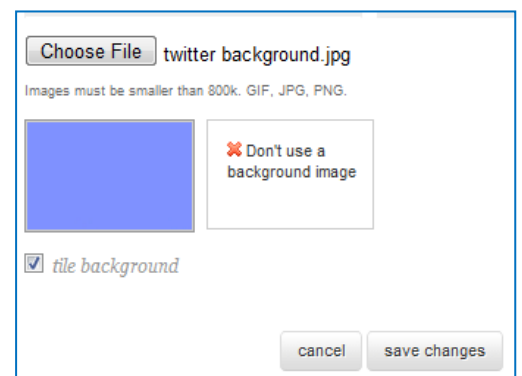
- Click on "Choose File" to upload your own background image.



- Choose your background image file and then click on "open" at the bottom right of your screen.



- Make sure to put a tick in "tile background" to ensure your graphic will fill even the largest screen and then click on "save changes".



You can see my custom background in action on my Twitter page. (<http://twitter.com/rosetrees>) Follow me on Twitter and I'll follow you back.