

GETTING SET UP ON WORDPRESS



WordPress is known for its ease of use and installation. It's a web software program that allows users to create websites and blogs. It's free to use as long as you have a hosting service.

The core software works well right from the installation. But to make it what you need, there are thousands of plugins and themes to transform your site.

Getting started on WordPress is pretty simple. In fact, they have the famous 5-minute install to quickly get started.

This tutorial will walk you through getting set up, organizing your widgets and adjusting your WordPress settings.

Getting Set Up

Don't panic. Installing WordPress is a fairly easy process and once you've done it a time or two it will be even easier.

There are a couple different ways to install WordPress: By downloading the zip file or using your web hosting service's cPanel. For the purpose of this tutorial, the focus is on cPanel installation.

cPanel Install

The first thing you need to do is get a web hosting account and a register a domain for your blog. Try to get a web hosting company that uses cPanel for easier installation.

1. Set up your domain name servers to point to your web host account. This is done in the account where you registered your domain. You should have received an email with the correct name servers for your hosting account. Click on the domain name you want to use and then click edit name servers.

Nameserver Settings

Nameservers point your domain to where it is located.

Setup type:

- Standard
Go Daddy hosting, forwarding, and parked domains.
- Custom
Customizable nameserver settings.

Nameservers:

| # | Nameserver | Status |
|---|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | ns1.godaddy.com | Active |
| 2 | ns2.godaddy.com | Active |

Add Nameserver

Edit Nameservers

2. Log into your cpanel on your hosting account with your username and password. It should be something like <http://www.yourwebhostaddress/cpanel>. Go to the section where it says Domains and click on the AddOn Domains.



Fill out the form with your domain name. Write down your password to remember it later on and then click "Add Domain".

3. Installing WordPress

a. Go to the home page of your control panel in your hosting account. Look for the Fantastico De Luxe Button.



- b. Choose WordPress from the list.
- c. Select New Installation.
- d. Choose the domain you registered from the drop down box. Leave the install in directory box empty.
- e. Enter your username and password. This is what you will use to log in and manage your content on your blog.

Tip: use a user name other than admin and make your password unique to prevent hackers from getting into your account.

Fill in the rest of the information. Click Install WordPress.



In the next screen click on the Finish Installation button to complete the installation of WordPress. Don't forget to bookmark the URL address of your new WordPress. This is the management page of your blog. Test the link to make sure it works.

That's it for the cPanel installation. Now you're ready to customize it.

Customizing WordPress

Download Option

The download option is a little more "techy". If you aren't comfortable with it, please do have someone do it for you. It involves downloading a zip file, creating a database and uploading the unzipped files. The complete instructions can be found on the WordPress.org website.

Choosing a Different Theme

Your theme or template is the design that displays your blog posts, sidebar content, images and everything else you put on your blog. There are some things to consider before you rush into selecting a theme. With so many options out there, it's easy to get overwhelmed and mesmerized by the different ones. Your blog becomes known by how it looks, so you want to choose a theme that best represents you and your niche.

Choose something you like since you may have it for a long time. Changing your theme can sometimes cause technical issues.

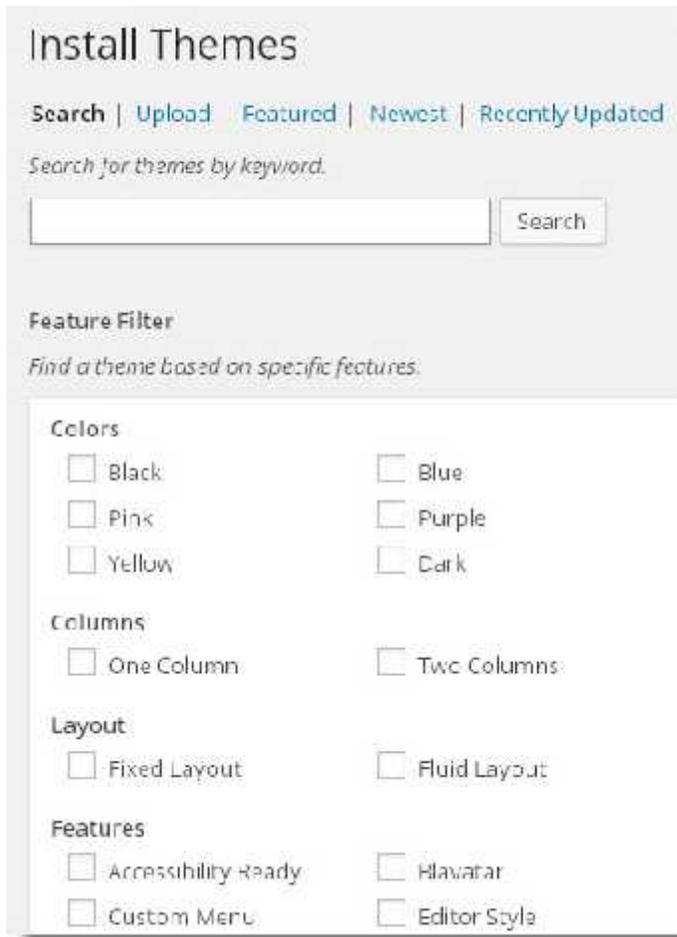
Choosing a Theme

The WordPress Themes Directory is a good place to begin looking for free themes. You can search by color and other features. There are many sites that design free themes as well. The WordPress themes directory can be accessed through your dashboard of your blog under appearance> themes.

Click Add new. Here you can search the themes by different filters.

If you find one you want to use, click on the install button to install it.

Click "activate" to make it active.

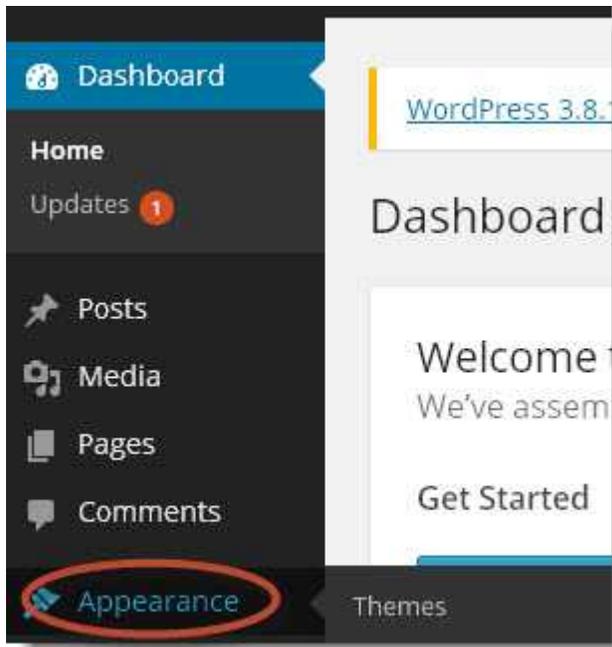


For more control of your theme or if you are wanting to stand out as original, purchasing a premium theme design is another option. Thesis Themes and StudioPress are two of the more popular ones.

If you've chosen a theme from another site or had one designed, you need to install it. There are a few different ways to do this. The easiest is through your WordPress admin panel.

Here's how:

1. Download your chosen theme. It will come in a .zip file. Don't extract the files, leave it zipped.
2. Return to your WordPress Dashboard. Hover over "Appearance" and then click "Themes." This will take you to the Installation Screen where you will upload your downloaded theme.



3. Click the upload link.
4. Browse and select your theme. Click “Install Now”
5. Click “Activate.”

Once you’ve activated the theme, you’ll be able to view your blog online by visiting your URL.

Tips for Choosing a Theme

1. Consider your subject/niche of your blog – and what you intend to use it for.
2. Go for function over form.
3. Consider the theme options and features.
4. Decide on the type of layout you want.
5. Don’t go with the most popular since many other blogs will be using the same one.

Organizing Widgets

WordPress Widgets are the feature that allows you to easily add content and features to your site sidebars. Features like post categories, navigation, search, tag clouds and social media features.

Widgets can be added, removed and rearranged by going to your WordPress Admin page > Appearance > Widgets.

Organize Widgets

Go to Appearance > Widgets.



Choose a Widget and either drag it to the sidebar where you wish it to appear. Your theme might have more than one sidebar option, so begin with the first one. Once in the widget is in place, WordPress automatically updates the Theme.

Preview your site.

Return to the Widgets Panel to continue adding Widgets.

To arrange the Widgets within the sidebar or Widget area, click and drag it into the place you want it to appear. To remove a widget, click and drag it to the inactive widgets column.

To customize the Widget features, click the down arrow in the upper right corner to expand the Widget's interface.

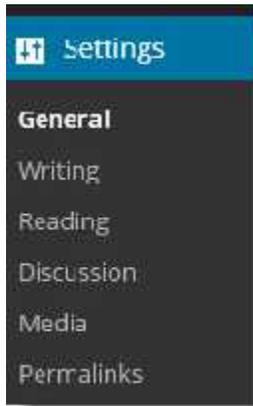


To save the Widget's customization, click Save.

To remove the Widget, click Delete.

Adjusting Settings

The settings control some of the most basic settings for your site that includes your site's title and URL and how people read your blog. These can be changed within the Admin Panel.



1. In the General tab, give your blog a good title and description as well as adding the “www” in your URL. Click Save Changes.

Tip: You will get logged out of your site. This is because you made changes to your blog's address. Don't panic. Just log back in.

2. Under the Reading settings, decide whether you want to show your posts or a static page on the front page. Click Save Changes.

3. Permalinks need to be changed to make them pretty. The permalinks affects all the URL's created on your site.

The default looks like this:

A screenshot of a text box containing the default WordPress URL: `http://www.contentimageclub.com/?p=123`

To change it, choose “CustomStructure” and paste in: `/%post_id%/%%postname%/`. Click Save Changes.

That's it. Most of the other default settings can be left the way they are.

Final Thoughts.

Installing and setting up your WordPress blog takes a few simple steps. Choosing a theme and installing it is a simple process with most web hosting services. Customizing and organizing your widgets and settings will make the blog unique to you.



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