

# Getting Started With WordPress

## Who is Tadpole

We are a WordPress hosting, support, training, and consulting company. The five of us met through the WordPress NYC Meetup, brought together by our mutual appreciation for simplicity and the evolution of small things.

We are a workers' collective with a strong belief in open-source software, collaborative effort and empowering the individual WordPress user.

## What is WordPress

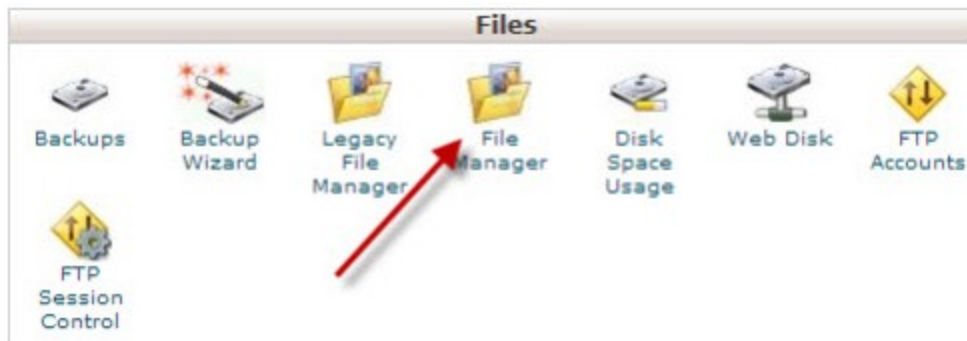
WordPress is a powerful tool for publishing and managing digital information. WordPress is a Content Management System for your website, and it can do lots of other stuff too. Things like invoicing, lead capture, email newsletters, blogs, contact relationship management, fundraising tools, e-commerce. All these things are possible with WordPress — did you know that?

## Installing WordPress from cPanel

Login to your Control Panel (cPanel): <https://web.tadpole.cc:2083>

You can also use <http://yourdomain.com/cpanel> However, it will not be a secure connection since the URL does not have HTTPS.

To manage your files use cPanel's File Manager



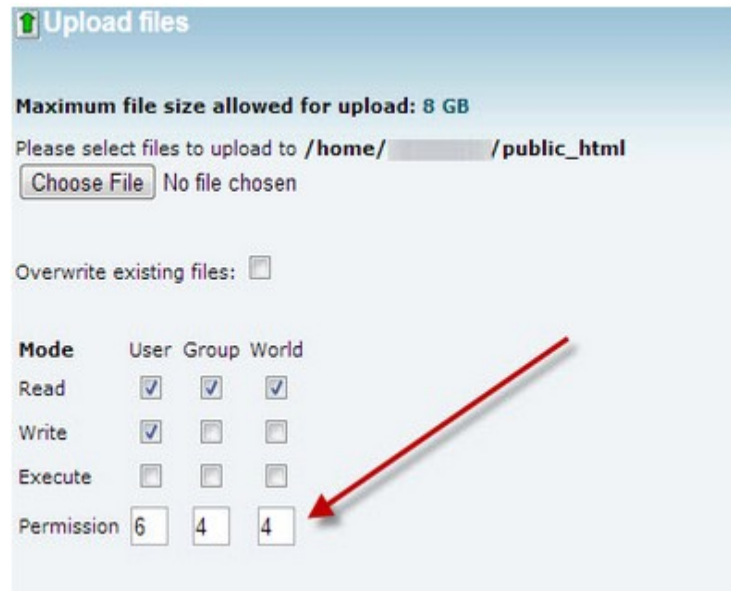
To see all files, click on show hidden files



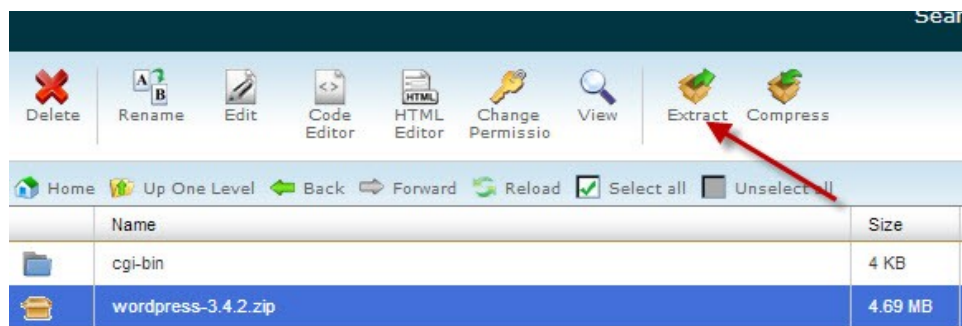
Download WordPress from <http://wordpress.org/download/>

Download WordPress 3.4.2  
 .zip — 4.7 MB  
 Download .tar.gz — 4.3 MB

When uploading, double check permissions



Extract the files:



Clean up the directory- Move the files out of /wordpress into /public\_html

Start the install at <http://yourdomain.com>

Input Database Credentials:



Below you should enter your database connection details. If you're not sure about these, contact your host.

<b>Database Name</b>	<input type="text" value="username_wpdb"/>	The name of the database you want to run WP in.
<b>User Name</b>	<input type="text" value="username_wpdb"/>	Your MySQL username
<b>Password</b>	<input type="text" value="Secret Password"/>	...and your MySQL password.
<b>Database Host</b>	<input type="text" value="localhost"/>	You should be able to get this info from your web host, if localhost does not work.
<b>Table Prefix</b>	<input type="text" value="wp_"/>	If you want to run multiple WordPress installations in a single database, change this.

Submit

Website Setup Info:



## Welcome

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Welcome to the famous five minute WordPress installation process! You may want to browse the [ReadMe documentation](#) at your leisure. Otherwise, just fill in the information below and you'll be on your way to using the most extendable and powerful personal publishing platform in the world.

## Information needed

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Please provide the following information. Don't worry, you can always change these settings later.

**Site Title**

**Username**

Usernames can have only alphanumeric characters, spaces, underscores, hyphens, periods and the @ symbol.

**Password, twice**

A password will be automatically generated for you if you leave this blank.

Strong

Hint: The password should be at least seven characters long. To make it stronger, use upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols like ! " ? \$ % ^ & ).

**Your E-mail**

Double-check your email address before continuing.

**Privacy**

Allow search engines to index this site.

Install WordPress

That's It. Go to <http://yourdomain.com>

## Dashboard

Logging in: via yourdomain.org/wp-admin/

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard interface. On the left is a vertical sidebar menu with items like Home, Updates, Posts, Media, Links, Pages, Comments, Appearance, Plugins, Users, Tools, and Settings. The main content area features a large blue box with the WordPress logo and the text 'Welcome to your new WordPress site!'. Below this, there are three columns of quick-start guides: 'Basic Settings', 'Add Real Content', and 'Customize Your Site'. Each column contains a brief introduction and a list of links to various settings and content creation options. In the top right corner, there are 'Screen Options' and 'Help' buttons. At the bottom right, there are also 'Screen Options' and 'Help' buttons.

Screen Options and Help: On the Top Right of your screen in your Dashboard

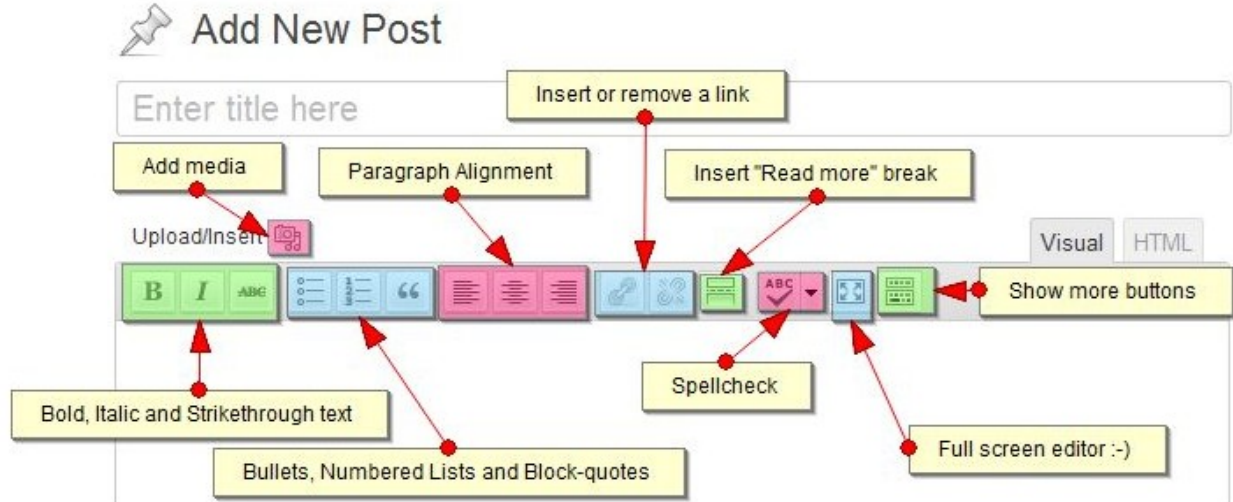
Admin Menu: Dashboard navigation on the left side of your admin area, where you see Posts, Pages, Users, Appearance, Settings, etc.

Important initial website settings to look at when you first start building out your new website.

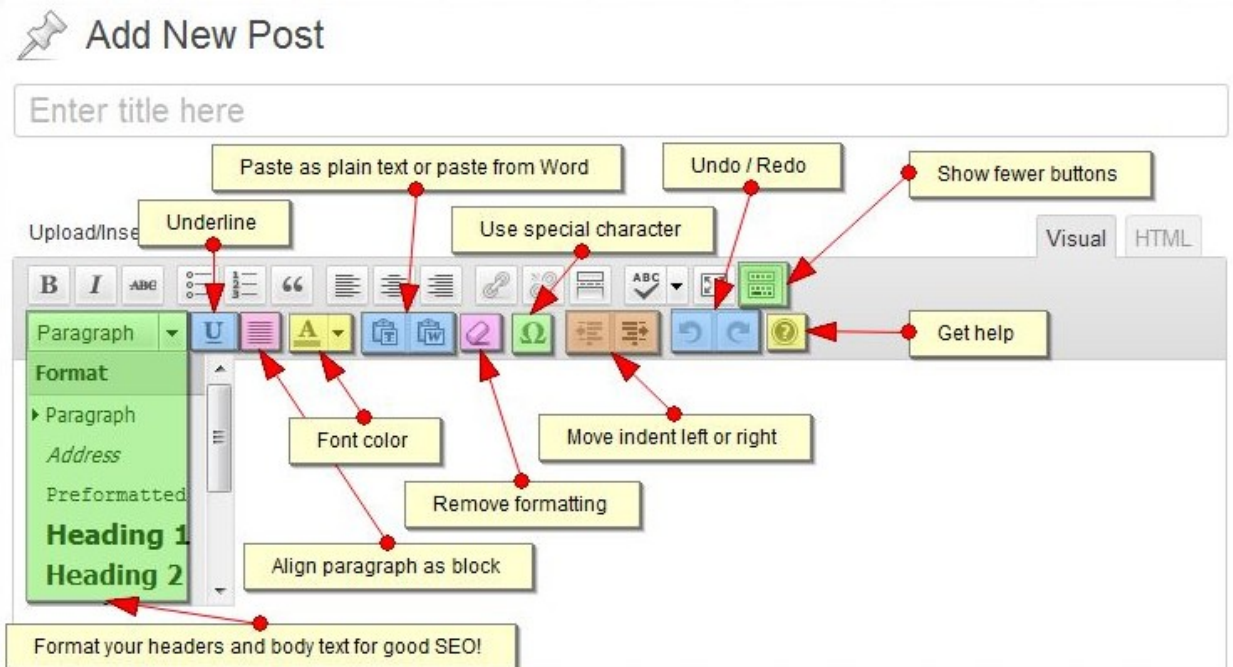
- General Settings: sets the default email, timezone and date/time formats.
- Privacy Settings: once you've completed your website, change to 'Allow search engines to index this site'.
- Permalink Settings: if you have unexpected 404 errors, go in a re-save permalinks without making any changes.

## Editing Content

### Editing screen for Posts and Pages



### Editing toolbar expanded



#### Tips:

- Use the distraction-free, full-screen editor for better writing sessions
- Write content directly in the editor for best results (although there is a method for pasting from Word)
- Use proper header tags for better SEO

## Themes

**Free Themes from the WordPress repository** (<http://wordpress.org/extend/themes>)

### Developer websites

- **Elegant Themes** (<http://www.elegantthemes.com/>)
- **Themify** (<http://themify.me/>)
- **WPMU** (<http://wpmu.org/>)

### Theme Marketplaces

- **Theme Forest** (<http://themeforest.net/>)
- **Mojo Themes** (<http://www.mojo-themes.com/>)

### Theme Reviewers

- **WPCandy** (<http://wpcandy.com/>)
- **WPTavern** (<http://www.wptavern.com/>)
- **Weblog Tools Collection** (<http://weblogtoolscollection.com/>)
- **Smashing Magazine** (<http://www.smashingmagazine.com/>)

## Plugins

From Wordpress.org: "Plugins can extend WordPress to do almost anything you can imagine."

Plugin applies to all themes, it's not limited to a specific theme.

How to search for Plugins

- **Free** (WordPress.org)
- **Commercial** (links from WordPress.org)
- **WordPress Information Sites**
  - **WP Candy** (<http://wpcandy.com/>)
  - **WP Mail** (<http://wpmail.me/>)
  - **WP Beginner** (<http://www.wpbeginner.com/>)
  - **WPMU** (<http://wpmu.org/>)
  - **WP Lift** (<http://wplift.com/>)
  - **Smashing Magazine** (<http://wp.smashingmagazine.com/>)

How do I know it's a good Plugin

- **Version Check**
- **Developer**
- **Downloads**
- **Changelog**
- **Conflicts**
- **Forums**

**Don't use Multiple Plugins for the same purpose**

**Requires:** 3.1 or higher

**Compatible up to:** 3.4.2

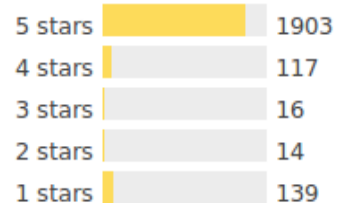
**Last Updated:** 2012-9-9

**Downloads:** 2,262,809

### Ratings



4.7 out of 5 stars



### Author



joostdevalk

### Compatibility

WordPress

+ Plugin

= **Works!**

38 people say it works.

9 people say it's broken.

[Log in to vote.](#)

## Plugins that everybody should know about (and use when necessary)

### *Related Content*

- nRelate Related Content (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/nrelate-related-content/>)
- WordPress Related Posts (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wordpress-23-related-posts-plugin/>)

### *Comments*

- Social (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/social/>)
- Comments Plus (commercial) (<http://premium.wpmudev.org/project/comments-plus/>)

### *Spam Control*

- Akismet (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/akismet/>)
- Anti-spam bee (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/antispam-bee/>)
- SI CAPTCHA Anti-Spam (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/si-captcha-for-wordpress/>)

### *Contact Form*

- Contact Form (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/contact-form-plugin/>)
- Fast Secure Contact Form (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/si-contact-form/>)
- Contact Form 7 (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/contact-form-7/>)
- Gravity Forms (commercial) (<http://www.gravityforms.com/>)

### *Widget Management*

- Display Widgets (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/display-widgets/>)
- Widget Logic (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/widget-logic/>)
- Widget Builder (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/widget-builder/>)

### *Email*

- WP SMTP Mail (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-mail-smtp/>)
- Better Emails (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-better-emails/>)

### *Newsletter/Subscriptions*

- Wysija Newsletters (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wysija-newsletters/>)
- Subscribe2 (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/subscribe2/>)

### *Shortcode Embeds*

- Shortcode Ultimate (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/shortcodes-ultimate/>)
- J Shortcodes (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/j-shortcodes/>)
- WP Utility Short Codes Plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-utility-shortcodes/>)

### *Gallery*

- Laziest Gallery (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/laziest-gallery/>)
- Gallery (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/gallery-plugin/>)
- WP Easy Gallery (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-easy-gallery/>)

### *Sharing/Social*

- Social Sharing Toolkit (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/social-sharing-toolkit/>)
- Sociable (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/sociable/>)

### *Analytics/Stats*

- Google Analyticator (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-analyticator/>)
- Jetpack Lite (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/jetpack-lite/>)
- WP Piwik (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-piwik/>)

### *CSS*

- Improved Simpler CSS (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/imporved-simpler-css/>)
- Laziest Stylesheet (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/laziest-stylesheet/>)



### Backups

- BackupBuddy (commercial) (<http://ithemes.com/purchase/backupbuddy/>)
- WP-DB-Backup (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-db-backup/>)

### Caching

- Super Cache (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-super-cache/>)
- W3 Total Cache (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/w3-total-cache/>)

## Best Practices

### Backup your site

- Every day -- It's your stuff
- Check what your host will do
- Plugins- see above
  - Send the files off site (Dropbox, S3)

### Update your site

- Stay up to date to stay secure
  - Always apply WordPress Core Security Updates
- Update Plugins and Themes
  - Plugins are the biggest source of vulnerabilities in WordPress

### WordPress Security

- Always run the most up to date version.
- Keep your computer and network secure.
  - Most WordPress Hacks are actually due to user's login name and password being harvested from a computer virus
  - Be Careful with your ftp program
    - Filezilla does NOT encrypt saved passwords
- Get your themes and plugins from reputable sources.
- Don't use ADMIN as your username!
- Strong Passwords
  - Avoid Most common passwords
    - The most common password is ..... password
    - The worst passwords (<http://xato.net/passwords/more-top-worst-passwords/>)
  - Use a password manager (<http://xato.net/passwords/use-a-password-manager/>)
    - Lastpass: (<https://lastpass.com/>)
    - Keypass: (<http://keepass.info/>)
    - 1Password (<http://agilewebsolutions.com/products/1Password>)
    - Roboform (<http://www.roboform.com/>)

### Blank page/error on front end

- Stay Calm
- Deactivate all plugins by renaming the plugin directory
- Reactivate plugins/theme one by one.
- Update all themes/plugins
- Switch to default theme

#### Blank page in wp-admin

- Stay Calm
- Rename plugins directory via FTP or File Manager
- Navigate to your site to make sure it works
- Rename plugin directory back to plugins
- Follow same steps as Balnak page/error on Front End

#### Getting Help for WordPress

- Search the Web (TIP - site:wordpress.org "search text")
- WordPress Tutorial Sites
  - Dig WP (<http://digwp.com/>)
  - WPMU (<http://wpmu.org/>)
- WordPress.org Codex (<http://codex.wordpress.org/>)
- WordPress.org Support Forums (<http://wordpress.org/support/>)
- WPNYC Forums (<http://wpnyc.org/groups/troubleshooting/forum/>)

#### When asking a question

- Search first!
- Be clear in the subject what the problem is.
- Give enough information (not too much or too little).
- Give the URL if at all possible.

#### Paid Support

- Companies like Tadpole offer paid support.
- Response time is usually guaranteed.

#### Working with a Developer

- Project is too big or complicated.
- Time constraints require outside help.