HOW TO
BUILD A WEBSITE
USING
WORDPRESS

Written By Martie

How To Build A Website Using WordPress

Have you ever wanted your own website?

Did you get put off the idea because you don't know html?

Or was it the idea of paying someone thousands of dollars to build it for you?

Whatever it was, I have the answer for you -

BUILD IT YOURSELF USING THIS STEP BY STEP GUIDE!

You do NOT need to know any html coding!

You do NOT need to pay anyone to do it for you!

You do NOT need any previous web design experience!

All you need to have to make your very own website a reality is -

1. This Guide
2. A Computer
3. An Internet Connection
4. Around $13 (for your Hosting & Domain Name)
5. About 2 Hours Time

And once you are done you will be able to build your very own, professional looking and fully customizable website, as well as having the knowledge to edit and customize your site whenever you please!

Disclaimer

Personal Introduction

Hi, my name is Martie, and I am a 26-year-old web designer from Northern Ireland. I have created this guide because I am *sick* of seeing people pay great sums of money to have a website built for them when I know the people selling these websites are making them for next to nothing! This book will guide you through the process of creating a fully functional, custom and professional website using WordPress for around $13. Once you see how easy it is to build a website using WordPress, you will wonder how most of these so-called web designers get away with charging so much for doing exactly what I am going to show you! I hope you find this guide helpful, and I look forward to helping you build your website.

My Facebook Page

http://www.facebook.com/letsbuildwp

My Google Plus Page

http://google.com/+Letsbuildwp

My Website

http://letsbuildwp.com

The Contents Page

Set Up Hosting & Buying A Domain Name

In this section I will cover setting up hosting and a domain name for your website, as well as explaining what they are!

What is Hosting?

Hosting (also known as "web hosting") is basically a computer that is left on 24/7 running your website or blog on it so that people can still visit your website – even when your computer is switched off. Hosting is something you do require if your going to run a website and will usually cost you around $5 a month (although later on in this guide I will give you a coupon code to get your first months hosting for only one penny!)

What is a Domain Name?

A domain name is basically the title of your website or blog, with WWW. Before it and .com after it – so for example, Googles domain name is www.google.com. A domain name, once again is something you will require to run a website. A domain name will usually cost you around $13, only you don't pay this once a month like your hosting – you domain name is billed once a year.

In this guide we will be using a company called **HostGator**, for both our Hosting and our Domain Name, below I will tell you why I have chosen this company.

Why Use HostGator?

Here are just a few reasons why I suggest using HostGator as your hosting provider and why I continue to use them for all of my websites -

- 99.9% Uptime or more so your Website is always online
- 45-Day Money Back Guarantee in case you change your mind
- 1-click WordPress Installation
- Free Live Online Chat 24-hours a day, 7-days a week
- I can offer a coupon code that will get your first months hosting for one penny

Please Note – If you do decide to use another web hosting company for your website, you may need to improvise a few steps of this guide as I am using HostGator for the example.

Now, Let's Get Started!

The first things we will need to do to get our website up and running is set up our "Web Hosting" and register our "Domain Name", luckily we can do both of these things at the same place......

www.HostGator.com

As an added bonus I have some money off coupons to give you!

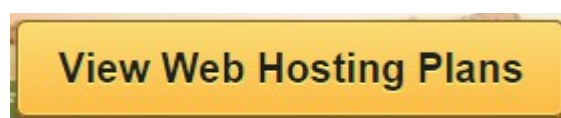**LETSBUILDWP25 –** Gets you 25% off your first months hosting!
LETSBUILDWP1 – Gets you your first months hosting for ONLY ONE PENNY!

Just add the coupon of your choice before checking out.
Don't worry, I'll tell you when!

1. So, just go to www.HostGator.com (or click this link).

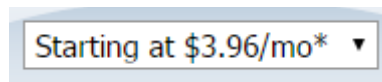2. Click in the middle where it says "View Web Hosting Plans".

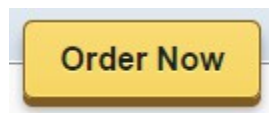3. Choose your Hosting Plan from the 3 options available.

I suggest either the Hatchling plan or the Baby Plan, the Business Plan probably has a whole load of added extras you will not require at this point. If your only going to have one website go with the Hatchling Plan, if your going to have any more than one website – go with the Baby Plan. The Baby Plan allows you UNLIMITED domains (websites) to be hosted and doesn't cost much more than the Hatchling Plan!

4. Choose your Billing Cycle from the drop down menu.

Please Note – You can always just go month to month billing until you are sure that you are happy with everything or else you can go all out and pay for 3 years upfront and save some money – this is totally up to you!

5. Once you are happy with everything, click "Order Now".

6. Now your on the next page, just enter the domain name you are wanting to purchase into the top bar and then choose whether you want .com, .org etc from the drop-down list to the right (this is set to .com by default).

Please Note – at the time of writing this HostGator do NOT offer .CO.UK domain names, so if you do want a .CO.UK website – I suggest buying it from somewhere like crazydomains.com

7. Now just check that your package type and billing cycle are correct.

Please confirm your hosting package information:

Package Type
Baby ▼

Billing Cycle
1 Month @ 7.96/mo 20.000% Percent Off! ▼

8. Create a user-name and security pin (we suggest writing these down).

Username

Security Pin

9. Enter your billing information and choose whether you would like to pay by PayPal or credit card.

Please enter your billing information:

Billing Information		Payment Information
Email		◉ Credit Card
First Name		○ PayPal
Last Name		AMEX MasterCard VISA DISCOVER PayPal
Company		Name on Card
Home Phone		
Cell Phone		Credit Card Number
Address		
Address 2		Expiration Date
City		▼ ▼
State	Alabama ▼	CVV Code
Zip Code		
Country	United States ▼	Help: Where is my CVV Code?

10. Choose whether or not you want any of the "Hosting Addons", we personally don't think any of these are necessary but you can have a look and decide for yourself (just un-check the boxes of any you do not want).

Hosting Addons:

Secure and Accelerate Your Site — Highly Recommended $1.67 /mo (Billed Annually)

Protect your website from fraud and malware, while speeding up its performance for visitors. This advanced security helps to block malicious traffic and scans daily for other harmful threats. A $99 value.

☑ Add SiteLock

11. Enter the coupon code **LETSBUILDWP25** and click "Validate" to get 25% OFF your order or else **LETSBUILDWP1** to get your first months hosting for one penny!

Have a coupon code?

Coupon Code   LETSBUILDWP1   ✔ You have chosen our most valuable coupon!

Validate

12. Double check everything is correct in the "Order Details".
    (also note the 45 day money back guarantee!)

13. Check the box beside where it says "I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of use" and then click "Create Account".

☐ I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of use.

Create Account

The next page you will see is a confirmation page. Print or write down your confirmation number and close the page. You should also receive an email confirming your purchase. This email contains important information for setting up your site, so go ahead and open the email and we will move on to installing WordPress.

Installing WordPress

In this chapter we will cover the steps needed to install WordPress onto your new hosting.

1. Log into your email account used for registration and find the new email from HostGator.

2. Click the link in the email beside where it says "Your Control Panel" which will bring you to a log-in screen.

3. Type your user-name you set up in the last section into the "C Panel" log-in screen.

4. Copy your Password from the email and Paste it into the "C Panel" log-in screen and click "Log In".

5. Once logged in, scroll down to near the bottom of this page until you see the section named "Software/Services".
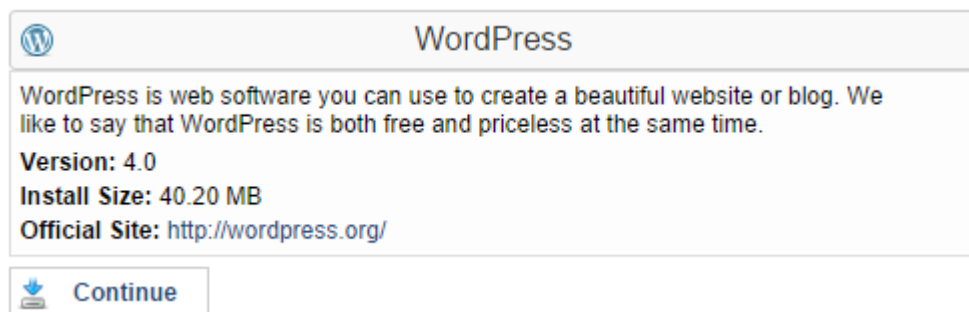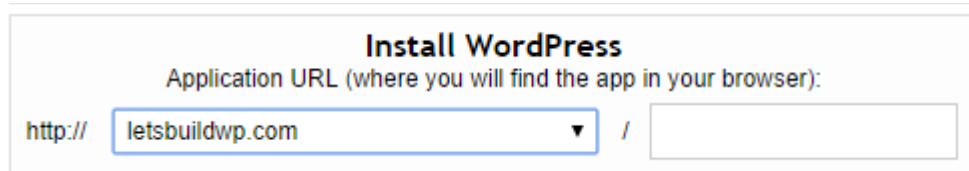

6. Click where it says "Quick Install".

7. On the left hand side, in the "Blog Software" section, click "WordPress".
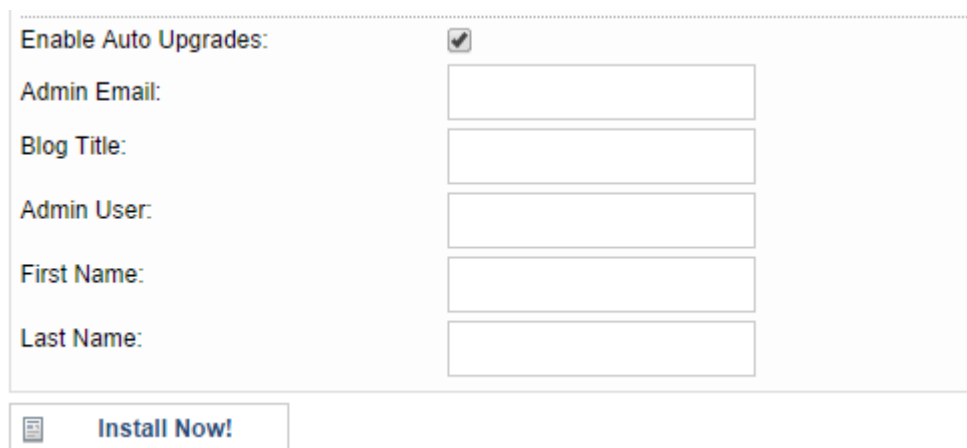

8. Then click "Continue".

9. Make sure your new domain name is selected in the drop down list and leave the box to the right of this totally blank.
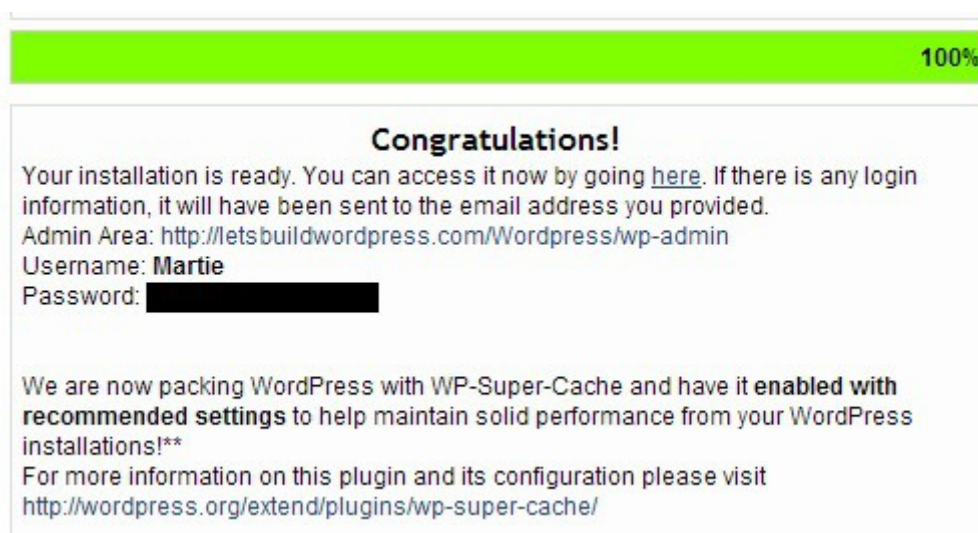
10. Type in your details -

- Leave the box beside where it says "Enable Auto Upgrades" checked.
- Type in your email address.
- Type your Blog/Website Title (don't worry about this too much as you can change it later).
- Choose an Admin User name (you will use to login to WordPress).
- Type in your First Name and Last Name.

11. Click "Install Now"

Once it installs (usually less than a minute), you will be given your user-name, password and some other information including a link to your new Website.

Please Note – *It is probably a good idea to write all of this information down. This information should be sent to you as an email but you can never be too careful!*

13. Click the link to visit your new site or else type your URL (domain name) into your internet search bar.

Please Note – *New websites can take anywhere up to 12 hours before you can visit them, if it takes longer than this you can contact HostGator via their 24 hour live chat.*
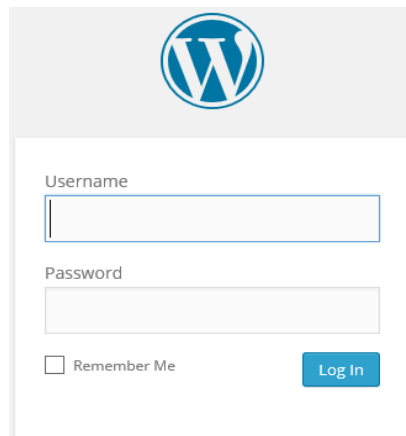
Once you can visit your site, you will see that there is a sample page and a few other bits and pieces already on the website to show you what your site can look like when using the pre-installed theme. However we are going to make our website look a lot better than this by the time we're finished!

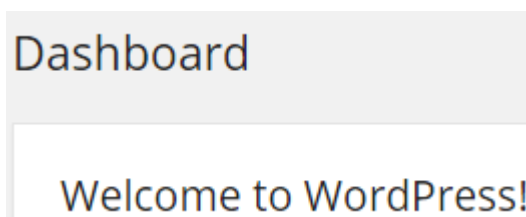# Logging Into Your Site & Changing The Password

Logging into WordPress

Now that you are able to visit your website, you will need to log in to what's known as the WordPress "Dashboard" (or back end), this is where we can create pages and generally edit our new website.

1. Visit your website, either by typing your new domain name into the main search bar of your browser or by clicking the link on the Quick Install page (or email).

2. Then in the main search bar, just after your domain name – enter "/wp-admin" so the search bar should read – http://www.YourSiteName.com/wp-admin

3. Then click search on your browser and this should bring you to a log in screen.

4. Copy & Paste your user-name and password from the Quick Install page (or email) into this log in screen and click "Log In".
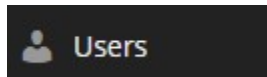
You will now have successfully logged into the WordPress "Dashboard" for the first time, the first thing I like to do once I have logged in to a new website is change the password to something I will actually remember! I am going to show you how to do this in the next section.

Changing Your Password

To change your password, you will want to be in the "Dashboard".

1. On the left hand side, in the menu (near the bottom) – you want to click "Users".

2. Then hover over your Admin User-name and click the word "edit" when it appears.

3. Now scroll down to the bottom of this page and enter your New Password in the box provided.
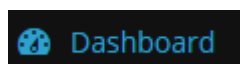

4. Type your New Password again in the second box.

5. Click "Update Profile"

Now that you have successfully updated your password, just click where it says "Dashboard" in the top left hand corner of this page to return to the Dashboard home-screen and we will continue building our website in the next section.

Choosing & Installing A Theme For Your Website

What Are WordPress Themes?

The whole beauty of WordPress is the ability to create fully operational and great looking websites in a matter of minutes (once you get the hang of it). There are thousands of WordPress themes available for free that can be applied immediately to your website, once installed, your WordPress website will take on the form of the installed theme, meaning you do not have to spend hours manually designing the look and layout of your site, as this work has already been done for you by the original designer of the theme. Most of these themes are fully customizable, meaning you can change the colours, fonts, logo etc and if you are technically minded, you can also change CSS coding to further change the website.

Things To Think About When Choosing A Theme

1. What type of site are you building?

A small business website?
A portfolio site?
A blog?
An e-commerce store?

There are themes for all of the above and also a lot more.

2. Do you need to be able to change the sites main colours?

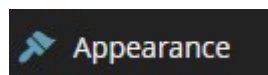3. Do you want it to be "Responsive" (mobile friendly)?

4. Do you need more than one sidebar?

If this is your first time building a website I wouldn't worry about the theme too much for now, you can always change your theme without losing any of your work and if you don't like it – just change it again!
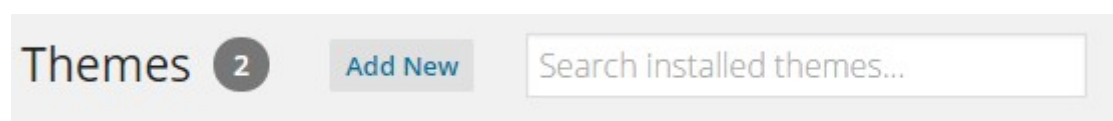
Searching For & Installing A Theme Through WordPress

In this guide, I will be installing and using the "Twenty Twelve" Theme as it is quite a universal theme.
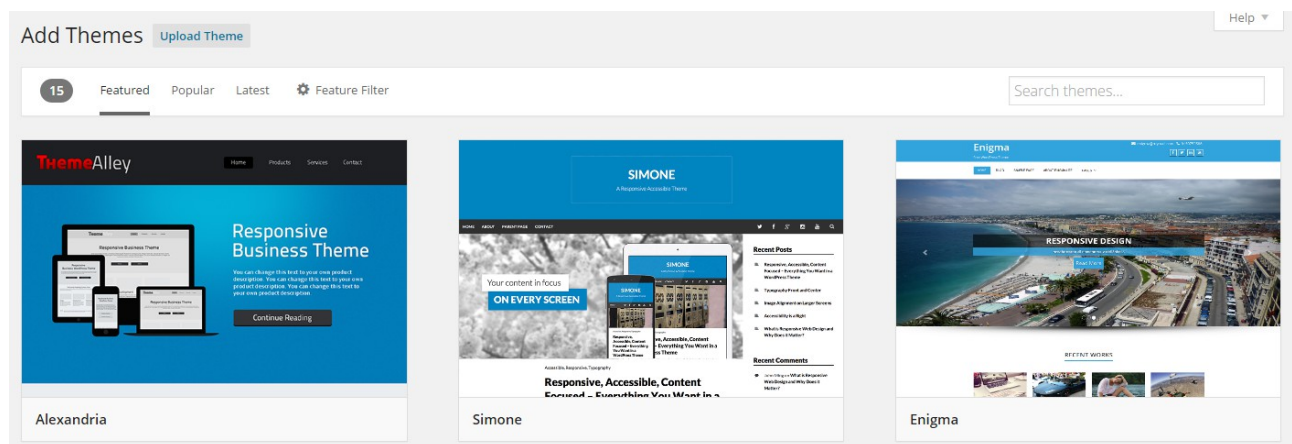
1. From the Dashboard, on the left-hand side – click where it says "Appearance". You will now be on a page called "Themes".

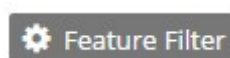2. Click at the top where it says "Add New".

You will now be on a page showing you the "Featured Themes"
(just click on each one to see details and previews of that theme).

You will also see a bar running along the top that allows you to look at the "Popular" or "Latest" themes.

Also on that bar you will see "Feature Filter", if you click there you will be able to filter the themes down by "Colour", "Layout" etc.

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