

Troubleshooting WordPress Site Errors and Breakages

Introduction

WordPress sites can sometimes encounter PHP errors, white screens of death, or other breaking issues. This article will cover troubleshooting tips to diagnose and fix common WordPress problems.

Checking Error Logs

- Enable WP_DEBUG in wp-config.php to surface verbose PHP errors.
- Review PHP, MySQL, and web server error logs.
- Identify any syntax issues, deprecated functions, or fatal errors.

Dealing with Blank Pages

- Try general troubleshooting like changing themes or disabling plugins.
- Reupload WordPress core files in case they are corrupted.
- Restore database from backup and flush caches.

Identifying Plugin Conflicts

- Look for patterns pointing to problematic plugins.
- Disable or uninstall recently added plugins.
- Check plugin developer forums for conflicts.

Resolving Upgrade Issues

- Read WordPress release notes for breaking changes.
- Follow steps like clearing caches and running repairs.
- Downgrade and re-test if issues appeared after an upgrade.

Recovering from Hacks

- Scan files for unauthorized code changes.
- Completely wipe files and databases, restore clean backups.
- Change all passwords and audit users.

Conclusion

Learning WordPress troubleshooting techniques will help diagnose and resolve common breaking issues.