skillcrush

WORDPRESS SITE LAUNCH
## FTP + IMPORTER PLUGIN EDITION

guide

STEP 1: PURCHASE A HOSTING PACKAGE

We recommend using WPEngine to host your site as it is a very feature rich environment with great support, security, and speed. WPEngine also supports Git Push to deploy, which we'll be learning about in 105, and staging sites, which we'll utilize for our second site in 203. You can choose a different hosting platform if you want to!

Regardless of where you decide to host your site, you should be able to follow along with this guide. You'll just need to tailor some of the instructions to your particular platform.

If you are going with our recommendation, go to the [WPEngine Plans & Pricing](#) page and pick the hosting package that works for you. We recommend the "Personal" plan. **BONUS:** *Try the ARTOFBLOG coupon code to get 3 months for $4 each, with no obligation to continue!*

PERSONAL
Looking to run just one site or test us out for a bigger project? Creatives, marketers, and developers can utilize the powerful technology and bulletproof customer service that comes stock with every plan.

1 INSTALL
25K VISITS/MO.
10GB LOCAL STORAGE
FREE SSL CERTIFICATES

$29/mo
RISK FREE FOR 60 DAYS
HOST MY WEBSITE

PROFESSIONAL
Whether you're managing one site with steady traffic, numerous smaller sites, or hosting for your clients, the Professional plan provides flexibility. When you're ready to take your work to the next level, we're here to help.

UP TO 10 INSTALLS
100K VISITS/MO.
20GB LOCAL STORAGE
FREE SSL CERTIFICATES

$99/mo
RISK FREE FOR 60 DAYS
HOST MY WEBSITE

BUSINESS
Your business is your passion, and helping you reach your audience is ours. The Business plan provides higher traffic and install limits and access to cutting edge technology like GeoIP, but still at an affordable shared environment price.

UP TO 25 INSTALLS
400K VISITS/MO.
30GB LOCAL STORAGE
FREE SSL CERTIFICATES

$249/mo
RISK FREE FOR 60 DAYS
HOST MY WEBSITE

Follow the instructions to create an account and complete your purchase.

NOTE: *You don't need to have a domain in order to sign up for a WPEngine hosting package.*

Once you've logged in, you will see a page like this:

You should also get an email that looks like this:

WPengine

Your new site has been created!

Site URL	mvskillcrush.wpengine.com
WordPress Admin	mvskillcrush.wpengine.com/wp-admin
Username	mvskillcrush
Password	Reset WP-Admin password

MIGRATE YOUR SITE NOW
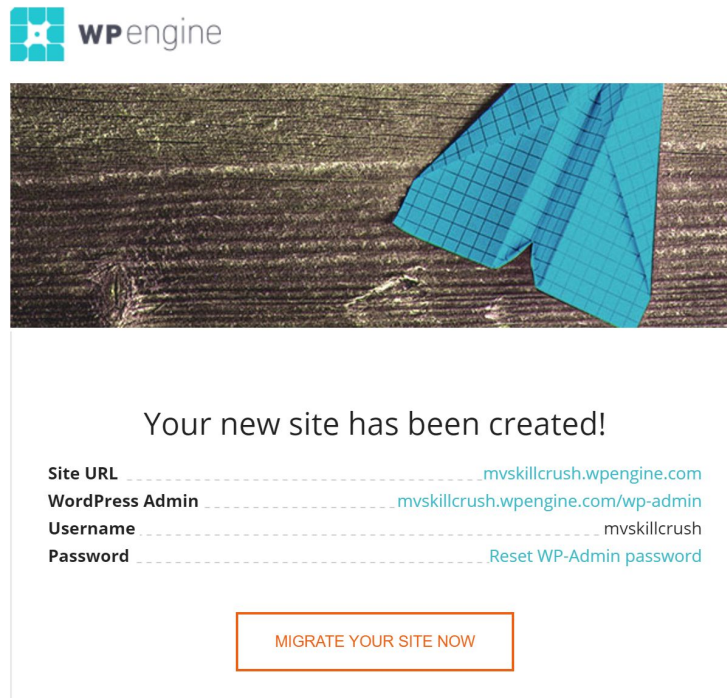
Click the link and follow the instructions to reset your password and login!

STEP 2: DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL AN FTP CLIENT

Download and install one of the FTP clients below. We recommend FileZilla because it's free and for both Mac and PC, but you can use any clients you want.

FileZilla - Mac and PC, free!

Fetch - Mac only, $29 after free trial period

Transmit - Mac only, $34 after free trial period

STEP 3: SET UP YOUR SFTP CONNECTION

Once your website is all set (this can take up to 15 minutes), you need to obtain your SFTP username & password. If you are not using WPEngine, you'll need to contact your hosting company to gather this information.

If you are using WPEngine, log into your account here: my.wpengine.com

Click on the "Installs" nav at the top and you will find yourself on this page:

Select SFTP users from the menu and you'll see:
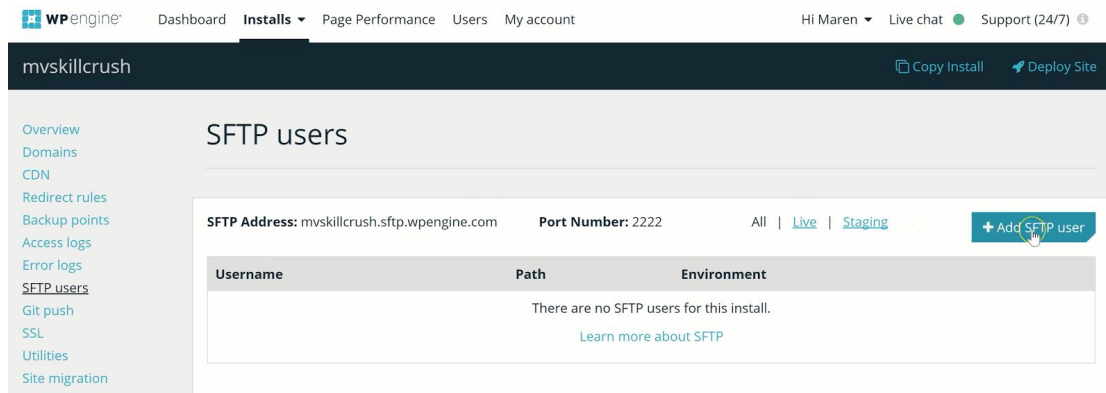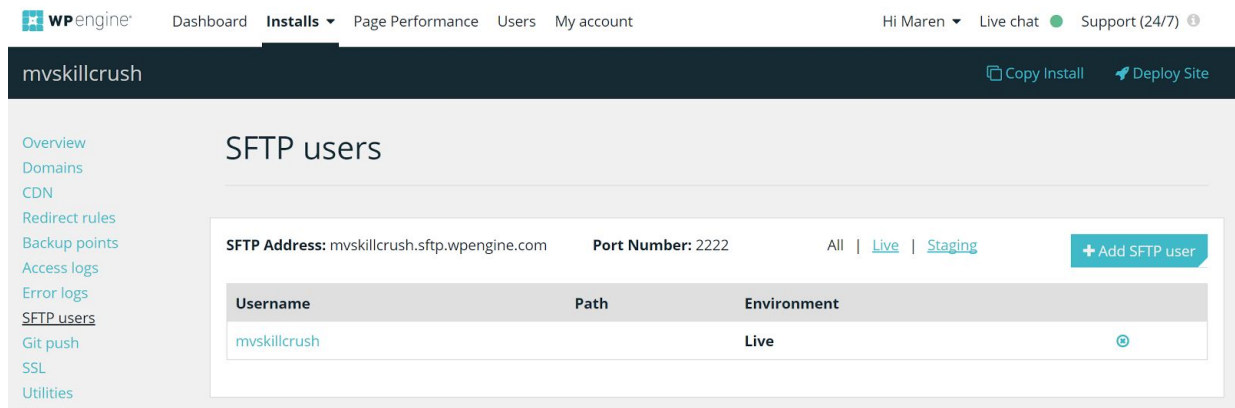
Make sure to take note of your **SFTP address** and **port**. Your **username** and **password** will be the same ones you create next.

Click on **+Add SFTP user** , choose a username and a password. Leave the "path" input field empty and make sure to choose "Live" in the Environment dropdown. Click on "Add SFTP login".
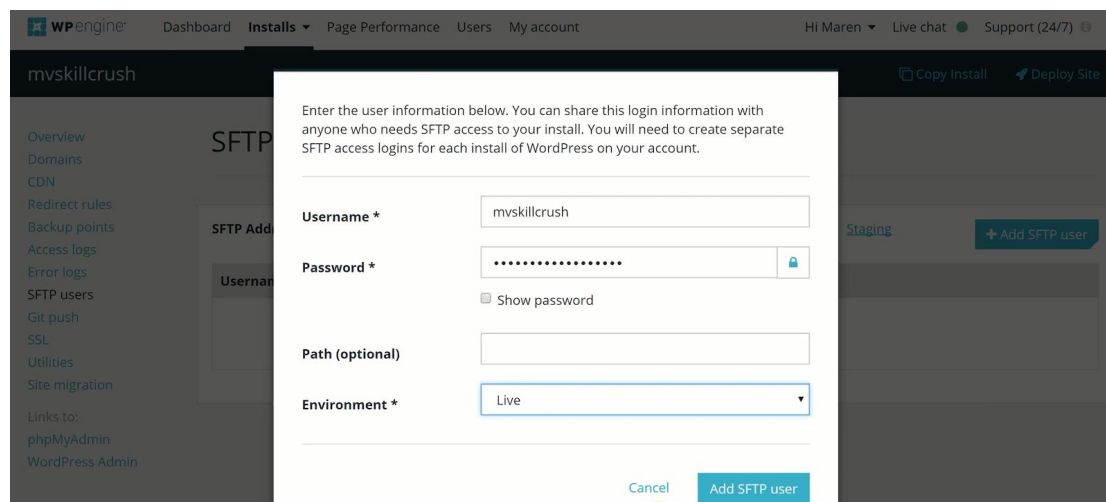
Now in your SFTP login section, take note of your **SFTP Address**, **Port Number** and **Username**. The password will be what you just entered for your new SFTP login. (P.S. Make sure to use the name you see in the SFTP login section *exactly* as is!)
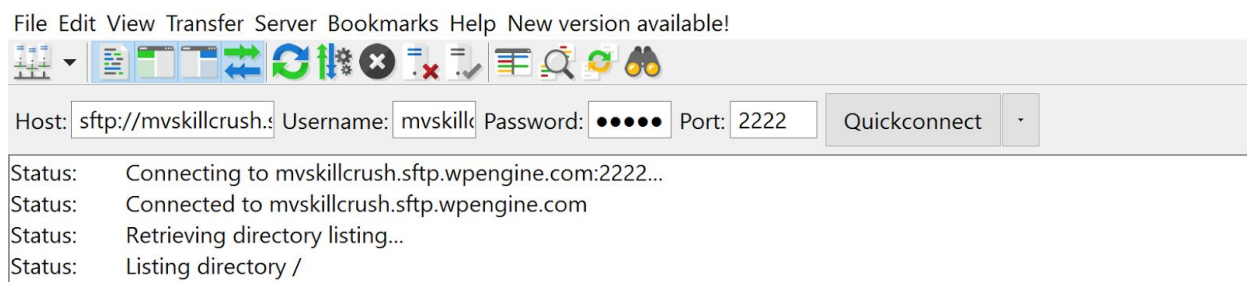
STEP 4: MOVE YOUR THEME FOLDER TO YOUR NEW SITE & ACTIVATE IT

Now open up your FTP application of choice and enter your SFTP Address, Username, Password, and Port Number. Make sure to add "sftp://" before your SFTP Address, and WPEngine users will use "2222" for the Port.

Test your new connection! :)

When you connect you should see all the typical WordPress files and folders. These belong to the live WordPress site created for you.

You should see something like this:
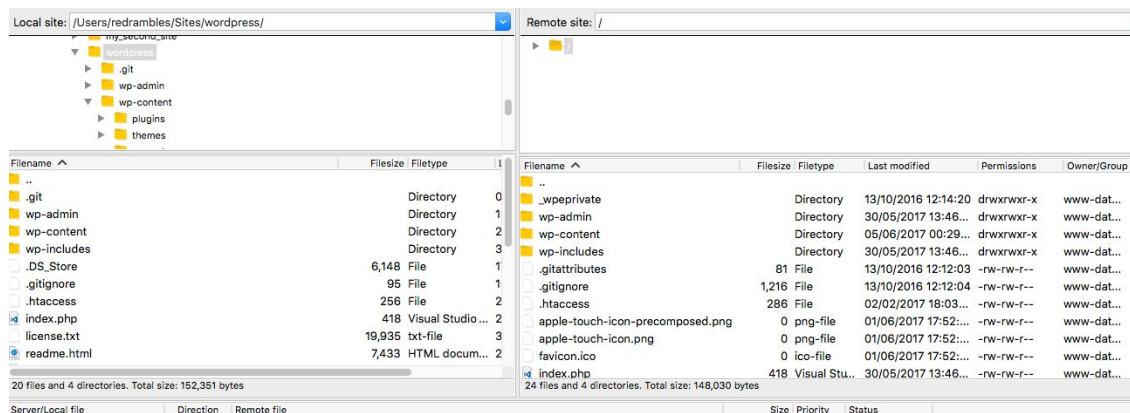
Now that you're connected via SFTP and have access to all your new files and folders, you need to copy your Skillcrush Starter theme over to the new site.

All you need to do is navigate to the themes directory and then drag the "skillcrushstarter" folder from your *local* themes folder into the *remote* themes folder you see in your FTP connection.

NOTE: *On a Mac, the path to your local files will be: Sites > wordpress. On a PC, the path will be xampp > htdocs > wordpress. (Where "wordpress" is what you named your folder.)*

Now, in your browser, go to your the admin of your new *live* WordPress site. Go to Appearance > Themes and activate the Skillcrush Starter theme.

STEP 5: IMPORT YOUR CONTENT

Go to the *local* version of your site and go to admin. Then go to Tools > Export.

Leave the "All content" option selected and click the blue Download Export File button.

Now go to admin in your *live* site and go to Tools > Import.

REMINDER: You can get to your WordPress admin by going to your site's url and adding "/wp-login.php" or "/wp-admin" to the end of the URL and logging in!

Click WordPress at the bottom of the list and then run through the WordPress Importer plugin install if you are prompted to do so.

When that's finished, choose your export file and click Upload file and import.

Check the "Download and import file attachments" box and click the "Submit" button.

STEP 6: TIDY UP YOUR CONTENT

After you finish importing your content, you are going to have some duplicate posts and pages. You need to go to your Posts and Pages and move the duplicate ones to the trash.

The easiest way to tell which ones are duplicates is by the author. WordPress will automatically assign all posts to the admin user if there are no other users to assign posts to. Move any duplicate or otherwise unwanted posts and pages to the trash.

STEP 7: CHECK YOUR MENUS

Next, go to Appearance > Menus and check each menu to make sure it has the correct pages, categories, links... whatever they should have.

The big issue you might see here is duplicate posts or pages within menus, even though you already removed duplicates in the previous step.

Simply remove the duplicates and save.

While you're at it, double-check the theme location setting for each menu.

STEP 8: TRANSFER YOUR PLUGIN FOLDERS

Fire up your FTP client and connect to your live site. Navigate to the plugins folder.

Next, open up the files & folders for your *local* site and navigate to the plugins folder.

Drag any plugins that are missing from your live site from your *local* plugins folder to the *remote* plugins folder.
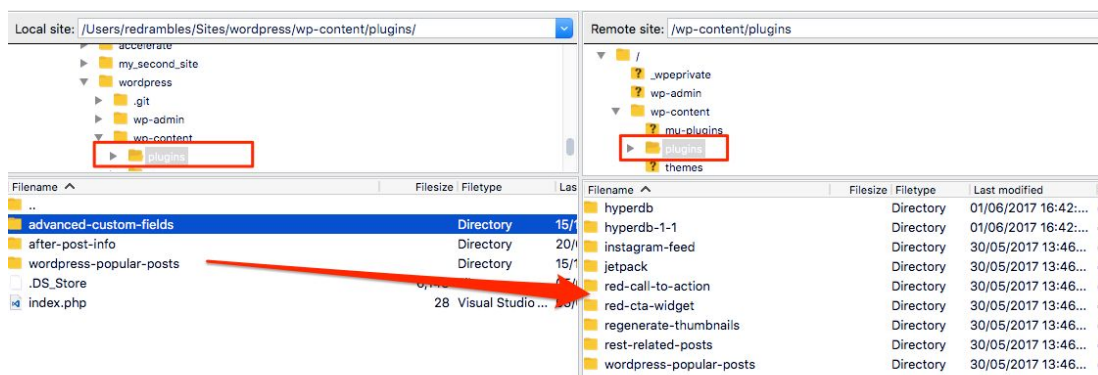
STEP 9: ACTIVATE AND CONFIGURE YOUR PLUGINS

Now that your plugins are in the right place, go to admin in your live site and go to Plugins. Activate your plugins and then configure them one-by-one.

Open up the plugin settings page in your local version of the site, and then in another window, open up the plugin settings page in your live site. This way you can use the local version as a guide to configure the remote version.

STEP 10: CHECK YOUR SIDEBAR & WIDGETS

Almost there! How does your sidebar look? Is it missing any widgets, or does it have any extra widgets? If so, go to admin and then go to Appearance > Widgets. Add the missing widgets and remove the extra widgets.

STEP 11: COPY OVER YOUR MEDIA UPLOADS

If you uploaded any images or set any post featured images, you'll want to copy over everything in the /uploads folder in your local site. You need to copy everything into the /uploads folder of your live site.

Sometimes the /uploads folder permissions can be finicky, so you might need to drill down into each month folder within each year and transfer the files over in pieces. Just make sure all the months go into the right months and the years go into the right years.

REMINDER: *Don't forget to update the url of any media links, like your sidebar image, from your local url to your live url.*

STEP 12: A FINAL ROUND OF QA

Now that your live site is up and you have all your styles, content, widgets, menus and plugins in place, you should do one last round of QA.

Are your links working like the "View My Blog" link on the front page? You may need to refresh your permalinks after a site migration to help WordPress map its urls.

Anything else not quite right?

You don't need to break out your QA spreadsheet and do a FULL round of QA in every version of every browser ever made. But what you *should* do is check in a few browsers, break out your QA spreadsheet and run down your list of pages and major features. Give those a once-over with your eyes and verify that they look okay.