WordPress

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the blogging software. For the blog host, see*[*WordPress.com*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress.com)*.*

**WordPress** is a [free and open source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open_source) [blogging](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog) tool and a [content management system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_management_system) (CMS) based on [PHP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP) and[MySQL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MySQL), which runs on a [web hosting service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_hosting_service).[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-5) Features include a plugin architecture and a template system. WordPress is used by more than 22.0% of the top 10 million websites as of August 2013.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-6) WordPress is the most popular blogging system in use on the [Web](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Web),[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-7) at more than 60 million websites.[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-8) The most popular languages used are[English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language), [Spanish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language) and [Bahasa Indonesia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahasa_Indonesia).[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-9)

It was first released on May 27, 2003, by its founders, [Matt Mullenweg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Mullenweg)[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-release-1) and [Mike Little](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Little),[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-release_commit-10) as a [fork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fork_(software_development)) of *b2/cafelog*. As of February 19, 2014, version 3.8 had been downloaded more than 20 million times.[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-11) The license under which WordPress software is released is the GPLv2 (or later) from the [Free Software Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_Software_Foundation).[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-12)

Overview[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=1)]

WordPress has a [web template system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_template_system) using a [template processor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_processor).

**Themes**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=2)]

WordPress users may install and switch between [Themes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theme_(computing)). Themes allow users to change the look and functionality of a WordPress website or installation without altering the information content or structure of the site. Themes may be installed using the WordPress "Appearance" administration tool or Theme folders may be uploaded via FTP.[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-13) The PHP, HTML & CSS code found in Themes can be added or edited for providing advanced features. Thousands of WordPress Themes exist, some free, and some premium (paid for) templates. WordPress users may also create and develop their own custom Themes if they have the knowledge and skill to do so.

**Plugins**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=3)]

One very popular feature of WordPress is its [plugin architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plugin_(computing)) which allows users and developers to extend its abilities beyond the core installation. WordPress has a [database](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database) of over 30,000 Plugins,[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-14) each of which offers custom functions and features enabling users to tailor their sites to their specific needs. These customizations range from [SEO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SEO) (Search Engine Optimization) enhancers, to [client portals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Client_portal)[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-15) used to display private information to logged in users, to content displaying features, such as the addition of [widgets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GUI_widget) and [navigation bars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navigation_bar).

**Multi-user and multi-blogging**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=4)]

Prior to WordPress 3.0, WordPress supported one blog per installation, although multiple concurrent copies may be run from different directories if configured to use separate database tables. WordPress Multi-User (WordPress MU, or WPMU) was a fork of WordPress created to allow multiple blogs to exist within one installation but is able to be administered by a centralized maintainer. WordPress MU makes it possible for those with websites to host their own blogging communities, as well as control and moderate all the blogs from a single dashboard. WordPress MU adds eight new data tables for each blog...

As of the release of WordPress 3.0, WordPress MU has merged with WordPress.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-16)

**Mobiles**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=5)]

Native applications exist for [WebOS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WebOS),[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-17) [Android](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Android_(operating_system)),[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-18) [iOS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IOS) (iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad),[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-altafsayani-19)[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-post-20) [Windows Phone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Phone), and [BlackBerry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BlackBerry).[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-21) These applications, designed by[Automattic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automattic), allow a limited set of options, which include adding new blog posts and pages, commenting, moderating comments, replying to comments in addition to the ability to view the stats.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-altafsayani-19)[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-post-20)

**Other features**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=6)]

WordPress also features integrated link management; a [search engine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_search_engine)–friendly, clean [permalink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permalink) structure; the ability to assign nested, multiple categories to articles; and support for [tagging](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_(metadata)) of posts and articles. Automatic filters are also included, providing standardized formatting and styling of text in articles (for example, converting regular quotes to [smart quotes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quotation_mark)). WordPress also supports the [Trackback](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trackback) and [Pingback](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pingback) standards for displaying links to other sites that have themselves linked to a post or article.

History[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=7)]

*b2/cafelog*, more commonly known as simply *b2* or *cafelog*, was the precursor to WordPress.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-22) b2/cafelog was estimated to have been employed on approximately 2,000 blogs as of May 2003.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-23) It was written in PHP for use with [MySQL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MySQL) by Michel Valdrighi, who is now a contributing developer to WordPress. Although WordPress is the official successor, another project, [b2evolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B2evolution), is also in active development.

WordPress first appeared in 2003 as a joint effort between [Matt Mullenweg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Mullenweg) and [Mike Little](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Little) to create a [fork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fork_(software_development)) of b2.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-24) Christine Selleck Tremoulet, a friend of Mullenweg, suggested the name *WordPress*.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-25)

In 2004 the licensing terms for the competing [Movable Type](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movable_Type) package were changed by [Six Apart](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Apart) and many of its most influential users migrated to WordPress.[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-26)[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-27)By October 2009 the 2009 Open Source content management system Market Share Report reached the conclusion that WordPress enjoyed the greatest brand strength of any open-source content-management systems.[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-28)

**Awards**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=8)]

In 2007, WordPress won a [Packt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Packt) Open Source CMS Award.[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-packtpub.com-29)

In 2009, WordPress won the Packt best Open Source CMS Awards.[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-packtpub.com-29)

In 2010, WordPress won the Hall of Fame CMS category in the 2010 Open Source Awards.[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-30)

In 2011, WordPress won the Open Source Web App of the Year Award at The Critters.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-31)[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-32)

**Release history**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=9)]

Main releases of WordPress are codenamed after well-known [jazz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz) musicians, starting after version 1.0.[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-33)

Future[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=10)]

After the release of WordPress 3.0, the development team took a release cycle off from the WordPress software to focus on expanding and improving the WordPress community.[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-61)[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-62) WordPress 3.1 was subsequently released in February, 2011. With version 3.2, released on July 4, 2011, the minimum requirement PHP version and MySQL were raised as well.[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-63)

Matt Mullenweg has stated that the future of WordPress is in social, mobile, and as an application platform.[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-64)[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-65)

Vulnerabilities[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=11)]

Many security issues[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-66)[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-67) have been uncovered in the software, particularly in 2007 and 2008. According to [Secunia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secunia), WordPress in April 2009 had 7 unpatched security advisories (out of 32 total), with a maximum rating of "Less Critical."[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-68) [Secunia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secunia) maintains an up-to-date list of WordPress vulnerabilities.[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-69)[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-70)

In January 2007, many high profile [search engine optimization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Search_engine_optimization) (SEO) blogs, as well as many low-profile commercial blogs featuring [AdSense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AdSense), were targeted and attacked with a WordPress exploit.[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-71) A separate vulnerability on one of the project site's [web servers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_server) allowed an attacker to introduce exploitable code in the form of a [back door](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Backdoor_(computing)) to some downloads of WordPress 2.1.1. The 2.1.2 release addressed this issue; an advisory released at the time advised all users to upgrade immediately.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-72)

In May 2007, a study revealed that 98% of WordPress blogs being run were exploitable because they were running outdated and unsupported versions of the software.[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-73) In part to mitigate this problem, WordPress made updating the software a much easier, "one click" automated process in version 2.7 (released in December 2008).[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-74) However, the irregular release cycle means admins still have to be on their toes, and the filesystem security settings, required to enable the update process, can be an additional risk.[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-75)

In a June 2007 interview, Stefan Esser, the founder of the PHP Security Response Team, spoke critically of WordPress's security track record, citing problems with the application's architecture that made it unnecessarily difficult to write code that is secure from [SQL injection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL_injection) vulnerabilities, as well as some other problems.[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-76)

In June 2013, it was found that some of the 50 most downloaded WordPress Plugins were vulnerable to common Web attacks such as SQL injection and XSS. A separate inspection of the top-10 e-commerce Plugins showed that 7 of them were vulnerable.[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-77)

In an effort to promote better security, and to streamline the update experience overall, automatic background updates were introduced in WordPress 3.7.[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-78)

Individual installations of WordPress can be protected with security Plugins. Users can also protect their WordPress installations by taking steps such as keeping all WordPress installation, Themes, and Plugins updated, using only trusted Themes and Plugins,[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-79) renaming the default admin account, and editing the site's .htaccess file to prevent many types of SQL injection attacks and block unauthorized access to sensitive files.[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-80)

Development and support[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=12)]

**Key developers**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=13)]

[Matt Mullenweg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Mullenweg) and [Mike Little](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Little) were cofounders of the project. The core contributing developers include [Ryan Boren](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ryan_Boren&action=edit&redlink=1), [Mark Jaquith](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mark_Jaquith&action=edit&redlink=1), [Matt Mullenweg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Mullenweg), [Andrew Ozz](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Andrew_Ozz&action=edit&redlink=1),[Peter Westwood](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Peter_Westwood&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Andrew Nacin](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Andrew_Nacin&action=edit&redlink=1).[[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-81)

WordPress is also developed by its community, including *WP testers*, a group of volunteers who test each release. They have early access to [nightly builds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neutral_build), beta versions and release candidates. Errors are documented in a special [mailing list](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mailing_list), or the project's [Trac](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trac) tool.

Though largely developed by the community surrounding it, WordPress is closely associated with [Automattic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automattic), the company founded by Matt Mullenweg. On September 9, 2010, Automattic handed the WordPress trademark to the newly created WordPress Foundation, which is an umbrella organization supporting WordPress.org (including the software and archives for Plugins and Themes), [bbPress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BbPress) and [BuddyPress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BuddyPress).

**WordCamp developer and user conferences**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=14)]

"WordCamp" is the name given to all WordPress-related gatherings, both informal [unconferences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unconference) and more formal conferences.[[82]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-82) The first such event was WordCamp 2006 in August 2006 in [San Francisco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco), which lasted one day and had over 500 attendees.[[83]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-83)[[84]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-84) The first WordCamp outside San Francisco was held in [Beijing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) in September 2007.[[85]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-wordcamp_schedule-85) Since then, there have been over 350 WordCamps in over 150 cities in 48 different countries around the world.[[85]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-wordcamp_schedule-85) WordCamp San Francisco, an annual event, remains theofficial annual conference of WordPress developers and users.[[86]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-86)

**Support**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=WordPress&action=edit&section=15)]

As a [free and open source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open_source) platform, WordPress relies on peer support. Its primary support website is WordPress.org. This support website hosts both WordPress Codex, the online manual for WordPress and a living repository for WordPress information and documentation,[[87]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-87) and WordPress Forums, an active online community of WordPress users.[[88]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-88)

WordPress offers maintenance releases that addresses various fixes and improvements to the current release. The current maintenance is 3.8.1[[89]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordPress#cite_note-89)