Week3 Learning Journal

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Today, I set out to learn how to use WordPress to create a website. The process began with installing WordPress on my local server using XAMPP. The installation was straightforward, involving just a few steps to get the basic setup ready. I then configured the database and connected it to WordPress.

Next, I explored various themes in the WordPress repository and chose one that was clean, responsive, and customizable. After installing and activating the theme, I customized it to fit the branding and aesthetic I wanted for my website. This involved adjusting the header, footer, colors, fonts, and layout settings.

To enhance the website's functionality, I installed several essential plugins, including Yoast SEO for search engine optimization, Wordfence for security, and W3 Total Cache for performance improvement. Configuring these plugins was an educational experience as I learned about their capabilities and how to integrate them effectively.

Creating content was the next step. I used the Gutenberg editor to add and format content for key pages like Home, About, Services, and Contact. I also published several blog posts to understand the post creation process and how categories and tags help organize content.

Customizing the navigation and adding widgets were important steps to ensure a user-friendly experience. I structured the website’s menu for easy navigation and used widgets to add features like recent posts, search bars, and social media links.

Before launching the website, I tested its functionality across different browsers and devices to ensure it was fully responsive and user-friendly. Fixing any issues that arose during testing was crucial for a smooth user experience.

Overall, creating a website using WordPress has been a valuable learning experience. The platform’s intuitive interface and extensive customization options made the process accessible. I learned the importance of planning, content strategy, and ongoing maintenance. This journey has equipped me with practical web development skills and a deeper appreciation for web design and content management.