

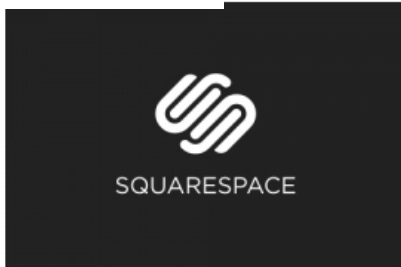
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Software » Internet / Ecommerce » Content Management System Software Review » Squarespace

Squarespace

Print/Email

\$240.00



Pros

Squarespace handles all hosting and [software](#) updates, leaving you to create content freely.

Cons

This CMS is not Open Source and therefore has no community-developed extensions.

The Verdict: 5.5/10

Squarespace [offers](#) a [unique](#) experience for users looking to create a web presence for themselves.

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Squarespace is a unique [content management system software](#) (CMS) that has a user-friendly interface and includes site hosting. This enables them to better control the support and functionality of your website, leaving you free to create quality content. While this means that you will be required to pay a monthly subscription for this service, it also means you don't have to worry about hosting fees or updating website software.

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Built-in Features: 6.3/10

Compare

ExpressionEngine	eZ Publish	Vivo CMS	Squarespace
9.4	8.8		
		6.3	6.3

Squarespace offers the most critical built-in features necessary for website creation. The Website Management button gives you the ability to access all levels of site management. The Dashboard has a visitor tracker for a 30-day period in addition to a traffic summary report. It also allows you to track the most recent comments, the top referring websites and the most common keywords used to locate your site.

This service fulfills the main goal of any CMS application, which is to provide content on the web. The blogging function, referred to as a "journal," is easy to use once you locate the button for creating a new post. The integrated rich text editor is WYSIWYG and offers all the basic formatting tools that are typically found in word-processing applications such as Microsoft Word. From the Post Creation screen, you can switch between multiple formats to input raw HTML or formatted text.

Unlike most other CMS software out there, Squarespace includes hosting as part of its service offering. While this ultimately means higher costs to maintain your site each month in comparison to other services, it also means that you don't have to worry about maintaining your content management system software. Squarespace takes care of updating and adding to its product offering, so all you have to do is create the content for your website.

Open-source coding is not an available feature, which is something we looked for in CMS software that counted against this service's ranking. Other top content management systems allow heightened levels of customization for their user communities to create unique websites that suit the diverse needs of businesses throughout the nation. The only coding freedom Squarespace offers is through a plain text/HTML widget that allows you to create small additions to your site – such as buttons – and the CSS that allows you to change the appearance of text and formatting throughout your site.

Add-on Features: 2.5/10

[Compare](#)

Sadly, this is an area where Squarespace fell short in comparison to other top CMS applications. It is not an open-source application, and as such doesn't allow its user community to add to or customize its site to a sizeable extent. There are still many options for customizing your website, but we didn't find many add-on features that would help create a unique user experience. On the other hand, the add-ons that are included in this monthly service are useful and practical.

Even though add-ons are not available through third-party developers, Squarespace still provides many basic customization options. Because its audience is less focused on eCommerce and more on social media and blogging, the service provides widgets to connect to popular social networks such as Flickr, Twitter and Delicious. In addition to these, you can also add widgets to your site for contact forms, site searching and change tracking. Each of these are quite simple to insert onto a web page and require only basic information to get them running.

Management: 5/10

[Compare](#)

Ultimately, the way in which Squarespace allows you to manage your own website helps to set it apart from the thousands of other CMS services out there. We feel that Squarespace understands that customization is critical to site management, which is evidenced through the numerous administrative functions it provides. The user portal allows you to alter the look and feel of your site's template as well as its overall appearance, navigation, fonts and cascading style sheet (CSS). The templates available are rather limited, but they still give some added flare to the overall appearance of a site.

Squarespace is a hosting/website creation service, and as such, the customization and management of the site is restricted solely to the options they give users. You can add bits of coding through their CSS editor in addition to an open HTML widget for smaller additions to your page. Yet the ability to create server-side coding to change the overall structure, appearance or navigation of your site is unavailable. For users who don't know how to code with HTML or any other coding language, however, this is an ideal service because it doesn't require any coding to add content to your site.

Security: 2.5/10

[Compare](#)

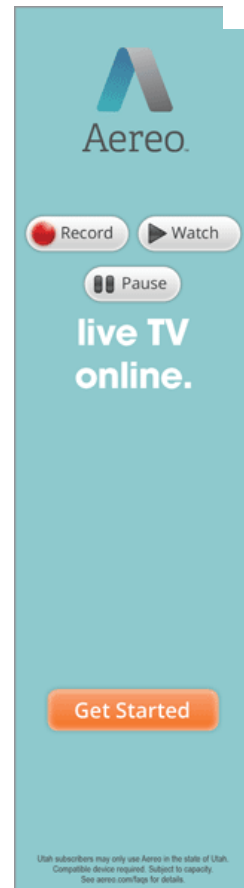
Security isn't an issue you have to worry about with Squarespace. The service is fully hosted and as such offers you all of the perks of any other web service. It does all the work to make sure your site is safe and secure; all you have to do is maintain your site. For added security, you can make your entire site SSL-enabled so that every page is encrypted for the visitor's benefit. User management is available too, wherein you can create users as an administrator or else provide a login and registration form for site visitors.

While the basic security of your site against hacking and other online threats isn't an issue, the lack of internal security features for site administrators earns Squarespace a lower ranking in this category. Whereas other services allow administrators to approve content created by other users, set granular rights for other site contributors and even track login history, this service does not.

Ease of Use: 7.5/10

[Compare](#)

Squarespace operates using the JavaScript framework. The entire site-creation process is quite fluid,



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especially in terms of how each screen pops up with options to add to your site's content and improve its overall feel. This improves the look and feel of the administrative interface and provides you with greater levels of customization to add elements to each page. You can add and customize widgets to include specific fields, rearrange or remove content on a page and adjust the menu navigation with the click of a single button.

Help & Support: 8.8/10

[Compare](#)

Squarespace offers a wide range of helpful support tools and resources intended to educate you regarding the many features and capabilities of the software. There is a knowledgebase that contains FAQs, walkthroughs and overviews of the service's features, and more. There are also video tutorials that go through most basic and some complex attributes of site management.

Squarespace support's most noteworthy aspect is the response rate through their ticket system. For technical issues or general questions, you can submit tickets to the support department for technical assistance. We submitted a number of questions relating to the service and received a startlingly fast response within minutes.

Summary:

Squarespace is well on its way to competing with the top content management systems in this lineup. Rather than needing HTML knowledge, you can simply construct and adjust your site by pointing and clicking. While the service is presently lacks heightened levels of customization and third-party contributions that other CMS products provide, **Squarespace** has still created a secure and simple product that you can use for a variety of social media and individual business purposes.

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