|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Framework/Tool Decision Matrix** | | | | |
| **Ratings:** Exceptional=5, Good=4, Average=3, Below Average=2, Poor=1 | | | | |
|  | **WP / PHP** | **Java / JS** | **Wix** | **Alternative 4** |
| Ease of Update | 5 | 5 | 5 |  |
| Ease of Maintenance | 3 | 5 | 5 |  |
| Security Strength | 2 | 4 | 5 |  |
| Easy to Learn | 3 | 3 | 5 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sum** |  |  | 5 |  |
| **Rank** |  |  |  |  |
| **Status (Yes/No)** |  |  |  |  |

**NOTES:**

1. WP / PHP

**Ease of update:** From <https://codex.wordpress.org/Upgrading_WordPress> - Modern versions of WordPress let you update with the click of a button. (This feature was added in 2.7, so if you are using an older version, you will need to follow the [steps to update manually](https://codex.wordpress.org/Upgrading_WordPress#Manual_Update).) You can launch the update by clicking the link in the new version banner (if it's there) or by going to the Dashboard > Updates screen. Once you are on the "Update WordPress" page, click the button "Update Now" to start the process off. You shouldn't need to do anything else and, once it's finished, you will be up-to-date.

PHP is similarly easy to update. On the 1&1 hosting site, you just select which version of PHP you want to run.

The WordPress plugins are also one-click updates. There’s a section on the WordPress management console called “Plugins.” You can select individual plugins to update, or use the bulk update action to do several at once.

**Security strength:** WordPress is software, and like any other software, it can have vulnerabilities. Because it is popular, it gets targeted by malware. Since it also uses plugins, malware developers target those as well. That, plus its use of PHP, means it needs to be consistently patched to keep it protected against attacks. There are additional methods of hardening a WordPress site, detailed in WordPress documentation (<https://codex.wordpress.org/Hardening_WordPress>) and on other sites (http://www.wpbeginner.com/wordpress-security/).

**Ease of maintenance/use:** WordPress has very detailed documentation (<https://codex.wordpress.org/>), but it is by no means simple to set up or use. Although not highly complex compared to using straight code to build and edit a site, creating and editing pages is still not intuitive, especially if you’re new to WordPress. Look at the WordPress documentation for creating pages (<https://codex.wordpress.org/Pages>) and tell me you wouldn’t give up very quickly. It’s possible to write simpler instructions, but I think the management console is still intimidating.

1. Java / JS
2. Clark’s Take: Wix.com. I pulled a lot of my suggestions from these websites: <https://www.websitebuilderexpert.com/website-builders-comparison-chart/> and <https://www.websitebuilderexpert.com/wix-vs-wordpress-comparison-chart/>

I suggest Wix as a host because the ease of use/learning curve is much better vs word press. I compared everything to word press since that is what we are considering leaving. Wix provides a free plan along with ongoing maintenance so the Smithgall Woods user that takes over from us should not have to worry about battling future Cialis bugs. \*Disclosure: I have not personally used Wix….yet

1. Alternative 4