WordPress Report

WordPress is an online, open source website creation tool written in PHP. In non-geek speak, it’s the easiest and most popular blogging and content management system. WordPress is used by millions of websites including some famous blogs like [Mashable](http://mashable.com/) and [TechCrunch](https://techcrunch.com/) and some news outlets like [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/blogs/) and [CNN](http://www.cnn.com/exchange/blogs/index.html). WordPress is 100% free and can be downloaded from the [WordPress.org](https://wordpress.org/download/) download page. For a quick step-by-step process on how to get started with a new WordPress site, check out my post [here](http://hraemoore.com/installing-wordpress/). This post will compare WordPress with other popular CMS like [Joomla](http://www.joomla.org/) and [Drupal](https://www.drupal.org/).

**WORDPRESS VS OTHER CMS**

**PLUGINS**

While the standard download of WordPress does give you plenty of capabilities to produce a great looking blog, you can expand your site’s functionality by installing plugins. These are downloadable components that add specific features to your website. This is where WordPress stomps the competition with over 50,000 available plugins compared to Joomla with around 7,500 and Drupal with over 37,000.

**THEMES**

WordPress comes packaged with three different default themes. While you probably will never use these for a live site, you can easily download free and paid themes to customize the look of your site. Again, WordPress shines in this category with over 16,000 different downloadable themes offering a wide range of visual customization.

**FUNCTIONALITY**

WordPress by far is probably the easiest CMS to use. The installation only takes about 5 minutes and the user interface is super simple to understand. The admin toolbar is broken down into categories named clearly for their intended purpose like “Posts”, “Appearance”, and “Pages”. This CMS automatically applies a responsive design to your website…no need to have any experience with writing code and the addition of widgets expands the visual aspects of your selected theme.

**WORDPRESS.ORG VS WORDPRESS.COM**

The biggest difference between these two sites is who is hosting your actual website. With [WordPress.org](https://wordpress.org/), YOU host your own site. Here you download WordPress and install to your own web server. With [WordPress.com](https://wordpress.com/), they take care of the hosting for you. You don’t have to download software, pay for hosting, or manage a server. There are pros and cons to each.

If you don’t want to have to worry about paying for hosting and managing a server, WordPress.com might be the way to go. It’s free and easy to set up and you have options to customize your site. Some of the downsides to this option are that your domain name will always have “wordpress.com” in it, you can’t upload custom themes or plugins, and you don’t have the ability to modify any of the PHP code. WordPress.com is free to start but they do offer paid upgrades with premium themes, custom domain name (to remove the “wordpress.com” from your site URL), more storage space, and the ability to use plugins.

Downloading from WordPress.org gives you more control and flexibility for your site, but as it’s been said, “With great power comes great responsibility!” You will be accountable for setting up the database and web host for your site. However, the payoff is definitely worth it. You will be able to use your own domain name, upload and install themes and plugins, and edit the code behind your site.

**CONCLUSION**

WordPress is more than just a blogging tool. It has been utilized to create some of the most dynamic and eye-catching websites around. While it may not be the best CMS for a more complex project, it might be just right for you. Give it a shot!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*COMMENTS\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I really like the versatility and usability of WordPress. It’s very easy to see why this is the most popular CMS. Pretty much anyone can use it.

Live link to post:

<http://hraemoore.com/wordpress-review/>