Inline documentation — the vast majority of the new code going into WordPress include inline documentation that explains the functions and documents their arguments.

Database optimization — we haven't changed the table layout in this release, which is one of the reasons so many plugins work fine with 2.5. We have added a few new indices and made a few default fields more flexible based on some bottlenecks we found on WordPress.com, which now hosts 2.7 million WordPress blogs. It should be invisible to the application, just a bit faster on the database side.

$wpdb->prepare() — now almost all of the SQL in WordPress is prepared first, and the same functions are available to your plugins. This should prevent elementary SQL escaping issues.

Media buttons — the add media buttons above the post are both expandable, so you could have an "Add Google Map" button if you like. They can be overridden, so if you think you can do the video or audio tab better than we have you can replace the default.

Shortcode API — the new gallery functionality is powered by the new shortcode API. Shortcodes are little bracket-delineated strings that can be magically expanded at runtime to something more interesting. They give users a short, easy to type and copy/paste string they can move around their post without worrying about messing up complex HTML, or embed codes. The Shortcode API is fully documented.

Now you see why 2.5 took a little extra time. 🙂

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