

**Friendlier visual post editor** — I'm not sure how to articulate this improvement except to say "it doesn't mess with your code anymore." We're now using version 3.0 of TinyMCE, which means better compatibility with Safari, and we've paid particular attention this release to its integration and interaction with complex HTML. It also now has a "no-distractions" mode which is like Writeroom for your browser.

**Built-in galleries** — when you take advantage of multi-file upload to upload a bunch of photos, we have a new shortcode that lets you to easily embed galleries by just putting [ gallery] (without the space) in your post. It'll display all your thumbnails and captions and each will link each to a page where people can comment on the individual photos. I've been using this feature on my blog and have already uploaded over [1,200 pictures into 23 galleries](#). The shortcode has some hidden options too, [check out this documentation](#).

## Developer Features

Now for the geeky stuff. While we're excited about the above features, each one represents a new opportunity or API for other developers to take to another level. (The best of which we'll someday integrate back into WP.)

**Salted passwords** — we now use the [phpass](#) library to stretch and salt all passwords stored in the database, which makes brute-forcing them impractical. If you use something like [mod\\_auth\\_mysql](#) we've [created a plugin that will allow you to use legacy MD5 hashing](#). (The hashing is completely pluggable.) Users will automatically switch to the more secure passwords next time they log in.

**Secure cookies** — cookies are now encrypted based on the protocol described in [this PDF paper](#), which is something like `user_name|expiration_time|SHA256`

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. 😊

## Upgrade Notes

2.5 does include compatibility fixes as it is recommended for all users, the 2.2 branch will