

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

This document explains how to move your WordPress website away from “wordpress.com”.

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Why Move to your own WordPress?

- Escape internet censorship from “BigTech” platform.
- You own the content on your site, and have total control of it.
- You can install and use plugins to add functionalities.
- You can upload, create, modify customize themes.
- You can monetize your site.
- Get rid of those annoying footer credits.

Self-hosted WordPress is incredibly flexible and powerful.

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How To Move to your own WordPress

High Level Overview

- Purchase a domain, or transfer it from WordPress.com
- Purchase a web hosting plan and install WordPress
- Export your posts
- Import your posts into the new site
- Transfer stats, blog followers and subscribers

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Step #1: Domain Name Purchase / Transfer

If you never bought a domain (www.yourblogname.com) with your WordPress.com blog, you don't have to worry about transferring the domain.

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Step #1: Domain Name Purchase / Transfer

If you bought a domain (www.yourblogname.com) from WordPress.com, you can transfer it away.

You can follow the instructions to Transfer a Domain to Another Registrar by WordPress.

<https://wordpress.com/support/move-domain/transfer-domain-registration/>

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Step #2: Web Hosting Purchase

I recommend to stay away from shared hosting.

Shared hosting is when multiple sites are hosted on the same server. It can lead to performance issue, and make your website slow or occasionally unavailable.

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Step #2: Web Hosting Purchase

I recommend to use a VPS (public cloud).

There are many providers out there. From Vultr to OVH or any other you are comfortable with.

Many of them offer easy one-click installations of WordPress. If you want to install it yourself manually follow that link:

<https://wordpress.org/support/article/how-to-install-wordpress/>

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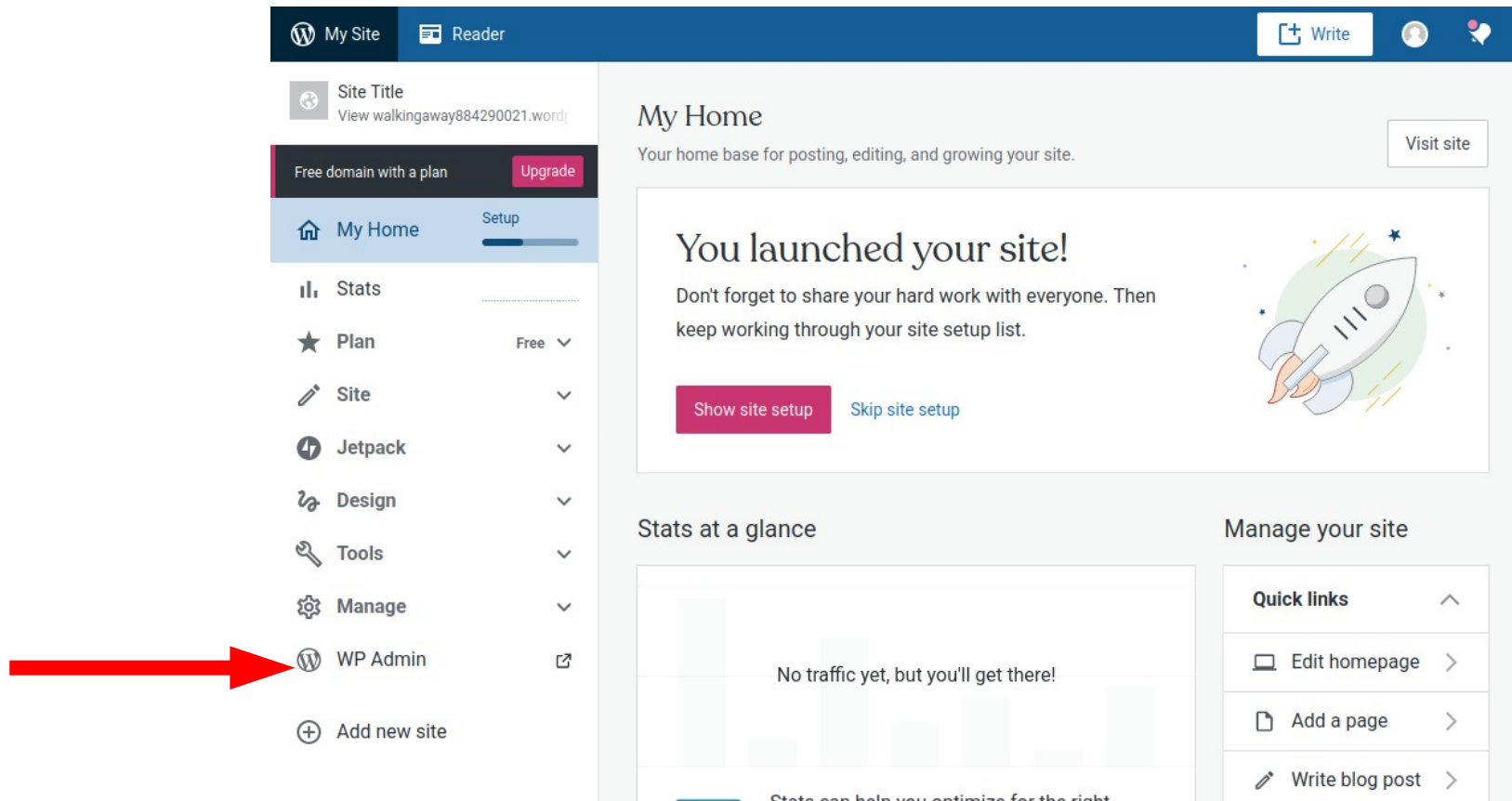
Step #3: Export your Data

- Connect to your WordPress.com website with your credentials.
- Follow the steps in the following screenshots.

At the end of this process, your WordPress posts, comments and media files will be downloaded on your computer as a zip file.

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Click on “WP Admin”



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Click on “Tools”

The screenshot shows the WordPress.com dashboard interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with various options. A red arrow points to the 'Tools' option at the bottom of this menu. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and contains a welcome message, helpful resources, and a 'Quick Draft' form.

Dashboard

Welcome to WordPress.com!

You are now in your blog's "dashboard" where you can write new posts and control lots of important settings and features.

Your dashboard address is only visible to you and it's at: walkingaway884290021.wordpress.com/wp-admin/

Need help getting started? [Visit our zero-to-hero guide](#)

Have any technical questions? [Our documentation pages are open 24/7](#)

Some helpful resources:

In your dashboard:

- [Write a post](#)
- [General settings](#)
- [Your profile](#)
- [Select your theme](#)
- [Upgrades store: supercharge your blog](#)
- [WordPress.tv](#)

[Remind Me Later](#) [Hide this screen](#)

At a Glance

3 Posts 4 Pages

WordPress.com running [Hever](#) theme.

[Akismet](#) blocks spam from getting to your blog. There's nothing in your [spam queue](#) at the moment.

Storage Space

3,072 MB Space Allowed 0.10 MB (0%) Space Used

Quick Draft

Title

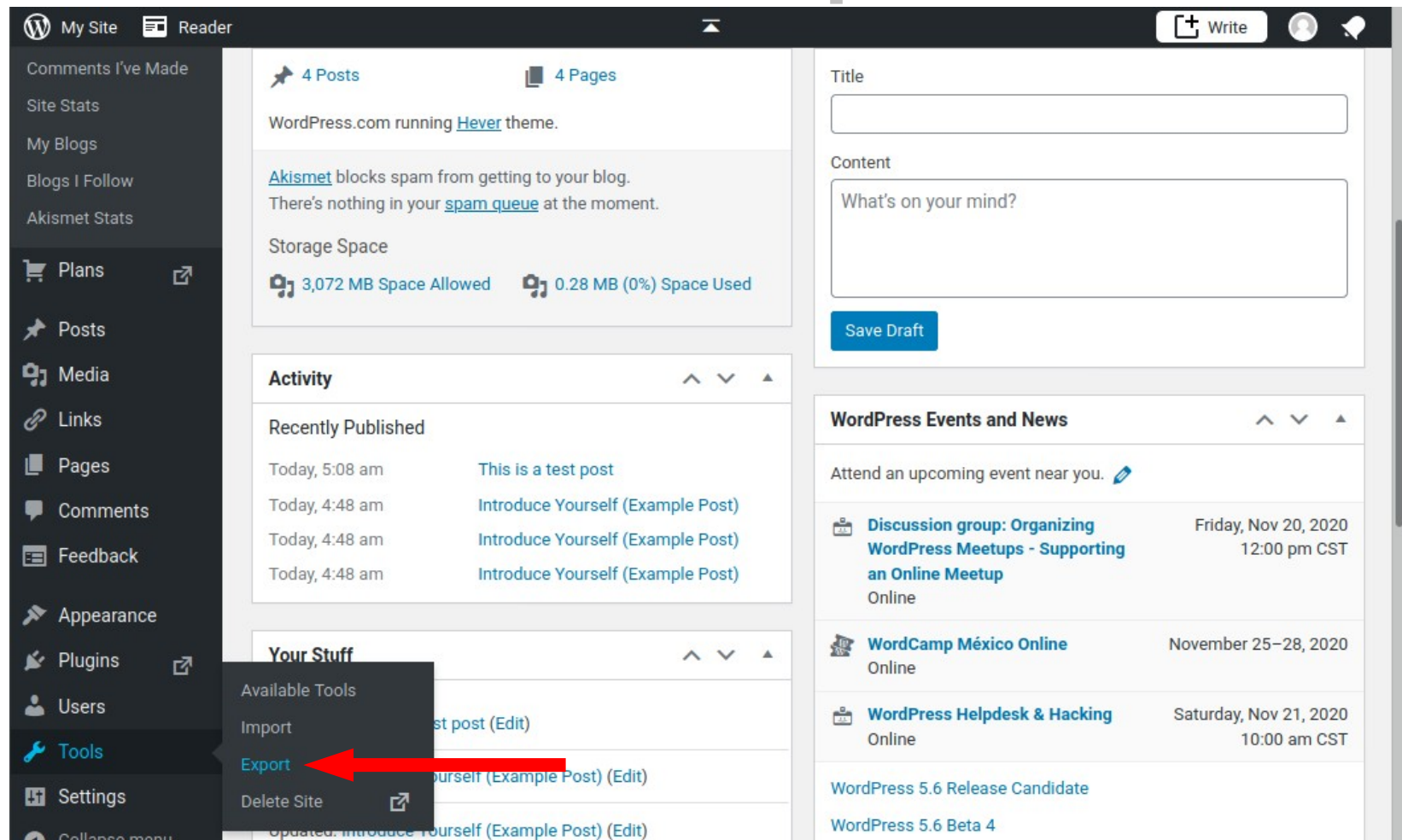
Content

What's on your mind?

[Save Draft](#)

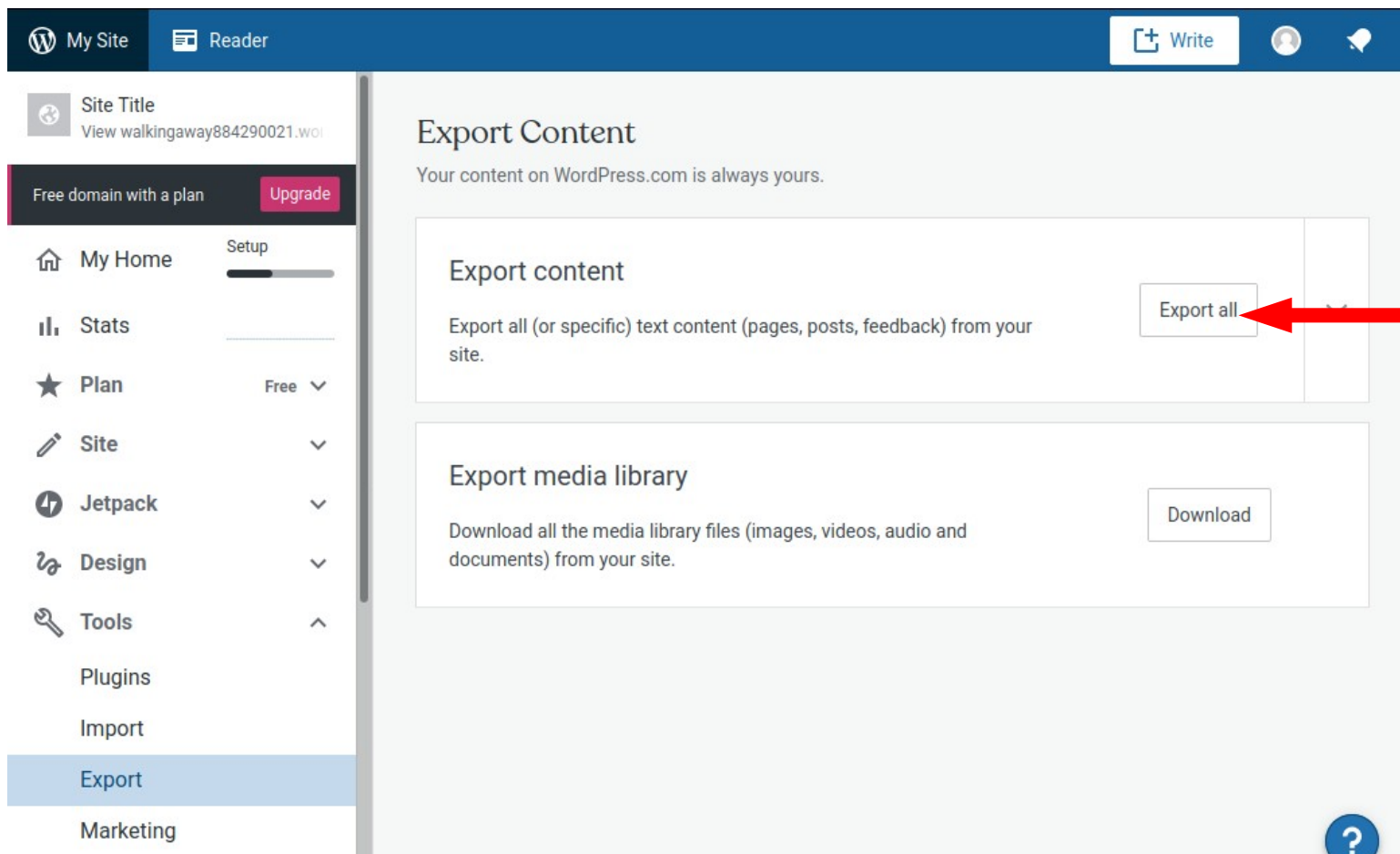
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Click on “Export”



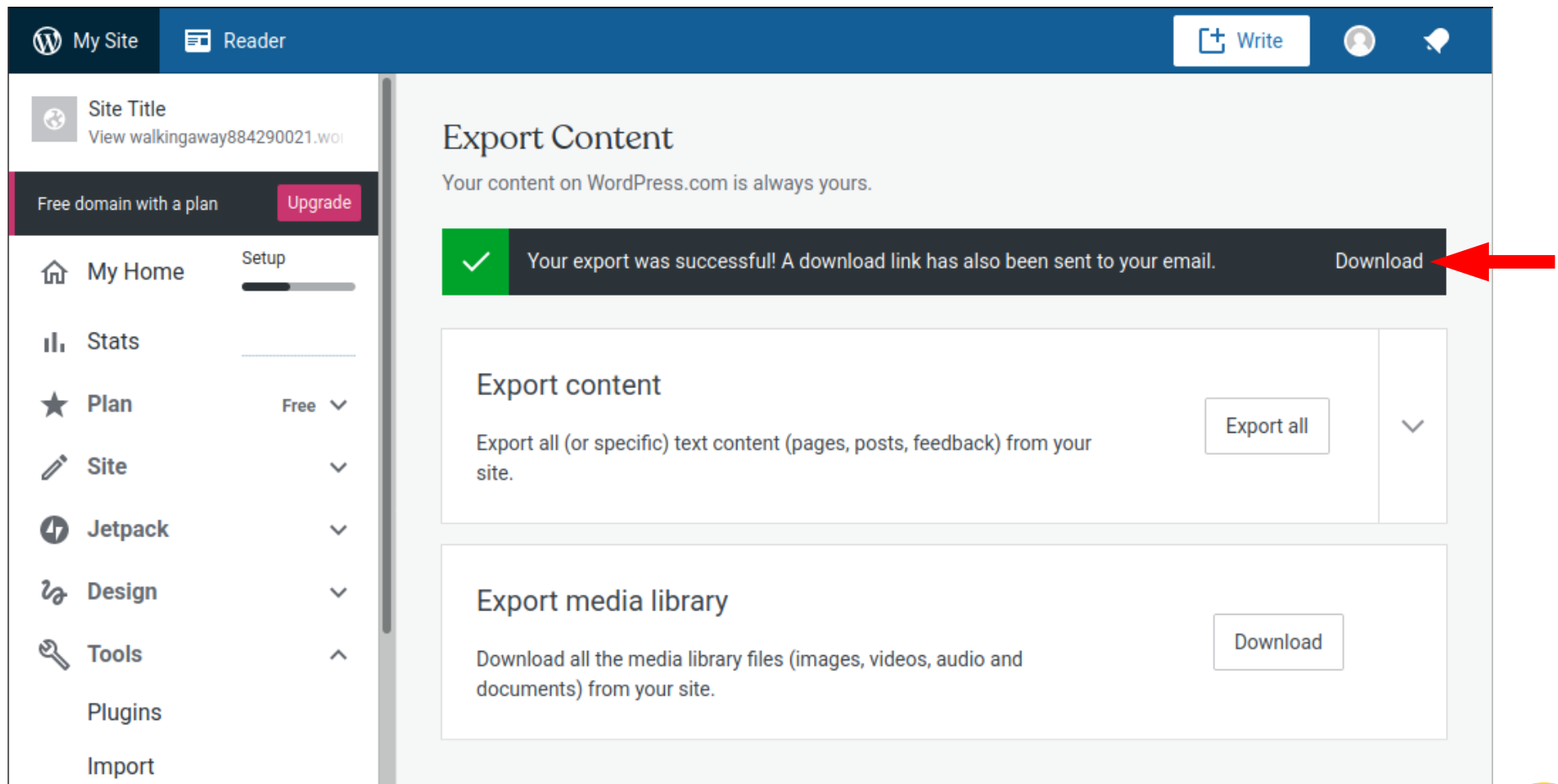
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Click on “Export All”



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Click “Download”



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com interface. The top navigation bar includes 'My Site', 'Reader', 'Write', and user profile icons. The left sidebar contains links for 'My Home', 'Stats', 'Plan', 'Site', 'Jetpack', 'Design', 'Tools', 'Plugins', and 'Import'. The main content area is titled 'Export Content' and includes a success message: 'Your export was successful! A download link has also been sent to your email.' A red arrow points to the 'Download' link in this message. Below the message, there are two sections: 'Export content' with an 'Export all' button and 'Export media library' with a 'Download' button.

Site Title
View walkingaway884290021.wordpress.com

Free domain with a plan [Upgrade](#)

My Home Setup

Stats

Plan Free

Site

Jetpack

Design

Tools

Plugins

Import

Export Content

Your content on WordPress.com is always yours.

✓ Your export was successful! A download link has also been sent to your email. [Download](#)

Export content

Export all (or specific) text content (pages, posts, feedback) from your site. [Export all](#)

Export media library

Download all the media library files (images, videos, audio and documents) from your site. [Download](#)

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Step #4: Import your Data

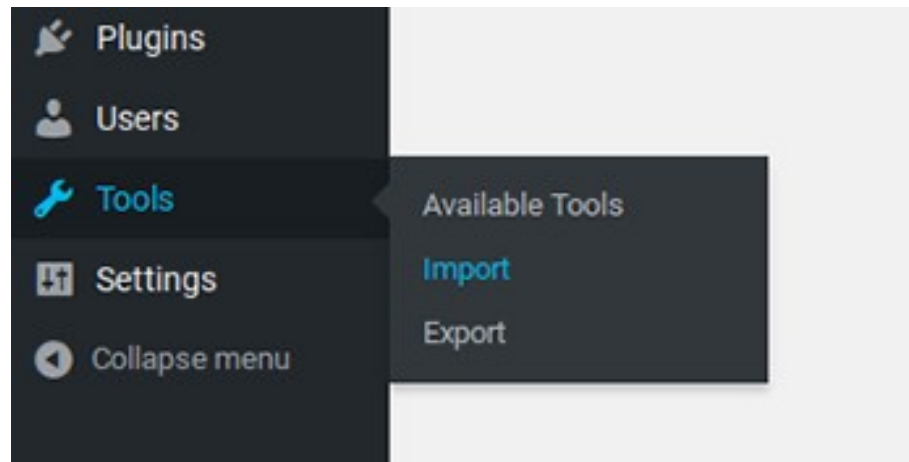
- Connect to your self-hosted WordPress website with your credentials.
- Follow the steps in the following screenshots.

At the end of this process, your WordPress posts, comments and media files will be uploaded in your new WordPress site.

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Step #4: Import your Data

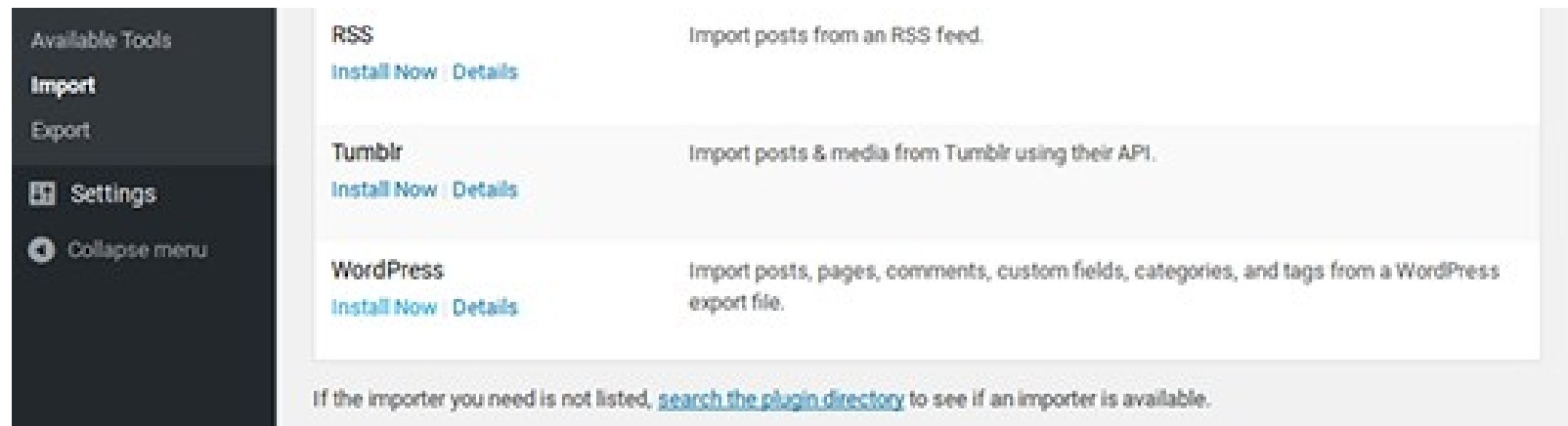
navigate to Tools > Import near the bottom of the menu:



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Step #4: Import your Data

The WordPress import tool is listed at the bottom of the list.
Click on “Install Now.”



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Step #4: Import your Data

Click on the “Run importer” link.

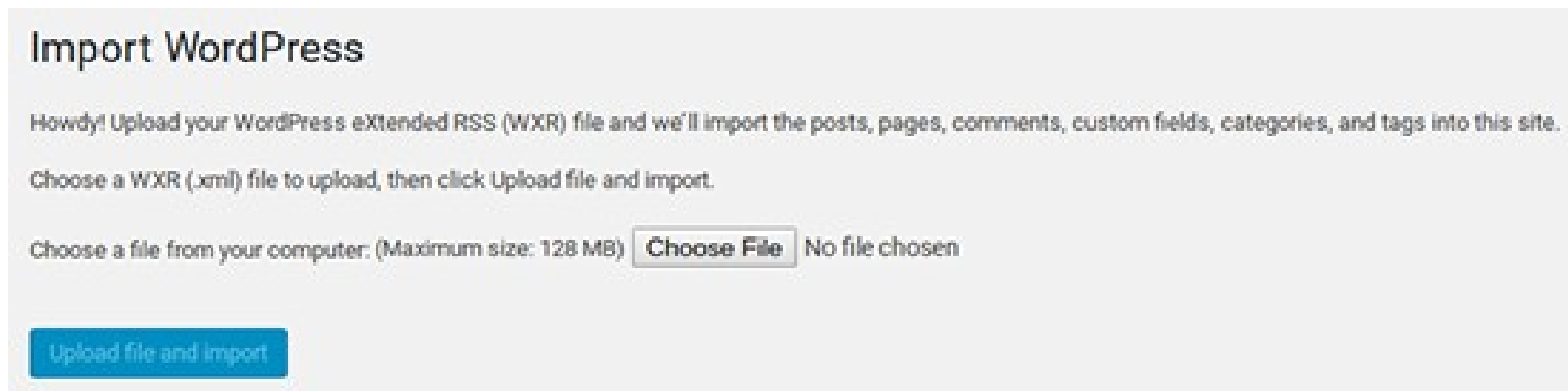
Import

Importer installed successfully. [Run importer](#)

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Step #4: Import your Data

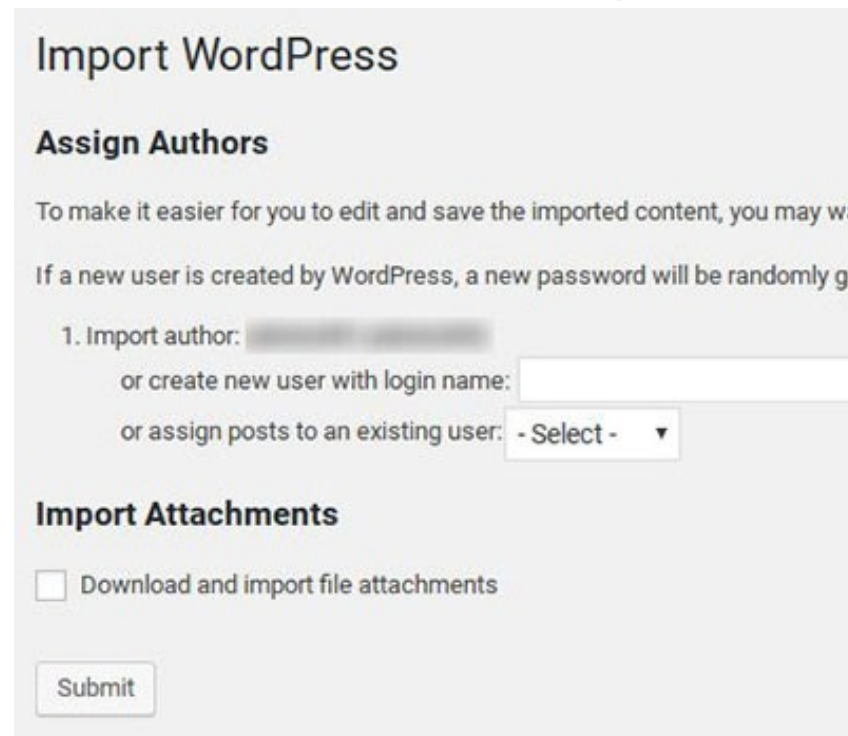
Click the “Choose file” button and select the file you downloaded from your WordPress.com blog earlier.
Then click the blue “Upload file and import” button.

A screenshot of the WordPress 'Import WordPress' screen. The title 'Import WordPress' is at the top. Below it, a message says: 'Howdy! Upload your WordPress eXtended RSS (WXR) file and we'll import the posts, pages, comments, custom fields, categories, and tags into this site. Choose a WXR (.xml) file to upload, then click Upload file and import.' There is a text input field with the placeholder 'Choose a file from your computer: (Maximum size: 128 MB)' and a 'Choose File' button next to it. At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled 'Upload file and import'.

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Step #4: Import your Data

Most of the time, you want to assign posts to an existing user. check also the “Download and import file attachments”.



The screenshot shows the 'Import WordPress' interface. Under the 'Assign Authors' section, there is a text input for '1. Import author:', a text input for 'or create new user with login name:', and a dropdown menu for 'or assign posts to an existing user:' with '- Select -' as the current selection. Below this, the 'Import Attachments' section has a checkbox labeled 'Download and import file attachments' which is currently unchecked. At the bottom of the form is a 'Submit' button.

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Step #4: Import your Data

Click the “Submit” button. If everything is good you will have the following message.

All done. [Have fun!](#)

Remember to update the passwords and roles of imported users.

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Step #5: Finish setting up your new blog

Double check your posts you just imported, and make sure everything is correct. You may have to fix formatting issues and update your internal links.

Now you can use any theme or plugin you want. Possibilities are endless.

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Need Help to move your website?

If you don't want to migrate your blog by yourself, or have no time to do it?

KAMINOWEB can do it professionally for you, starting at \$65.

**Call Jeff at 507.774.0084 or send an email to
contact@kaminoweb.com**

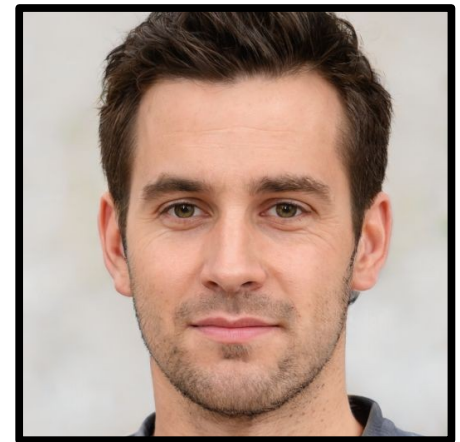
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