

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.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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/>

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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/>

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

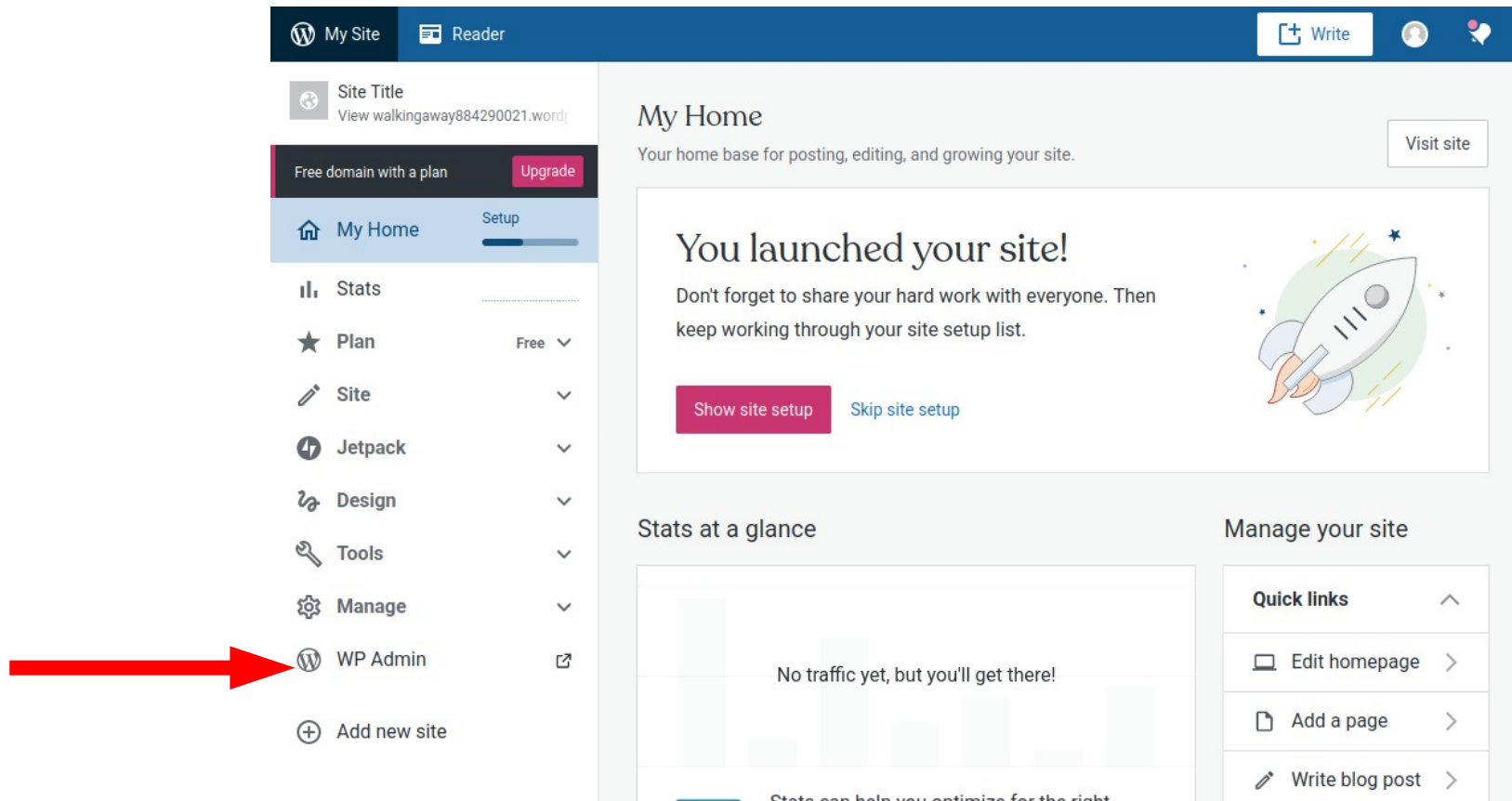
Step #3: Export your Data

- 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.

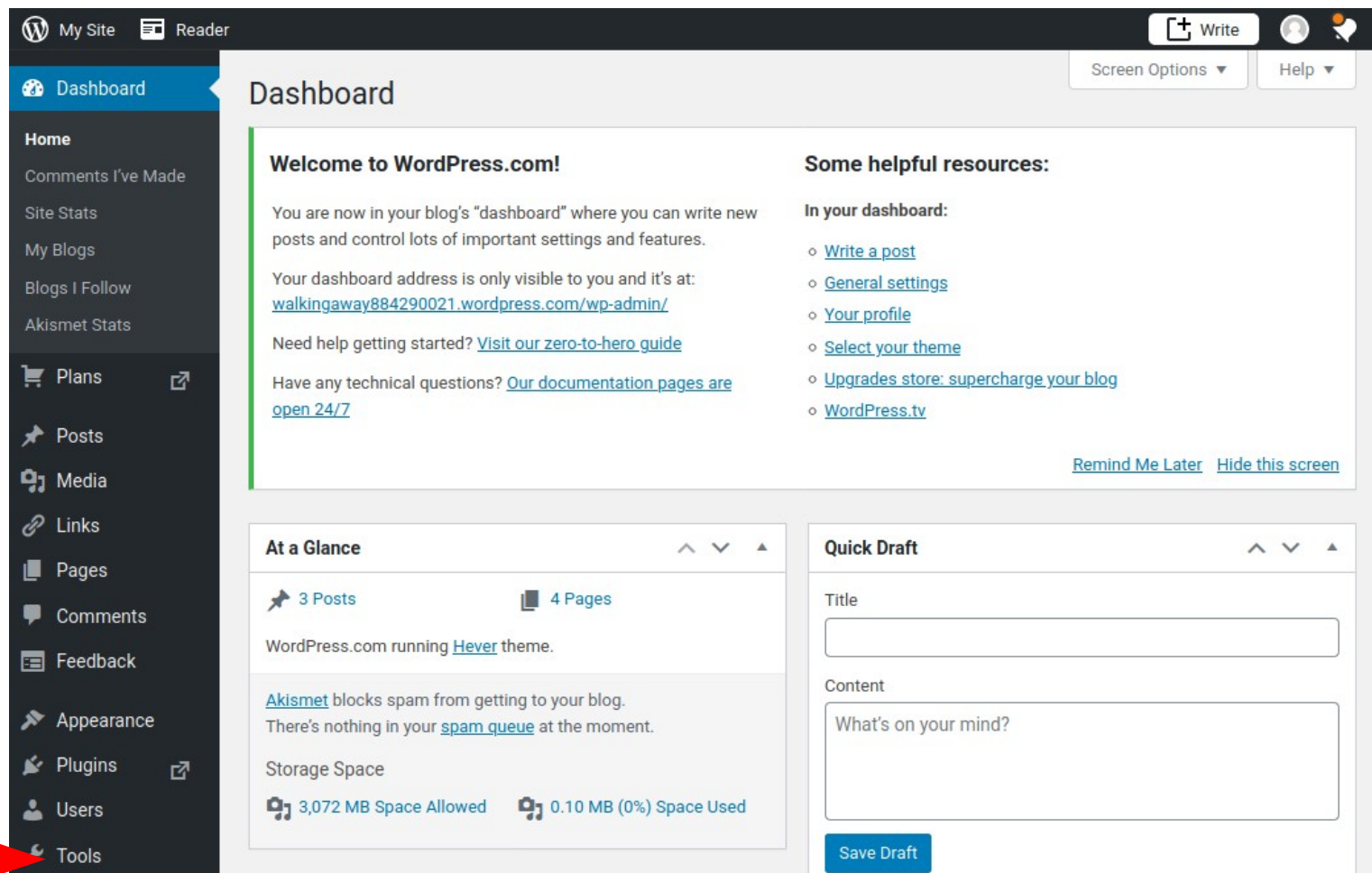
MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

Click on “WP Admin”



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Click on “Tools”



MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

Click on “Export”

The screenshot shows the WordPress.com dashboard interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with various options. The main content area is divided into several sections: a top summary bar, a 'Storage Space' section, an 'Activity' section with a 'Recently Published' list, and a 'Your Stuff' section. A red arrow points to the 'Export' option in the 'Tools' submenu. The right sidebar contains a 'Write' button and a 'WordPress Events and News' section.

Sidebar Menu:

- Comments I've Made
- Site Stats
- My Blogs
- Blogs I Follow
- Akismet Stats
- Plans
- Posts
- Media
- Links
- Pages
- Comments
- Feedback
- Appearance
- Plugins
- Users
- Tools**
- Settings

Main Content Area:

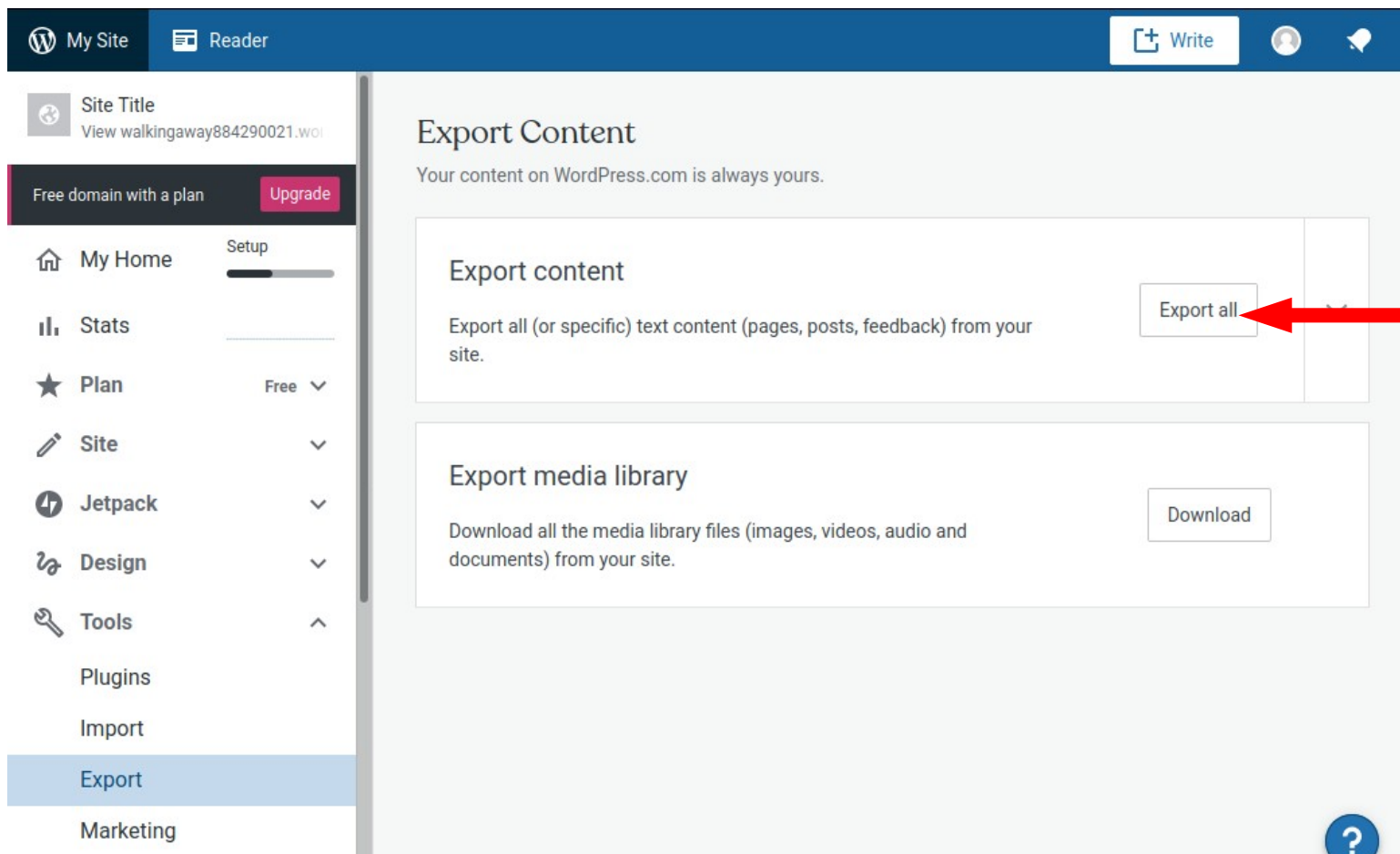
- Summary:** 4 Posts, 4 Pages. WordPress.com running [Hever](#) theme.
- Akismet:** blocks spam from getting to your blog. There's nothing in your [spam queue](#) at the moment.
- Storage Space:** 3,072 MB Space Allowed, 0.28 MB (0%) Space Used.
- Activity - Recently Published:**
 - Today, 5:08 am: [This is a test post](#)
 - Today, 4:48 am: [Introduce Yourself \(Example Post\)](#)
 - Today, 4:48 am: [Introduce Yourself \(Example Post\)](#)
 - Today, 4:48 am: [Introduce Yourself \(Example Post\)](#)
- Your Stuff:**
 - [Available Tools](#)
 - [Import](#)
 - Export** (highlighted with a red arrow)
 - [Delete Site](#)

Right Sidebar:

- Write** button
- WordPress Events and News:**
 - Attend an upcoming event near you.
 - Discussion group: Organizing WordPress Meetups - Supporting an Online Meetup** (Online) - Friday, Nov 20, 2020 12:00 pm CST
 - WordCamp México Online** (Online) - November 25–28, 2020
 - WordPress Helpdesk & Hacking** (Online) - Saturday, Nov 21, 2020 10:00 am CST
 - [WordPress 5.6 Release Candidate](#)
 - [WordPress 5.6 Beta 4](#)

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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' button next to 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

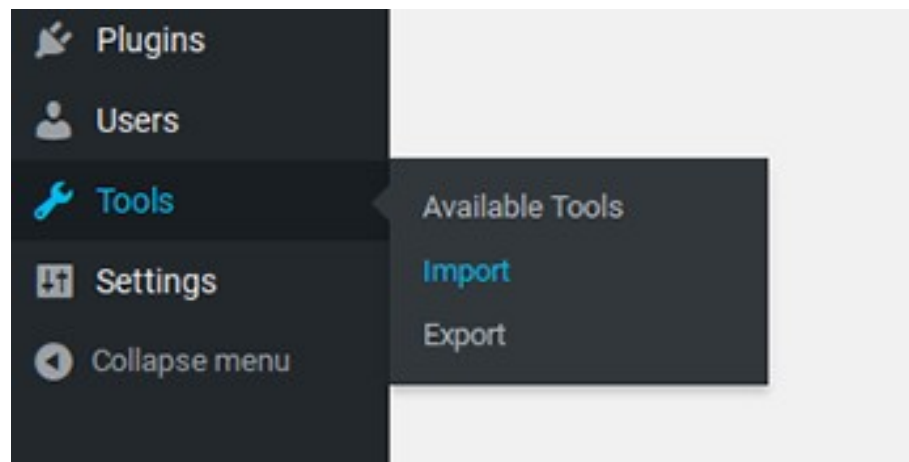
- Connect to your self-hosted WordPress website with your credentials.
- Follow the steps in the following screenshots.

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

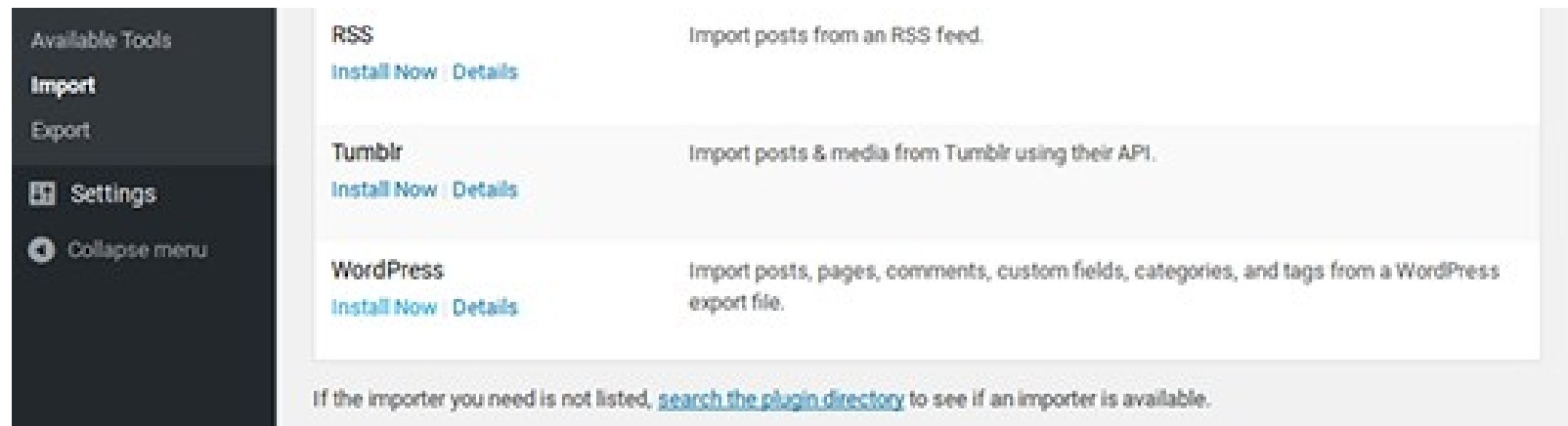
navigate to Tools > Import near the bottom of the menu:



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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

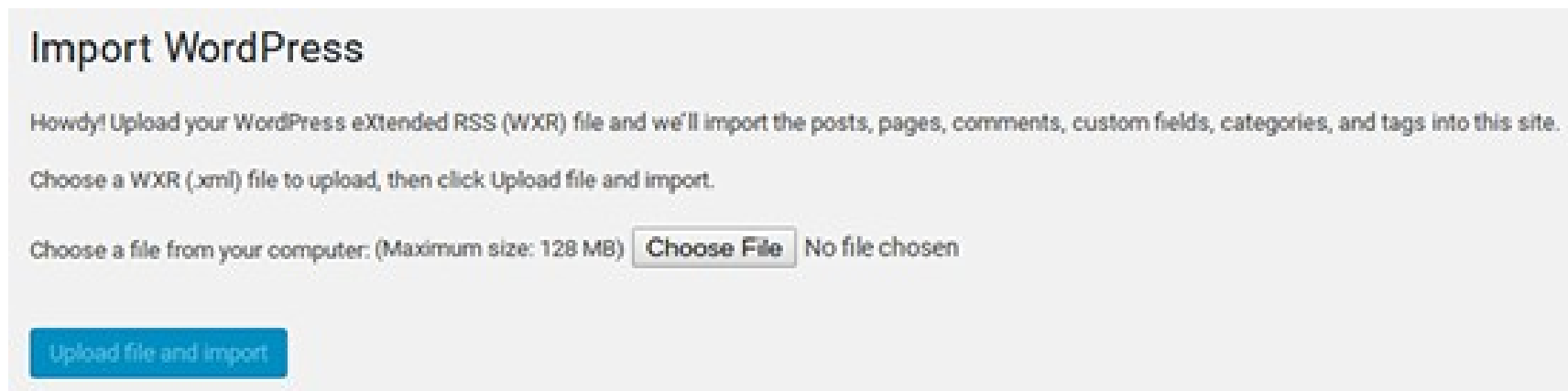
Importer installed successfully. [Run importer](#)

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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.

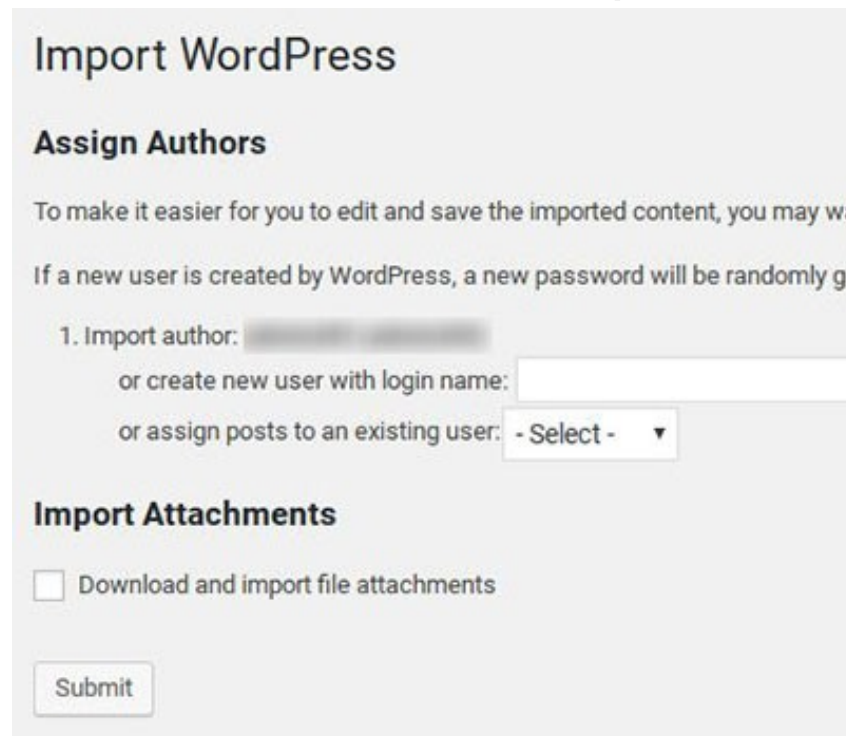
Then click the blue “Upload file and import” button.

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 the text '- Select -'. Below this is the 'Import Attachments' section, which contains a checkbox labeled 'Download and import file attachments'. At the bottom of the form is a 'Submit' button.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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.

MOVING TO A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS

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 \$50.

<https://kaminoweb.com/services/wp-maintenance-plus/>

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

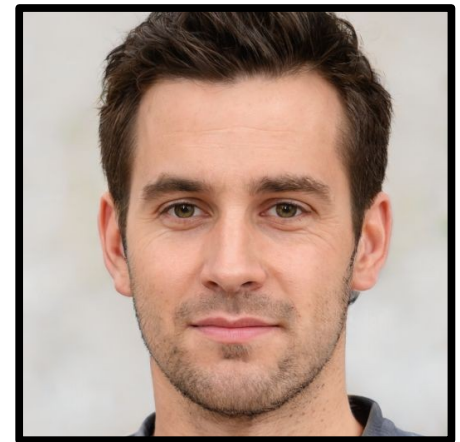
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