

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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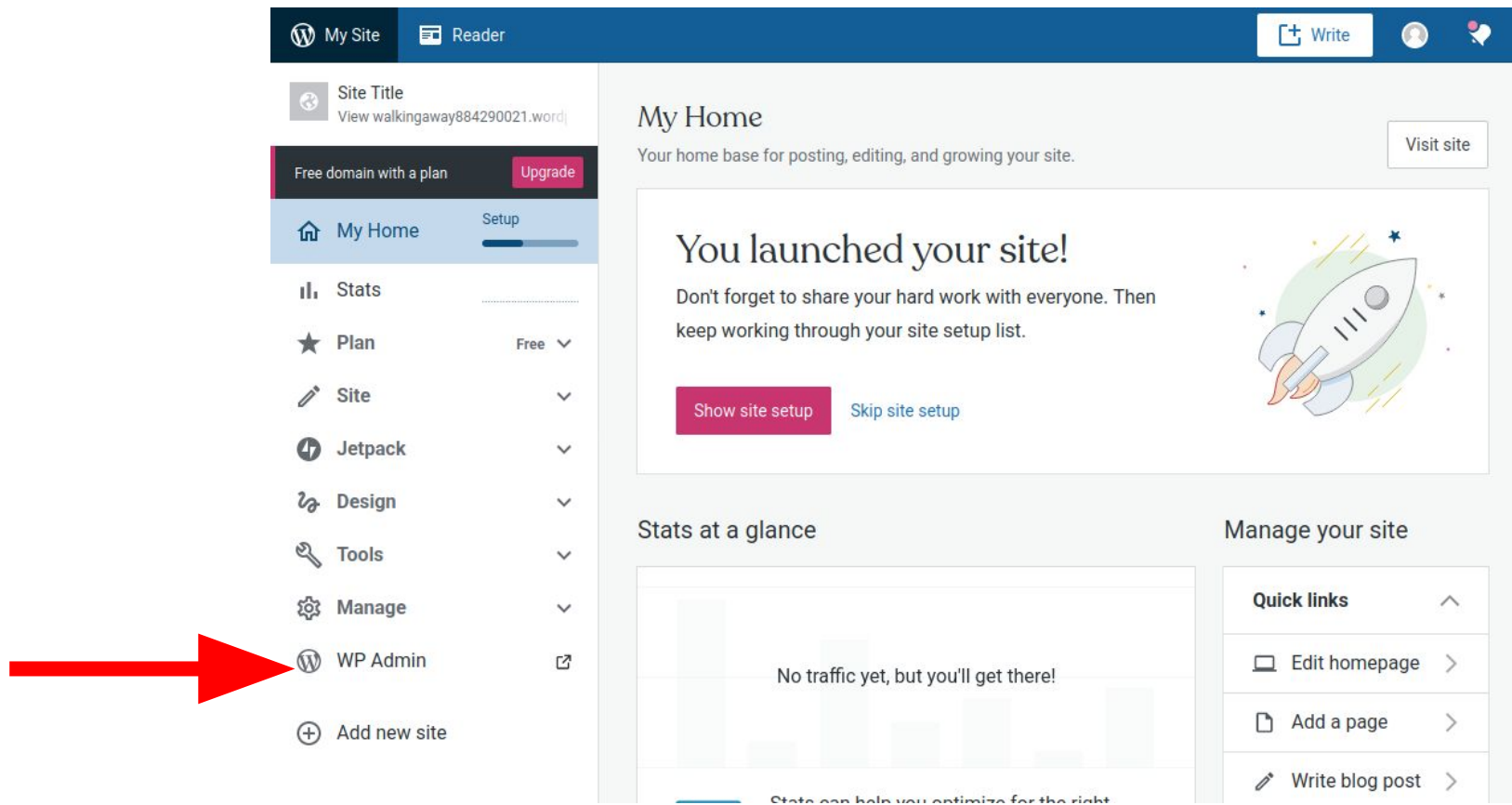
Step #3: Export your Data

- 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.

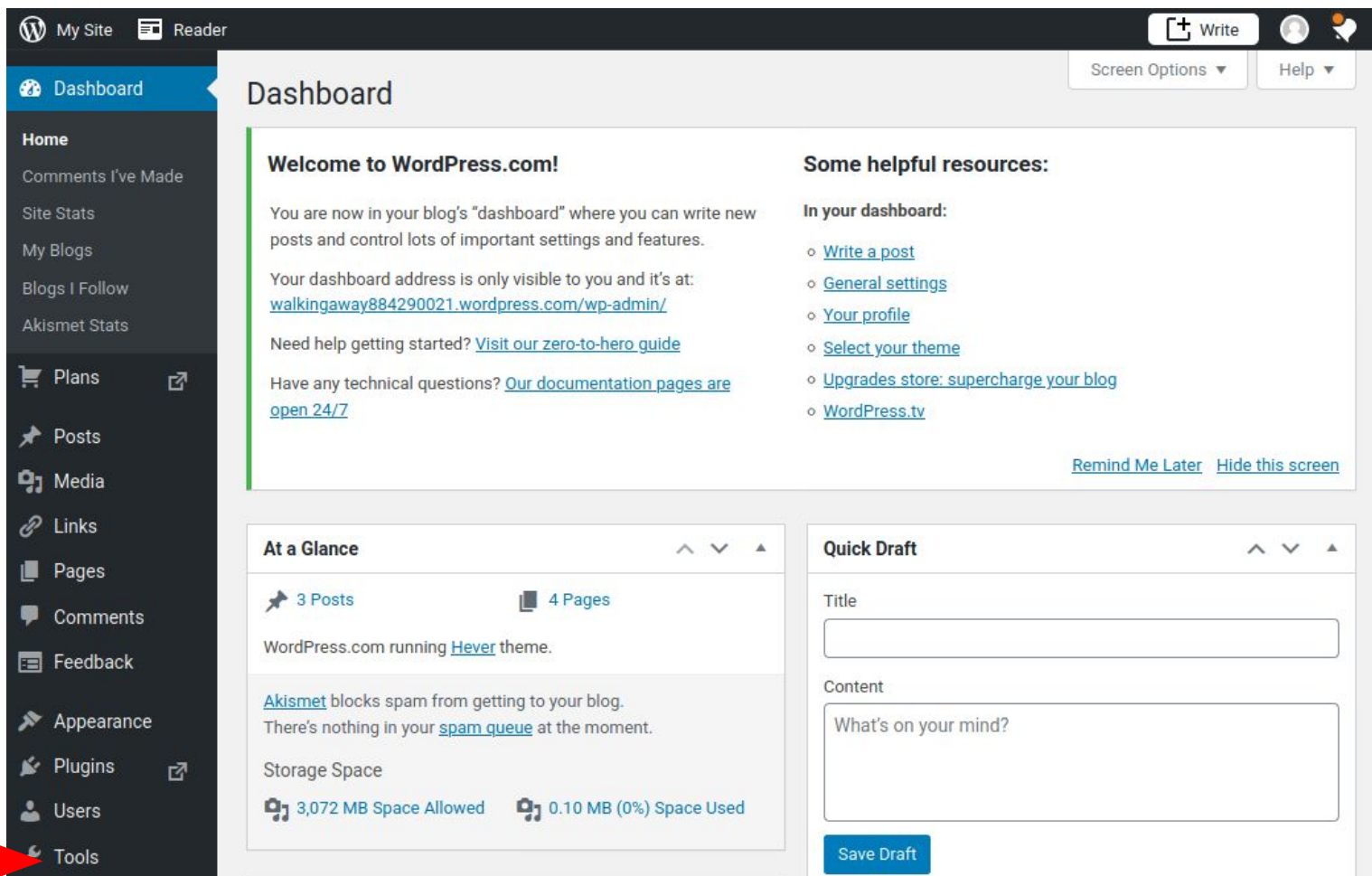
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Click on “WP Admin”



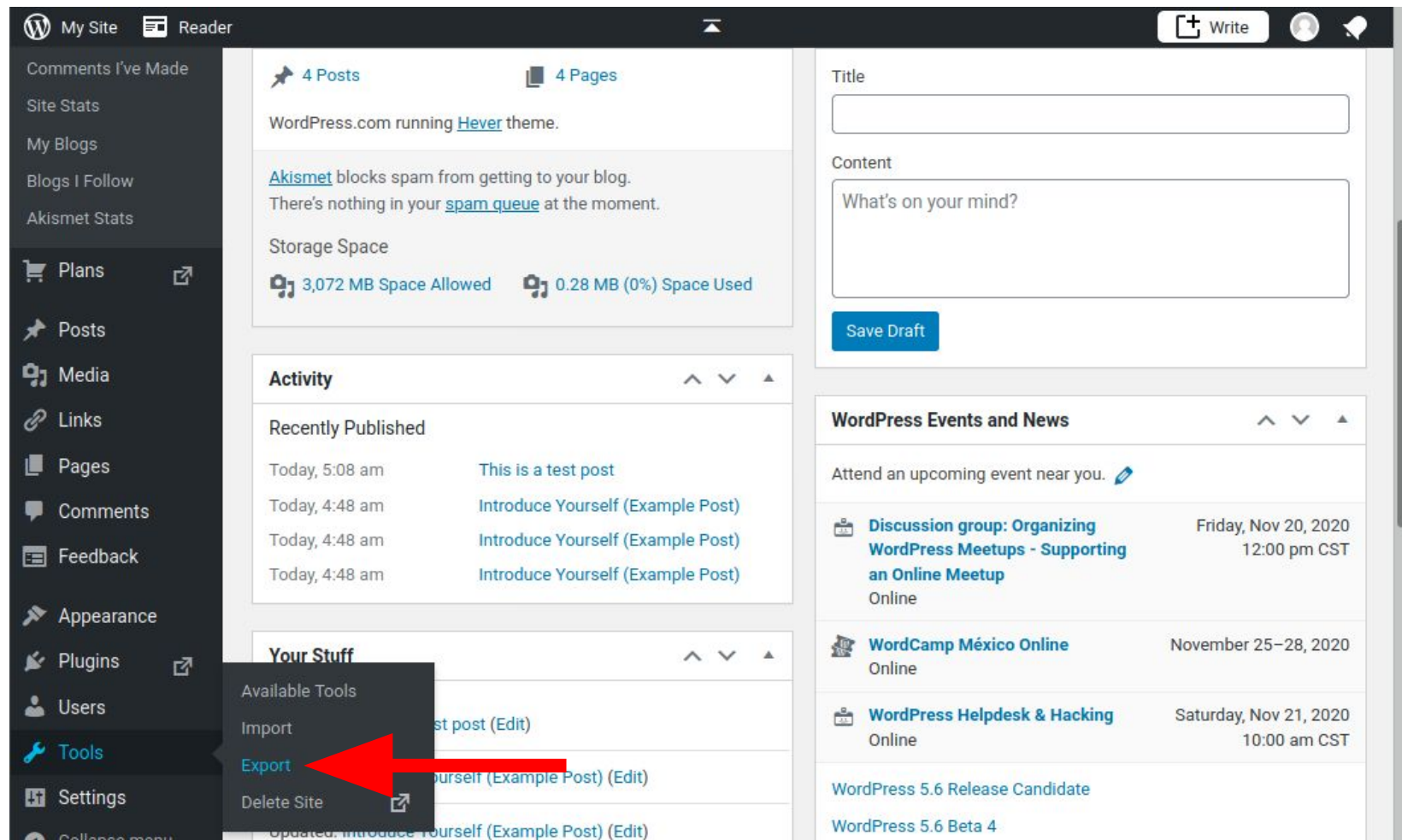
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Click on "Tools"



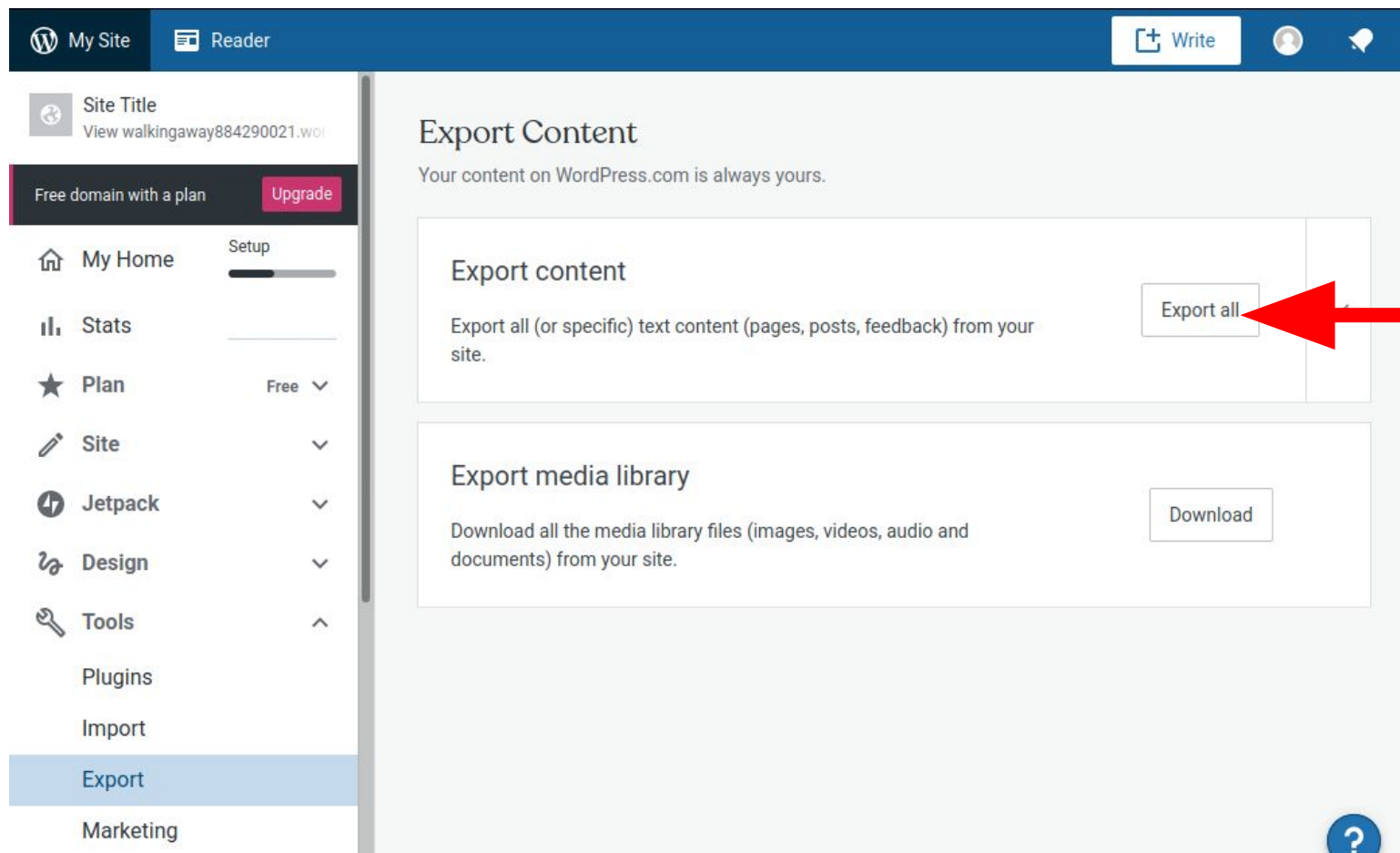
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Click on “Export”



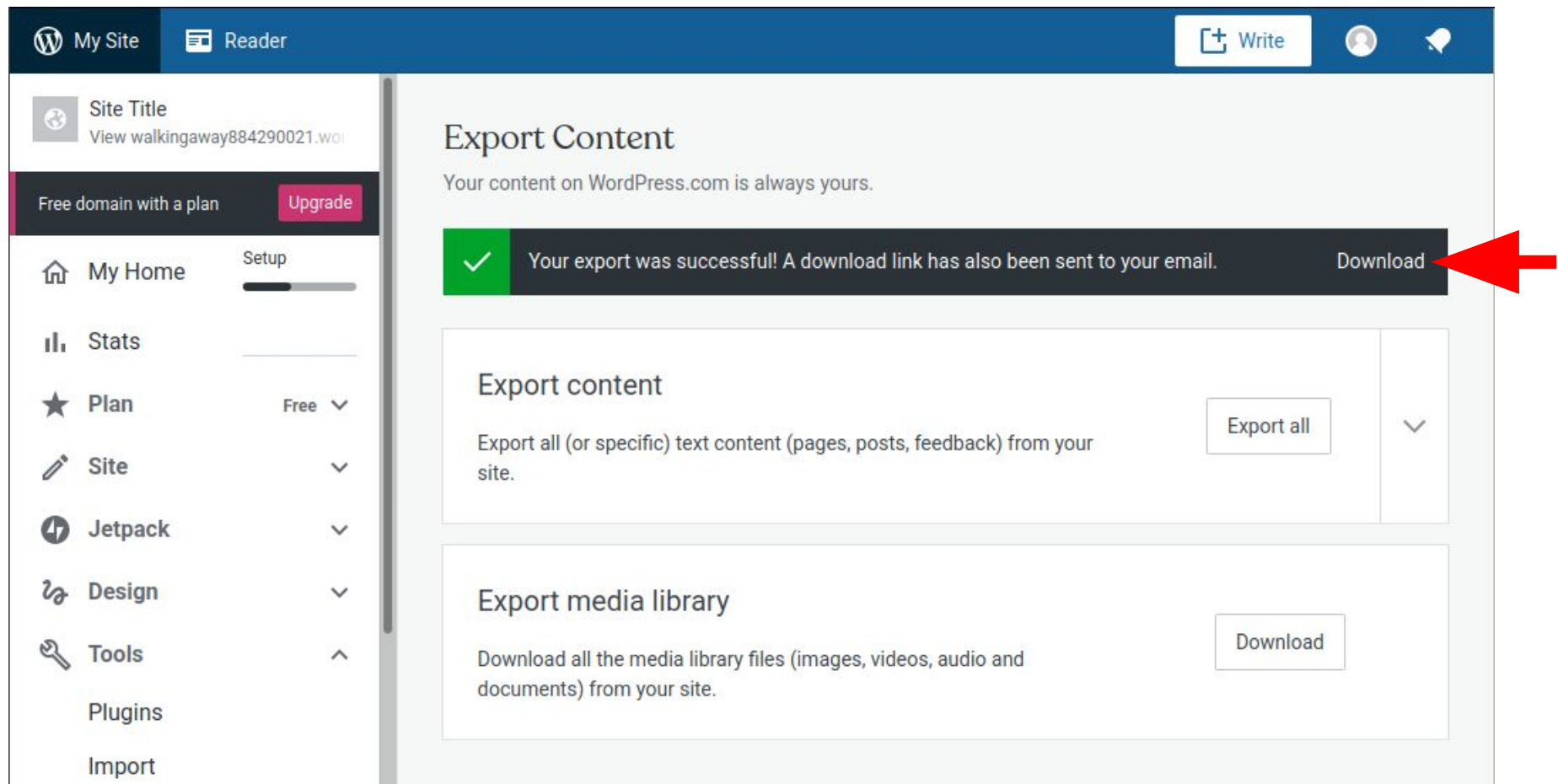
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Click on “Export All”



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Click “Download”



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com dashboard with the 'Export Content' page selected. The left sidebar contains navigation links: My Site, Reader, Site Title, Free domain with a plan, Upgrade, My Home, Stats, Plan, Site, Jetpack, Design, Tools, Plugins, and Import. The main content area displays the 'Export Content' section with 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 export options: 'Export content' (with an 'Export all' button) and 'Export media library' (with a 'Download' button).

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Step #4: Import your Data

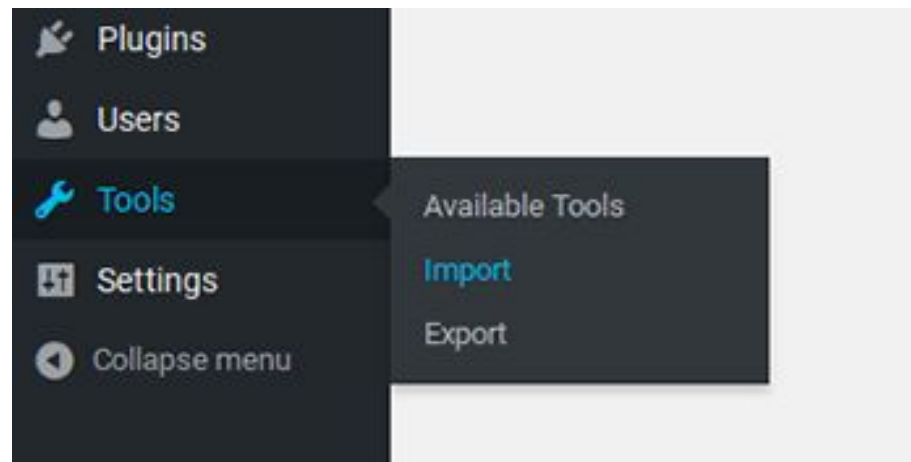
- Connect to your self-hosted WordPress website with your credentials.
- Follow the steps in the following screenshots.

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

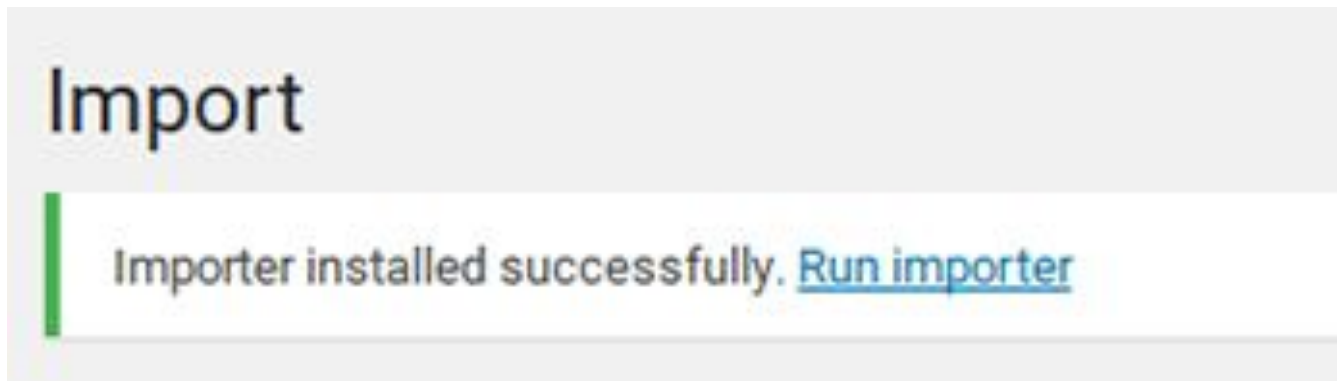
The WordPress import tool is listed at the bottom of the list.
Click on “Install Now.”



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Step #4: Import your Data

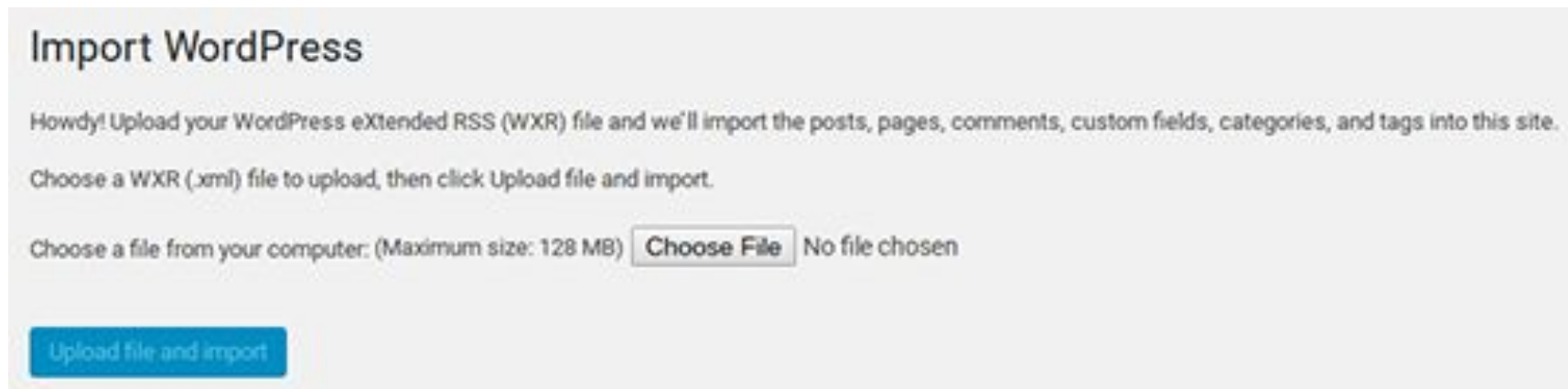
Click on the “Run importer” link.



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Step #4: Import your Data

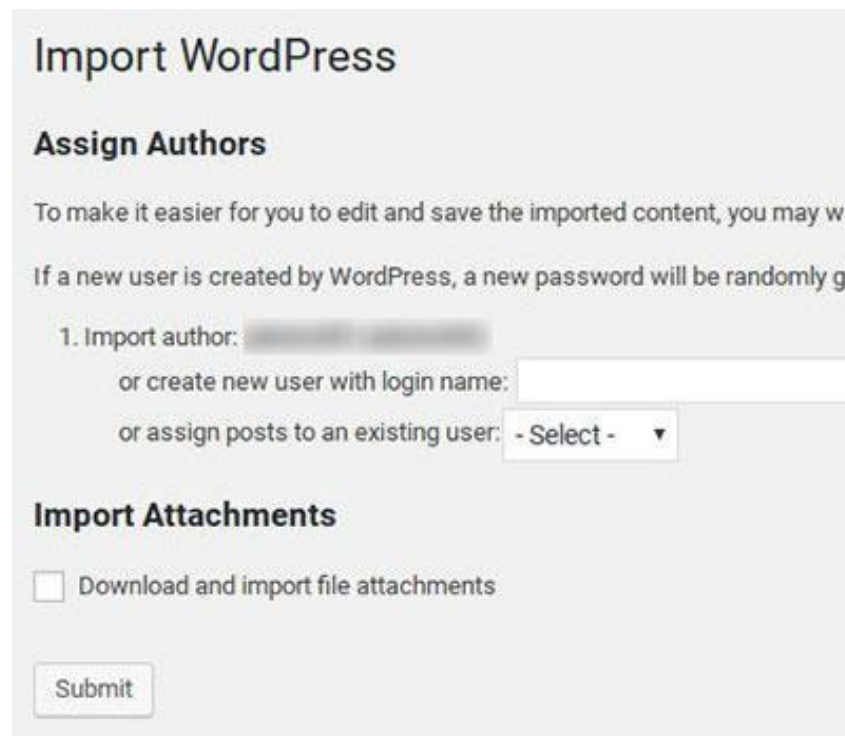
Click the “Choose file” button and select the file you downloaded from your WordPress.com blog earlier.
Then click the blue “Upload file and import” button.

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.' Another line of text says: 'Choose a WXR (.xml) file to upload, then click Upload file and import.' Below this is a file selection area with the text 'Choose a file from your computer: (Maximum size: 128 MB)' followed by a 'Choose File' button and the text 'No file chosen'. At the bottom left 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' screen. Under the 'Assign Authors' section, there is a text input field for '1. Import author:'. Below it, there are two options: 'or create new user with login name:' followed by a text input field, and 'or assign posts to an existing user:' followed by a dropdown menu currently showing '- Select -'. Below this section is the 'Import Attachments' section, which has a checkbox labeled 'Download and import file attachments'. 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.

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

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