A Developer’s Guide to the

South End Community Day Care Website

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# Access

To access the Dalhousie hosted development version of the South End Community Day Care site, please visit <http://outreach.cs.dal.ca/daycare/wp-login.php> .

Username: admin

Password: SouthEnd2016!

To access the Dalhousie hosted site directory, use the credentials below:

SSH Username: daycare

SSH Password: qwCRLk@zFwFAiU9h,3xg

SSH Hostname: outreach.cs.dal.ca

MySQL Database: daycare

MySQL Username: daycare

MySQL Password: gTs\*rkk9brpWHpzhZo\*7

MySQL Hostname: localhost

To access the South End hosted live version of the South End Community Day Care site, please visit <http://secdc.ca/wp-login.php> .

Username: admin

Password: SouthEnd2016!

To access the secdc.ca control panel please visit <https://secdc.ca/cpanel> .

Username: secdcca

Password: SouthEnd2016!

# Platform

The Summer 2016 Community Outreach team elected to build the new South End Community Day Care website in WordPress. This decision was made for two main reasons: the client needed to be able to maintain and manage the website easily on their own, and the timeline of the project was short.

The client needed to be able to easily manage, update, and maintain their website. WordPress provides a friendly management interface out of the box and is well documented. This means that the client should be able to manage their website easily with the help of instructions provided to them by the Community Outreach team, and also use the Internet as a resource should those instructions become lost. WordPress is also maintained independently of the Community Outreach team which means that the client will be able to apply various updates to the site on their own.

Due to the timeline of the Community Outreach class, the team needed to choose a tool that provided some functionality out of the box. WordPress core provides a great deal of functionality in its basic installation. Additionally, the team was able to provide any remaining functionality through the use of third-party plugins and themes. Thus, the website should be able to be maintained easily by the client using instructions provided by the team.

The team built the new South End Community Day Care using the latest version of WordPress: 4.5.3.

# Theme

At the direction of the client, the team developed two designs to present to the board of the daycare at their monthly board meeting during the project. The team developed two responsive layouts, one traditional and one parallax. The South End board voted and elected to use the parallax layout and design in the new version of the South End Community Day Care site.

The theme Albar was used to create the design and layout for the new website. The version currently installed is the latest version 1.7.2. Albar is regularly maintained and has been tested with the latest version of WordPress.

In order to make the design/layout maintainable by the client, the team chose to apply an Albar child-theme to the website. Using a child-theme allowed the team to make changes to the Albar template that would persist without breaking the layout when the Albar theme is updated. All design is implemented through use of the child theme, and the dashboard customization options.

# Assets

Icons for the front-page are free to use and edit for the purpose of icons only (no logos) with licensing under Creative Commons. The free to use icons are by Sergei Kokota (<https://www.iconfinder.com/Zerg>) and the original pngs are provided as layers in the .psd file under the assets folder. The edited versions are also provided in the assets folder as separate png files. The slider and header images from the Daycare BBQ were cropped and color corrected using Photoshop CS5 and the high-resolution versions are included in the assets folder.

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# Plugins

## All-in-One WP Migration

All-in-One WP Migration was selected by the team as the best plugin to facilitate migration and deployment of the new website. This plugin also serves as a way to backup the website before performing updates. Some research also shows All-in-One WP Migration to be a highly recommended and well maintained plugin. The currently installed version of the plugin is 5.46.

All-in-One WP Migration allows a find-and-replace on strings in the database when a website is exported. This means that moving a website from one domain to another can be facilitated simply by replacing the current domain name in the database with the new domain name when an export is performed.

There are some helpful video tutorials on how to use the plugin here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpWxCeUWBOk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRp7qTFYKgs>

## Business Opening Hours

Business Opening Hours was selected by the team to provide the functionality to display the standard hours of the facility in the sidebar of some of the website pages. This plugin was selected because of its well maintained status, and its simple user interface. The version of the plugin that is currently installed is 1.0.6.

## Ninja Forms

Ninja Forms provides the waiting list functionality that was requested by our client. This plugin provides both a user facing form to be displayed on the site, as well as an administrative management table of all the waiting list data. This allows the administration of the daycare to manage the waitlist using the South End Community Day Care website. This plugin is well documented and is updated on a regular basis. The version of the plugin that is currently installed is 2.9.52.

## Shortcode Widget

The Shortcode Widget plugin provides a WordPress widget that will display Shortcode content. Shortcode is a simple way to provide extra functionality in WordPress. The team has elected to use the Shortcode API to provide some of the logic needed for the daycare status feature. The Shortcode used can be viewed in the “Current Status” Shortcode Widget used in the sidebar of the South End Community Day Care website. The version of this plugin that is currently being used is 1.2.

## Show/Hide Content at Set Time

The Show/Hide Content at Set Time provides Shortcodes that allow content to be automatically shown or hidden automatically at preset times. This plugin is used to provide most of the functionality for the daycare status feature. The Shortcodes from this plugin are used in the “Current Status” Shortcode Widget to display the daycare status in the sidebar of the South End Community Day Care website. The current version of this plugin that is installed is 2.4.

Some examples of how to use the Shortcodes provided by this plugin are documented here:

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/shortcodes-to-show-or-hide-content/>

## The Events Calendar

The events calendar provides the client with the ability to add and advertise events on the South End Day Care website. It was selected due to its intuitive user interface and highly rated status. The site administrator may create events which will be displayed/accessed from the sidebar. The version of the plugin that is currently installed is 4.2.2.

## Widget Options

The Widget Options plugins controls on which pages widgets are displayed or hidden. This plugin was selected because it is well maintained and easy to use. Currently all widgets are displayed on the “Home” and “About” pages. The version of this plugin that is currently installed is 2.0.1

## Widget Visibility Time Scheduler

The Widget Visibility Time Scheduler plugin controls the visibility of widgets based on date and time. This provides the functionality necessary to hide or show the daycare status widget for special facility closures. This widget was selected because of its simple user interface and well maintained status. The version of the widget that is currently installed is 4.2.3.

# Deployment

The South End Community Day Care site created by the Dalhousie Community Outreach Team of Summer 2016 was deployed on Friday July 22nd 2016. The site was deployed using All-in-One WP Migration and all forms and functionality were tested by the team. At the time of deployment, WordPress core and all plugins implemented were up to date.