# 

# 

# 

# Recommendations for File Sharing via WordPress

### 

### 

### 

### 

### 

### 

### Aleysha Mullen

Negin Sauermann

Angela Dini

Rami Khashmelous

Azeem Ali

### 

### 

### Introduction

In the RFP, the client indicated that they would like to have a file-share system in which the administrative staff of the daycare could share documents with each other. This was seen by the client and the development team as a low priority need. Because of time constraints, the team was unable to implement this feature. However, the team was able to perform some research on the topic of file sharing in WordPress so that it could be implemented by a future development team.

### Results of Research

There are three core types of free plugins for WordPress that can be used to implement file sharing between multiple users. These types of plugins are ones that use Google drive, ones that used Dropbox, and ones that did not use a third party application but instead take advantage of the user management and roles provided in WordPress core functionality.

The most commonly used plugin that makes use of Google drive was “Google Drive Embedder”. This plugin requires that “Google Apps Login” be installed as well, and the user must have a pre-existing Google account to use. “Google Drive Embedder”, uses Google Drive as a pop-up window from which users can select a file the connected Google Drive account, and embed it into a website. From there, the audience of the website can view the documents that have been embedded into the website, and can edit or download them through Google Drive.

Some plugins that worked with Dropbox were “Out-of-the-Box”, and “Simply Attached”. “Out-of-the-Box” works by connecting to an existing Dropbox account via a Wordpress website. This allows the user to view, download, delete, and rename files in their Dropbox account from the WordPress page. “Simply Attached” allows a user to select files from an existing Dropbox account or any files that are in the WordPress library, and provide a table of downloadable files for the audience of the page, as well as descriptions of those files. There are many ways to customize “Simply Attached” to meet specific user needs.

A more general approach to file sharing using WordPress is to simply put the files in the WordPress library and add that media to the WordPress website. It is then possible to restrict access to that media using the user roles and permissions that are built into the WordPress core functionality.

### 

### 

### Analysis

The benefit of both the Google Drive and Dropbox options are that users can adjust their accounts via external applications and rather than managing the files via WordPress. This means is no need for users to become familiar with editing pages in WordPress, instead they only need to be familiar with Google Drive or Dropbox which are commonly used file sharing applications. Google Drive and Dropbox allow the use of live and editable documents which can not be accomplished using the WordPress media library. Google Drive and Dropbox also allow a wider variety of file types for flexibility of storage. The drawback of both these solutions is that all users who are going to be uploading documents need to have an account on the third party application.

The benefit of using the WordPress core user roles functionality is that you do not need an account on a third party application. Instead, users would be managed within WordPress, keeping all management of documents in one place. The drawbacks to this approach are that it might be time-consuming to upload, download, and update each document, and that it may require some editing of the WordPress pages.

### Recommendations

We recommend that file sharing be implemented through a combination of third party plugins and WordPress core functionality. We suggest using a Google Drive plugin to share files in a member’s only WordPress page that is hidden to users with the role of “Guests”. This solution allows restriction of file access based on WordPress core user roles, while giving the client the flexibility of a widely used file sharing application.

### 

### 

### References

*Google Apps Login*. (2016). *Wpbeginner.com*. Retrieved from http://www.wpbeginner.com/plugins/how-to-connect-google-drive-to-your-wordpress-media-library/

*Google Drive Embedder*. (2016). *WordPress.org*. Retrieved from https://en-ca.wordpress.org/plugins/google-drive-embedder/

*Out-of-the-Box | Dropbox plugin for WordPress*. (2016). *CodeCanyon*. Retrieved from https://codecanyon.net/item/outofthebox-dropbox-plugin-for-wordpress-/5529125

*Roles and Capabilities « WordPress Codex*. (2016). *Codex.wordpress.org*. Retrieved from https://codex.wordpress.org/Roles\_and\_Capabilities

*Simply Attached*. (2016). *WordPress.org*. Retrieved from https://fi.wordpress.org/plugins/simply-attached/