How to configure and work with Wordpress on IIS

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Contents

Wordpress Installation Introduction

This tutorial gives step by step instructions as to how to install and configure Wordpress on IIS and how to create various features on your WordPress site such as customized users, a home page, media page, news page, clean URLs, and full page calendars. Pre-requisites for this tutorial are that you must already have IIS up and running and PHP installed.

# Create a Database for Wordpress Installation

Pre-requisites for this tutorial are that you must already have mysql installed as well as well php for iis.

Go to you start menu and search "MySQL", open up MySQL Command Line Client
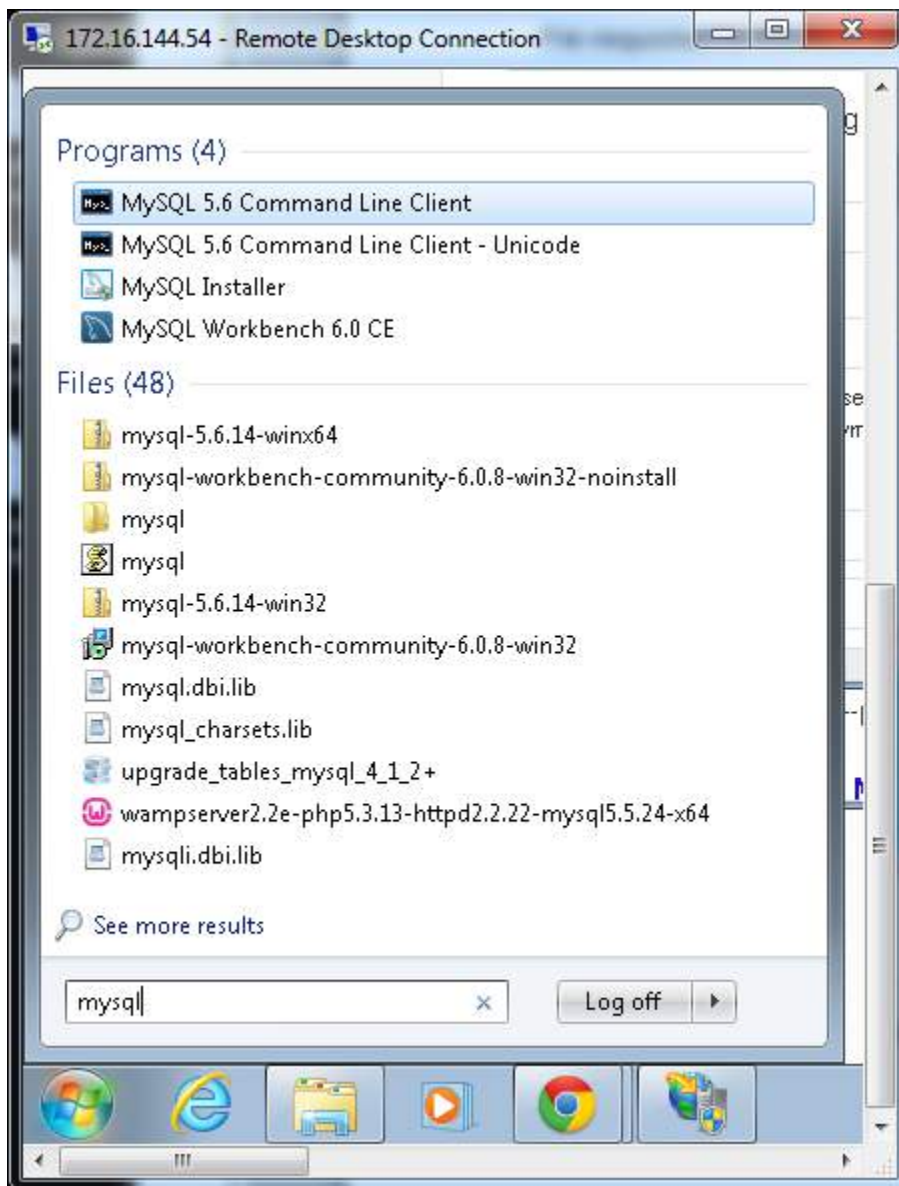
Enter your password for MySQL and then click enter. Then type the command "CREATE DATABASE wordpressinstall;" where wordpressinstall is the name you want to set your database up as. If you get a message saying there is already a database that exists with the name you have selected then use a different name since all databases must have unique names.
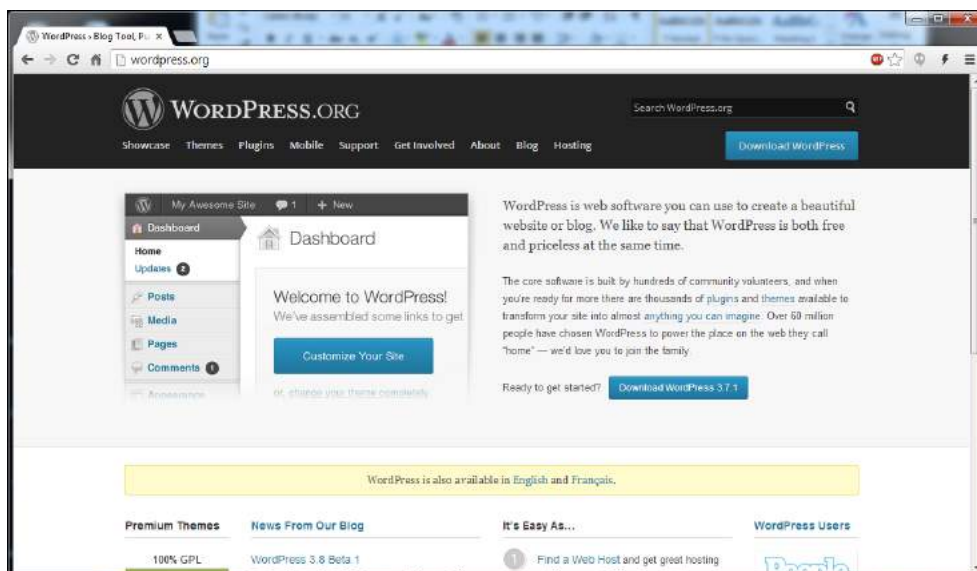
Click enter.
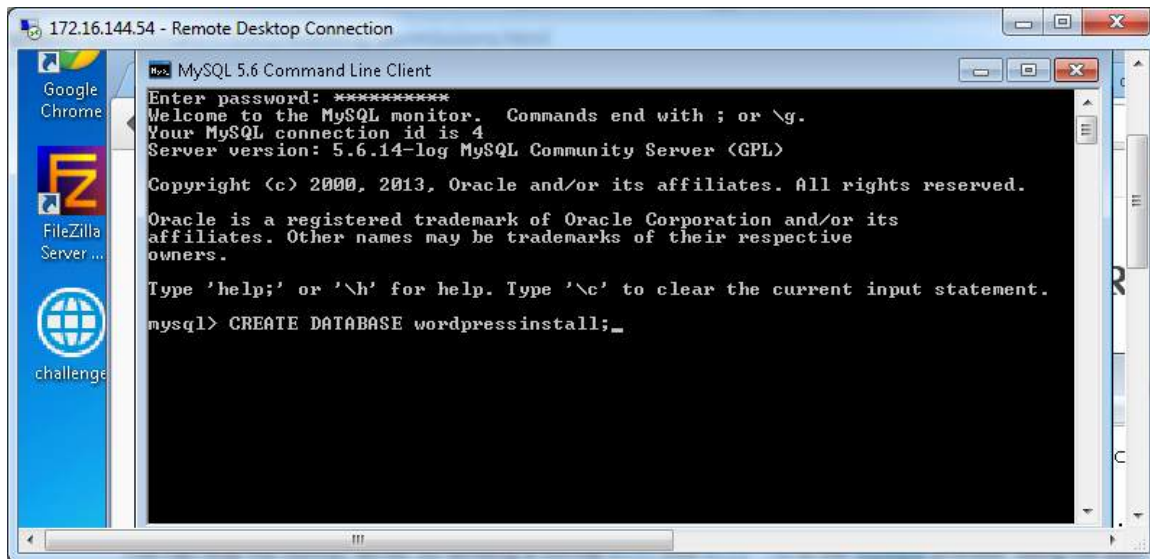
Now you have your database created.

Download, Configure, and Install Wordpress

Next go to wordpress.org and click the blue button that reads "Download WordPress 3.7.1"

Click on the "Download Wordpress 3.7.1" blue button again.

This will start your download.

Once the download is complete extract the zipped folder, open it, and copy/move the wordpress folder to "C:\inetpub\wwwroot". If you rename this folder that name will be the name you will use in your URL to access the site. For instance if you keep it named wordpress then you will access the site as either "localhost/wordpress" or "youripaddress/wordpress"

For this example I renamed it to "wordpressinstall" so it is accessible for me at "localhost/wordpressinstall" and "172.16.144.54/wordpressinstall".

Next open up the start menu and find notepad and right click and "Run as administrator"
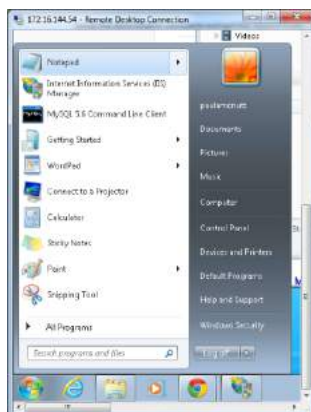
Provide permission when it asks "Do you want to allow the following program to make changes to your computer?" by clicking yes.
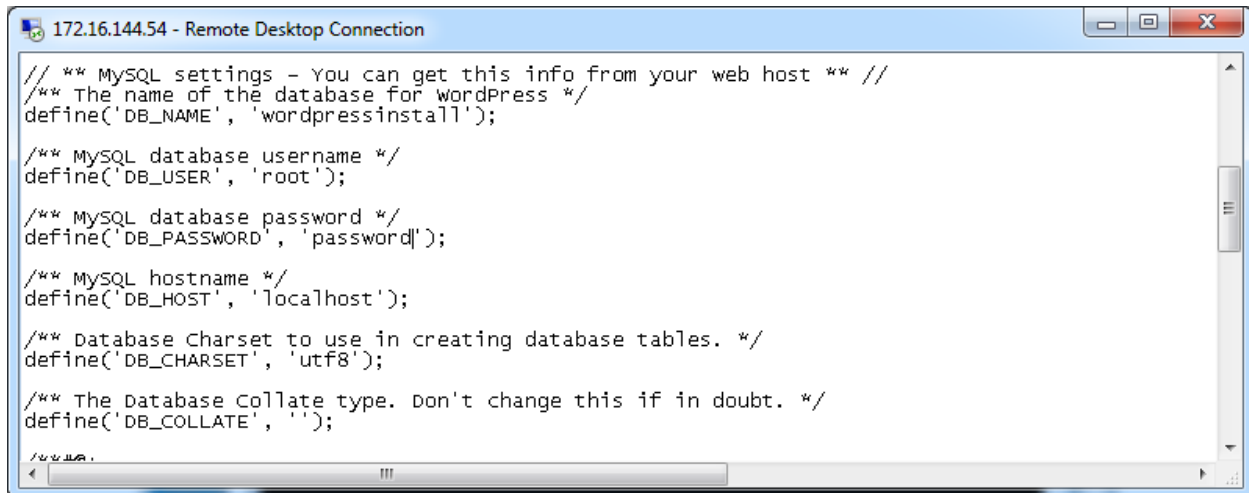
In notepad click "File" then "Open". Navigate to your wordpress install folder (which in my case is called "wordpressinstall").

C:\inetpub\wwwroot\wordpressinstall

In the bottom right hand corner click on the dropdown menu and change the selection from "Text Documents (*.txt)" to "All Files". Then double click on "wp-config" to open the file.
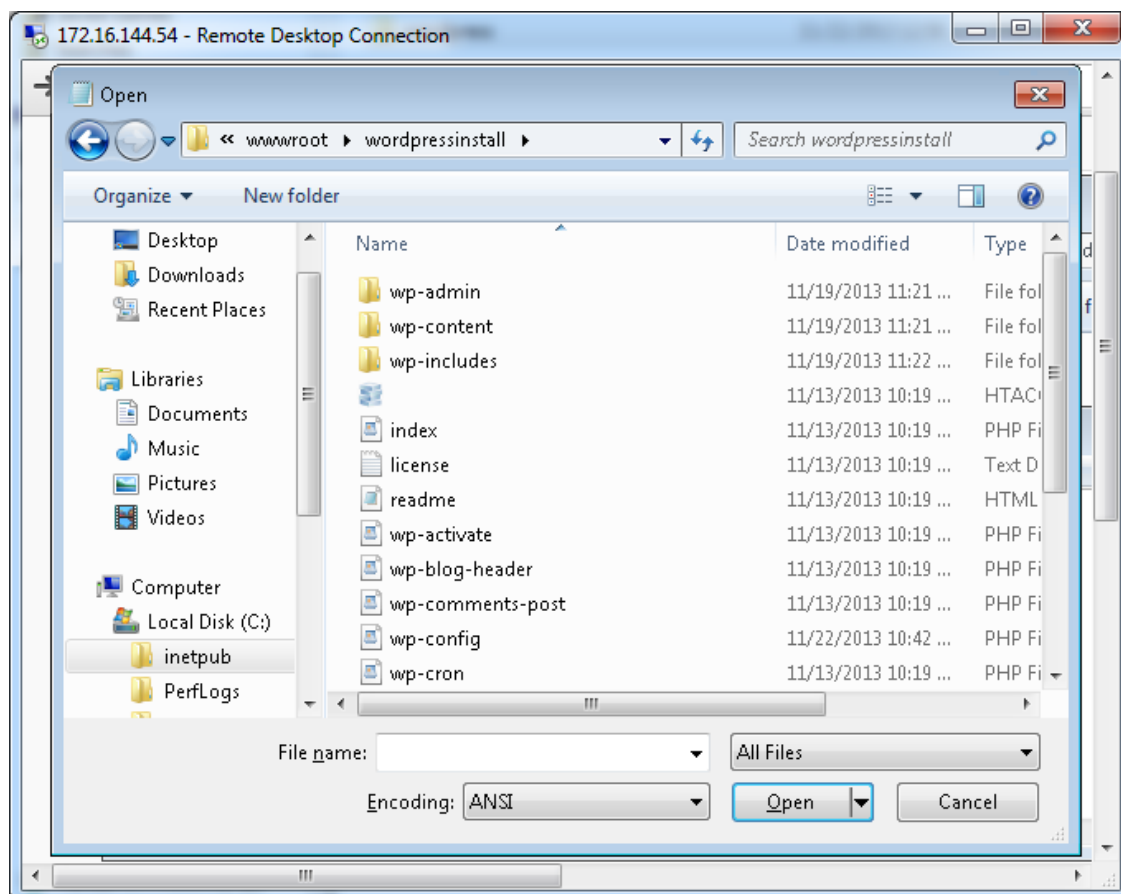
In this file find the section of text as shown in the screenshot below. Where it says database name replace "wordpressinstall" with the name of your database, where it says "root" replace this with the username of your database, and where it says "password" replace that with your mysql password. Then save the document. This is essential for connecting the installation to the database.

Now you can visit your installation in your browser by going to "youripaddress/folderwhereyouinstalledwordpress" or "localhost/folderwhereyouinstalledwordpress". In this example "172.16.144.54/wordpressinstall" is used.

You will be redirected to "install.php".

Enter "Site Title", "Username", and "Password". Make sure your username and password are things you can remember. The site title can be edited later if you can't decide on a title.

Wordpress Installation Troubleshooting: If you get the error message "Error

establishing a database connection wordpress" that means that you either did not successfully create your database or that you did not enter correct login and database information for mysql in the wp-config.

If you get an internal server error (500) then your issue is more apt to be with your php installation, and depending on the error message it could be an issue with

Don't use admin as a username or else you are making your account vulnerable to attacks.

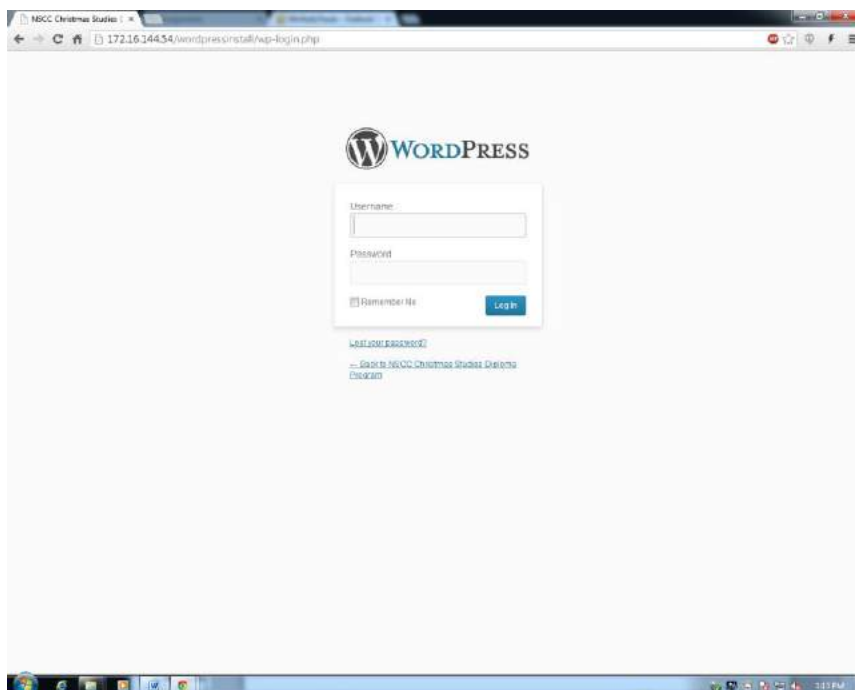Enter your email address and then click "Install WordPress".

If you get the success message then click on "Login"
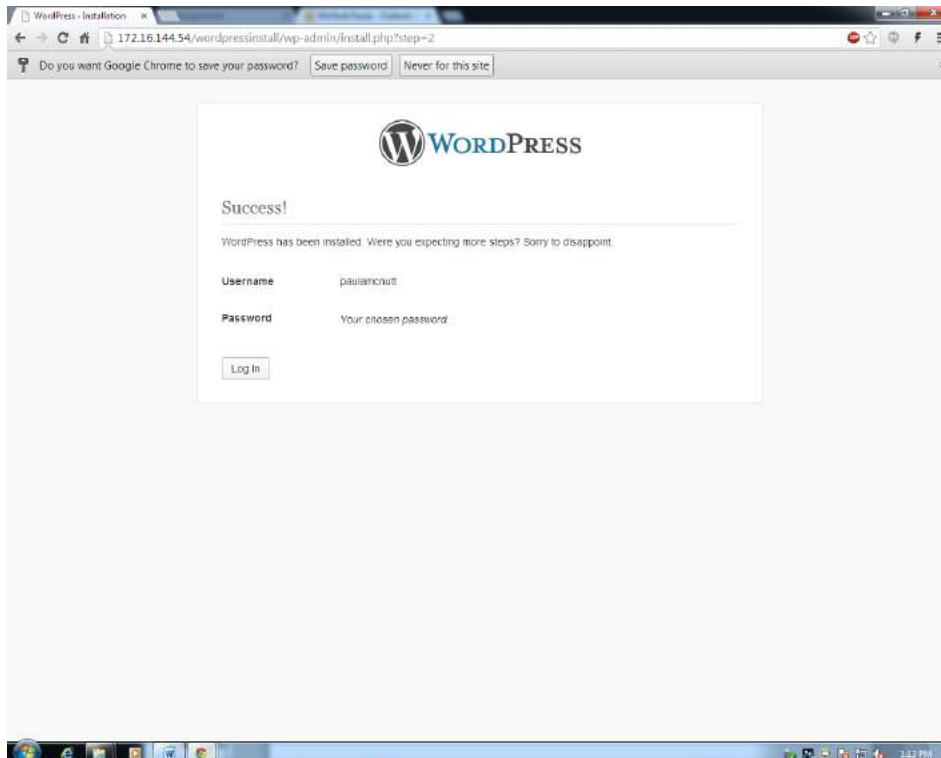
Setting up Wordpress

Login to wordpress using the username and password you just set up.

This is your dashboard and this is where you will set up your website and content.

Setup a Calendar Page on Wordpress

To set up a calendar page you can just click on "Plugins" on the left menu bar, and then search for "Calendar" to find a calendar plugin and click "Install Now". For this example I installed "All-in-One Event Calendar 1.10.5".
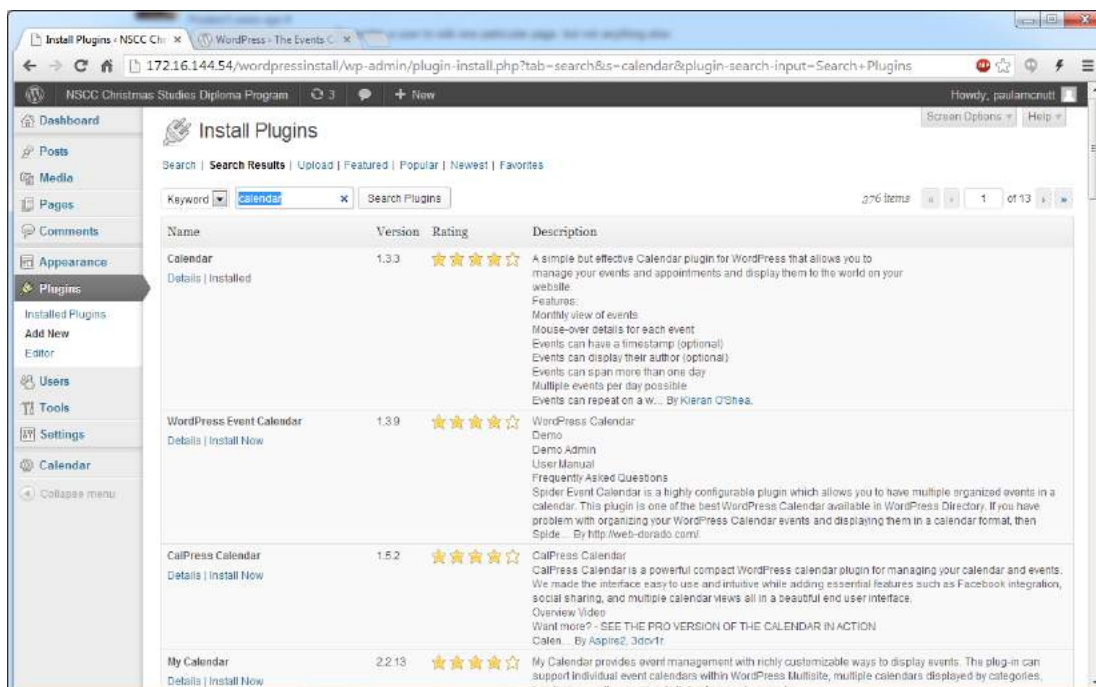
Click "Activate Plugin"
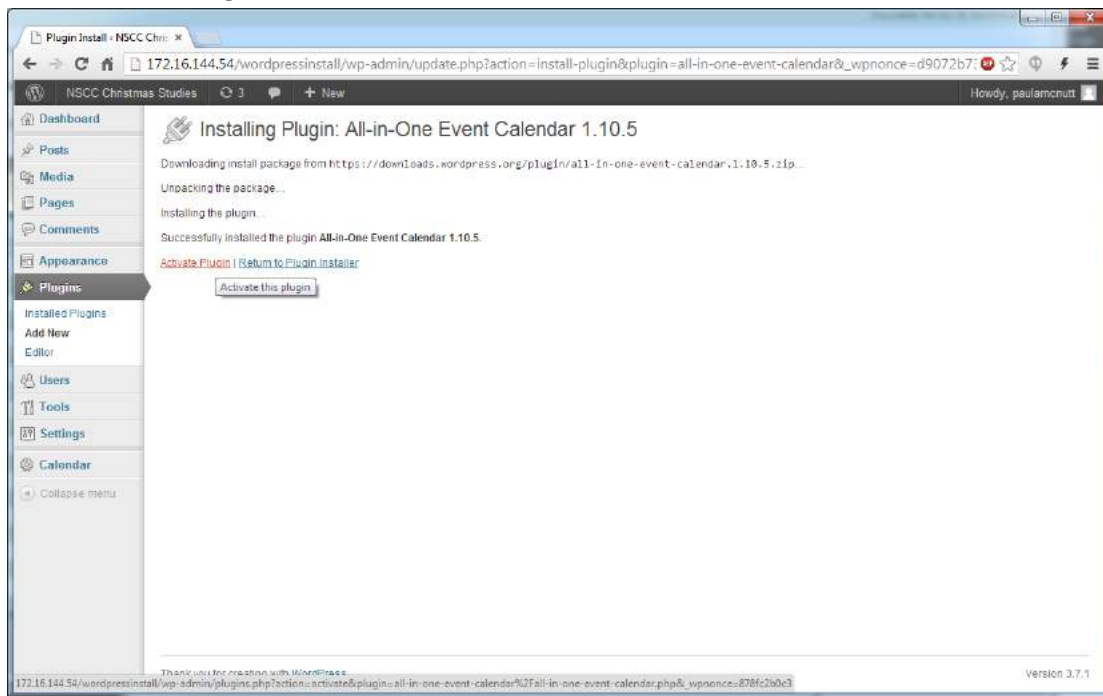
For this plugin, after activation a notice appears at the top of the page with a red link to click on that reads "Click here to set it up now". Click on it to set up the calendar.
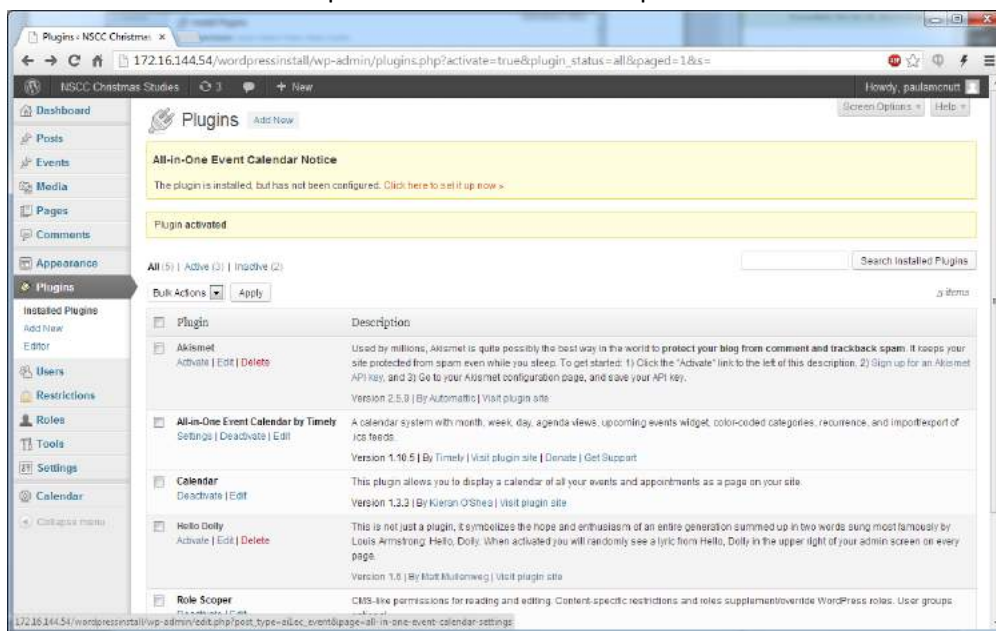
This brings you to a form that allows you to customize your calendar. Notice that under the heading "Viewing Events" there is an option to specify which page you want to set your calendar up on. For this example I kept the default setting of "Auto-Create New Page" and I kept the remainder of settings as default and clicked "Save Settings".
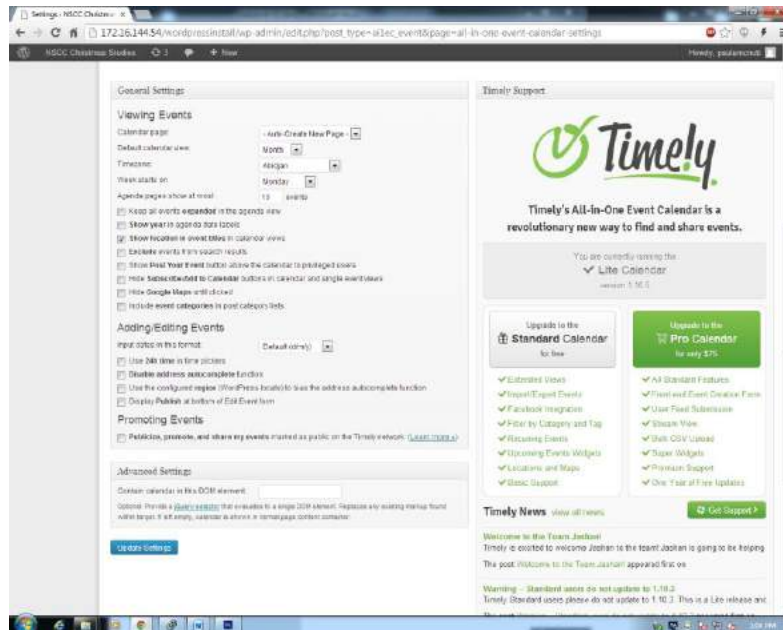
Now to add events you can click on the Events link on the left hand menu and select "Add New" under this tab. Then adding an event is as easy as putting a title, content, setting a date and time for event, and clicking "Publish".
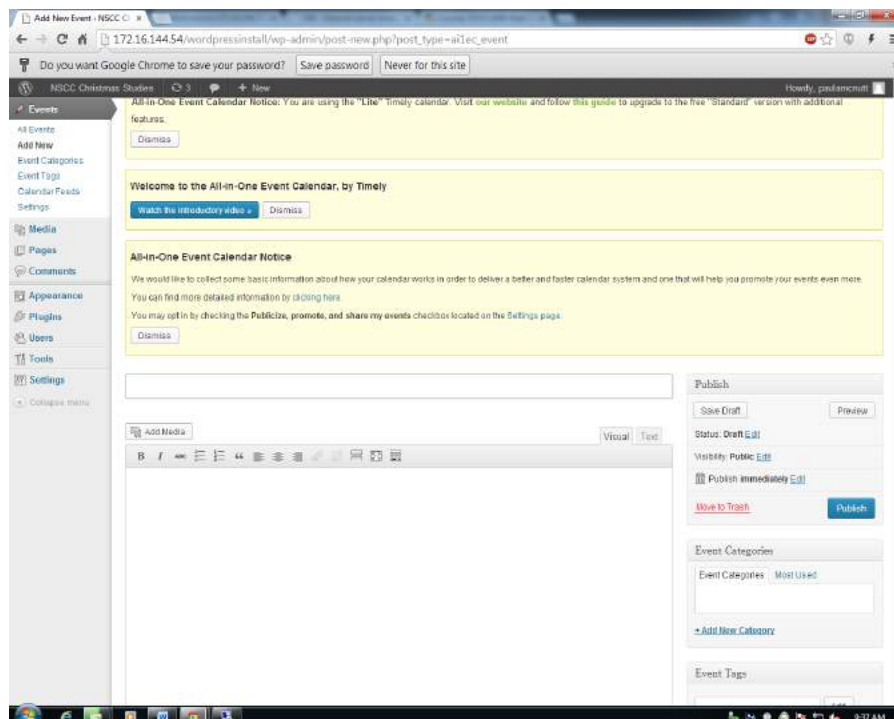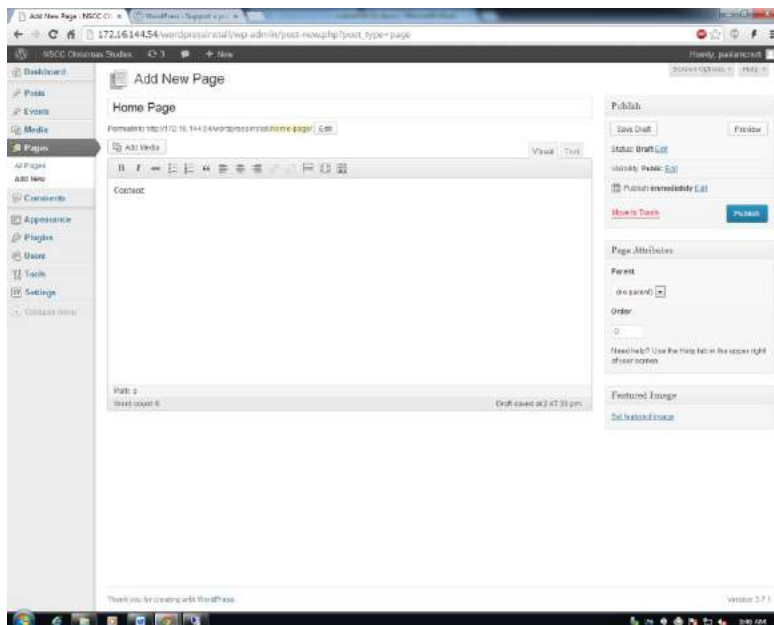
The finished product will be a full page calendar as shown below.
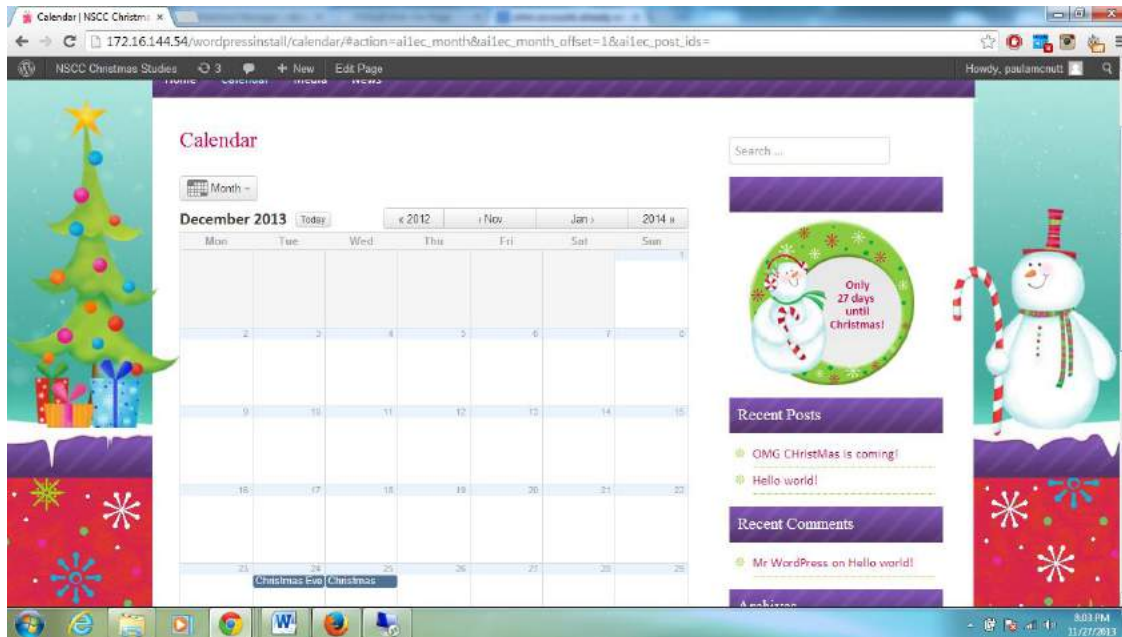
Make a Wordpress Page

To create a new page click on "Pages" and then "Add New", then you can fill in a title and content, and then click "Publish". Make sure "Visual" is selected and not "Text" (as it is by default and is shown below) unless you want to write your content in HTML.
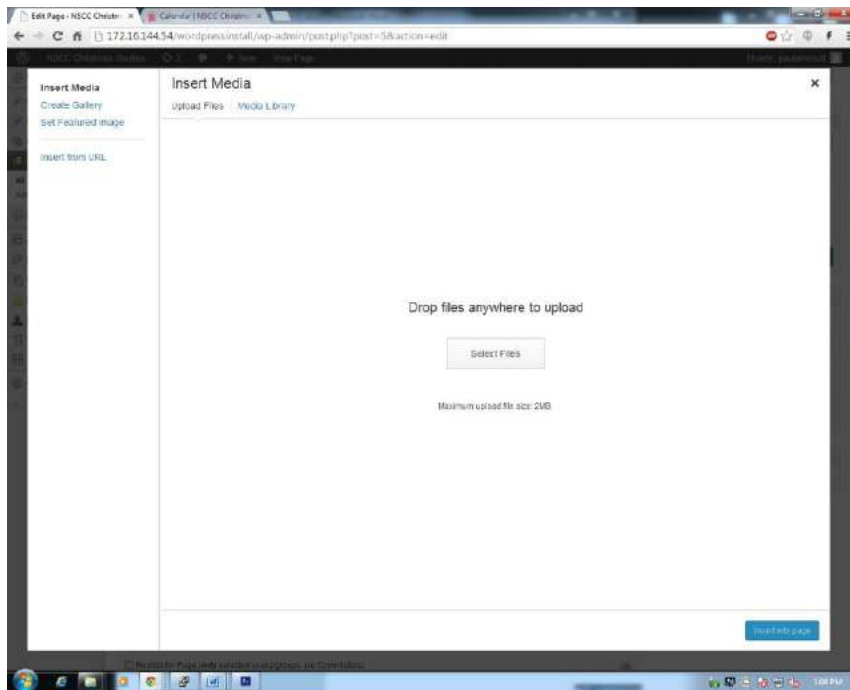
Create a Media Page

To make a Media Page you just make a basic page as shown below (see here to get instruction as to how to make a wordpress page). And then click "Add Media".
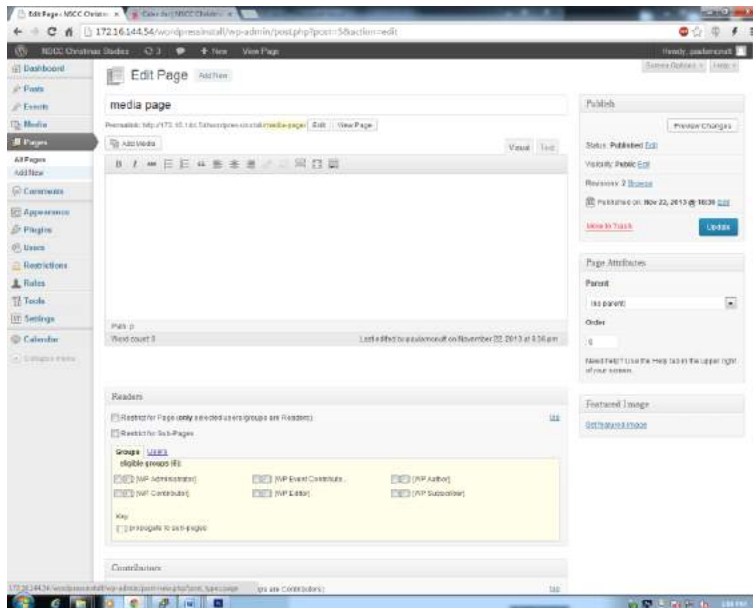

This brings you to the following window which allows you to add pictures and videos using file uploads or through URLs.
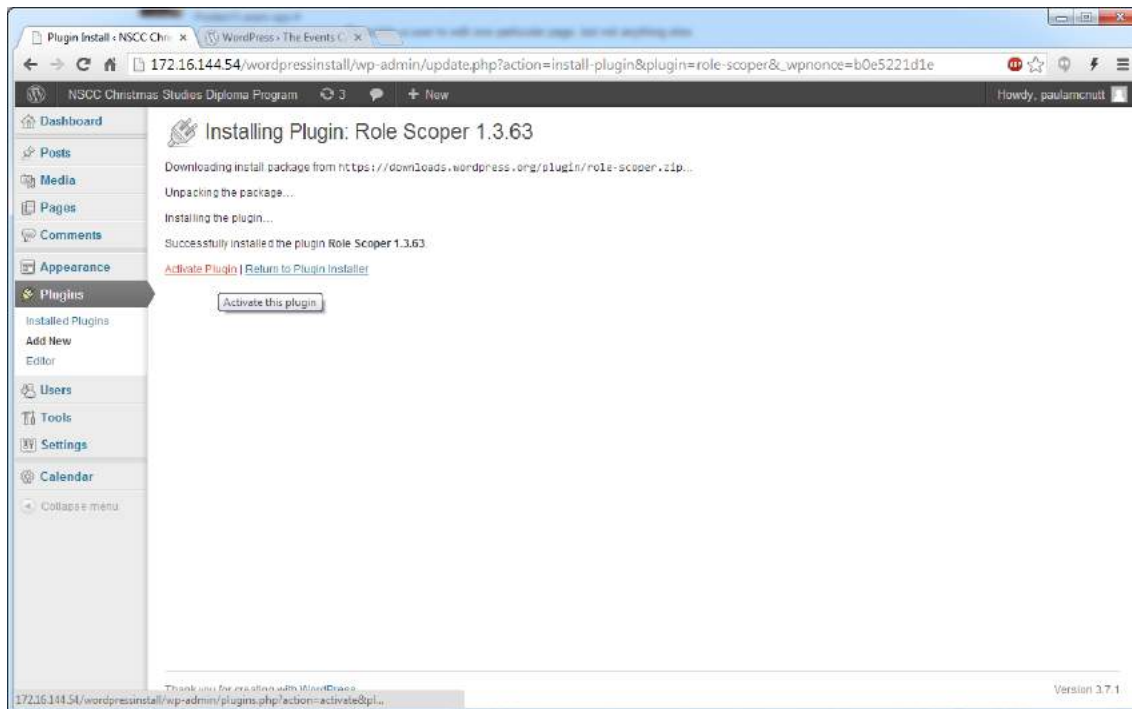
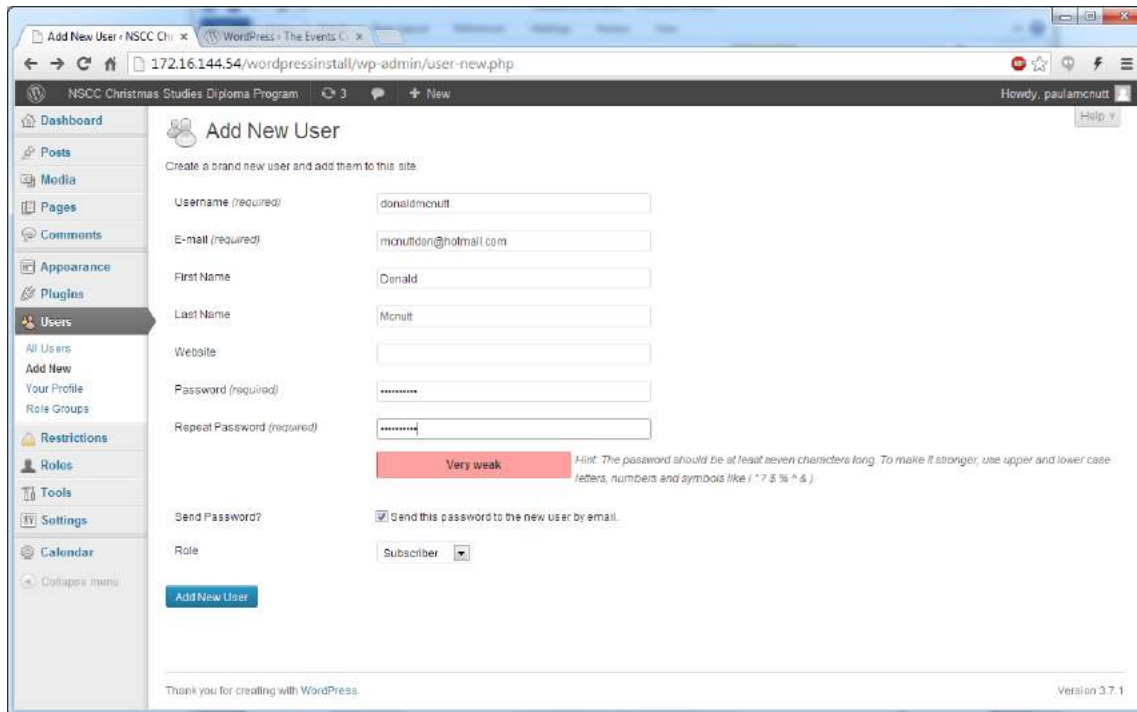# Setup Wordpress Users with Customized Permissions

Click on "Plugins" the left hand menu and select "Add New", and then search "Role Scoper". Click "Install Now" on the top result shown below. This is one of the better plugins for customizing user permissions.
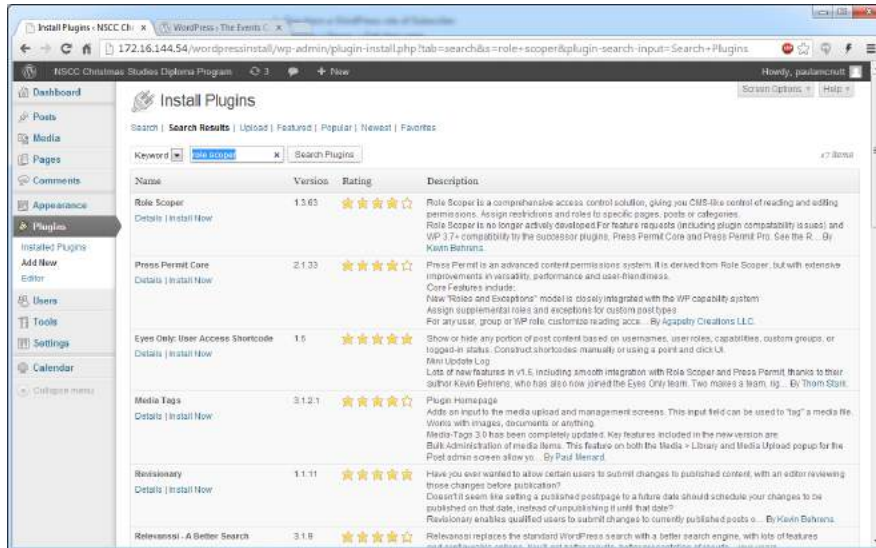
Click "Activate Plugin"
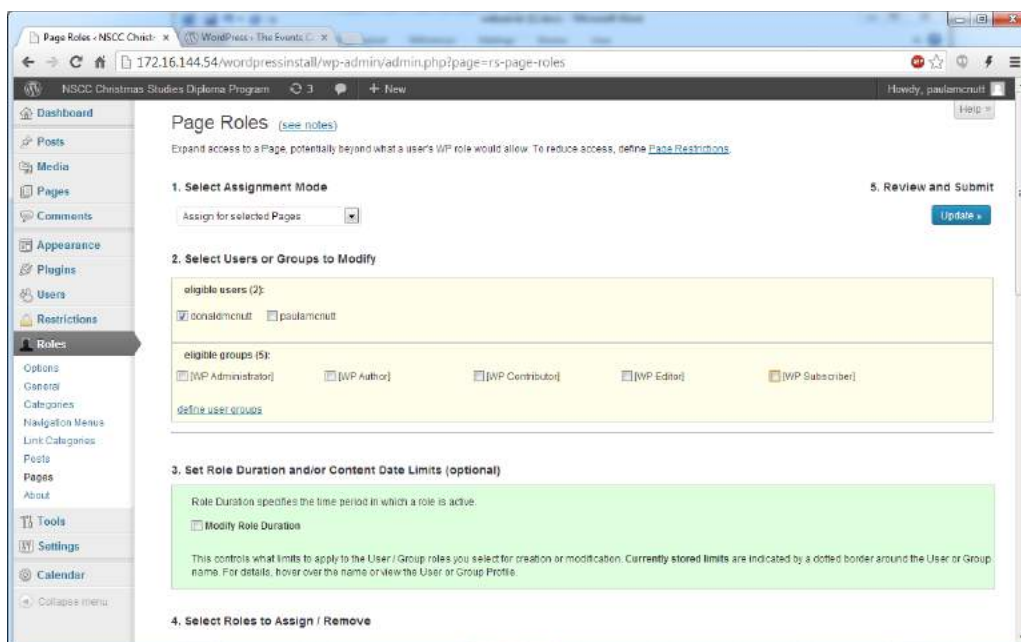
To add a new user just click "Users" then "Add New" and then fill in the fields on the form to reflect the user's information. For this example I set this user as a subscriber.
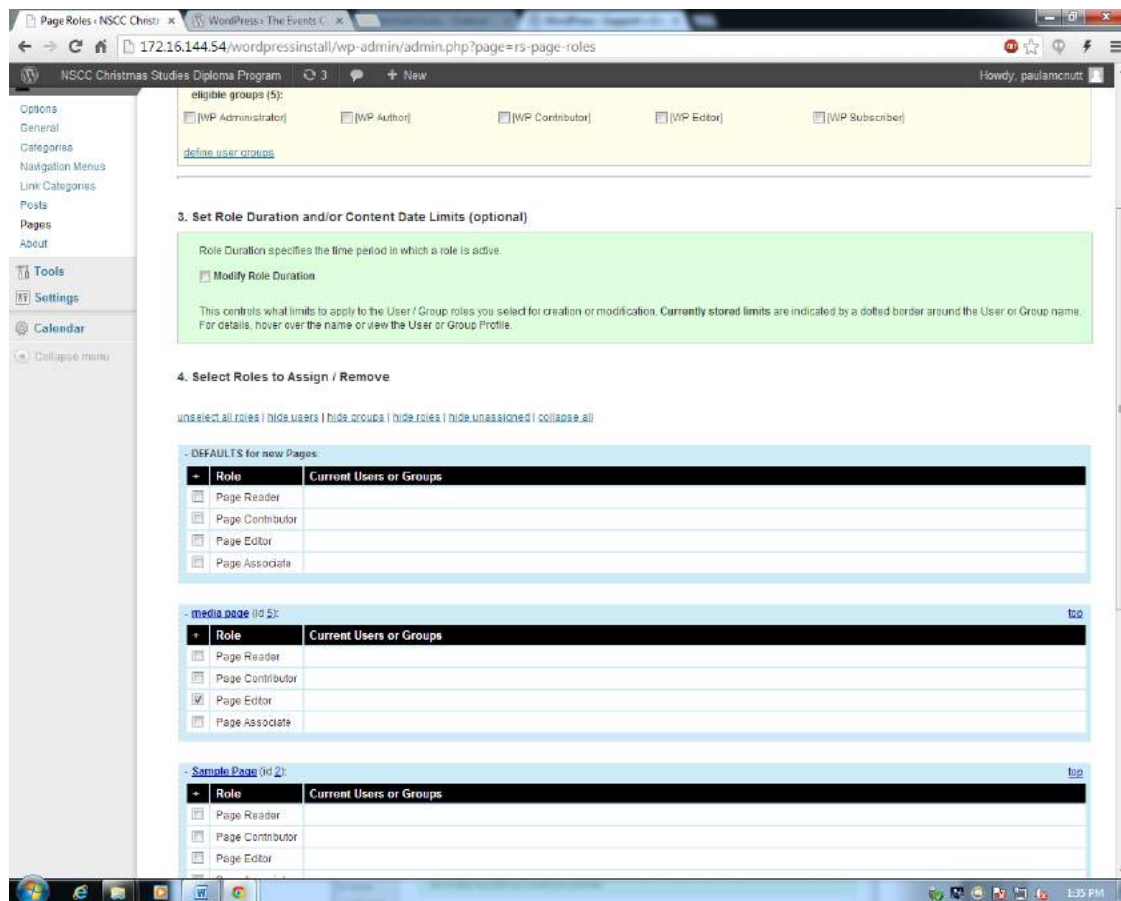

Then you can go to "Roles" on the left hand menu that will allow you to assign what user can edit which pages (as shown in the two screenshots below).
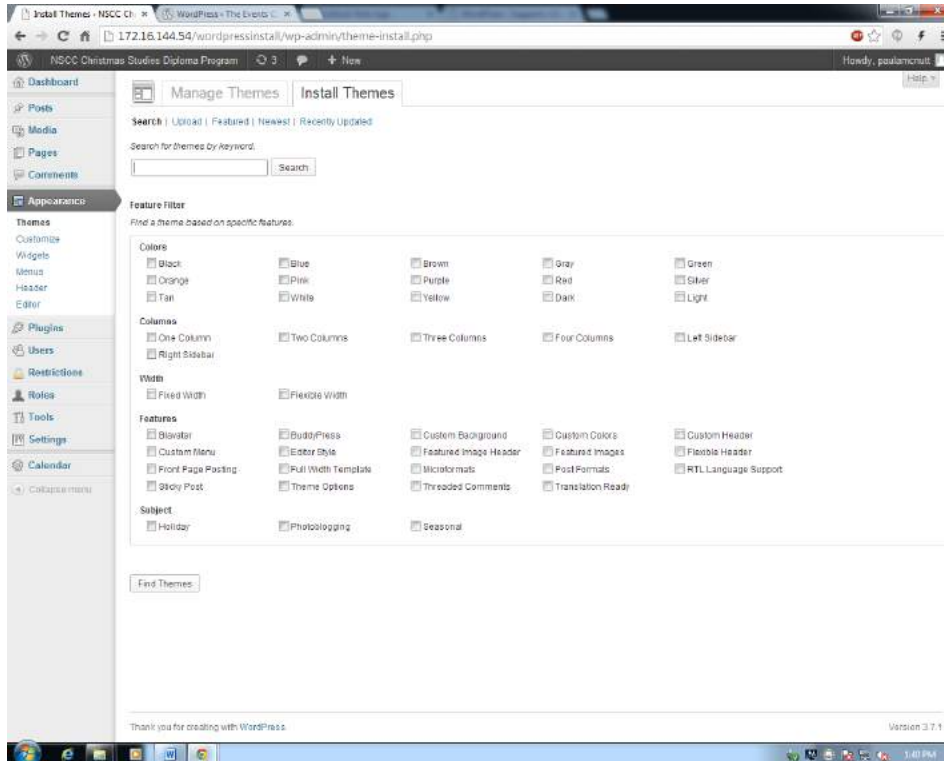
Click the blue update button in the upper right hand corner.

Now this user will only be able to edit the specified page(s).
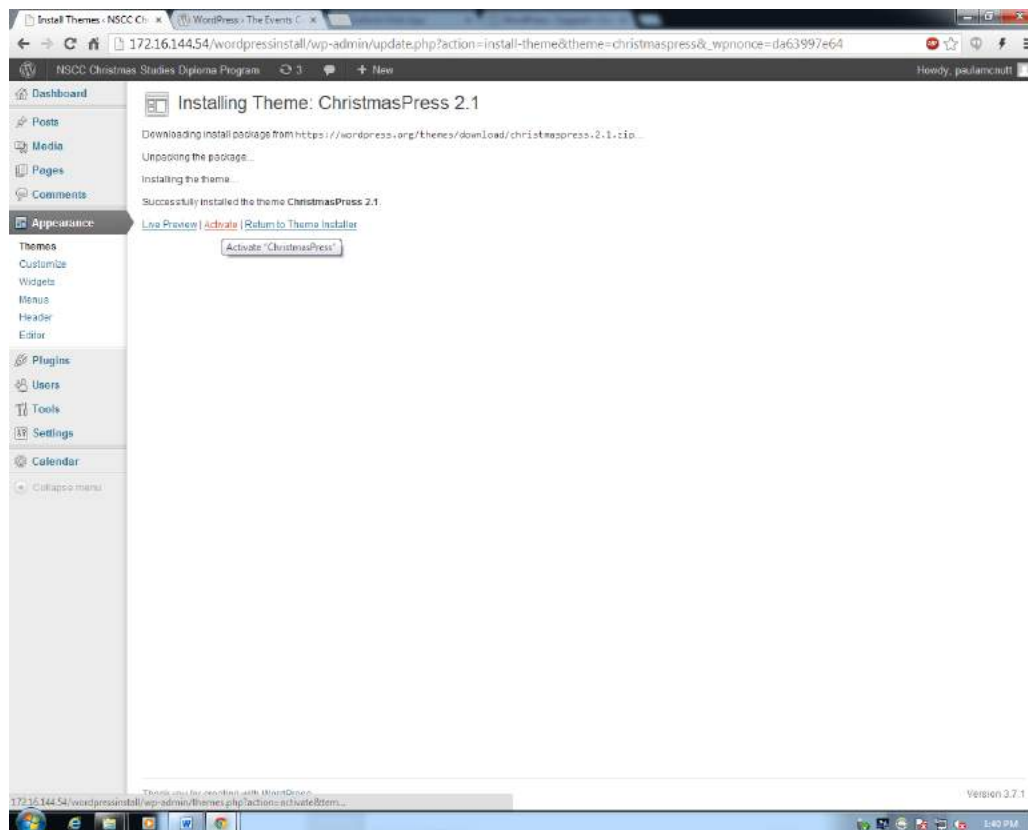
Install a New Wordpress Theme

To install a new theme select "Appearance" from the left hand menu and select "Themes". Select the "Install Themes" tab at the top of the page and search for the theme you want, for this example I searched "Christmas"
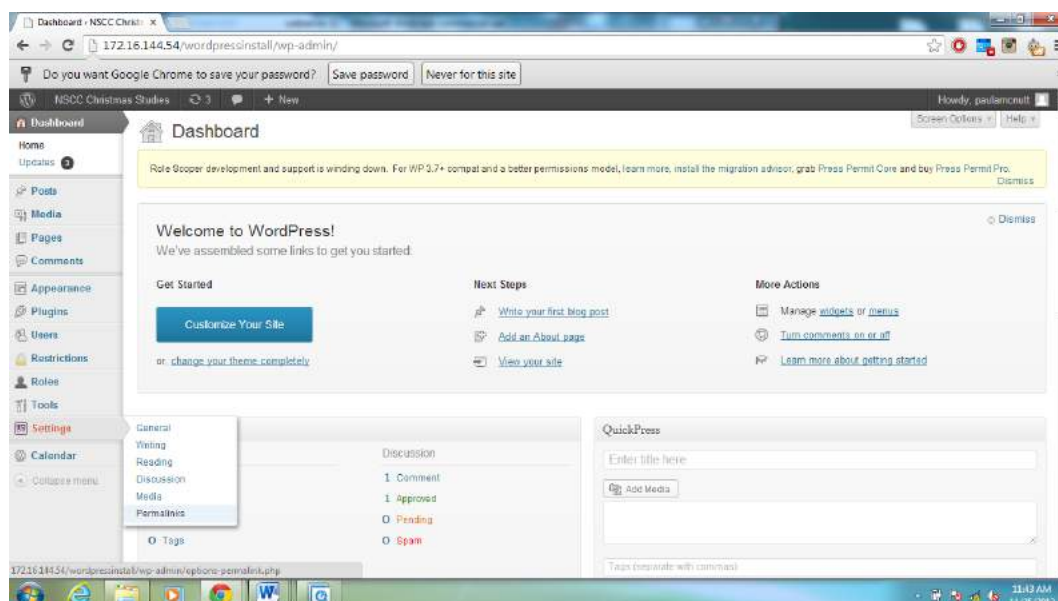

Select the theme you want and click "Install Now"
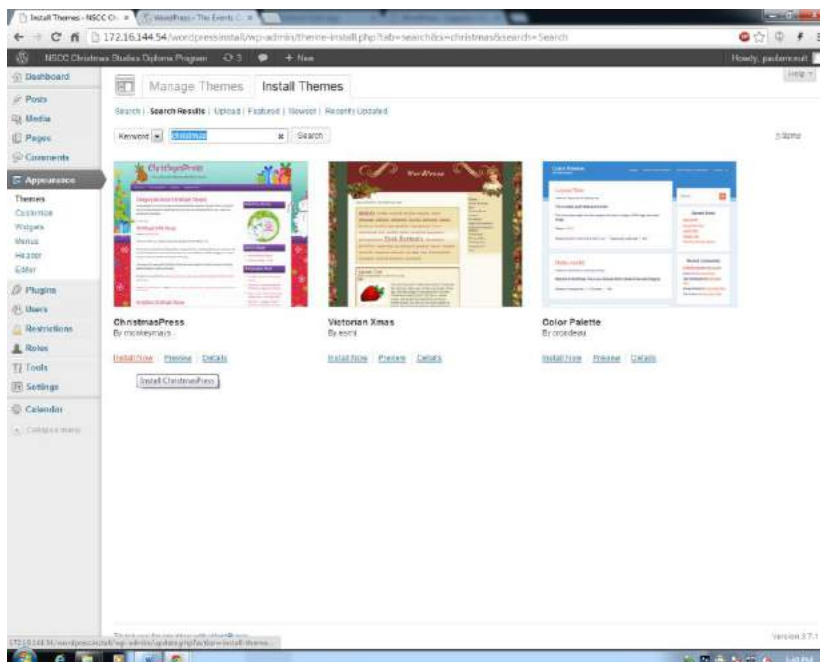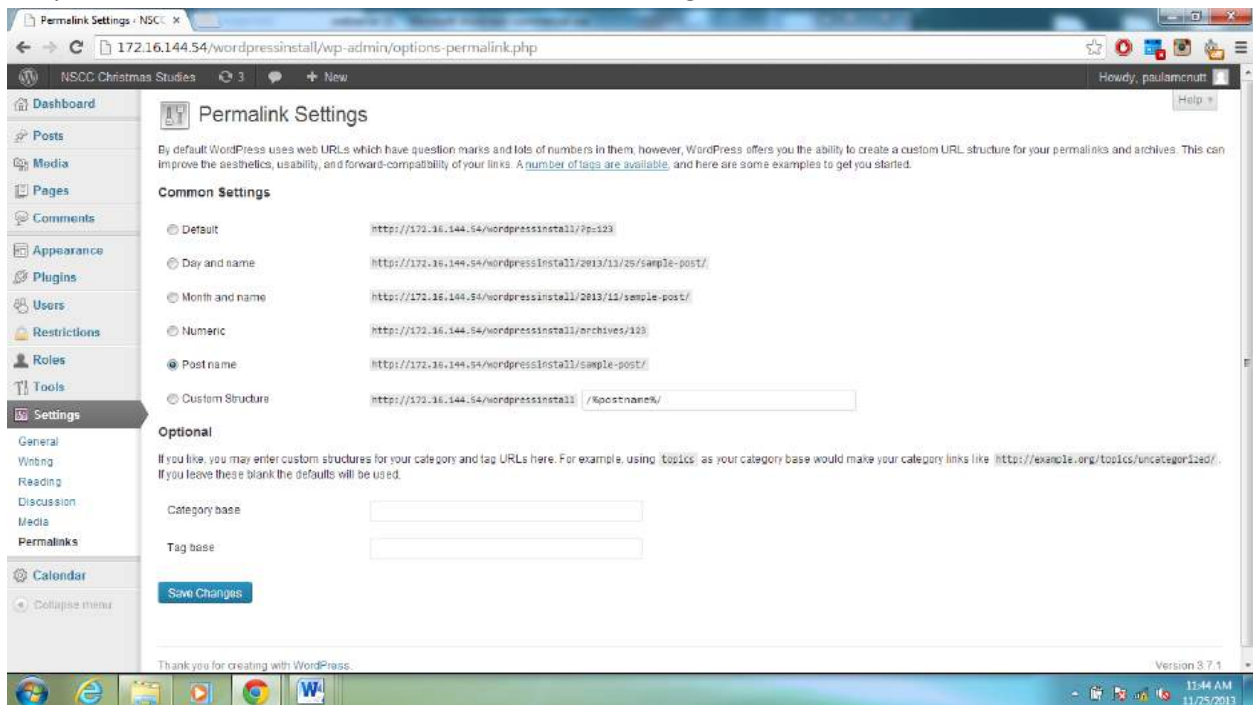
Click "Activate" to activate the theme

Clean URLs in Wordpress

To clean up the URLs click "Settings" from the left hand menu and select "Permalinks"
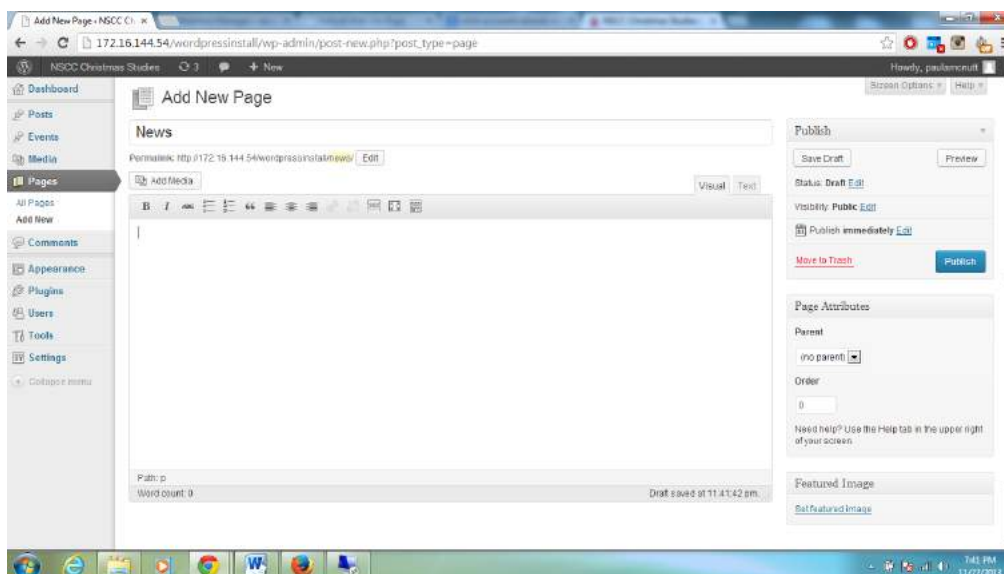
Set your Permalinks to "Post name" and click "Save Changes". This will clean the URLs.

Creating a News Page Where Posts Will Be Displayed

If you want to create a news page you can add a page called "News" (see here to get instruction as to how to make a wordpress page).

Assuming you want to post news as posts, you can do the following:

Under Settings click on "Reading", then set your posts to display on a static page and select "News" from the posts page dropdown menu. Also select a page as a Front Page, for this example I chose "Home Page".
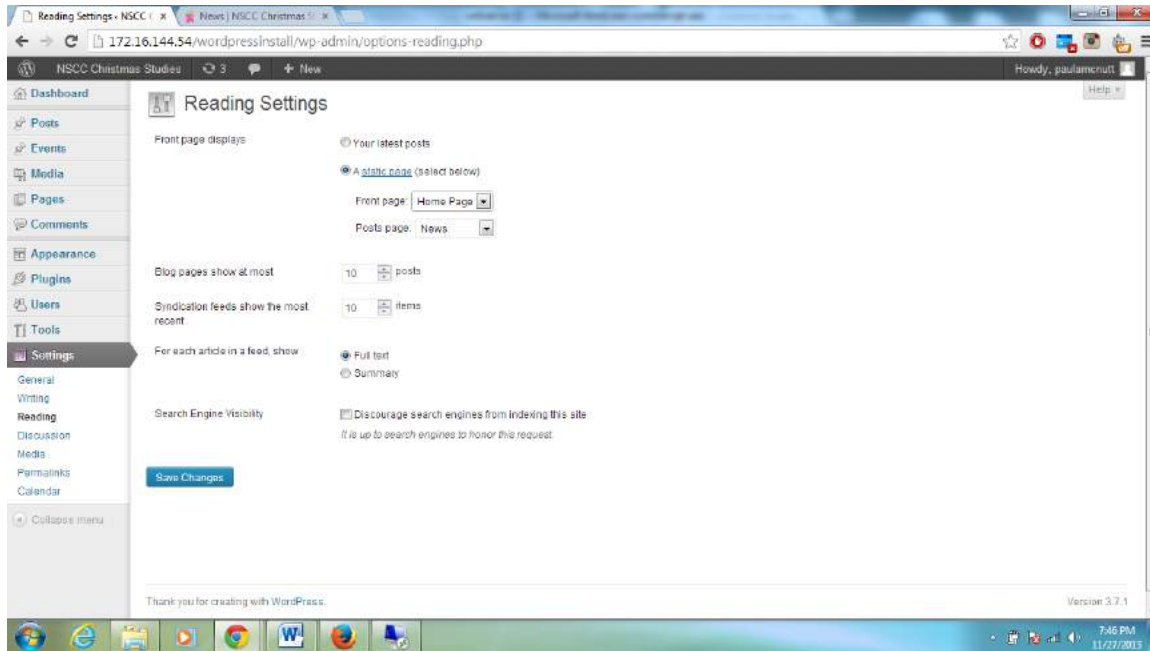
Then click Save Changes. Now to add news you can just add a post the same way you would a page, and it will display on the news page.