Creating Subdomain WordPress CMS Websites

On a Web Host, Like SiteGround

Learning Objectives

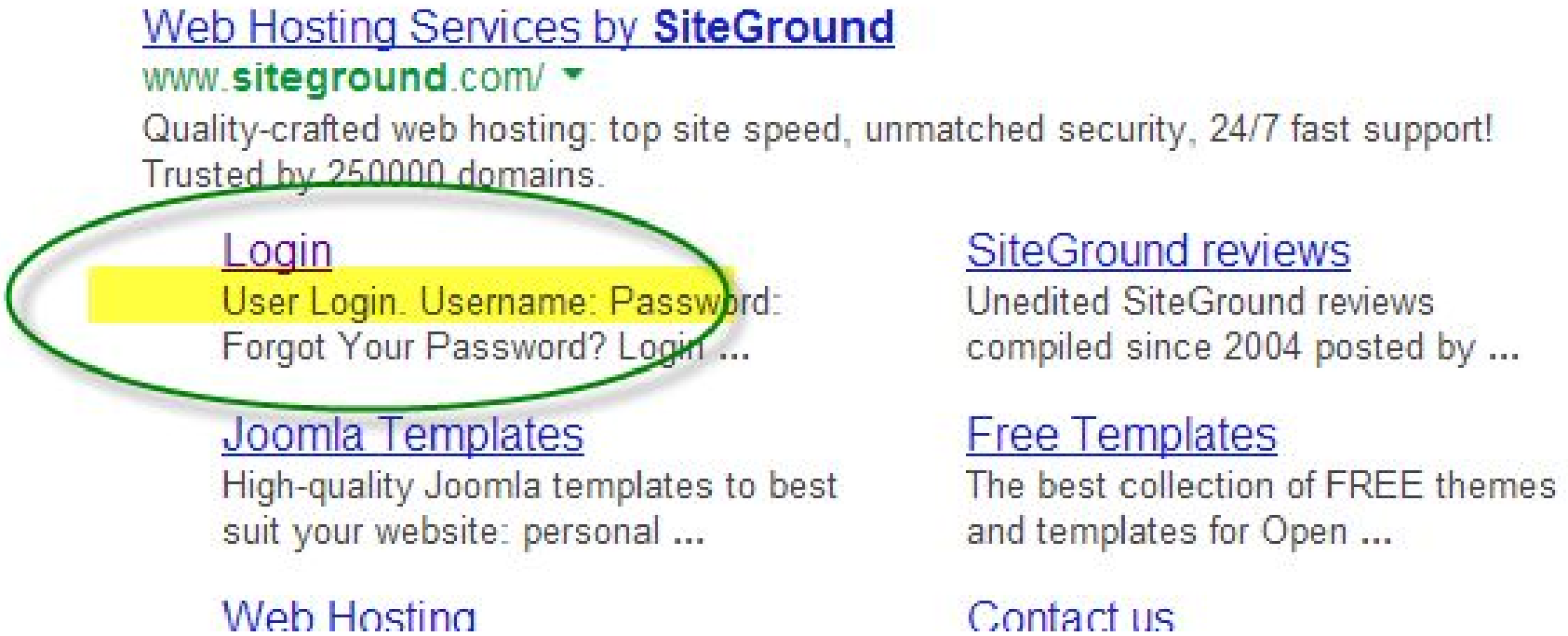
- Learn how to create subdomain WordPress sites on a web host (like SiteGround) using CPanel
- Understand the difference between In-Directory and sub domain websites

Creating a Subdomain WordPress CMS site is a multi-step process

- First - create the subdomain
- Second – Create an admin email account for the subdomain
- Third – create a WordPress site as a subdomain site, not an in-directory site

STEP 1 – Access Your Web Host

Open a web browser and navigate to the SiteGround web host login page

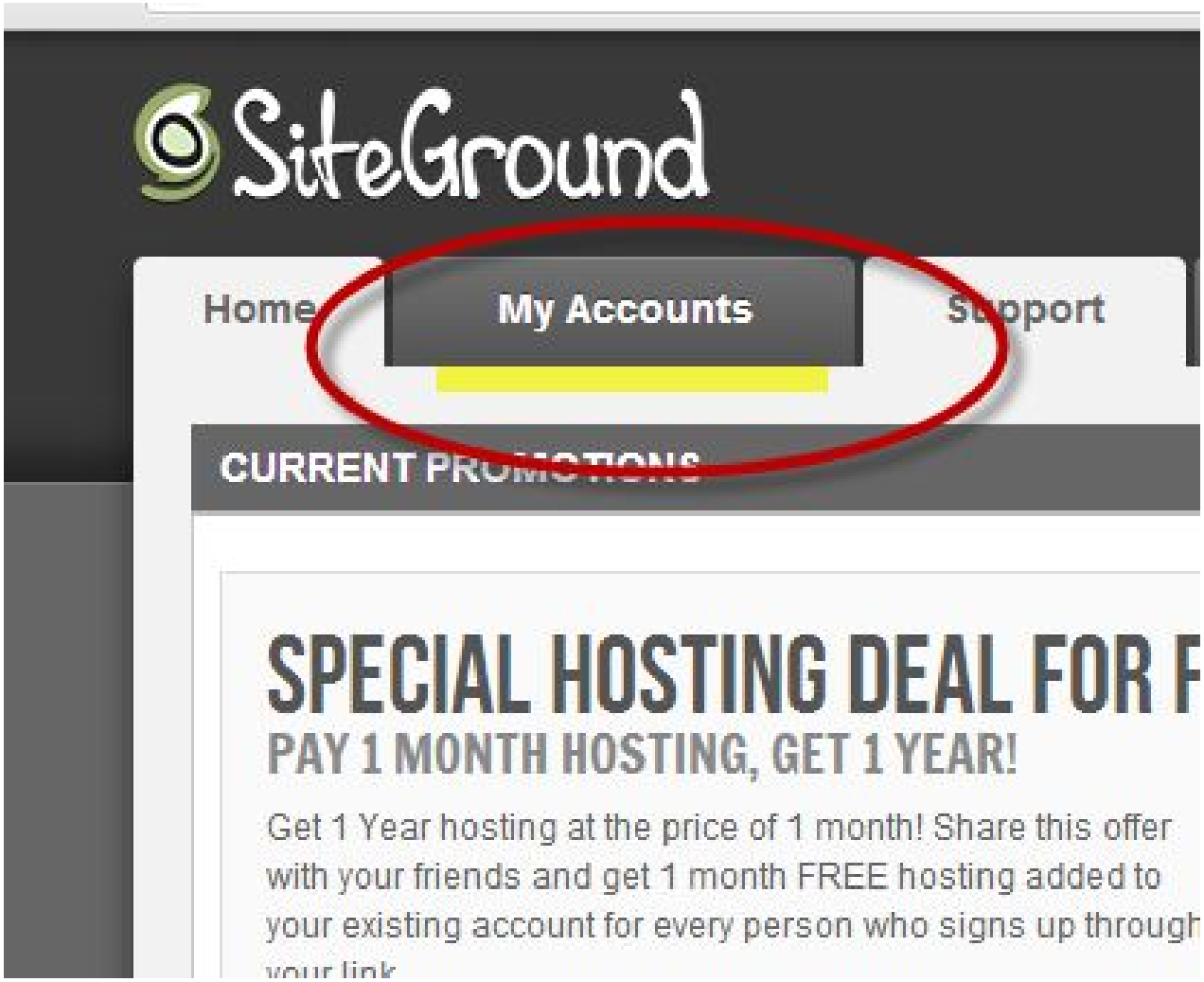


STEP 2 – Login to Your Web Host

Login to your web host account

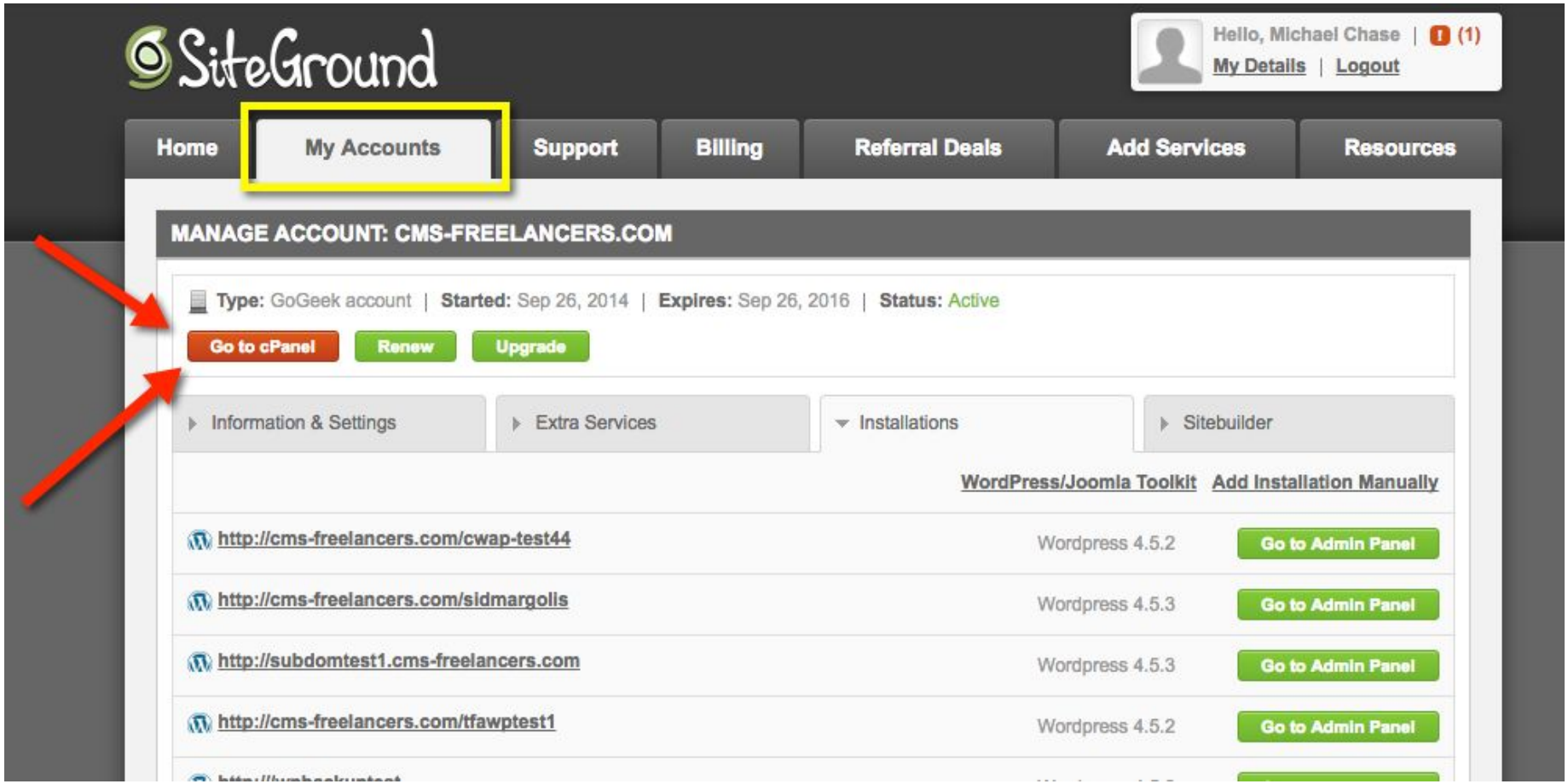
STEP 3 – My Accounts

Select the “My Accounts” tab



STEP 4 - cPanel

Select the “Go to cPanel” button



Sub domain vs. In-Directory CMS Sites

- We will be creating only in-directory CMS sites in IT320 for activities and assignments
- If you want to practice with sub-domain CMS you may need a non-free SiteGround account.
  - Last quarter I noticed that some of the student free accounts did not support sub domain site creation
- Please check your web host to see if your account supports both types
- IT 320 Assignments will only be in-directory sites

Sub Domains On SiteGround

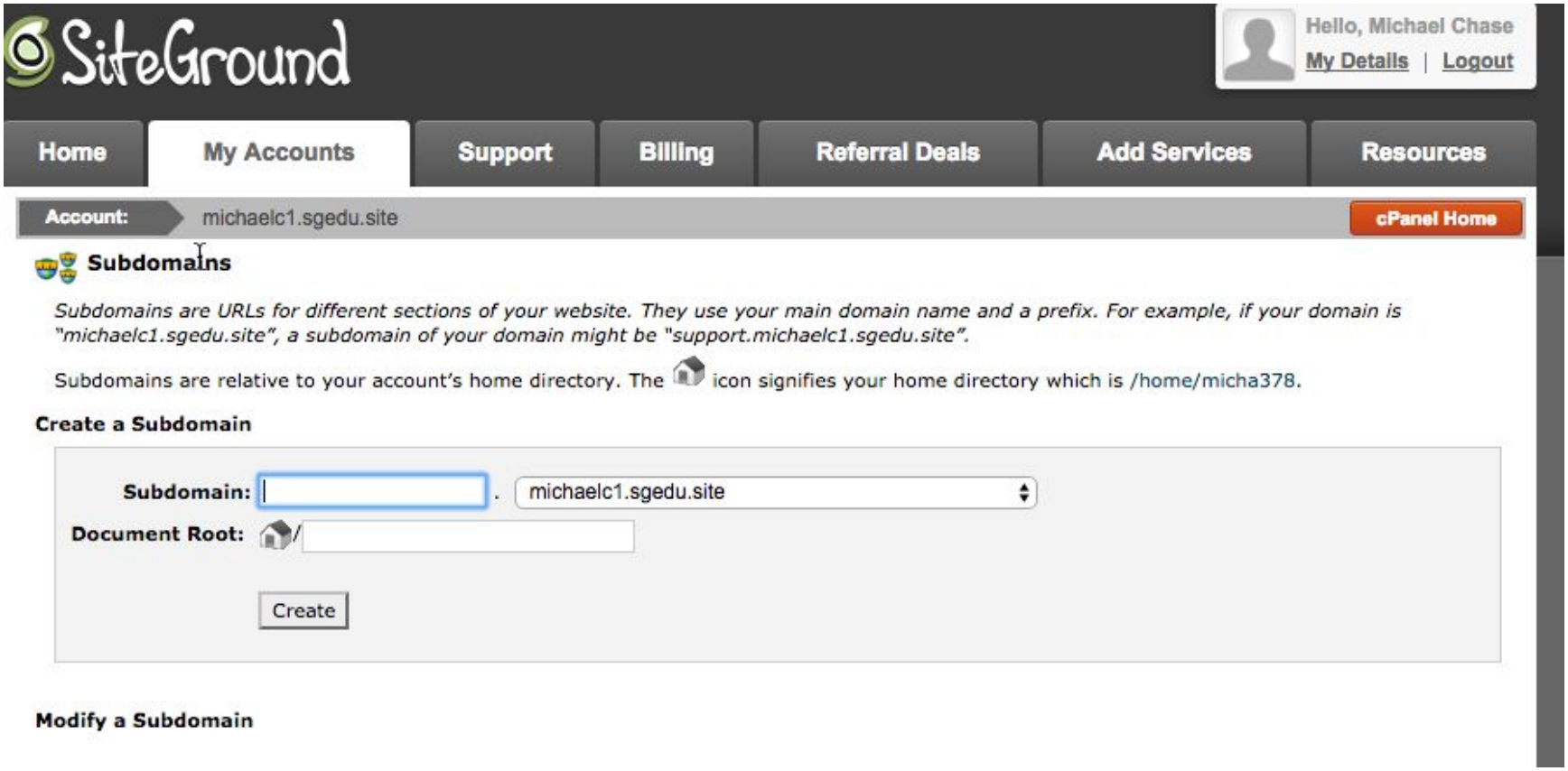
- The following slides are for those who wish to experiment with CMS sites as sub domain sites.

Creating Sub domain WordPress Sites

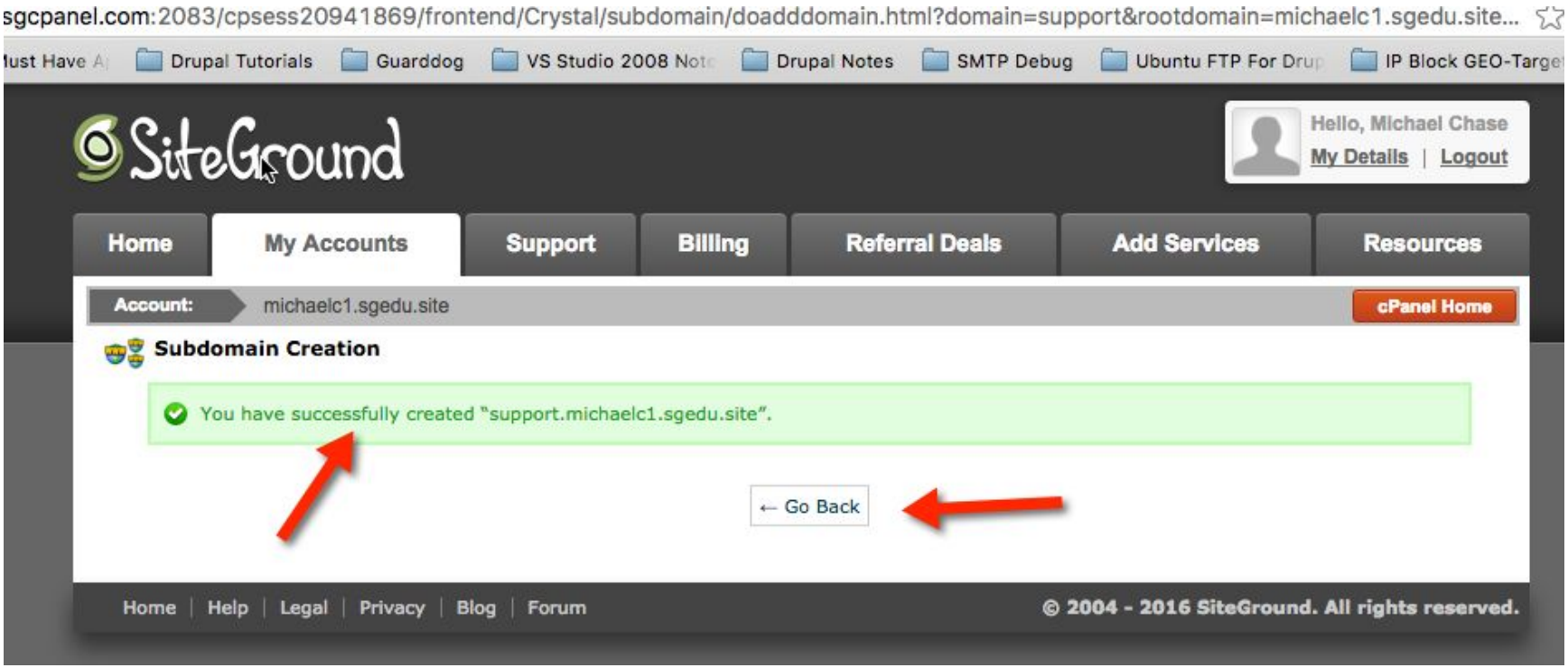
- *Sub domains are URLs for different sections of your website. They use your main domain name and a prefix.*
- *For example, if your domain is michaelc1.sgedu.site a sub-domain named support of your domain would be michaelc1.sgedu.site*
- Sub domains are relative to your account's home directory.
- The icon signifies your home directory which is /home/*michaelc1.sgedu.site* .

Create the Subdomain
cPanel Select Subdomains

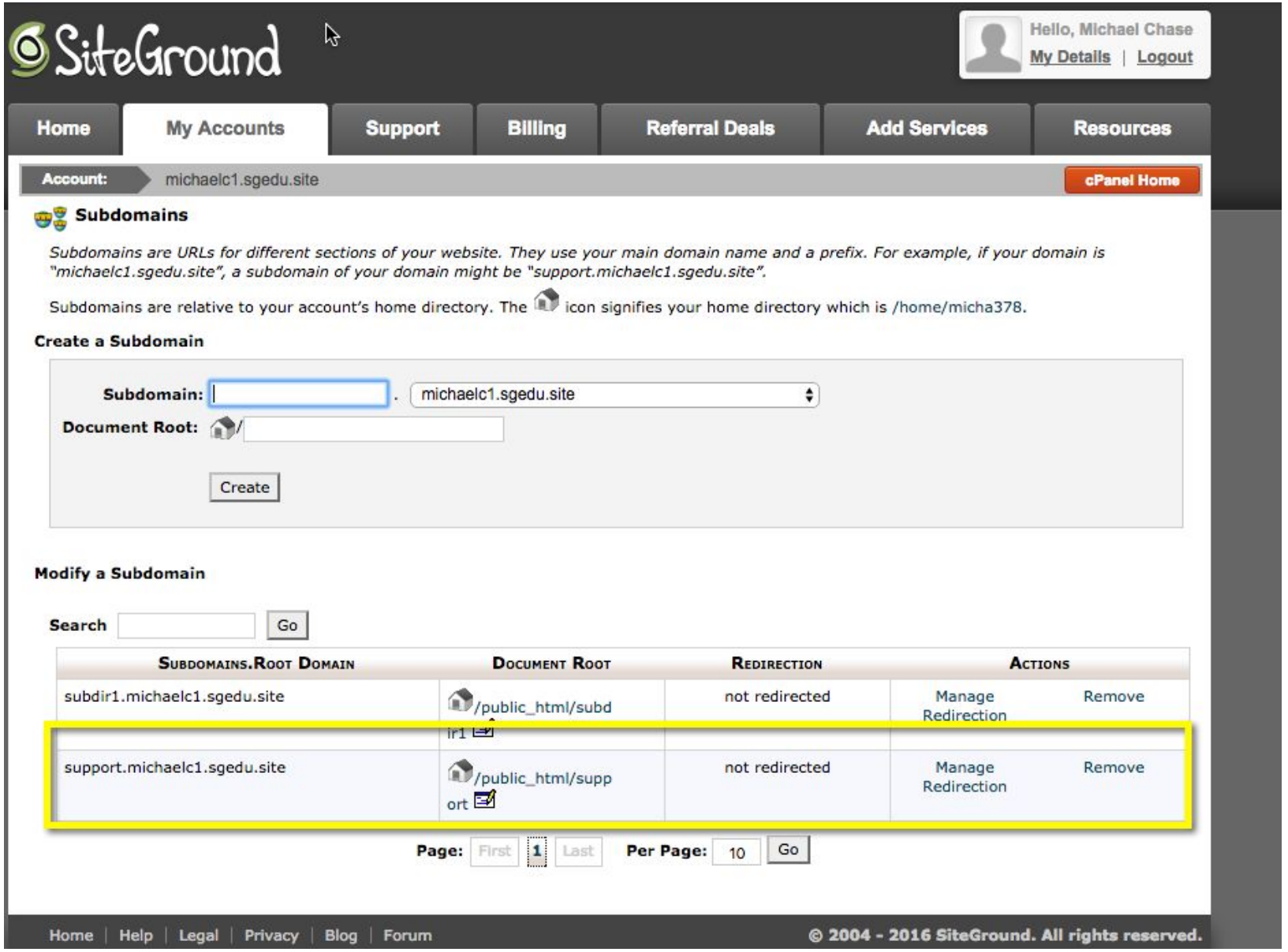
Enter the Subdomain name “support” and press Create



The subdomain has been created Select the Go Back button

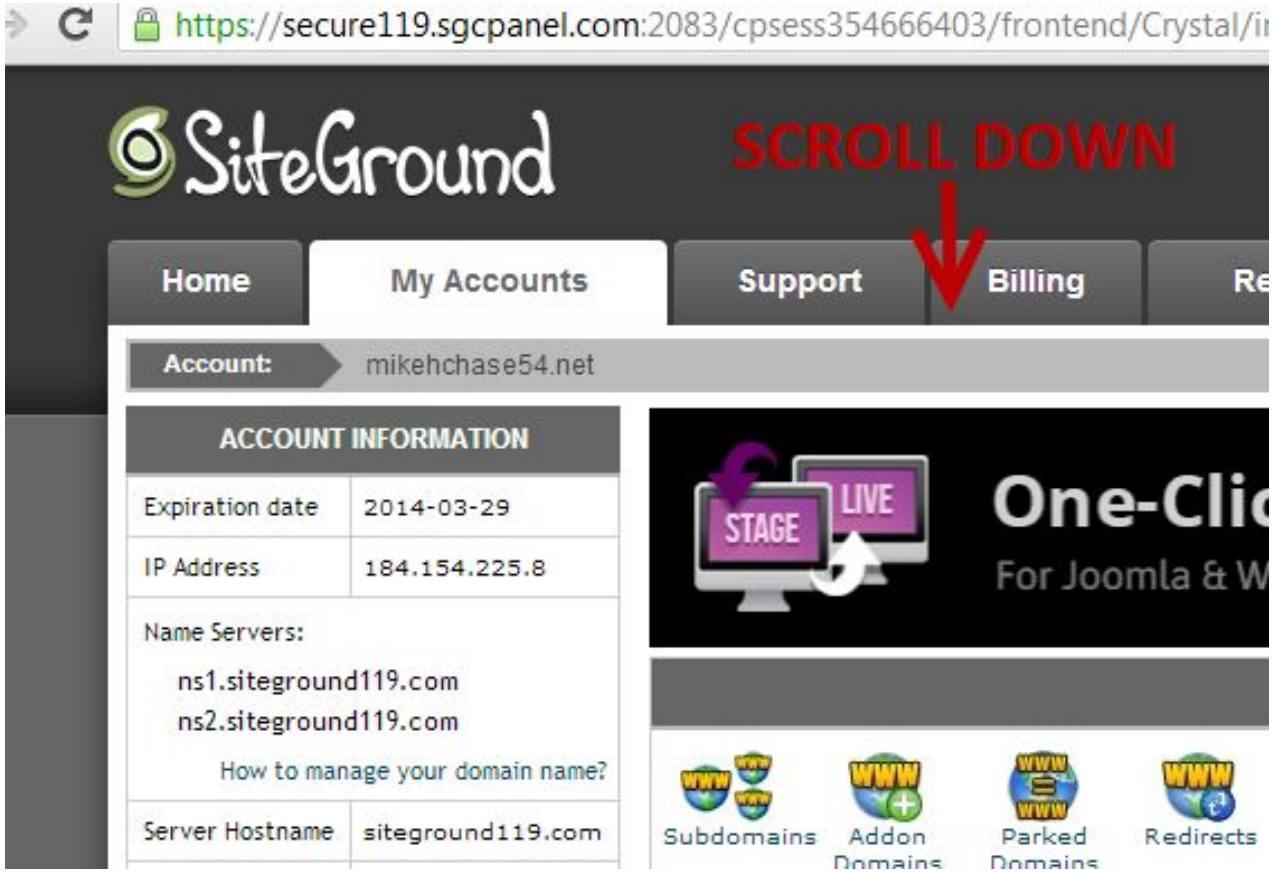


The list of subdomains on my Free Student SiteGround Account



Create the WordPress Site

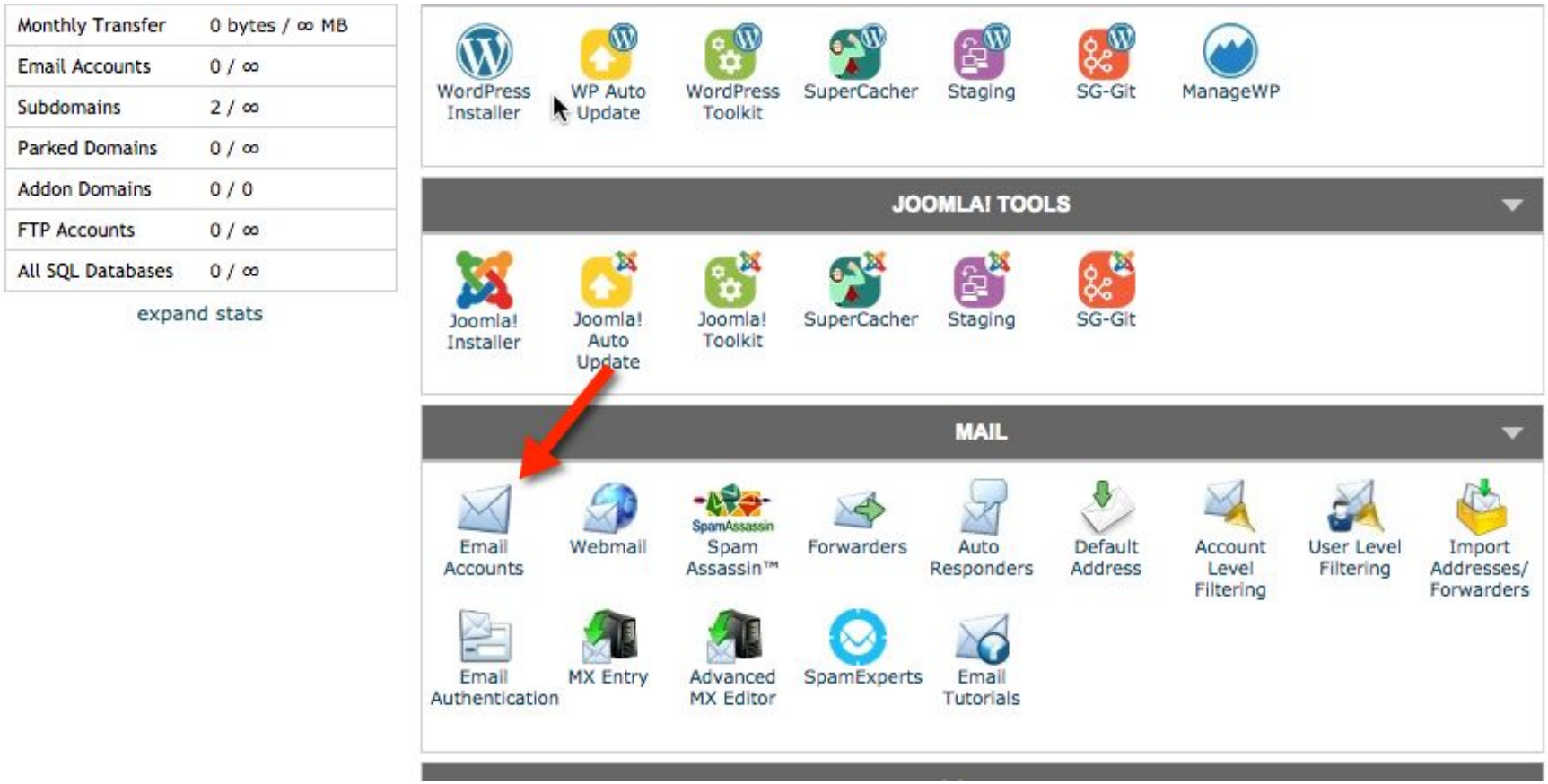
Go to the cPanel and scroll down the cPanel until you see the SITEBUILDING SOFTWARE section



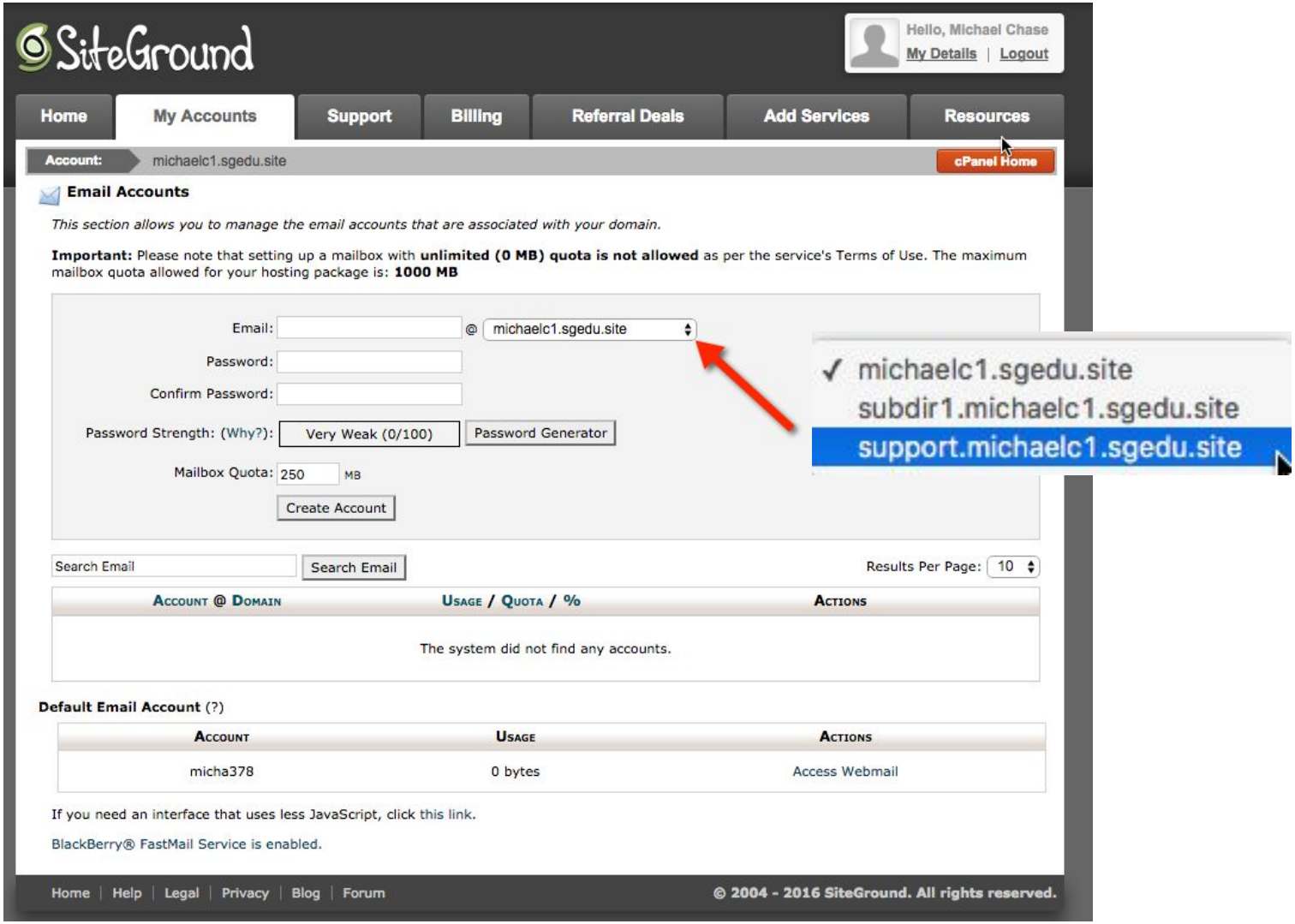
Create a Subdomain Admin Email ACCOUNT

- When you create the Subdomain WordPress site, the build script is expecting an existing Administrator email account for the subdirectory
- Let's Create one for the "support" subdomain

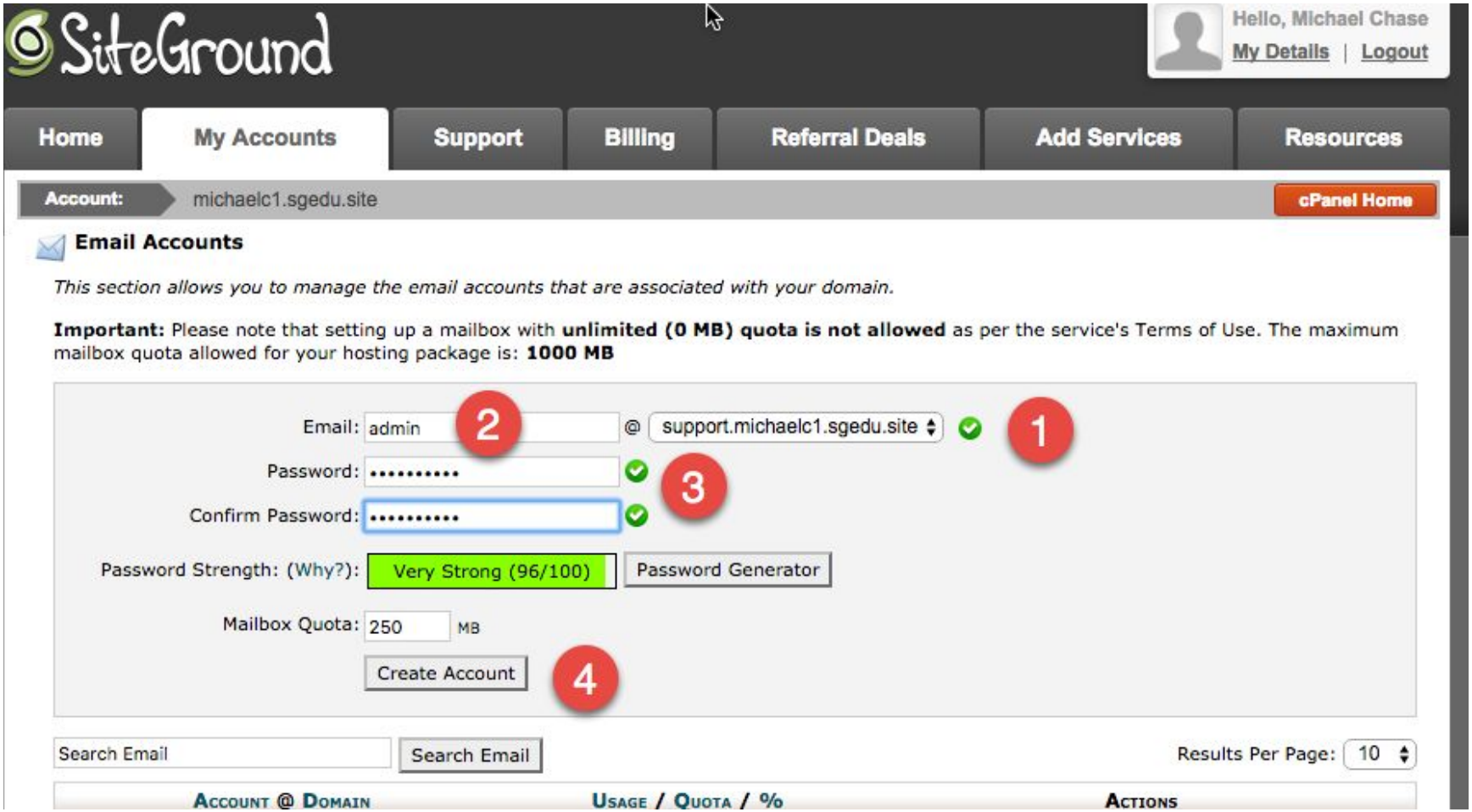
cPanel – Scroll down and select Email Accounts icon



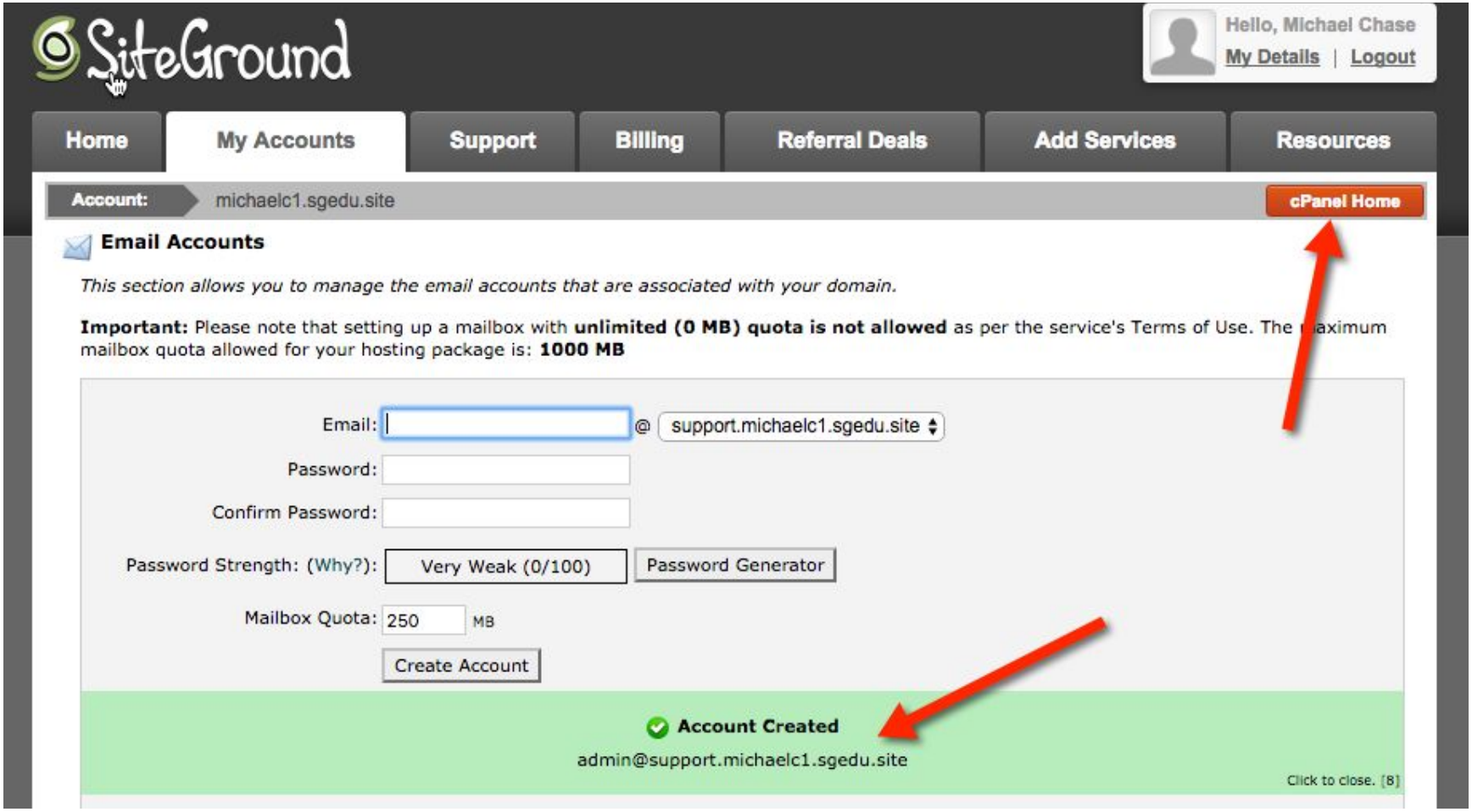
Open the domain dropdown list and select the support subdomain



(1) Select correct subdomain
(2) Enter admin
(3) Strong password & Confirm password
(4) Create the account



Account Created, Go back to cPanel Home

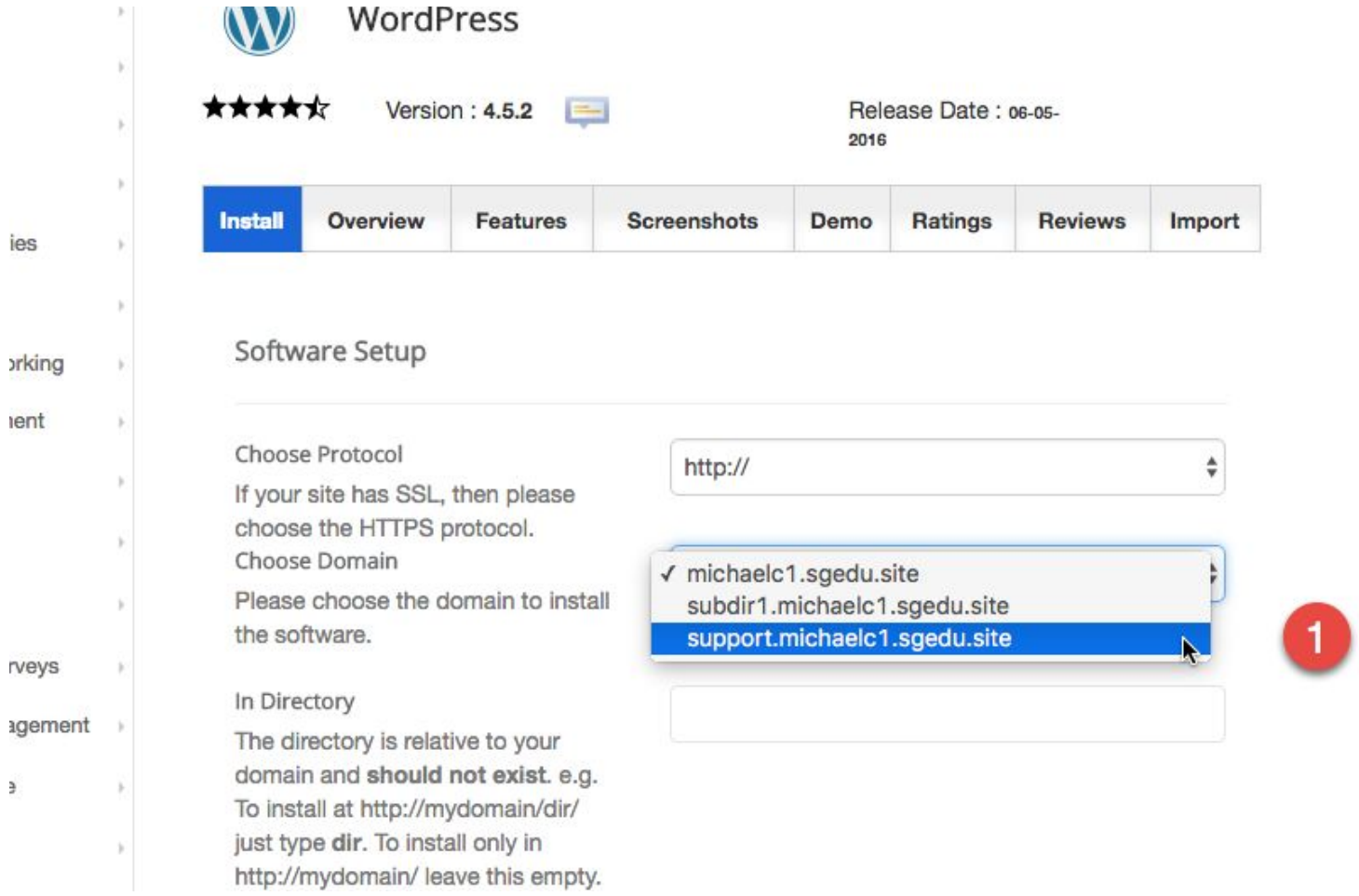


Select the WordPress icon in the AUTOINSTALLERS section

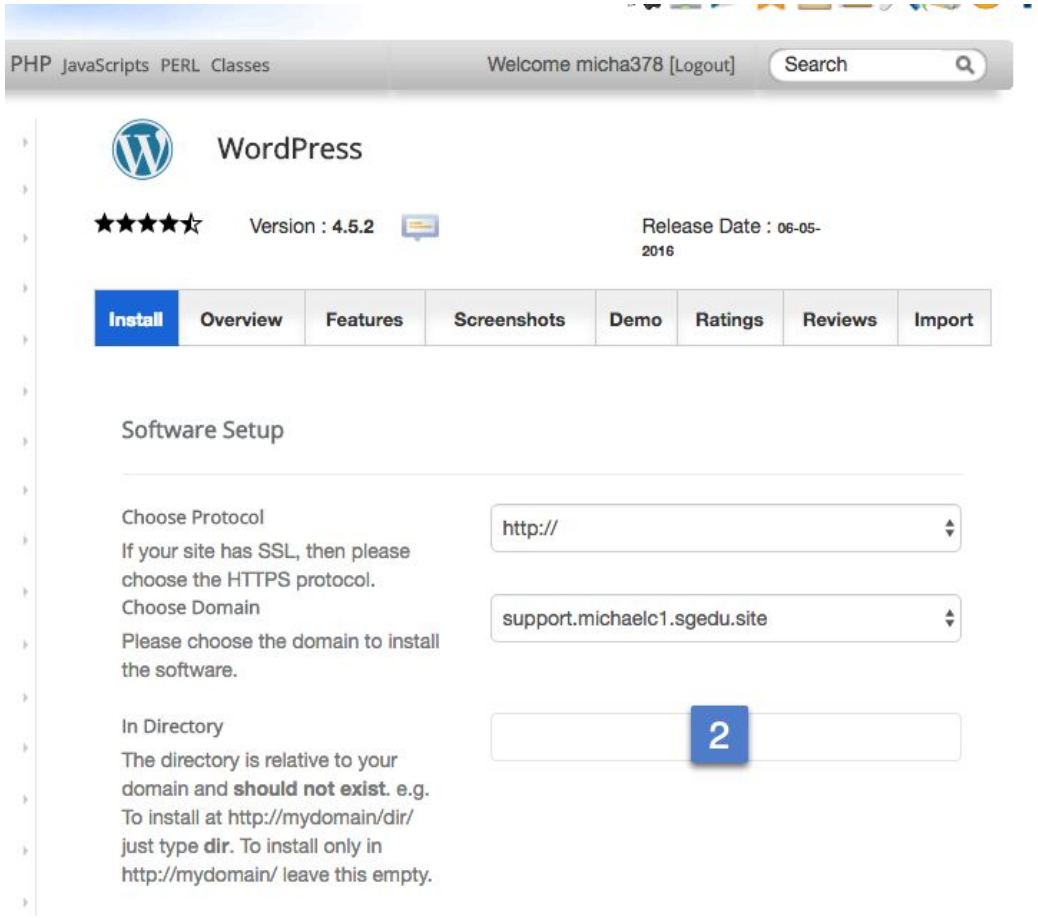
STEP 7

Select the “Install” button

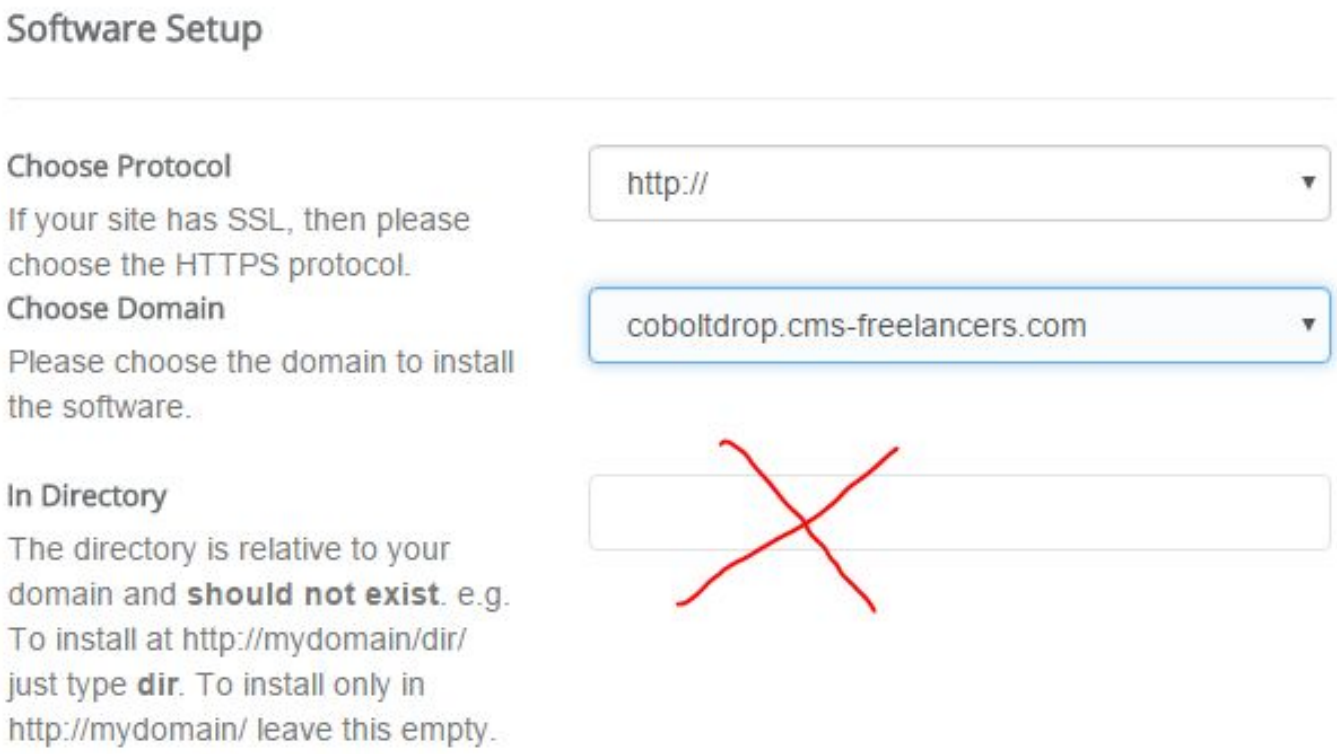
Select the Choose correct domain name dropdown



DO NOT ENTER an In Directory
The build script will still create a folder



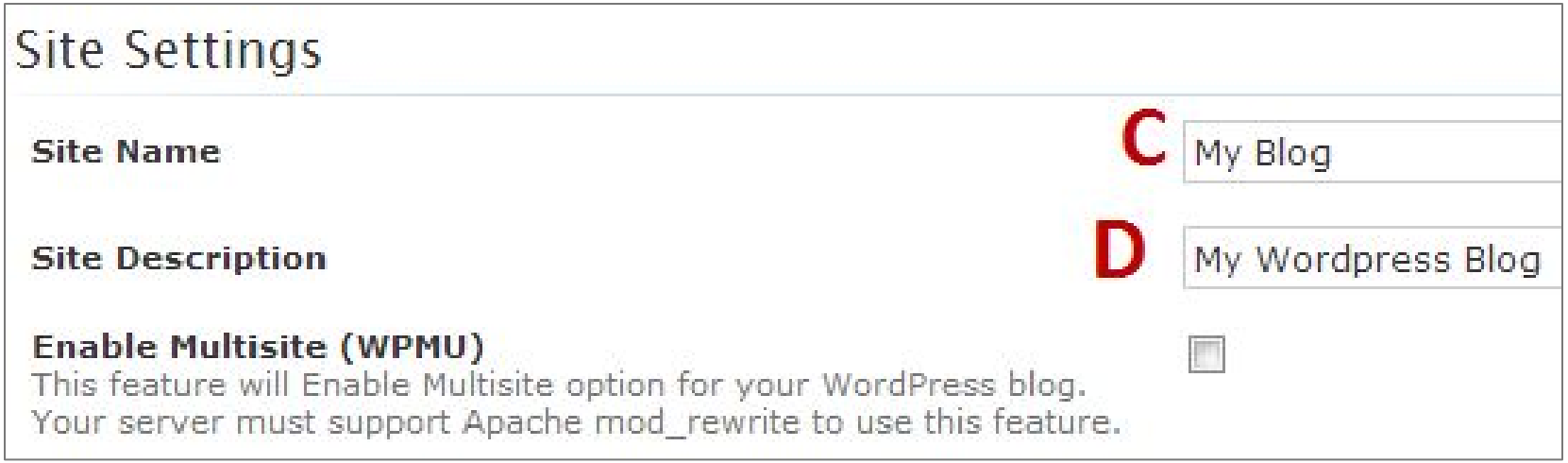
Do Not Enter In Directory Name



DO NOT Enter an In Directory name

- **SiteGround will still create a folder for the site**

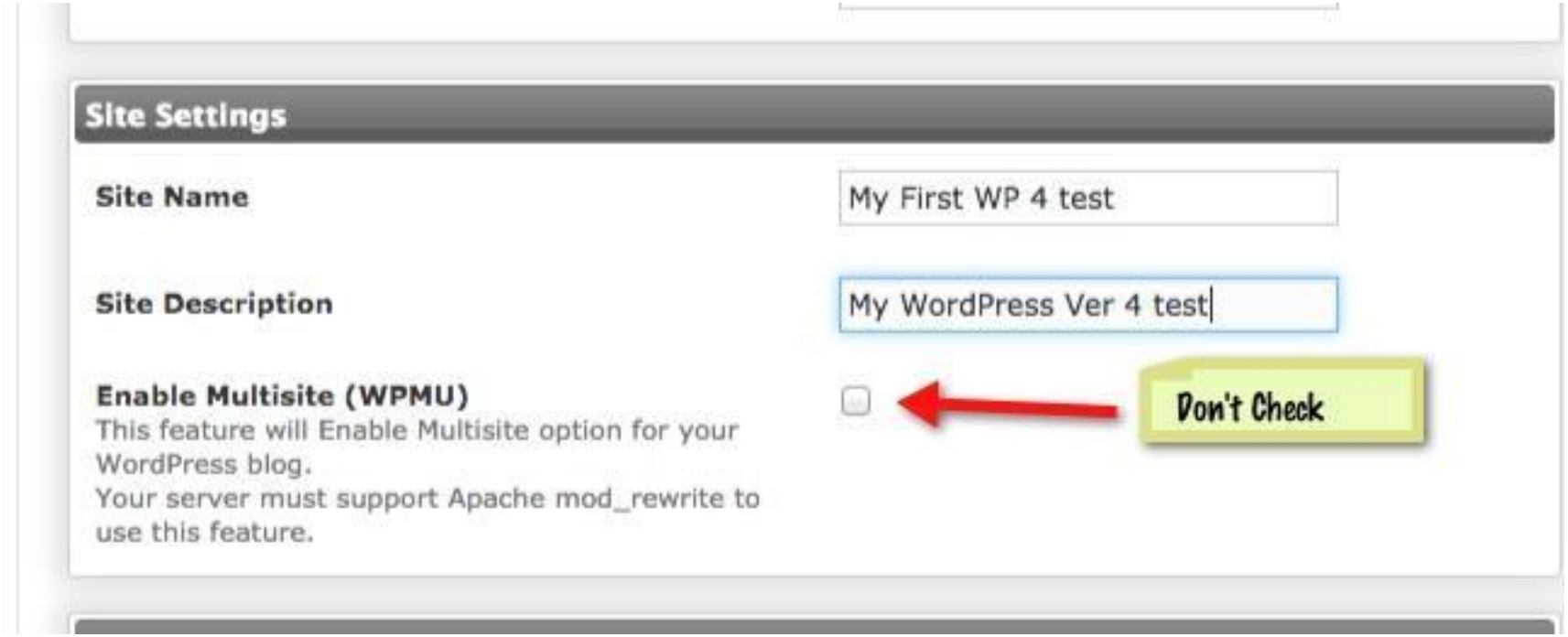
Step 9
Enter the Site Name And Description



(C) Replace “My Blog” with **your WordPress Site Name**

(D) Replace “My WordPress Blog” with your **site description**

Don’t Check Enable Multisite (this option is very new)

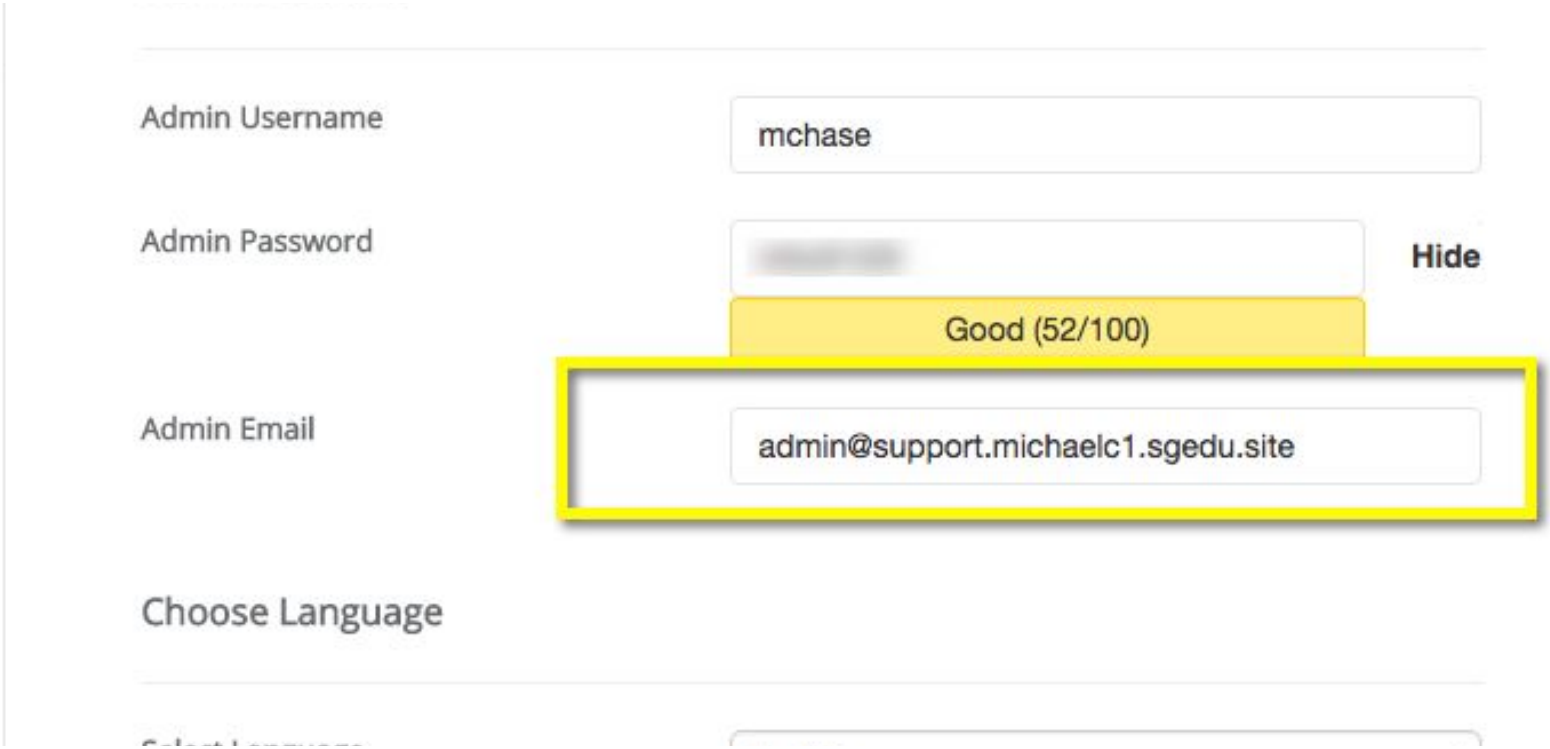


STEP 10 – User Name and Password

The WP Site Create Form – Page 3

SiteGround enforces safe Admin Passwords. You must have a password rating of at least 51/100

NOTICE THE Amin Email – It's the admin we added

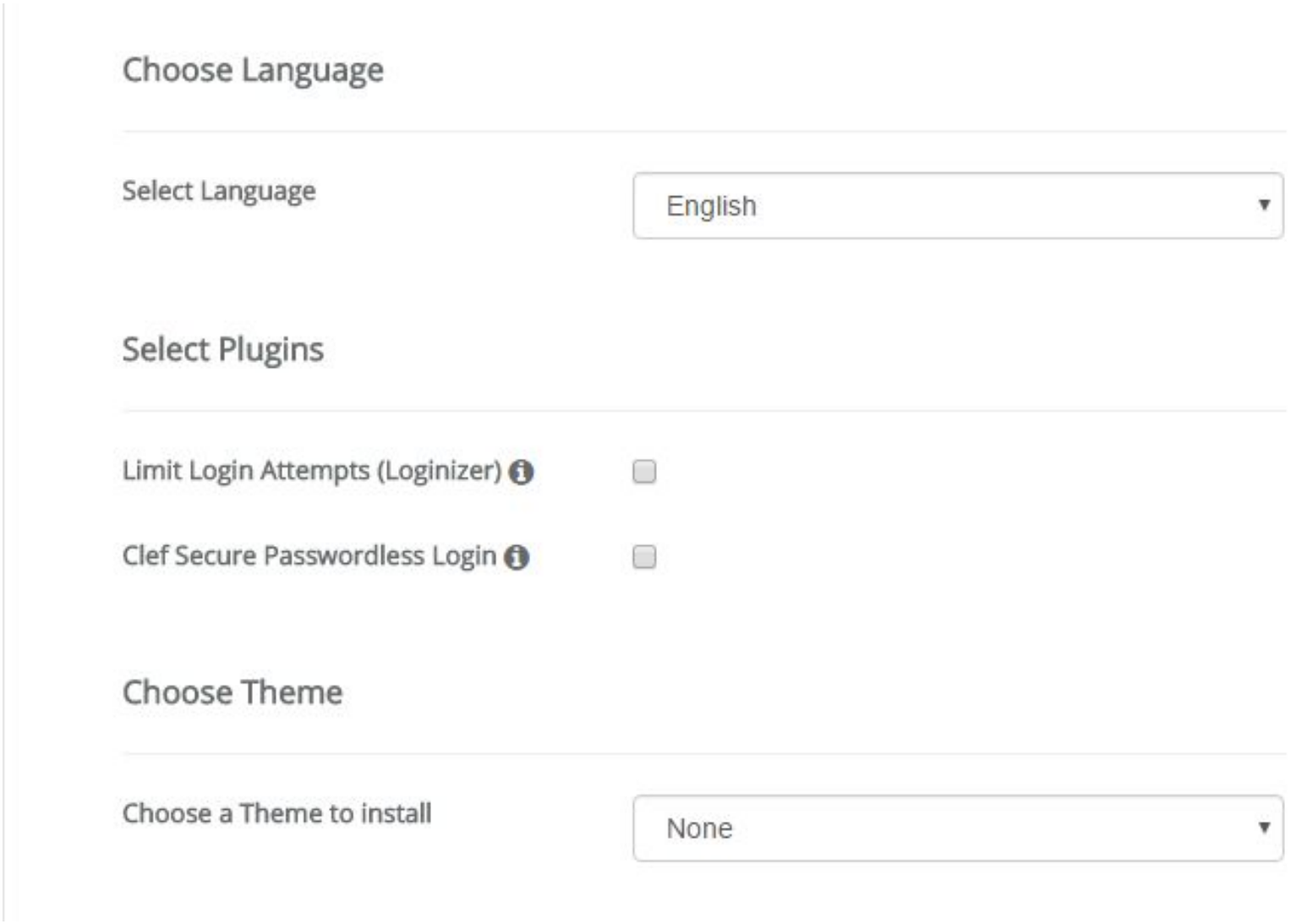


Step 10
User Name And Password

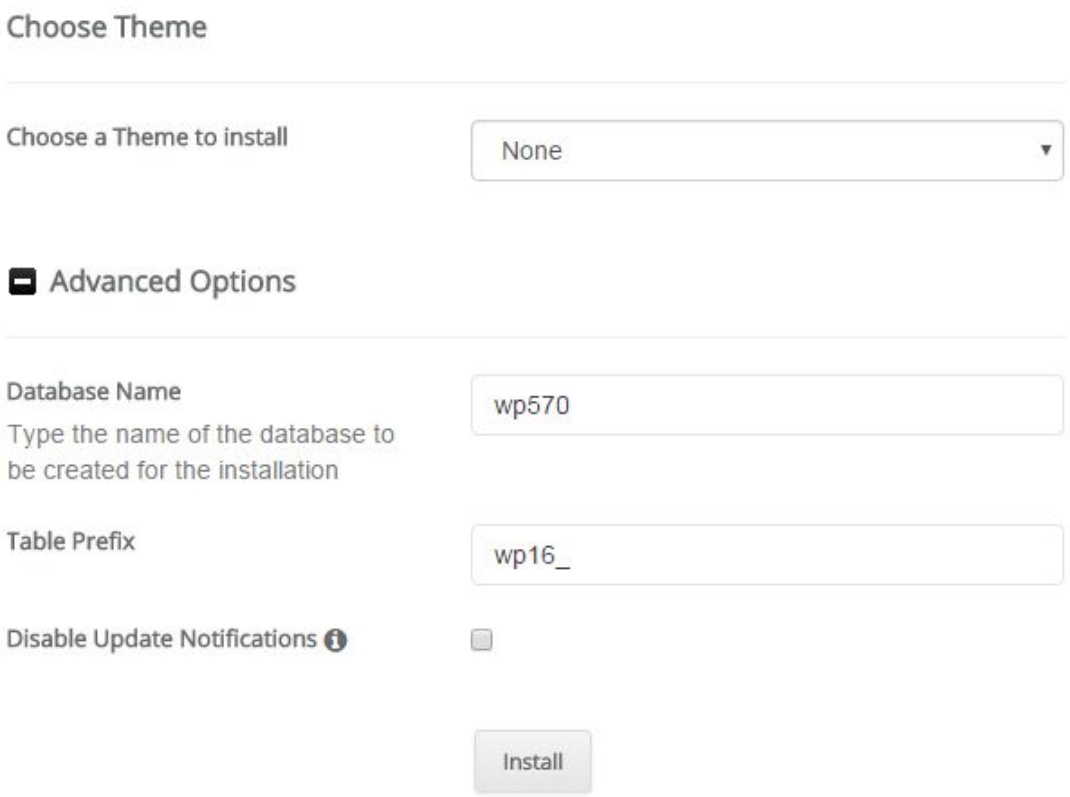
- This one click setup script is using an auto-generated user name and password
  - That's a good thing
- You can change the user name, **please never change it to** "**admin**" or "**Admin**" or "**administrator**" or "Administrator" ← These names are unsafe!
- Record the user name and password somewhere safe
  - I either keep a password protected document on my desktop of CMS site user names and passwords
  - Or I use the same user name and password for my sites.
    - If I'm doing Drupal sites, this pays off when I have to update a lot of them quickly.

Keep default language

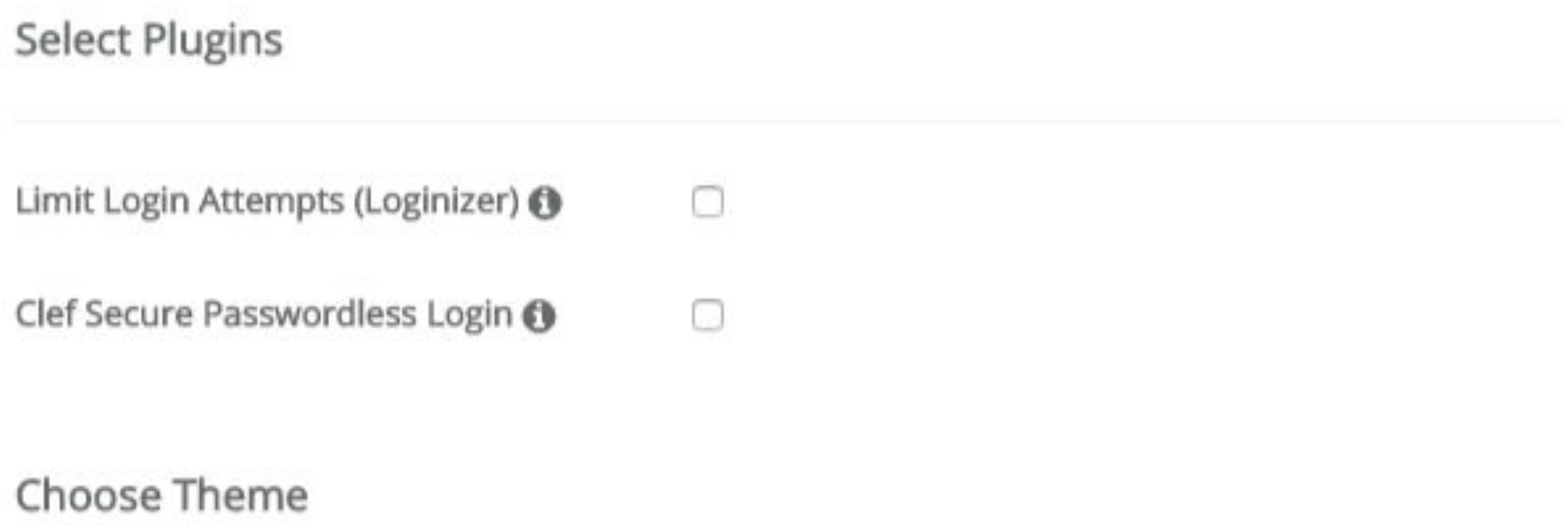
Do not set theme on create site



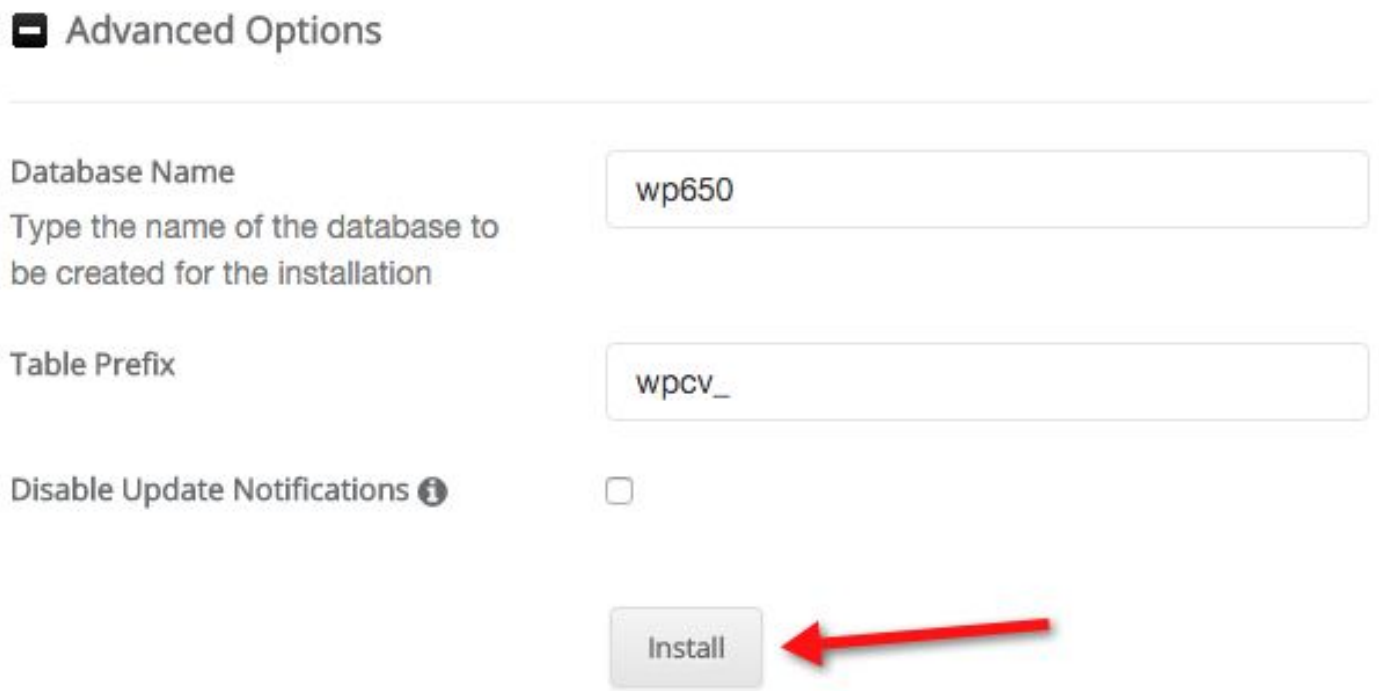
Open Advanced Options
Keep default database name and table prefix
Write them down



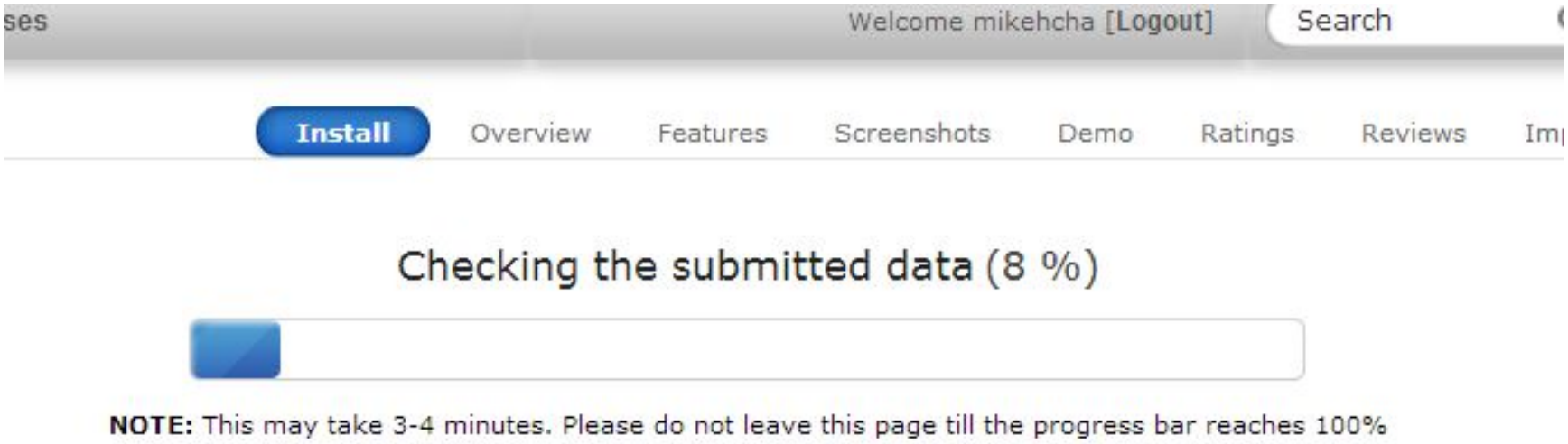
Selected Plugins Is Up To You:
I un-check Limit logins so in case I screw up the login, I do not lock myself out of the site



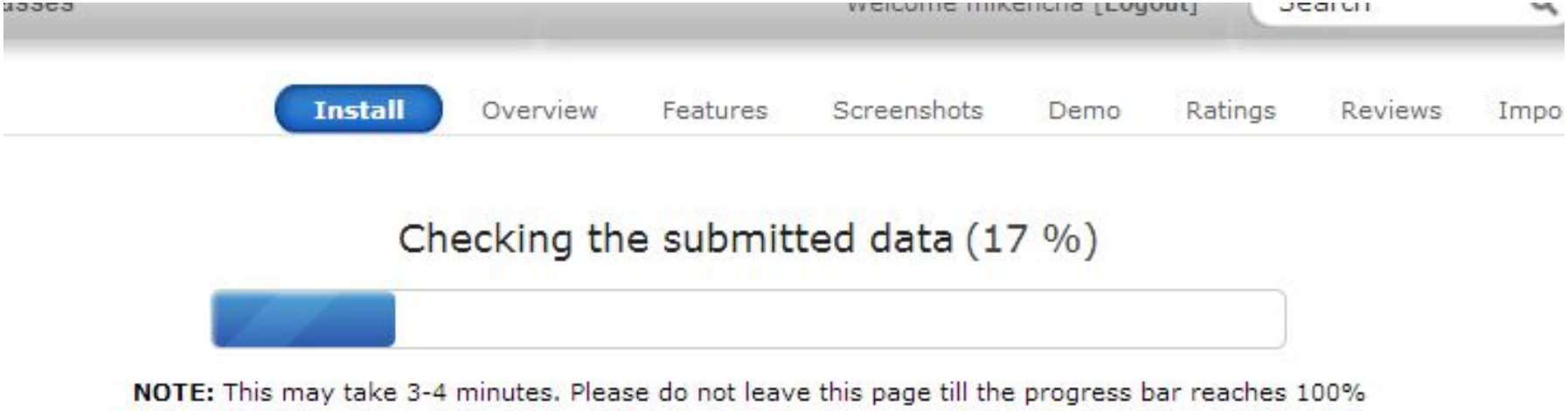
Record Database Name and Table Prefix, and Press Install



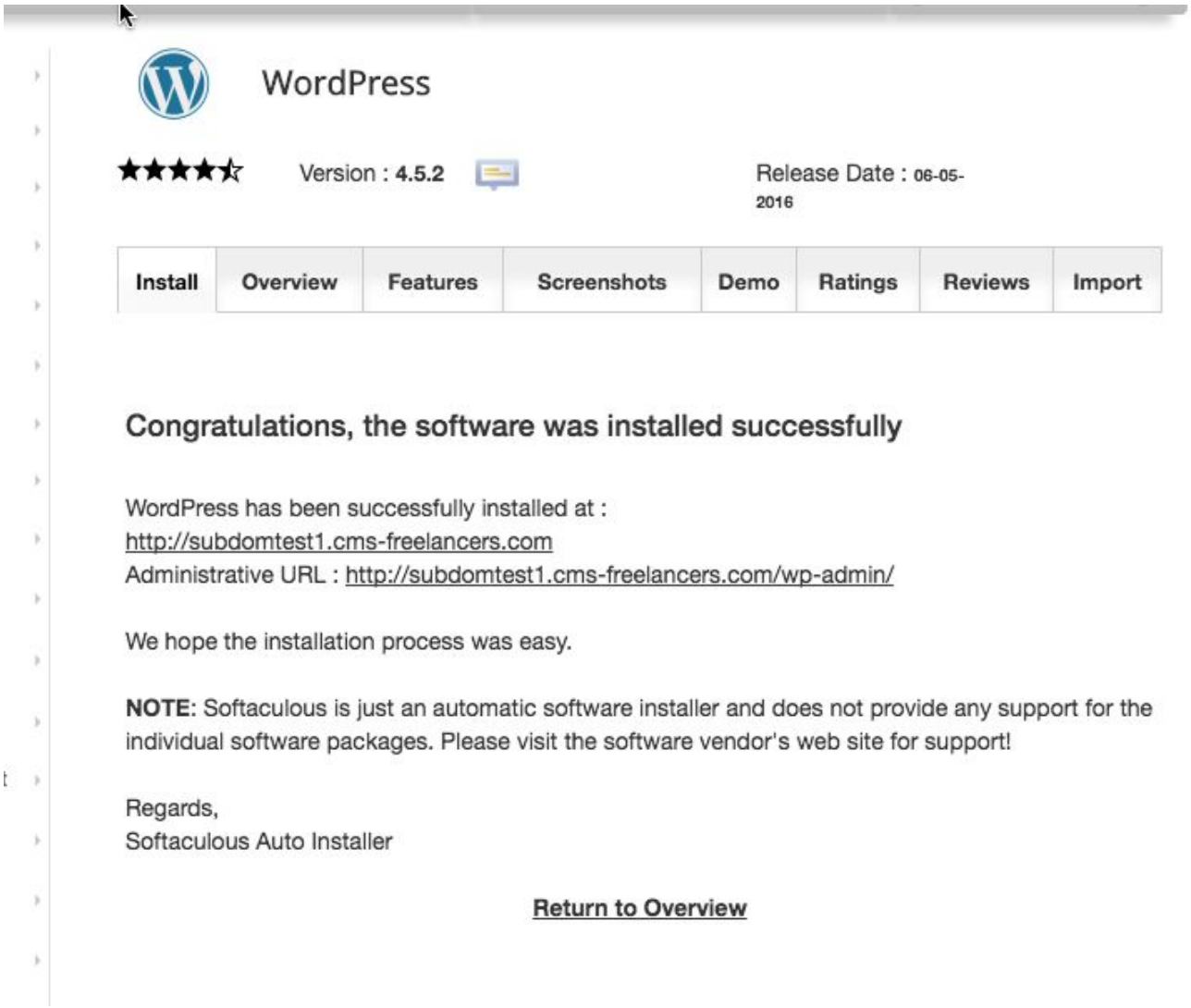
SiteGround Building your New CMS Site…



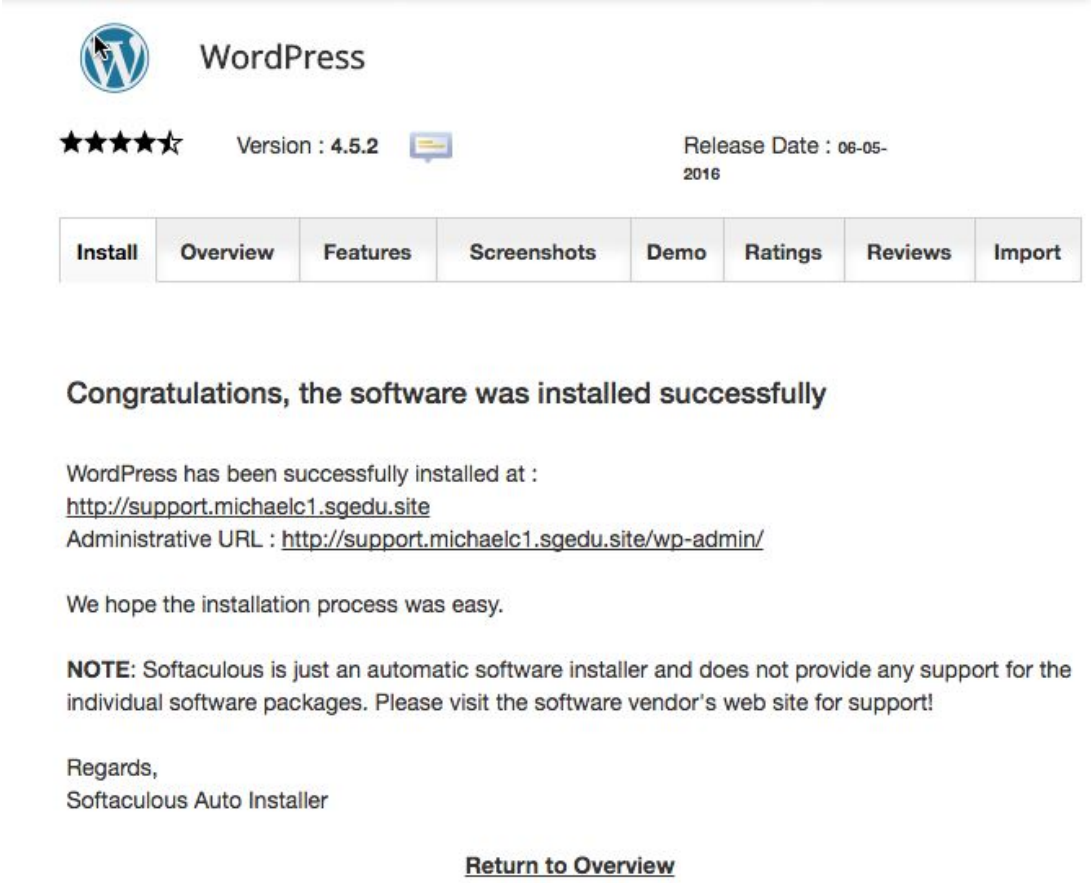
Building The Site…



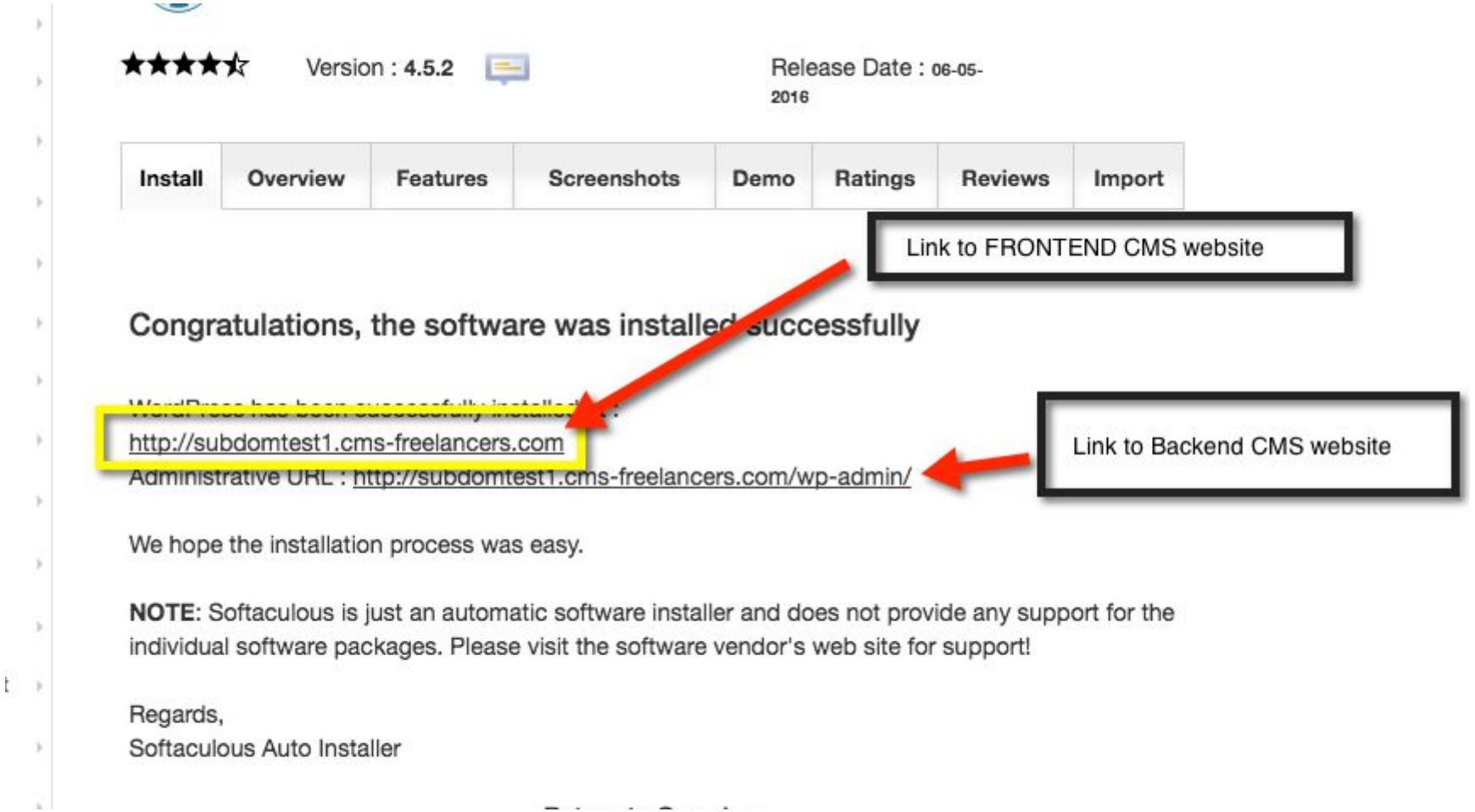
Finished Page Displays with 2 URLs



2nd Example Subdomain Site support@michaelc1.sgedu.site



Finished Page Displays with 2 URLs – CMS Front & Backend URLs



Congratulations

- You have a WordPress CMS subdomain website
- So what do you really have?
  - A Content Management Application (CMA)
    - Also known as the **backend &** it's a CMS Website
    - Also know as the **Admin Interface**
  - A Content Delivery Application (CDA)
    - Also known as the **front end &** it's a CMS Website
    - Also know as the **client facing interface** (CFI)
  - A whole lot of source files on the SiteGround File System in a folder under your host Web-Root folder.
    - This code is the CMA & CDA
  - A database (MySQL) to store all the content and settings info