

# WordPress Link List Plugin

Using best Practices to find and  
implement a Link List in WordPress

# THE CLIENT REQUEST

- Client calls and wants a list of links on their WordPress site
- They do not want to code the links in the body of a Page or Post. Instead they want a plugin.
- Right off the bat I'm curious as to why they don't want to enter the content in the body, configuring it with the WYSIWYG LINK button.

# First Steps – Determine if the project is viable and doable

- Ask the client why they don't want to enter the links using the WYSIWYG link button.
  - ANSWER – They had trouble when they migrated their WordPress site last time. The consultant told them that their links were not formatted correctly. They also want an easier to use method for entering links. They **like** short codes and are hoping for a link list plugin with its own admin and it uses short codes to create the page. Also, no cost plugin please.
    - Can not speak about the migration link issue, but I can get behind an easier way to add links.

# Before you start any work

- Get the clients WordPress specification
  1. **Type of WordPress:** WP.com or WP .org
  2. Where is the WordPress site hosted?
  3. Do they have admin access to the site?
  4. WordPress Version
  5. How soon do they need an solution?
- Explain your cost and payment method up front
  1. Fixed Bid – Amount, deposit and due by dates.
  2. Hourly rate – The rate, min amount for a job.
    - ☐ If they have max \$ budget work, try and work something out
- Get a signed contract that spells it all out
  - What you will and wont do
  - What happens if the project fails

# Discuss and seal the deal

## (Example below is not reality)

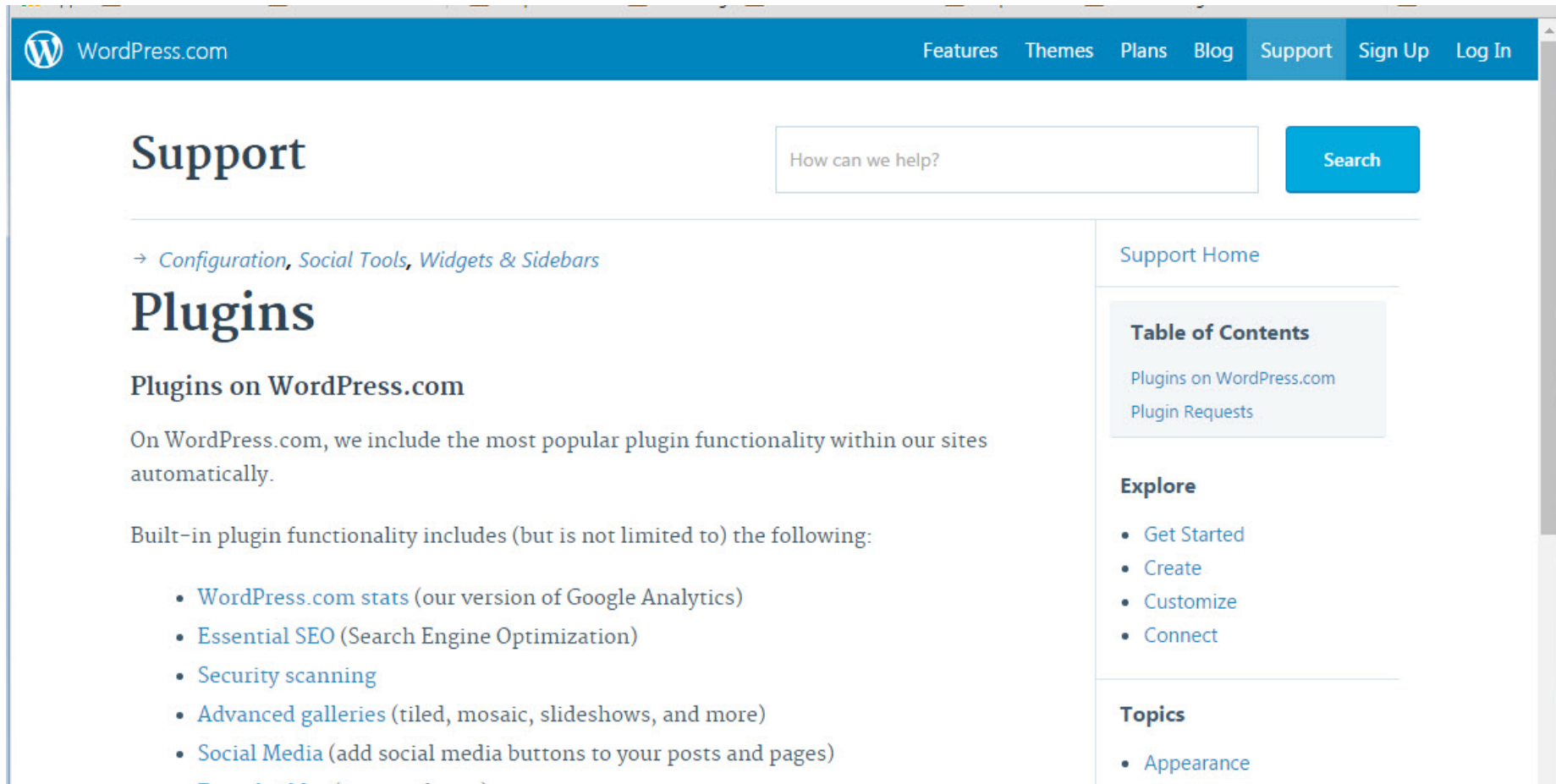
- Get a signed contract that specify mentions
  - Work Product - What you will do by what date
    - Research
    - Prototyping
    - Documentation and Training
  - What you will not do or be responsible for
    - Deployment to production
    - Testing and verification in production
    - Adding any content to the production site
      - For insurance purposes, writing and adding any site content is outside my scope of work 90% of the time

# Start work

- Work Product – find a WordPress plugin for Link lists that is compatible ( and works with) WordPress version 4.5 and above
- Search the Web for Plugins, reviews and recommendations for Link List plugins, Check WordPress.com, and ask around and get recommendations from other WP developers
- Configure Google searches:
  - WordPress link list plugin
  - Link list plugin review

# Search WordPress.com Support Plugins

## <https://en.support.wordpress.com/plugins/>



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com Support Plugins page. The header is blue with the WordPress logo and navigation links: Features, Themes, Plans, Blog, Support (active), Sign Up, and Log In. The main content area has a large 'Support' heading, a search bar with the placeholder 'How can we help?', and a blue 'Search' button. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: '→ Configuration, Social Tools, Widgets & Sidebars'. The main heading is 'Plugins'. The subheading is 'Plugins on WordPress.com'. The text states: 'On WordPress.com, we include the most popular plugin functionality within our sites automatically.' It then says 'Built-in plugin functionality includes (but is not limited to) the following:' followed by a bulleted list: 'WordPress.com stats (our version of Google Analytics)', 'Essential SEO (Search Engine Optimization)', 'Security scanning', 'Advanced galleries (tiled, mosaic, slideshows, and more)', and 'Social Media (add social media buttons to your posts and pages)'. On the right sidebar, there is a 'Support Home' section, a 'Table of Contents' with links to 'Plugins on WordPress.com' and 'Plugin Requests', an 'Explore' section with links to 'Get Started', 'Create', 'Customize', and 'Connect', and a 'Topics' section with a link to 'Appearance'.

WordPress.com

Features Themes Plans Blog Support Sign Up Log In

## Support

How can we help?

Search

→ Configuration, Social Tools, Widgets & Sidebars

## Plugins

### Plugins on WordPress.com

On WordPress.com, we include the most popular plugin functionality within our sites automatically.

Built-in plugin functionality includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- [WordPress.com stats](#) (our version of Google Analytics)
- [Essential SEO](#) (Search Engine Optimization)
- [Security scanning](#)
- [Advanced galleries](#) (tiled, mosaic, slideshows, and more)
- [Social Media](#) (add social media buttons to your posts and pages)

Support Home

#### Table of Contents

- [Plugins on WordPress.com](#)
- [Plugin Requests](#)


#### Explore

- [Get Started](#)
- [Create](#)
- [Customize](#)
- [Connect](#)

#### Topics

- [Appearance](#)

# WordPress.com search

 WordPress.com

Features Themes Plans Blog Support Sign Up Log In

Support

Link list

Search

Search Results for: *Link list*

### Affiliate Links

Most affiliate links and sponsored posts from reputable merchants are allowed on WordPress.com, as long as your blog's primary purpose is to create original content, and not merely to send traffic to these sites. When blogging about books you're reading, music you love, clothes that strike your fancy, gadgets you're drooling over, or whatever is [...]

### Links

A link is a word, group of words, or image that you can click on to go to a new page or a new section within the current page. This support doc explains the various ways to add links to your posts or pages.

### Link Categories

You can manage a blogroll (a set of links) using the Links menu in your Dashboard. These

Support Home

#### Explore

- [Get Started](#)
- [Create](#)
- [Customize](#)
- [Connect](#)

#### Topics

- [Appearance](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Configuration](#)
- [DMCA](#)
- [Domains](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Embedding content](#)



# WordPress Forums

or receive new comments.

## Forums

2015-02-28 — [blog roll and other link lists not working on "adaption" theme](#)

2014-11-01 — [Filling out blogroll and link list lists - there is no space to enter anything](#)

2014-05-03 — [Plugin to create thumbnail link lists](#)

2011-04-03 — [New and completely lost - LINK LIST? BLOGROLL?](#)

2009-03-05 — [RSS Feed for Link Lists](#)

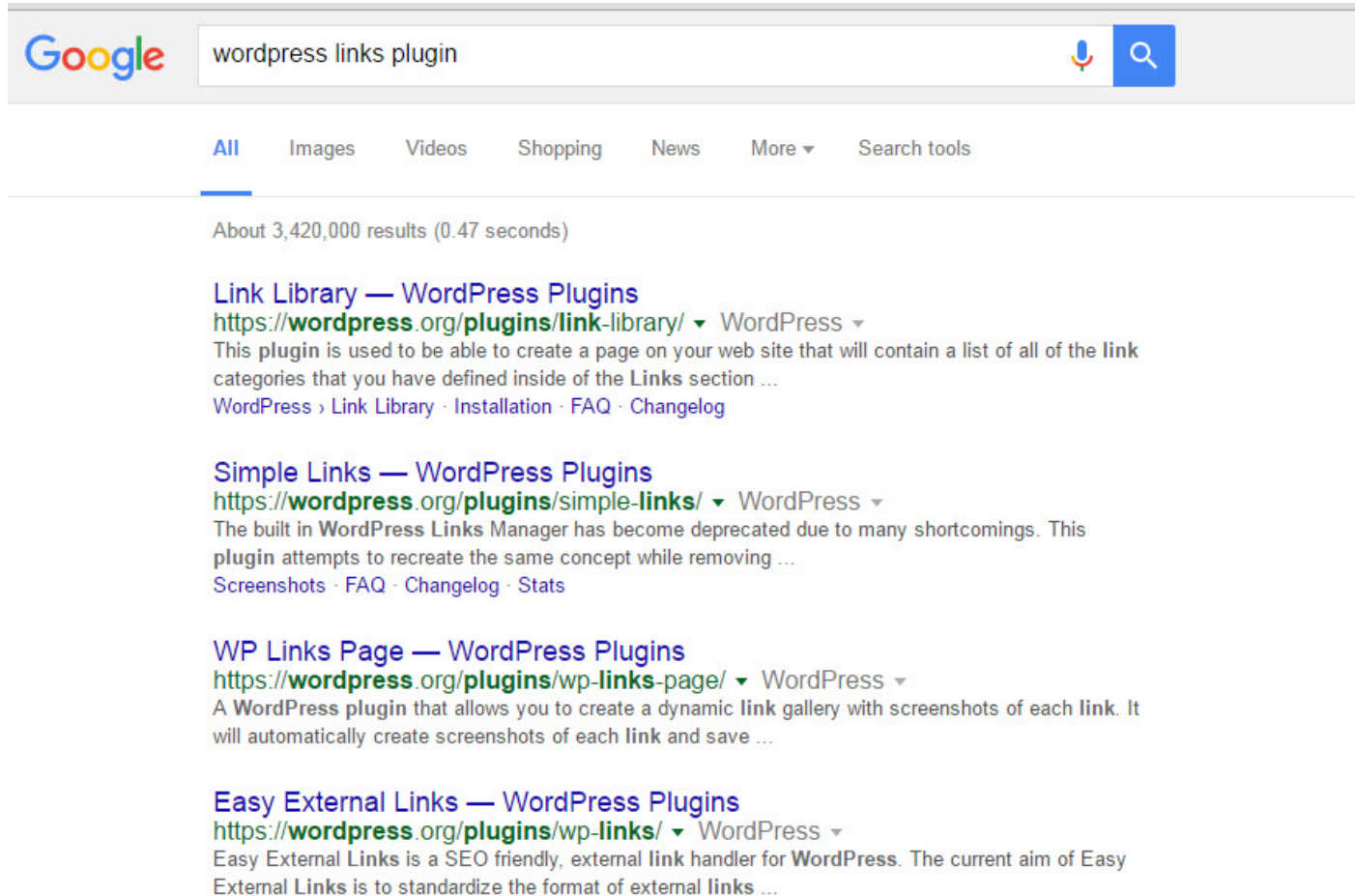
2009-02-03 — [Added links don't show up on my sidepanel link list?](#)

2008-11-05 — [Upload url link lists to a blog page.](#)

2008-10-29 — [link lists based on archive category](#)

2008-02-13 — [Can I have more than one link list?](#)

# Google Search – WordPress Links plugins



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query 'wordpress links plugin'. The search bar is at the top, with the Google logo on the left and a search button on the right. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'All', 'Images', 'Videos', 'Shopping', 'News', 'More', and 'Search tools'. The 'All' tab is selected. The search results show 'About 3,420,000 results (0.47 seconds)'. The first three results are for WordPress plugins: 'Link Library — WordPress Plugins', 'Simple Links — WordPress Plugins', and 'WP Links Page — WordPress Plugins'. Each result includes a title, a URL, and a brief description.

Google

wordpress links plugin

All Images Videos Shopping News More Search tools

About 3,420,000 results (0.47 seconds)

**Link Library — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/link-library/> WordPress  
This plugin is used to be able to create a page on your web site that will contain a list of all of the link categories that you have defined inside of the Links section ...  
[WordPress](#) · [Link Library](#) · [Installation](#) · [FAQ](#) · [Changelog](#)

**Simple Links — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/simple-links/> WordPress  
The built in WordPress Links Manager has become deprecated due to many shortcomings. This plugin attempts to recreate the same concept while removing ...  
[Screenshots](#) · [FAQ](#) · [Changelog](#) · [Stats](#)

**WP Links Page — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-links-page/> WordPress  
A WordPress plugin that allows you to create a dynamic link gallery with screenshots of each link. It will automatically create screenshots of each link and save ...

**Easy External Links — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-links/> WordPress  
Easy External Links is a SEO friendly, external link handler for WordPress. The current aim of Easy External Links is to standardize the format of external links ...

# Simple Links Plugin

Replacement for the old WordPress Links Manager with many added features.  
Makes managing links simple and robust



The banner features a dark blue background with a radial light effect. On the left is a green circular graphic with binary code. The text 'Simple Links' is written in a large, stylized, orange-outlined font. To the right is a large, light blue puzzle piece icon. Below the puzzle piece is a black button with the text 'Simple Links' in white.

Replacement for the old WordPress Links Manager with many added features. Makes managing links simple and robust

[Download Version 4.2.0](#)

[Description](#) [FAQ](#) [Screenshots](#) [Changelog](#) [Stats](#) [Support](#) [Reviews](#) [Developers](#)

The built in WordPress Links Manager has become deprecated due to many shortcomings. This plugin attempts to recreate the same concept while removing those shortcomings.

Want more options and better support?

[Premium Add-ons!](#)

Evaluate the  
plugin



Requires: 4.2.1 or higher  
Compatible up to: 4.5.3  
Last Updated: 2 months ago  
Active Installs: 10,000+

Ratings



4.3 out of 5 stars

Some of the features this plugin offers:

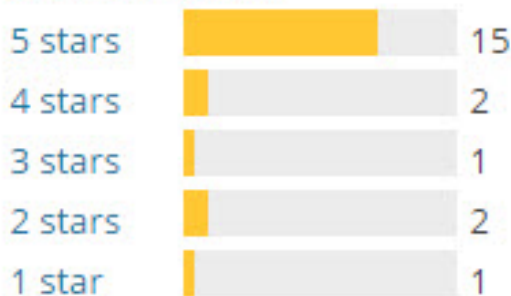
# Simple Links Evaluation Looks Good

- **Requires:** 4.2.1 or higher (Good)
- **Compatible up to:** 4.5.3 (Good)
- **Last Updated:** 2 months ago (Good – Kept current)
- **Active Installs:** 10,000+ (Great!)

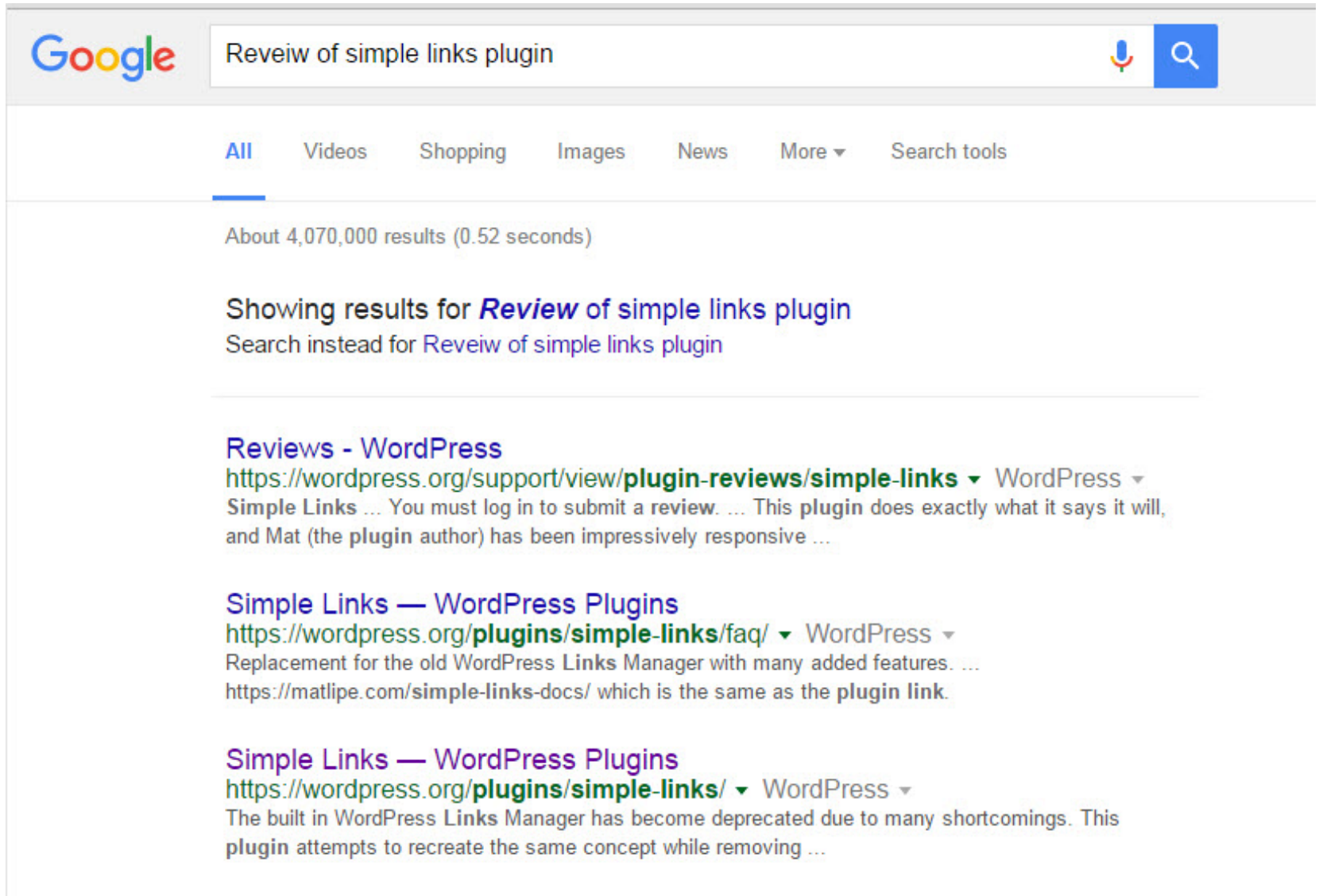
## Ratings



4.3 out of 5 stars



# Look for plugin reviews – Use Google



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "Reveiw of simple links plugin". Below the search bar, the "All" tab is selected. The search results show "About 4,070,000 results (0.52 seconds)". A message indicates that the results are for "Review of simple links plugin" and suggests searching for "Reveiw of simple links plugin". The first result is titled "Reviews - WordPress" and includes a URL: <https://wordpress.org/support/view/plugin-reviews/simple-links>. The second result is titled "Simple Links — WordPress Plugins" and includes a URL: <https://wordpress.org/plugins/simple-links/faq/>. The third result is also titled "Simple Links — WordPress Plugins" and includes a URL: <https://wordpress.org/plugins/simple-links/>.

Google

Reveiw of simple links plugin

All Videos Shopping Images News More ▼ Search tools

About 4,070,000 results (0.52 seconds)

Showing results for **Review of simple links plugin**  
Search instead for **Reveiw of simple links plugin**

**Reviews - WordPress**  
<https://wordpress.org/support/view/plugin-reviews/simple-links> ▼ WordPress ▼  
Simple Links ... You must log in to submit a review. ... This plugin does exactly what it says it will, and Mat (the plugin author) has been impressively responsive ...

**Simple Links — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/simple-links/faq/> ▼ WordPress ▼  
Replacement for the old WordPress Links Manager with many added features. ...  
<https://matlipe.com/simple-links-docs/> which is the same as the plugin link.

**Simple Links — WordPress Plugins**  
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/simple-links/> ▼ WordPress ▼  
The built in WordPress Links Manager has become deprecated due to many shortcomings. This plugin attempts to recreate the same concept while removing ...

# First Google Result Link

## WordPress Plugin Reviews

### Plugin Reviews

username or emailpassword☐Log in (forgot?)Register

Featured

Most Popular


Favorites

Beta Testing

Developers

Search Plugins

Search



## Simple Links

Replacement for the old WordPress Links Manager with many added features. Makes managing links simple and robust

Download Version 4.2.0

DescriptionFAQScreenshotsChangelogStatsSupportReviewsDevelopers

21 reviews

5 stars	<div></div>	15
4 stars	<div></div>	2
3 stars	<div></div>	1
2 stars	<div></div>	2
1 stars	<div></div>	1

Average Rating

★★★★★

4.3 out of 5 stars

You must log in to submit a review. You can also log in or register using the form near the top of this page.



# Some good reviews and some bad.



★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ A strange plugin

By AlfredG, April 21, 2016 for WP 4.5

This plugin does make link pages. Only thing is that it has very little formatting options. Besides it insists to place a ugly dot in front of each link. Sorry to say I don't use it anymore.

1 Comment



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ good support

By galeriweb, June 22, 2015 for WP 4.2.2

good support

0 Comments



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Nice usable plugin

By techmichelle, March 21, 2015 for WP 4.1.1

Not sure what to put here, so far plugin worked well out of box.

0 Comments



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Does the Job

By faospark, February 19, 2015 for WP 4.1.1

really helps in in terms of wordpress migration

0 Comments

# In the real world...

- In the real world I would have found at least three plugins and gathered information and reviews on all of them and then ranked them.
- For some jobs, providing a ranked list of plugins with reviews and recommendations is all the job requires.
- For me to make a plugin recommendation, I usually have to test and verify the plugin myself.



# Decision Time – Try it or keep looking

- The plugin is compatible with the clients WordPress
- The reviews are good
- Number of active installations is very high
- Its well maintained (kept up to date)
- It's a no cost plugin
- One review talked about how it was helpful in a migration...imagine that?


Decision: I'm going to give it a try

# Searched and Found the Plugin on Add Plugins Page

Add Plugins [Upload Plugin](#) [Help](#)

Search Results [Featured](#) [Popular](#) [Recommended](#) [Favorites](#) [Keyword](#)

3,695 items [«](#) [<](#) [1](#) of 124 [>](#) [»](#)



### Simple Links


Replacement for the old WordPress Links Manager with many added features. Makes managing links simple and robust

*By Mat Lipe*

★★★★★ (21)  
10,000+ Active Installs

Last Updated: 2 months ago  
✓ **Compatible** with your version of WordPress

[Install Now](#)  
[More Details](#)



### Simple Link List Widget


This plugin makes a widget available which allows you to add a simple link list (bulleted or numbered) to a sidebar.

*By James Bowles*

★★★★★ (10)  
8,000+ Active Installs

Last Updated: 12 months ago  
Untested with your version of WordPress

[Install Now](#)  
[More Details](#)

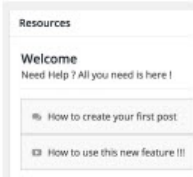


### WordPress Simple Link Library

Manage your link collection in a simple way.

*By Maikel Mardjan*

[Install Now](#)  
[More Details](#)



### Simple Documentation

This plugin helps webmasters/developers to provide documentation through the Wordpress dashboard.

*By Mathieu Hays*

[Install Now](#)  
[More Details](#)

# Activate Link Plugin



The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard interface. The top navigation bar includes the WordPress logo, a home icon, the text "My WP Plugin Tester", and icons for updates (3), comments (0), a "New" button, and a "Purge SG Cache" button. The left sidebar contains a menu with icons and labels for "Dashboard", "Posts", "Media", "Pages", "Comments", "Calendars", "Calendar Add-ons", and "Calendar Themes". The main content area displays the title "Installing Plugin: Simple Links 4.2.0" followed by a series of status messages: "Downloading install package from https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/simple-links.4.2.0.zip...", "Unpacking the package...", "Installing the plugin...", and "Successfully installed the plugin Simple Links 4.2.0.". At the bottom of the main area, there are two blue underlined links: "Activate Plugin" and "Return to Plugin Installer". A large red arrow points from the bottom left towards the "Activate Plugin" link.

My WP Plugin Tester 3 0 + New Purge SG Cache

Dashboard

Posts

Media

Pages

Comments

Calendars

Calendar Add-ons

Calendar Themes

## Installing Plugin: Simple Links 4.2.0

Downloading install package from <https://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/simple-links.4.2.0.zip...>

Unpacking the package...

Installing the plugin...

Successfully installed the plugin Simple Links 4.2.0.

[Activate Plugin](#) | [Return to Plugin Installer](#)

# Create a link

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard with the 'Simple Links' menu item selected. The 'Add New Link' form is open, featuring a sidebar with navigation options and a main content area with three sections: 'Web Address', 'Description', and 'Publish'. The 'Web Address' section contains a text input with 'CNN' and a 'Web Address' label. Below it is a 'Web Address' section with a text input containing 'http://cnn.com' and an example text: 'Example: http://wordpress.org/ DO NOT forget the http:// or https://'. The 'Description' section has a 'Description' label and a rich text editor with a toolbar and a text input containing 'A link to CNN'. The 'Publish' section includes a 'Publish' button, a 'Save Draft' button, and status/visibility information: 'Status: Draft Edit', 'Visibility: Public Edit', and 'Publish immediately Edit'. The 'Link Categories' section shows 'All Link Categories' and 'Most Used' tabs, with a '+ Add New Category' link. The 'Attributes' section has an 'Order' input field with the value '0'.

WordPress Dashboard: My WP Plugin Tester

Howdy, mchase

Screen Options

## Add New Link

CNN

Web Address

http://cnn.com

Example: http://wordpress.org/ DO NOT forget the http:// or https://

Description

Visual Text

B I ABC Bulleted List Numbered List Quote Link Unlink More

Paragraph U Bold Underline Link Image Link More

A link to CNN

Publish

Save Draft

Status: Draft [Edit](#)

Visibility: Public [Edit](#)

Publish immediately [Edit](#)

Move to Trash [Publish](#)

Link Categories

All Link Categories Most Used

[+ Add New Category](#)

Attributes

Order

0

# Add link to Page with WYSIWYG icon

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with the following items: Posts, Media, Pages (highlighted in blue), All Pages, Add New, Comments, Calendars, Calendar Add-ons, Calendar Themes, Organizers, Events, Venues, Simple Links, and Appearance. The main content area is titled 'My WP Plugin Tester' and includes a 'Purge SG Cache' button. Below the title bar is a text input field labeled 'Enter title here'. The editor toolbar contains various icons for text formatting, including bold, italic, underline, link, and unlink. A red arrow points to a blue puzzle-piece icon in the toolbar, which is highlighted with a green box. Below the arrow, a green box contains the text 'Add Simple Links'.

# Add link to a page & test

The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Edit Page' interface. The top navigation bar includes 'My WP Plugin Tester', '3' comments, '0' messages, and links for '+ New', 'View Page', and 'Purge SG Cache'. The left sidebar menu is active on 'Pages', showing options like 'Dashboard', 'Posts', 'Media', 'All Pages', 'Comments', 'Calendars', 'Calendar Add-ons', 'Calendar Themes', 'Organizers', 'Events', 'Venues', and 'Simple Links'. The main content area is titled 'Edit Page' with an 'Add New' button. A green notification bar states 'Page updated. [View page](#)'. The page title is 'My Simple Link Test'. Below the title, the permalink is shown as 'http://cms-freelancers.com/wpplugin01/76-2/' with an 'Edit' button. The 'Add Media' and 'Add Video Gallery' buttons are visible. The 'Visual' and 'Text' tabs are at the bottom right of the editor. The 'Text' tab is selected, showing the content 'Test1' and a bulleted list with the link 'CNN'. The right sidebar contains the 'Publish' section with 'Status: Public', 'Visibility: Public', 'Revisions: 2', and 'Published or Edit' button. Below this is a 'Move to Trash' button. The 'Page Attribute' section shows 'Parent'.

My WP Plugin Tester 3 0 + New View Page Purge SG Cache

Dashboard Posts Media **Pages** All Pages Add New Comments Calendars Calendar Add-ons Calendar Themes Organizers Events Venues Simple Links

Edit Page Add New

Page updated. [View page](#)

My Simple Link Test

Permalink: <http://cms-freelancers.com/wpplugin01/76-2/> Edit

Add Media Add Video Gallery

Visual Text

**B** *I* <sup>ABC</sup>

Paragraph U

Test1

- CNN

**Publish**

Key Status: Public

Eye Visibility: Public

Clock Revisions: 2

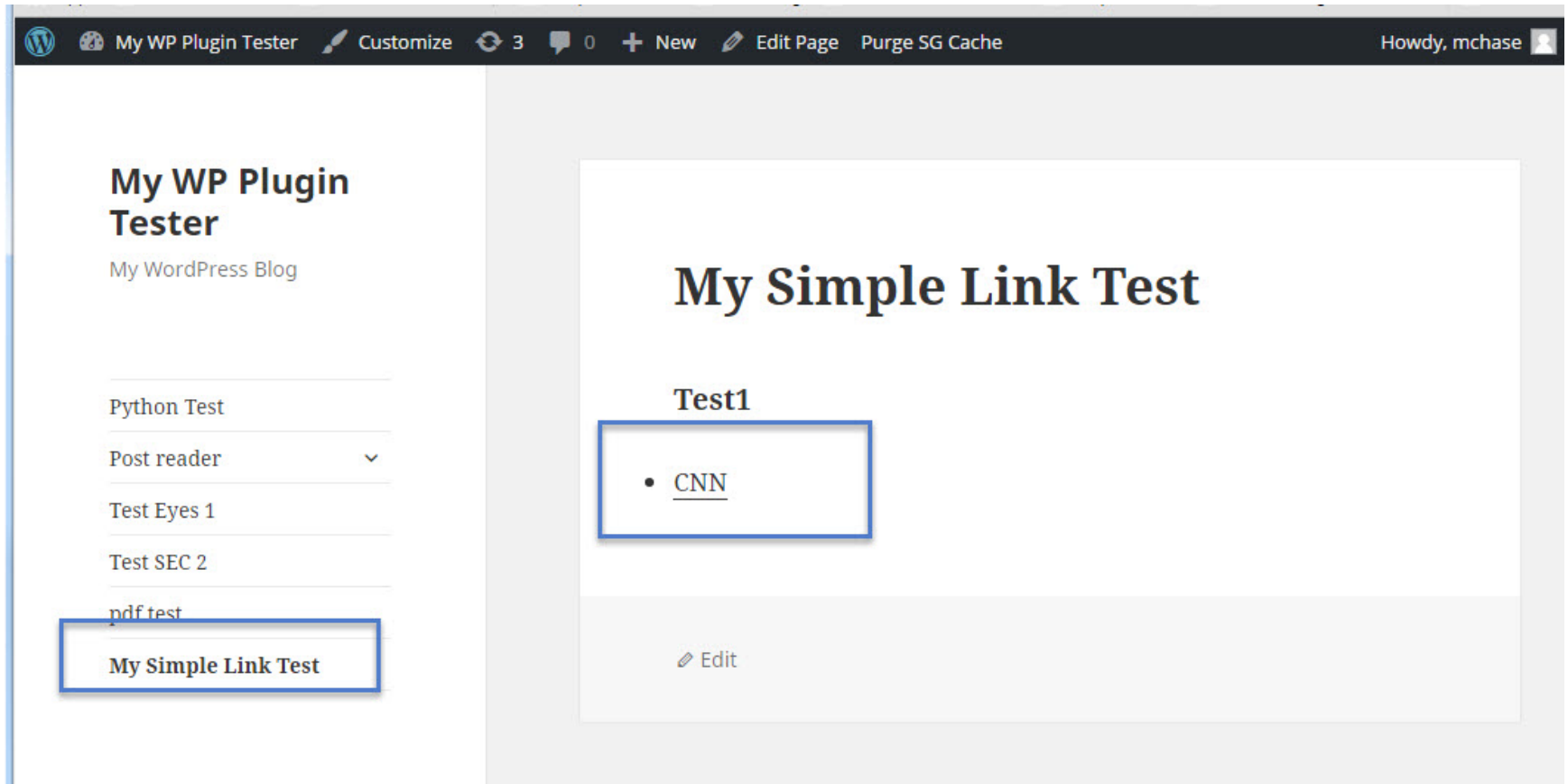
Calendar Published or [Edit](#)

Move to Trash

**Page Attribute:**

Parent

# Works – clicked link and went to CNN



# Conclusions

- Link plugin works great
- Except for the fact that it doesn't use short codes for page implantation, I think the client will like it when I demo it to them.
- I actual think the WYSIWYG icon/button is better than copying and pasting in a short code