



# WordPress Plugins and Their Uses

compliments of

[The Internet Intern](#)

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## **Are You Getting the Most Out of Your WordPress Plugins?**

WordPress originally grew in popularity taking over its market share because it was open source and a free platform available to anyone. Today's premium options make it even more appealing. There are experts that do nothing but build plugins for WordPress. In fact, we are going to have a look at some of those plugins.

### **1. EZ Notification Bar WordPress Plugin**

EZ Notification Bar is an excellent choice if you want to bring attention to specific content. When you use this plugin, you can add infinite messages using the built-in admin options. Then you can sort and choose the order just by dragging and dropping. It is highly customizable.

### **2. WP Best Tree WordPress Plugin**

The WP Best Tree plugin will improve the usability of the category Meta boxes found on the post-editing screen. In WordPress when you publish your post, the categories selected are not displayed hierarchically. This plugin lets you maintain the category hierarchy even when you have already published your post.

### **3. Media Grid WordPress Plugin**

Media Grid will let you create unlimited portfolios that are responsive and you can easily filter. This plugin relies on jQuery and CSS3 technology. It has an automatic resizing system that helps you maximize your layout. It also integrates with Pinterest.

### **4. Thumbnail Scroller WordPress Plugin**

This handy plugin will make it easy to add a thumbnail scroller to your blog. You can customize it and resize it, and it's also compatible with all browser including mobile device browsers. You can insert it on any post or page with an inbuilt short code generator.

### **5. KenBurner Slider WordPress Plugin**

You can customize this slider with drag and drop technology making it easy to meet your needs. You can give each of your sliders a caption. Use your Ken Burns Animated banner component, which is completely customizable, and they'll even play on Vimeo clips or YouTube.

### **6. Social Image Hover WordPress Plugin**

Social Image Hover is an excellent plugin because it combines the internet's most popular social services so that they are in one plugin. It lets you on the fly add the social image hover social buttons to any of your images

### **7. HTML5 Video Player WordPress Plugin**

The HTML5 Video Plays is an excellent plugin. It's powerful with a number of skins to choose from. It has all the controllers useable in the full screen mode. This includes playlists and complete sound control.

these are seven WordPress plugins that you should check out. They are certainly worth incorporating in your blog.

## **WordPress and WordPress Plugins Continuously Evolving**

WordPress began as a blogging tool with CMS (Content Management System). However, it has evolved into a very competitive software builder and many now use it to build websites not just blogs. WordPress is an extremely strong communication tool. It continues to evolve, with increased flexibility and functionality.

There are thousands of sites build on the WordPress platform. They come in all sizes and they use a vast number of platforms. It is no surprise that the evolving of WordPress includes mobile devices since today's internet user views websites, shops online, and even does online banking using their mobile device.

WordPress plugins also continue to evolve and WordPress itself has offered a number of plugins with their latest software version that are also mobile site friendly. Today's WordPress and the plugins that work with WordPress are considered the leader in their industry and are going to be tough to beat.

If you still don't understand why WordPress continues to gain popularity, it's really quite simple – one word – plugins. Thousands of plugins that continue to grow daily. Combine that with great pricing for the few plugins that do charge, although most are free and you can see why the demand grows. The fact that the majority of plugins are free makes WordPress very appealing to small businesses that are on a tight budget.

WordPress plugins are available with complete mobile integration. If you look in the WordPress plugin directly you will find a full toolkit that is designed to help mobilize websites that are created under the WordPress platform. It is called the WordPress Mobile Pack and includes features like mobile theme, custom color variations, mobile switcher, mobile ad widgets, mobile admin panel, and more.

WPtouch is another mobile innovation. It is a very adept mobile theme for sites that will automatically turn your WordPress blog into an iPhone application. It also has SEO management that is easy and highly effective, web application mode, etc.

WordPress and its unlimited number of plugins is stable and continues to grow. As more and more success is scene with plugins for smartphones, growth will continue, but it is anticipated that it will be faster than what has been seen to date.

Without all the top-notch plugins WordPress would likely not have enjoyed quite as much success as it has. It is the evolving plugins that keep current users using WordPress and new users finding their way to the WordPress platform. We can only imagine what WordPress plugins will look like in the not too distant future.

## WordPress Plugins Just the Basics

WordPress plugins allow you to extend the functionality on your blog. There are literally hundreds of plugins you can choose from. However, in this article we are going to look at the default plugins, what they can do for you and why you should take advantage of them.

The WordPress core is lean and it allows you to maximize your flexibility. Plugins allow you tailor your blog to your needs. You can install as many plugins as you like, but it's a good idea to only install those that you need, as it will cause your blog to load and run slower. There are plugins that are considered official as they are provided by WordPress, and there are third party plugins.

Two core plugins that already installed when you create your blog are Akismet and Hello Dolly. Let's have a look at these two core plugins.

### Akismet

Spam is a huge problem on the internet and it's the biggest problem that webmasters and bloggers will face. It can wreak havoc on the visitors experience and with spammers becoming more creative and smarter, the only chance you have is use WordPress plugins that can combat spam. That's what Akismet does. Akismet is relatively easy to use. Since it comes preinstalled, all you have to do is activate it on your plugin page.

Akismet is simply an easy script that works as a filter to prevent spam from showing on your blog and that includes spam comments called spomment, which have become a huge nuisance. Spomment is spam comments that wreaks havoc on the servers often causing an overload, and worse has visitors to your blog hitting the back button because the real messages are lost amongst the spam. So you can see why Akismet is such an important tool.

### Hello Dolly

This is not just any WordPress plug. Hello Dolly once activated will put a random lyric in the upper right corner of your admin screen on each of the pages. Okay, we admit, this is a plugin that really doesn't have a purpose, which is exactly why we are mentioning it. While it has been a time-honored tradition that dates back to the inception of WordPress, it has no real purpose, so you may just want to uninstall it. That is unless you find it entertaining to see lyrics from Hello Dolly randomly appearing.

Since there are so many WordPress plugins, it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with these plugins so that you can choose plugins that can benefit your blog the most.

## **Learn About the Ezine WordPress Plugin**

If you have not already heard about the Ezine WordPress plugin, now is a great time to find out more about this more than helpful plugin. If you are using WordPress as your blogging platform, you are not alone. You are not alone, as WordPress is the number one blog site thanks to many of its unique capabilities. It is a powerful site and best of all its free. This new Ezine WordPress plugin is yet another powerful tool and it's a great way to save time.

The first Ezine plugin released had its share of bugs, but the latest Ezine plugin to be released was worth waiting for. This is how it to use it.

The control panel will be at the top right hand corner of your admin panel of your blog. You begin by writing your blog post in the normal fashion. Once you have finished writing that post, you select the option to make your submission doing the following:

1. Pick your article category
2. Now choose a pen name
3. Select and/or customize your resource box
4. Use the first two sentences of your article as the summary or you can create your summary.
5. You can use your post tags as the tags for the article on Ezine or you can create tags.
6. If you become a premium member, you are able to schedule when to release your article, otherwise it is published when it receives editorial approval.
7. Press the validate button to check ensure your content is suitable for submission. This will cut down on the reasons why an editor would send your article back for edits. This way it will get published a lot quicker.
8. All that is left to do is click submit and you are done.

Another thing that makes the Ezine plugin an excellent time saver is that after you have completed you can still tweak your article, such as adding affiliate links, and refreshing your articles some, then submitting it to your blog looking completely different and as a its own separate article. All of this can happen during one writing system.

The bugs are all worked out of the Ezine plugin for WordPress so it is definitely a plugin that you should install if you want to submit your articles to Ezinearticles.com seamlessly. After using it, you will wonder how you lived without it all these years.

## WordPress Bliss Hit Counter Plugin

The WordPress Bliss Hit Counter plugin was previously known as BD Hit Counter. Bliss Hit Counter is an easy to install and use WordPress plugin that will embed in your blog a rotating counter, that will track and how the number of visitors you have had to your blog. This counter is popular because it is simple to install and works very well, leaving you with lots of options too.

### How to Install the Bliss Hit Counter Plugin

1. Unzip the downloaded archive
2. Next extract the file
3. Upload the folder to /wp-content/plugins/ directory
4. Located under the MaudePress admin interface you will activate the plugin. Go to Plugins > Bliss Drive Hit Counter > Activate
5. Go to Appearance on the Widgets menu, then drag to your sidebar the Bliss Counter plugin.

The default location of your blog counter will be the footer. If you want to change this location, all you have to do is go to your widgets page and then you can embed it wherever you like on your blog. You can also change the style of your counter so that it suits your blog. To do so go to settings, choose Bliss Hit Counter, and then choose preferred style.

### Bliss Hit Counter Plugin Settings

The following are plugin settings you can control.

- \* Display in footer – toggles with checkbox
- \* Count unique visitors – toggle with checkbox
- \* Exclude IP address(s) – add one per line
- \* Alignment of Counter – choose right, center, left
- \* Credits – enable or disable
- \* Set hit counter to – you specify a number
- \* Automatically check for updates – enable or disable

To change plugin settings go to Settings > Bliss Hit Counter.

Having the ability to know how much traffic is making its way to your blog can be a valuable tool in helping you determine your marketing campaign(s) effectiveness and whether you want to make changes. Without an accurate traffic count, you will be creating campaigns blindly. Knowledge is power and Bliss Hit Counter is a free plugin that provides you with additional information that can help you make the right decision, when otherwise you would be resorting to your best guess.

You can find out more about the Bliss Hit Counter plugin at the developers page. Bliss Hit Counter is one of many free WordPress plugins. Be sure to learn more about these plugins that can make things easier for you.

## Top WordPress Plugins People Don't Talk About

The real success behind WordPress has a lot to do with the third party plugins that are so readily available. Whether you are looking to make your blog fun and interactive or you would like to see some stats on your site, there is a plugin for you. Actually, there are hundreds of plugins that you can choose from, some of the more common like Akismet are talked about plenty but let's look at top WordPress plugins that people don't talk about so much. Are you ready?

### #1 All in One SEO Pack Plugin

This set of SEO plugins will optimize your blog or site automatically so that it is viewed by Google and other search engines. Some of the features of this plugin include duplicate content checking, auto Meta tag generation, support for CMS style WordPress installs and e-Commerce sites.

### #2 TubePress

If you have a blog that uses a great deal of video content this is definitely a great tool. This plugin allows you to setup YouTube thumbnails, galleries, and even pop-out videos. You can also use it with Vimeo.

### #3 Google XML Sitemaps

Sitemap development is a key component in any SEO strategy. The sitemap will organize each of your blog links and pages so Google and other search engines find your blog. The Google XML Sitemap is considered one of the top WordPress plugins.

### #4 Sexybookmarks

Sexybookmarks is a WordPress plugin that will allow you to create and customize bookmarking tools for your blog. With this plugin users are able to share their content over Facebook, Twitter, Gmail, and other social networks or web services.

### #5 SEOPressor Unlimited

At first glance the SEOPressor looks like most other SEO plugins for your self-hosted websites, but it is more. This useful tool focuses on making your content visible and searchable through the search engines, but it also aids search engines to quantify content as relevant in Google and other search engines.

### #6 Share and Follow

At the heart of any effective blog is social media. The share and follow plugin allows you to add social media buttons to specific pages or blog posts including Google+, Twitter, StumbleUpon, and Facebook sharing buttons.

### #7 Simple Facebook Connect

If you are not using XML, CSS, or HTML coding wizard it may seem like a daunting task to add Facebook buttons. Simple Facebook Connect lets you add Facebook like buttons to your blog that are flashy, and you don't even have to know how to code at all.

These great WordPress plugins are worth having a look at. There are plenty of others too, so don't be afraid to explore.

## Choosing the Best WordPress Widgets

WordPress widgets are extremely popular. After all, there are hundreds of excellent widgets that you can add to your blog to create a professional looking space. The difference between a widget and a plugin is not much. Widgets are very similar to plugins. You install them like you would a plugin into the activate them from the plugins page. The difference is that a widget is managed from the widget directory and they are made to be used in the sidebar.

How does one go about choosing the best WordPress ones? Glad you asked! It is tough – after all, there are so many, but let us start by looking at the best of the best right now.

### #1 The Tag Cloud Widget

In the long list of WordPress widgets, this is one that is worth having on every blog. It displays the tags associated with the post with the most popular being displayed in a larger font than the less popular tags. This is also an animated tag cloud widget if you prefer that. With this one, the cloud appears to be moving. The tag cloud (both versions) is one of the most popular plugins used.

### #2 The Quick Shop Widget

Many consider this to be one of the most valuable WordPress widgets out there. That's because it's a shopping cart for WordPress that gives you the functionality you need to be able to sell goods and/or services quickly and easily. It even has PayPal functionality and e-mail functionality built right into it. This is by far one of the best widget out there, as you can use it to conduct your business without having to invest large amounts of money.

### #3 FV Community News

If you are wondering how this widget could benefit you, the answer is simple – it can help you get the necessary content on your blog to make it rate well in the search engines. For most bloggers, producing articles every day can be hard. Their readers want a lot more than they can produce. Doing this manually is very time consuming and it can even be confusing if you are new to blogging. The FV Community News widget can become your best friend allowing blog visitors and fans to add to your articles if they feel they have relevant material. It's easy to use so take advantage of it.

### #4 The Social Slider Widget

This is considered one of the top WordPress widgets. It lets you add links to various social networking sites and it's presented in a floating box at the screen's left side (usually). The Social Slider Widget is definitely a plugin that you want to install and take advantage of.

WordPress widgets are worth putting into play on your blog. It's a great way to make the most out of your blog, make administration easier for you, bring in visitors, help your search engine rankings, and impress your visitors with a well designed blog.

## Which WordPress Plugins Should You Explore?

WordPress is the number one blog on the internet. The original popularity had a lot to do with the fact that it was open source. Today, it has grown in popularity because of many factors including the large amount of support available through plugins. Let's have a look at some of the WordPress plugins that are worth exploring.

### Sugar Slider Plugin or WordPress

The Sugar Slider allows you to quickly and easily create amazing sliders for your WordPress site. Never mind that you have all kinds of custom fields at your disposal and image URLs. You don't have to worry about manually sizing each image before you upload it. There are plenty of features within this plugin, so take advantage of what it has to offer.

### WordPress SEO Plugin

The WordPress SEO plugin is an excellent plugin that can assist you in getting your SEO right on your posts. The search engines are very important to get you traffic to your site or blog. With the help of a top-notch SEO plugin, you will get the attention you need and the traffic you want.

### Slider Evolution Plugin for WordPress

Slider Evolution is considered one of the most powerful WordPress slider plugins available. Many claim it to be the best. This slider plugin offers you more than 100 customizable properties, more than possible transition effects, and around a dozen skins. The administration behind this plugin is extremely powerful and it uses the WordPress default design so users are already familiar with it.

### WordPress Email Newsletter Plugin

This email plugin is a great tool as it is an advanced bulk emailer, which was designed for WordPress. This plugin has tons of features and is it easy to use. You can quickly send out professional newsletters to anyone in your current WordPress user database.

### WordPress LayerSlider Plugin

The LayerSlider plugin allows you to create lots of layers and sub-layers. In fact, you can create as many as you want. You can use as many images as you like with your links – there is no maximum. The script is designed to be user friendly and you may add local per slide settings or global settings to each of the layers and sub-layers. Take advantage of all the features offered here.

WordPress plugins can make a huge difference on your blog. Learn how to incorporate them and take advantage of what they can offer, and how they can most benefit you. While WordPress allows you to install as many plugins as you like, we recommend installing those plugins that you will actually use, so take some time to explore what's available and do consider checking out the plugins we have just discussed.

## 10 Essential WordPress Plugins

With the hundreds of WordPress plugins to choose from it can be a bit overwhelming trying to decide which plugins to use. Let's simplify the process at least a little bit for you. Here are 10 essential WordPress plugins you should install and use.

1. Akismet – This is by far the best spam filter out there. It comes preinstalled when you setup your WordPress blog. You just have to activate it. It will aggregate information from every Akismet user, which means you will be protected from spammers even if they haven't ever commented on your site. However, occasionally it will mark legitimate comments as spam.

2. SEO Title Tag – If you are concerned about search engine optimization, you need to care about your post title. This plugin lets you override the title, which is generated automatically.

3. WP Super Cache – This plugin speeds up your blog exponentially because of the way it caches data.

4. Feedfooter – This plugin has tons of different uses, as it puts messages at the feed bottom. You can use it to display ads at the bottom of your RSS feed(s). On your blog, you can use it to place your copyright information or even for backlinks. It is up to you.

5. Theme Tester – A handy plugin that works behind the scenes switching themes. It can be a real lifesaver during those times when you are redesigning your blog. It lets admin view the new WordPress theme, while everyone else sees the existing design.

6. WP Optimize – This WordPress plugin will assist you in keeping your database clean by removing spam posts and revisions quickly and efficiently. It lets you rename your admin username and it lets you run the optimizer command on WordPress core tables, but you need to be careful.

7. Subscribe to Comments – As a blog publisher this is a very helpful tool, because it will let you set the default so that you automatically subscribe commenters to receive alerts any time a new comment is posted, pulling them back into the conversation.

8. TweetMeme Retweet Button – Now that this little gem has had the bugs worked out it's a slick little tool as it adds the TweetMeme retweet button to each of your posts. You can customize where it is located, how it looks, and even how it behaves.

9. WordPress Database Backup – This can be a real lifesaver. If you do not currently backup your blog, you need to be doing so. This plugin makes it quick and easy.

10. WP Email – Once you install the WP Email plugin be prepared for a big surprise on just how often it gets used by your viewers. When visitors find something interesting they can easily share with friends and family using this one click plugin.

There you have 10 essential WordPress plugins that you should make sure are installed on your blog. Get the most out of your blog by using free plugins.

## **Slider Plugins for WordPress**

WordPress has an endless supply of plugins that you can integrate into your blog. Right now we are going to look at numerous slider plugins that are worth considering for your WordPress blog. Of course, you are not going to install all of these. Look through, explore, and find the right slider plugin for you.

### **Multipurpose Bookshelf Slider WordPress Plugin**

Multipurpose Bookshelf Slider is great for displaying products such as DVD's, magazines, books, CD's, etc. It's an excellent way to showcase various products in a number of ways that's attractive. Lightbox features allow you to display images, videos, and html content. You can add detailed content to each of your products with either the short codes or widgets.

### **Magic Members WordPress Plugin**

This is a premium membership plugin that will let you create a closed site only available to those members who are paying. It offers plenty of great features so that you can customize your WordPress site and then turn it into a professional premium site.

### **LaySlider WordPress Plugin**

The LaySlider WordPress plugin allows you to create as many layers and sub layers as you want. You are allowed to use as many images as you like with your links. This user friendly script makes it easy to add local and global settings to each of your layers and sub layers. You are able to change durations, delay times, easing types, and a lot more.

### **Slider Evolution WordPress Plugin**

Slider Evolution is a jQuery plugin that will let you create powerful JavaScript sliders easily and quickly. This plugin has excellent transition effects. You can enhance your blog or website by adding an attractive, unique slider. You are able to create as many sliders as you like and you can create customized settings on each one of them. Then you are can place them any place you like on your WordPress site. It's quick and it's easy. You can checkout your WordPress slider demo.

#### **Slider Evolution for WordPress**

Slider Evolution is a JQuery plugin that lets you easily create powerful JavaScript sliders with very nice transition effects. Enhance your website by adding a unique and attractive slider! Create an unlimited number of sliders with customized settings for each one, and place them anywhere on your WordPress website with ease. You should check out this WordPress slider demos.

### **KeyBurner Slider WordPress Plugin**

This slider has the ability to be customized just by using drag and drop on the backend. It can meet your exact needs. You are able to give each slider a caption to transport the message. You can use your KenBurner Animated banner elements allow you to play clips from Vimeo and

YouTube in a special detailed view that includes describing text. Ken Burner is completely customizable to be exactly what you need it to be.

Slider plugins for WordPress can be beneficial to your blog. Take advantage of these plugins.

## **WordPress Plugins You Should Try**

WordPress has more rich features than many other similar publishing platforms. It is open and extendible, and an excellent open source community. As a result, the millions of bloggers that use WordPress have access to hundreds upon hundreds of plugins. Let's look at 7 WordPress plugins worth trying.

1. WordPress Pro Event Calendar – This calendar plugin gives you a sleek calendar that is very professional looking. It is completely responsive. You can use it on your posts, pages, or even inside your widgets.

2. User Badges – This is a WordPress plugin that lets you give awards and badges for your blog users. Badges engage users and it has been shown that these users will be far more interactive on your blog, just so they can earn a new badge.

3. WordPress Weather Forecast Plugin – This is a powerful plugin that is actually based on Google weather. It detects location automatically using GeoIP database. It supports both Celsius and Fahrenheit and the images create a much better user experience.

4. Banner Rotator – The All in One Banner WordPress plugin gives you five different types of WordPress banner plugins to work with including Thumbnails Banner, Banner Rotator, Content Slider, Banner with Playlist, and Carousel.

5. WordPress Hovercards – The name describes exactly what you are getting. This powerful, in-depth, instant engine is fully customizable and will display hovercards on your blog. You've seen these on many sites like Twitter or Facebook where you hover over something or someone and it provides you with details that encourage you to explore the site more and stick around. It's a great add on for WordPress!

6. Media Grid – Using Media Grid you can easily create unlimited responsive portfolios and they are also filterable. The Media Grid plugin uses the latest jQuery and CSS3 technology, which allows you to adjust each of the portfolios to the container, whether it's short or wide it will grid properly.

7. KenBurner Slider WordPress Plus – You can customize this slider simply by dragging and dropping on the backend. It can be customized to meet your specific needs. You can give each of the sliders a caption in which to send your message. Use the Ken Burns Animated banner component.

There you have it – seven of the top WordPress plugins you should be aware of and certainly try. WordPress does not limit the number of plugins you can add; however, if you use too many it is likely to slow your site down, which you don't want. Don't be afraid to explore the many WordPress plugins to find the right match for you and your blog.

## Facebook Plugins for WordPress

WordPress has tons of plugins that can be added to your blog, but some of the most useful include the Facebook plugins. Let's have a look at the Facebook plugins you could include in your blog.

**Facebook Likebox Slider Plugin** – This is an excellent looking slider for Facebook and other social network sites.

**Facebook Page Integrator** – This WordPress Plugin lets you create content to place on your Facebook Fan Pages using WordPress (iframe). You can show SWF file, an image, a video from Vimeo or YouTube. Facebook Integrator uses short codes for both pre and post “like” page. This allows you to easily hide content from those who are not fans. You can also create a “call to action” on your welcome page.

**Facebook Like to Download for WordPress** – This WordPress plugin lets you turn the ‘like’ button into a social media traffic building download button. This is a slick WordPress plugin.

**WordPress ‘Like’ Locker** – This is the like to read plugin and it is pretty darn cool. It just might be a one of a kind, or at very least the first. It lets you wrap your post content in what is called the “like locker,” that requires the user to ‘like’ a post before they are able to read it. If you have premium content or if you offer a download like an e-book, this is an excellent way to build a valuable resource because it asks visitors to spread your word before you show them the link.

### Facebook Walleria

This WordPress plugin embeds several Facebook objects into your site. It uses Facebook Graph to pull info on photos, albums, comments, feed, events, etc.

**Facebook AWD – The All in One Plugin** – This WordPress plugin has it all in one. Place. Here you have all Facebook capabilities at your fingertips. Add a like box, a like button, Facebook comments, Facebook connect, open graph, etc.

It is exciting that there are so many WordPress plugins to integrate Facebook functionality into your blog. There are many other social media plugins that are also worth exploring for other sites like Twitter.

Remember there are hundreds of WordPress plugins that you can easily and quickly incorporate into your blog, other than Facebook or social media plugins. Take the time to explore what is available. From SEO plugins to sliders to email plugins and just about anything else you can imagine, your blog can benefit greatly from WordPress plugins.

## **Are You Using These Helpful WordPress Plugins?**

There is an endless array of WordPress plugins that you can choose from varying from essential to just plain fun. When you begin to look at all the plugins, it can be a bit overwhelming and trying to decide which to install can be a daunting task. Here are a handful of essential WordPress plugins, which are a great place to start. After that, you can begin to explore the hundreds of other WordPress plugins that are available.

**After the Deadline** – This plugin is a handy grammar and spell checker that makes your posts look their very best each and every time. If you want to be seen as a professional, make sure your posts reflect that.

**Head META Description** – This search engine friendly snippet will not make your site rank better, but it will ensure that the search engine displays a Meta description found on your blog.

**Author Image** – This handy plugin allows you to easily add images of the author.

**Best Contact Form** – If you want more information on those who are filling out your blog contact form, such as the keywords they entered on the search engine that took them to your blog, you will want to install this plugin. It can be extremely helpful.

**Force Word Wrapping** – You have probably seen it yourself where a URL wraps itself stretching into the sidebar. The force word wrapping will stop that from happening and keep things neat and tidy.

**CommentLuv** – It is great when you can reward your readers after they leave a comment. With this plugin the comment of the last poster will be automatically feature that comment.

**Clean Options** – Use this plugin to clean up your WP options table. It can really give you grief if you do not stay on top of all the “stuff” that gets built up in it. Clean options seeks out junk in the table and removes it. That said use caution when using it.

**Canonical URLs** - To make sure Google knows the correct URL for every post you publish, use Canonical. You know how when you refer a person to your site it adds all that annoying referral information to the URL, well Canonical will make sure it doesn't happen.

When you take the time to learn about the WordPress plugins, you can streamline your blog and ensure it loads quickly and provides the functionality you want for your visitors and for yourself as webmaster.

## **Entertainment Plugins for WordPress**

WordPress popularity continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Today there are millions of sites and blogs that have been created using the power of CMS. WordPress developers can do amazing things with your site, creating a unique interface that not only helps bring traffic to your

site, but keeps them there. This is all doable thanks to the flexibility and power of WordPress plugins.

There are all kinds of plugins that you can incorporate on your site or blog. In this article, we are going to look at some of the most popular entertainment plugins for WordPress.

Vipter's Video Quicktags – For anyone that likes posting videos this is an excellent plugin to consider. You will get plenty of options that will allow you to customize and share video with this plugin. You can even post video directly to sites like DailyMotion, Vimeo, and of course YouTube.

Facebook Photos – If you want to share your Facebook photos on you blog this is an excellent plugin. Just install it and then link your blog with your Facebook account. Now your photos will be available on your blog. It really is that simple.

NextGen Gallery – This is by far one of the most popular entertainment plugins for WordPerss. It is found mostly on portfolios sites and blogs. It allows you to get rid of thumbnails and give your images a more modern, attractive appearance. There is no technical skills necessary to create and manage your gallery.

Easy Inline SWF – This is an excellent plugin if you want to insert Flash files. It allows you the ability to insert Flash Files in the swf format anywhere on your blog posts. You don't have to worry about getting it right since it will automatically detect your default size for animation.

See The Face – This is yet another excellent video plugin that will transform your text blog into a video blog. SeeTheFace even lets you record home video and then post it directly to your site or blog.

Of course, this is just a handful of entertainment plugins available to use with WordPress. It pays to take some time to explore the plugin options available to you. By using plugins, you can create an impressive looking blog or website without having to have any technical skills and that's the real selling factor behind using WordPress and WordPress plugins. Why not take advantage of all these great widgets and plugins to make your site attractive to your visitors?

## **Using the WordPress Plugin CloudFlare**

CloudFlare is a free WordPress plugin that acts as a proxy between visitors and the CloudFlare server. The CloudFare server caches your blog's static content, which allows visitors full access of your blog, while reducing the number of server requests. There are a number of advantages to using the CloudFlare plugin.

\* Improved site or blog performance improvements. CloudFlare has proxy servers around the world, which means there are servers located close to the location of most blog visitors. This will result in faster page loads and improved speed as the cached blog pages are delivered from CloudFlare's caching box rather than off the server. The research has already shown that the faster the pages load the longer visitors stay on the site or blog.

\* CloudFlare offers bot and threat protection. It uses Project Honey Pot as well as other third party sources for its data, and it identifies online malicious threats. It then stops any attacks

before they get to your site or blog. From the CloudFlare dashboard, you can easily see what threats have been stopped.

- \* CloudFlare alerts visitors if their computer is infected and that they should take action to remove any viruses or malware that are on their machine.
- \* Spam comments protection is provided by CloudFlare, which leverages third party resources data to reduce the amount of spam comments on your blog.
- \* Should the CloudFlare servers be unavailable, visitors can still access the site it will be cached on the visitors page.
- \* CloudFlare offers spam comments protection.
- \* Enjoy the new site stats that CloudFlare can provide. This is an excellent way for you to evaluate the traffic that is coming to your blog.

CloudFlare does have some limitations that you should be aware of:

- \* CloudFlare is not able to affect any internal stats programs that are reading from the Apache logs directly. Your logs will show fewer requests to the server and a lower load, your visitor experience won't be affected.
- \* CloudFlare basic mode is not able to handle SSL certificates. Therefore, if you require SSL certificates, that part of your site will need to be on a non-protected subdomain.
- \* CloudFlare caches static site content, which reduces the load on your server. However if you make changes to any existing static file there will be a delay for those changes to appear.

CloudFlare is an excellent WordPress plugin that can be very helpful on your blog.

## **What are WordPress Widgets and Can You Use Them?**

Even if you are new to blogging, it's likely you have seen some of the WordPress widgets in action on other people's blogs. Things like autoresponder sign ups, calendars, "like buttons," and much more are all part of the WordPress widgets that you can add to your blog to make it more appealing to visitors, and to help you as the site administrator. There are plenty of tools you can access.

Most bloggers do not have the technical knowledge or skills to make their blog do those neat little things like the widgets we already spoke about. That's where WordPress widgets come into play. You find a widget that will do what it is you are seeking to do, then you install the widget, activate it, and follow the steps to customize for your blog.

To eliminate confusion between widgets and plugins let's have a look. There is very little difference except from where you find them in your admin panel. You can think of a widget as a drag and drop plugin. They are very appealing to bloggers because you do not have to have any technical skills to use them, and there is no need to program them. Just drag and arrange your widgets just how you want to make your blog look exactly how you want it to. However, the widget must be placed in the sidebar, which makes it a little different than the plugin.

To use widgets the theme you are using must be widget ready, although with most new templates this is no longer a concern. There are hundreds of themes to choose from that are all widget ready.

Looking for ready to install and use widgets – you may be surprised to find that there are nearly 100 pages of these widgets found at <http://WordPress.org/extend/plugins/tags/widget>. Just upload and place in your plugin directory and you are ready to go.

You can install as many widgets or plugins as you like. There is no maximum. However, keep in mind that too many widgets or plugins can cause your site to load slow and that can be frustrating for visitors who may hit the back button and go elsewhere.

Best word of advice is to install widgets and plugins you are going to use. If you find you aren't using a particular widget or plugin then simply uninstall it for now until you need it again. Installing and uninstalling is a breeze.

## **WordPress Secure WP-Security Plugin**

WordPress popularity continues to increase by leaps and bounds, and as a result, security issues have never been so important. As a beginner or even as an average user it can be tough to stay on top of it all. Would you even know that your blog was hacked? Well now you don't have to. A new service called WebsiteDefender solves the problem.

If you are wondering if it's worth the time and effort to install and setup WebsiteDefender because the risk to you is small, here's a warning: Just recently, `timthumb.php` a thumbnail utility used with many of the WordPress plugins and older themes had a vulnerability recently exposed. Translated it means the risk to your blog being hacked would be high. Now that's just one reason why you should install the plugin WebsiteDefender.

WebsiteDefender is a free plugin that scans your site. It is available only to bloggers on WordPress who run self-hosted installs. If you are hosting your blog on WordPress.com you can use this plugin. You also can't use WebsiteDefender on free hosting plans.

Start by registering WebsiteDefender. You will have to verify your email address, and then you will be sent to a page to download the verification file. You will have to upload this to your site's root. Once installed you'll begin to receive warnings which will be rated from low to critical. Each issue is linked to a detailed explanation, along with a set of instructions to solve the issue.

With WordPress, you can use the WP-Security Scan plugin, which will perform basic security audits on things like database prefix, directory permissions, default usernames, htaccess permissions, etc.

### **Secure WordPress**

Secure WordPress locks down and performs several security measures designed to protect your blog on WordPress. It removes all reference to the version of WordPress you are using simply by removing a few lines from your header and preventing the listing of your theme(s) and/or plugin directory.

Both of these WordPress tools have a signup form for the Website Defender's online service, which allows you to link to any existing account. However, there is a quota of one free website.

It can all be a bit confusing considering there are two WordPress plugins and then there is the scan that can be run without the plugin. While each is a unique plugin, it's confusing why they didn't just combine the two into one. Now all that said, don't let this confusion scare you off because the WP Security Scan is definitely an asset!

## Query Post Plugin for WordPress

The WordPress plugin for the query post widget is one of those widgets you want to make sure you install. This is a widget that has everything that you will need to show posts on your website and you never have to touch code. It is a bit like having your very own WordPress developer right there in your widget. The only thing you need is a theme that is able to handle the widget, which these days is pretty much every theme.

So what exactly does the query post widget do that you should be so excited about it. What it does is allow you to display posts by just about any criteria you can think of just using the `query_posts()` function. The key is you don't have to know anything about coding or PHP to make it work, and that's what makes it so appealing.

You can do some great things with the query post plugin.

- \* Posts by category
- \* Posts by tag
- \* Posts by time/date
- \* Posts by author
- \* Posts by custom field keys or values
- \* Order by various terms
- \* Choose any number
- \* Show the full post
- \* Show pages
- \* Show excerpts
- \* And so much more!

In total, there are more than 40 options that this query widget offers. In addition, you can use it as many times as you like.

Download and install the query post widget. If you need detailed instructions, you can read the `readme.html` file that is included when you download the query plugin. There are also plenty of support forums that can help you if you run into trouble, but you should not have any issue.

The query post plugin for WordPress is just one of the hundreds of excellent plugins that you can use on your blog. There are widgets to do just about anything you can think of. These plugins can make your blog much more user friendly, provide you with all kinds of stats, keep spam from being sped throughout your blog, and plenty more.

Most plugins will cost you nothing but will provide great value. There is no limit on the number of plugins you can install. However, too many plugins can cause your site to load slowly so keep this in mind when you are choosing your plugins. It is always best to uninstall those plugins you are not using. After all, you can always reinstall them later.

## 6 Must Have WordPress Plugins

If you are going to be using WordPress you will want to become familiar with these WordPress plugins. Your blog is an incredible platform for communicating online. It allows you to reach out to new visitors and to keep those that reach your blog interested and engaged. The better the user experience the more likely the visitor is to stay and to return to your blog.

You've put a great deal of time into creating your blog and if it isn't everything it could be you are likely to lose readers, which are potentially customers. Make sure those hours you put into creating your blog ensure the end result is the best possible blog you can have. Using up to date plugins will create an effective and efficient blog that your visitors like.

#1 Akismet – We hear a lot about this preinstalled plugin. That's because it does such a great job of protecting your blog from spam. It sorts through comments marking those that are junk as spam. It's highly efficient at what it does.

#2 Delete Post Revisions – Once you tweak your blog post(s) the copies will be save in the WordPress database. You should make sure you eliminate all those extra copies so that your blog continues to run efficiently.

#3 We Total Cache – This plugin is excellent at improving your site's speed and therefore the experience of your visitors. Speed is important to keeping visitors on your site. If it loads slow impatience wins out and the 'back button,' is almost always hit. Install the W3 Total Cache plugin and stop worrying.

#4 Pop-Up Domination – If you require an opt in page on your blog, the Pop-Up Domination plugin is just what you need to create a professional, enticing opt in page that will see your opt in rate significantly increase.

#5 Broken Link Checker – There is nothing worse than broken links or missing images to annoy your readers and the search engines. Use Broken Link Checker plugin to ensure your blog links are always current.

#6 WordPress Database Backup – What happens if you delete your blog post by accident? Or what if your blog comes under attack by a hacker? When you use WordPress Database backup you can stop worrying knowing you have a current backup available at all times. You set how often a backup is created. If you like you can even have a copy of your backup emailed to you.

These six WordPress plugins are a must use. Of course, there are many others that you should consider incorporating into your blog. Have a look at what's available – you will be pleasantly surprised.

## 8 New WordPress Plugins You Should Know About

Plugins really do make using WordPress to blog a much handier and helpful site. Let's look at 8 new WordPress Plugins you should know about.

1. Wibiya Toolbar – Wibi what? This is that red tool bar thing you will find at the bottom. Wibiya provides you with some excellent basic analytical data. At worst Wibiya is preventing some bounces, and at best it increases engagement. Check it out.

2. WordPress Mobile Edition – This is a great little plugin for WordPress that will install a theme for Marketing Pilgrim that is mobile friendly. When it detects that you are browsing the blog from a phone, it will use the mobile edition rather than your default theme.

3. WP Greet Box – This plugin is handy in that it determines where new site visitors have originated from. It then presents them with a custom greeting at the top of the post, making it a personal experience.

4. WordPress Firewall – This is a great little new plugin that blocks those bad guys from getting access. It has plenty of cool features that includes letting certain IPs be able to edit WordPress files while others cannot. Just remember if you are gone on holidays, you won't be able to make any changes until you add your IP to the white list.

5. WordPress Ajax Edit Comments – This is a great little comment editor that lets users edit their comments, but it also lets you quickly edit typos you spot or delete spam comments without needing to go to your dashboard.

6. WP Optimize – This is a plugin that will help you to keep the database clean by quickly and easily removing post revisions. You can rename you admin username and you can run the optimize command on core tables in WordPress, although you should use a little caution when doing this.

7. WordPress Thread Comment – This plugin lets you reply directly to someone who has commented. This is a useful tool between commenter. Commenter #30 can easily comment on Commenter #1's post.

8. Twitter Publisher – This plugin will automatically publish all new posts to your Twitter account. It will identify the author who wrote it which is really handy. It's weak point is that occasionally it will republish a post multiple times.

These 8 WordPress plugins that you should take the time to explore. Of course, there are tons of excellent plugins. You should always only install those plugins you are going to use, because while unlimited plugins are allowed, it can slow down your site speed.