

Best Wordpress Plugins for Newbies

WordPress has more than 47,000 free and premium plug-ins available for the new website owner. That's pretty overwhelming. And it's tempting to go nuts and install everything that looks cool! But take a deep breath and think about what your website really needs. Your website reflects your business self, and that self should look straightforward, clear and direct.

There are a number of plug-ins that will reduce your workload and maximize the functionality of your website. Here are some of the plug-ins experts recommend for every website.

1. Yoast SEO

Search engines are the major source of traffic for every website, and Yoast SEO guides you through improving your web content to make it as search friendly as possible.

2. VaultPress

VaultPress is a security plugin built to create real-time automated backups for your website. It syncs all your website files and provides protection from web attacks.

3. Social Icons

Having a social media presence is vital. It is arguable that you can't do business now without it. Social Icons is a free WordPress plugin that displays the most popular social icons on your website from Facebook to Pinterest and more than 100 other social media platforms.

4. Wordfence Security

Wordfence Security will scan for known issues and alert you to potential problems like weak passwords, faulty plug-ins, and other vulnerabilities. If it detects a problem, it will suggest what action to take.

5. Akismet

Spammers are the scourge of the internet. Akismet will automatically filter out spammy comments and prevent them from ever appearing on your site. If a comment is blocked accidentally, you can go in and manually review and approve it.

6. WooSidebars

WooSidebars allows you to have as many sidebars and widgets on your web pages as you want. For example, you can display a Google Maps widget showing your business address on your About Us or Contact page.

7. WP Smush

A good website has graphics and photos as well as text. But newbies can often fall into the trap of having images that are too big that slow down their websites, taking their potential customers with it. WP Smush is an image compression plug-in that will resize and optimize your images for speed automatically.

8. WP-Optimize

WP-Optimize is a great housekeeping tool that automatically removes unnecessary data from your website. WP-Optimize will free up your space by cleaning up spam and un-approved comments, trash posts, and comments, trackbacks, and pingbacks.