

How to Start a blog!!!

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Find a domain name	3
Find the right hosting company	3
How to install WordPress	4
Find the theme that fits you	6
Find the Most Critical Plug-ins for your blog.....	6
How to monetize your blog.....	7
About the Author and why I created this eBook.....	8

Find a domain name

I think the best approach if you have the money is to register your own domain and host the blog from a web hosting provider that you bought. You can also sign up for free hosted WordPress blogs. You can go to WordPress.com. There are also other blogging platforms that you can use like Blogger but I like WordPress and it is very easy to use.

The first step in starting a blog is to find a domain name that you like. I found a website where you can type in the domain that you want and see if it is registered. The website is [Instant Domain Search](#).

After you found a domain that you like and it is not registered by someone else the next step is to register the domain through a registrar. There are many registrars' out there. One of the best ones and [World's Largest Registrar is GoDaddy.com](#). I use GKG and GoDaddy for all of my domains. GoDaddy has a lot of deals and coupons that you can get and use on the internet.

You have a choice of many different top level domains. Top level domain is the last part of a domain name. My website is www.gregellison.net. The top level domain would be ".net". The most common top level domains are com, net, and org. The com is meant for commercial businesses, net is for network, and org is for non for profit organizations. If you want to see all of the top level domains that are out there go to en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains

Find the right hosting company

The next step in making a blog I am going to talk about Hosting. What is a web hosting company? It is a company that provides a way for people to access your website. There are tones and tones of webhosting companies out there. There are a lot of fly by nighters and there are a lot of established hosting companies that provide a very good service.

You want to find a hosting company that has good uptime, has good support. You want to know that your [hosting provider](#) is going to take the extra step to help you when you need help.

The hosting provider that I use to host my websites is a company called JaguarPc. Jag has an active forum that you can get support and general information. They also have a really nice ticket system that they made themselves. You can also call them if you need help.

If you have a blog sometimes hosting providers have an affiliate programs that you can earn money for referring people. I spend \$5.97 a month. I also host other websites that pay for my hosting fees.

You want a hosting provider that gives you unlimited Mysql databases, enough disk space for growth, and enough bandwidth. If you need to host other websites you might want a provider that gives you multihosted domains. You don't want to go for the free hosting companies because they will bomb bard your visitors with advertisements. When you host somewhere free it doesn't look professional when you are trying to make money.

I would also go to forums and ask people what they think are the best hosting providers. One good forum that you can get good feedback is called www.webhostingtalk.com.

How to install WordPress

WordPress is one of the most popular blog platforms out there. WordPress is very easy to setup and you can find themes and plug-ins for WordPress.

You want to go to www.wordpress.org and click on the red square on the top right side that says download. You want to click on the red rectangle that is on the Download WordPress page. You want to download the file that fits your operating system. I will pick the zip file. You want to save the zip file to a location that you can get to. I usually scan my files that I download off the internet first. I have to plug the security part. You should always scan your files. I will open the zip file and extract it to a folder. I will then open my ftp program to upload my WordPress files to the directory that I picked for my multihosted domain.

You then want to rename the wp-config-sample.php file to wp-config.php. You then want to fill in the database details.

```
define('DB_NAME', 'putyourdbnamehere'); // The name of the database

define('DB_USER', 'usernamehere'); // Your MySQL username

define('DB_PASSWORD', 'yourpasswordhere'); // ...and password

define('DB_HOST', 'localhost'); // 99% chance you won't need to change this value
```

You want to change these fields that are in yellow. These fields tell WordPress vital information about the database that you created. It wants to know the

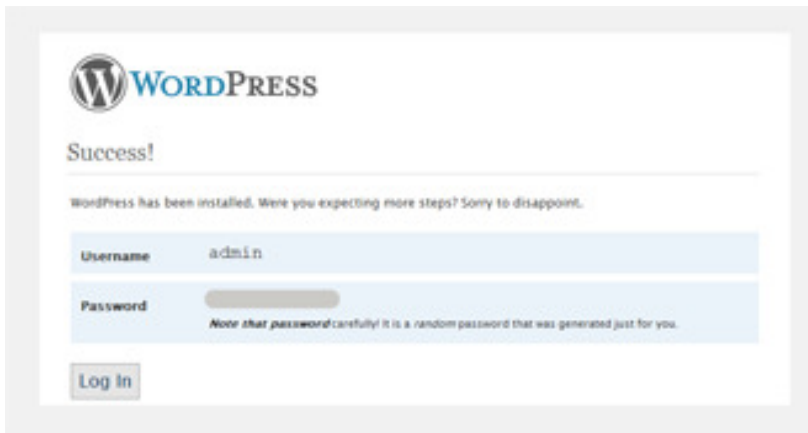
database name, the database user that has full access to the database, the password for the database user, and the database host.

After you have all these things done, then you want to open up your browser and go to **yourblog.com/wp-admin/install.php** to start the install process. At the first screen you want to type your Blog Title and your website email address.



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation 'Information needed' screen. At the top is the WordPress logo and the word 'WordPress'. Below it is a 'Welcome' message. The main heading is 'Information needed'. A note says 'Please provide the following information. Don't worry, you can always change these settings later.' There are three input fields: 'Blog Title', 'Your E-mail', and a checkbox for 'Allow my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati'. Below the fields is an 'Install WordPress' button.

After you type your title and your email then press **Install WordPress** button. The next screen is going to tell you that it was Successful at creating the blog and it will give you your username and password to get into the blog.



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation 'Success!' screen. At the top is the WordPress logo and the word 'WordPress'. Below it is a 'Success!' message. A note says 'WordPress has been installed. Were you expecting more steps? Sorry to disappoint.' There are two input fields: 'Username' with the value 'admin' and 'Password' with a masked password. Below the password field is a note: 'Note that password carefully! It is a random password that was generated just for you.' Below the fields is a 'Log In' button.

You copy your password and then login to the blog. You want to change the temporary password right away before you forget it.

If you don't want to go this route and if you have CPANEL with your webhosting you can use Fantastico. You can use Fantastico to automatically install any scripts that are listed in the menu.

Find the theme that fits you

There are tones of places to download free themes. You don't want to spend the money when you are starting out in the world of blogging. I still use a free theme that I found on a website. You should download bunch of different themes and try them out. In the new version of WordPress you can preview the theme before you activate it. If you don't like the theme you can just delete it from the theme directory in your FTP program.

WordPress has just begun letting new themes to be uploaded on to their theme directory. You can also search on Google on the search phrase of "free WordPress themes" you will get a bunch of different sites that will allow you to download themes.

Find the Most Critical Plug-ins for your blog

There are a lot of plug-ins available for WordPress. You can go to www.wordpress.org and find the plug-in directory. In this section I am going to list out the most critical plug-ins that a new blogger will want.

I think the first plug-in that you should download is called **Wordpress Automatic Upgrade**. This plug-in saves you time when you have to update your blog.

The second plug-in that is critical to your blog is **Google XML Sitemaps**. This plug-in will help build sitemaps of your site that is compatible with Google, MSN, yahoo, and ASK.com.

The third plug-in is called **Akismet**. This plug-in is already installed by default but you have to get a free API key from WordPress.com. This plug-in catches all spam that your blog will get.

The fourth plug-in is called **All in one SEO pack**. This plug-in will help with your search engine optimization. You want to get ranked in search engines so this plug-in will help with that.

If you want to deliver ads on your website then you want to download **AdSense Manager**. This plug-in will Control and arrange your AdSense & Referral blocks on your WordPress blog.

If you are using FeedBurner to track your RSS subscriber then you want to download **FeedBurner FeedSmith**.

I think this is a good list to start out with. I would go to your favorite blogs and see what kind of plug-ins they are using.

How to monetize your blog

There are different ways to monetize your blog. I am going to talk about couple of ways to do this. The ways to monetize your blog is doing paid postings, use affiliate companies, and put Google AdSense or Yahoo publisher network banners on your website.

I think the easiest way to get money out of your blog is doing paid postings. Some companies will give you a keyword and you just have to create blog post with around 60 words. They will usually pay you \$5.00 for these posts. It doesn't take a lot to write a 60 word post about a keyword. If you have a website that has a high page rank you can get a lot more money for the paid postings.

Here are the different companies that will allow you to do paid postings that I have signed up for.

www.payu2blog.com
www.payperpost.com
www.sponsoredreviews.com

Another way to monetize your blog is to use affiliate marketing. I think this is one of the hardest ways to monetize your blog. Affiliate marketing is selling other people's products. This can be having people sign up on a web form, or people buying a product on a website.

Here some companies that helps you with affiliate marketing.

www.cj.com
www.amazon.com
www.clickbank.com

You can also add Google AdSense or Yahoo publisher network banner on your blog. These networks will show banners on your blog based on your content. A user needs to click on the banner in order for you to get money. This is also an easy way to get money.

www.google.com/adsense
<http://publisher.yahoo.com>

People always say that you have to diversify your income. What I mean about this is that you want to use different revenue streams. You want to do paid posting, reviews, Google AdSense, sponsored ads and so on.

About the Author and why I created this eBook

My name is Greg Ellison. I live in Syracuse, NY. I wanted to create this so that people can setup their own blogs for themselves and make extra money while on the internet. If you want to make money on the internet it takes time and patience. I make around 60 dollars a month but it is not a lot but it is still income that you can put away and save for a rainy day. I also like to call the extra money that I make my beer money that I can use when I go out with friends. If you need to contact me my email address is gregellisonsyr@gmail.com and my blog is www.gregellison.net.