

Wordpress as a content management system

A Little Background

- Original [site](#) cluttered, difficult to navigate
- Staff with limited knowledge of HTML or web authoring tools needed to be able to update it
- No \$ for professional web designer or intensive staff training

Why Wordpress?

- Personal familiarity
- Free!
- Supported by NOBLE (North of Boston Library Exchange)
- Easy to add, change, & correct public content with no HTML knowledge
- Large number of users = lots of [open source templates](#) & [plug-ins](#)
- Ability to customize template (change colors & other aspects of the CSS, add new page templates, etc.)

Wordpress.com vs. Wordpress.org

- Host is Wordpress.com
- WP takes care of updates
Less control, but also less work
- The URL will be *yourname.wordpress.com*
- Advanced features like editing the CSS cost \$
- Can't upload own plug-ins
- Uploaded to your server (access to FTP client & text editor needed and web host must have PHP & MySQL)
- You have to handle updates, backups, & be able to cope with heavy site traffic
- PHP and HTML knowledge very helpful
- URL= any domain name
- Can edit CSS, add own plug-ins

Getting Started with Wordpress

- Activate Akismet – it stops spam
- Keep it private until you are ready to launch
- Select a template that will best suit your needs (or create your own)
- Save a backup of the template
- Start making changes

Editing the Appearance

Sample Blog ← Visit site

New Post

Howdy, admin | Turbo | Log Out

WordPress 2.8 is available! [Please update now.](#) Help

Dashboard

Posts

- Edit
- Add New
- Tags
- Categories

Media

Links

Pages

Comments

Appearance

- Themes**
- Widgets
- Editor
- Header Image and Color

Plugins

Users

Tools

Manage Themes

Current Theme

WordPress Default 1.6 by [Michael Heilemann](#)

The default WordPress theme based on the famous [Kubrick](#). All of this theme's files are located in `/themes/default`.

Tags: blue, custom header, fixed width, two columns, widgets

Available Themes

Displaying 1–15 of 35

1 2 3 >>

The 1024px Theme

1024px

WordPress (WordPress Themes) - 1.6

CodebyMatt.com

Dealing with RSS Information Overload

The Search

The Feeds

The Categories

The Storage

The Site

Widgets

- If your theme is widget-ready, you can use various [widgets](#) to add content to the sidebar

Examples:

[Flickr badge](#)

[Event calendar](#)

[Twitter feed](#)

Custom Image Header

- **Depends on the theme. Allows simple edits to the image header and/or provides the dimensions of the header so that a new image can be uploaded**

Your Header Image

This is your header image. You can change the text color or upload and crop a new image.



Upload New Header Image

Here you can upload a custom header image to be shown at the top of your blog instead of the default one. On the next screen you will be able to crop the image.

Images of exactly **900 x 180 pixels** will be used as-is.

Choose an image from your computer:

Editing Theme Files

- Files are written in PHP
- Be sure to play with the site to see how each page looks:

[comments](#)

[category archive page](#)

[404 page](#)

- Edit each file as needed

Edit Themes

RTL Stylesheet (rtl.css)

Select theme to edit: WordPress Default

Select

```
/*
Theme name: WordPress Default - kubrick -
Editors: Navid Kashani
Persian Wordpress Project : wp-persian.com
*/
body, .commentlist li, #commentform input, #commentform textarea, #commentform p,
#sidebar, #wp-calendar caption {
    font-family:tahoma, arial;
}
#page {
    text-align:right;
    direction:rtl;
}
h1, h2, h3, #sidebar h2 {
    font-family:arial, tahoma;
}
.commentlist li .avatar {
    float:left;
}
#header {
    margin:0 1px 0 0;
}
.narrowcolumn {
    float:right;
    padding: 0 45px 20px 0;
}
```

Theme Files

Templates

- [404 Template \(404.php\)](#)
- [Archives \(archive.php\)](#)
- [Archives Page Template \(archives.php\)](#)
- [Attachment Template \(attachment.php\)](#)
- [Comments \(comments.php\)](#)
- [Footer \(footer.php\)](#)
- [Header \(header.php\)](#)
- [Image Attachment Template \(image.php\)](#)
- [Links Page Template \(links.php\)](#)
- [Main Index Template \(index.php\)](#)
- [Page Template \(page.php\)](#)
- [Popup Comments \(comments-popup.php\)](#)
- [Search Form \(searchform.php\)](#)
- [Search Results \(search.php\)](#)
- [Sidebar \(sidebar.php\)](#)
- [Single Post \(single.php\)](#)

Posts

Edit

Add New

Tags

Categories

Media

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Pages

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Appearance

Themes

Widgets

Editor

Header Image and Color

Plugins 2

Users

Tools

Settings

Creating New Page Templates

- New page templates can be quickly created by copying the page.php file into a text editor and making a few changes

Add:

```
<?php
```

```
/*
```

```
Template Name: Your_template_name
```

```
*/
```

```
?>
```

Before : <?php get_header(); ?>

For a page to have a different sidebar...

Replace:

```
<?php get_sidebar();?>
```

```
<?php get_sidebar('your_template_name'); ?>
```

Edit the rest of the template as needed and save it as
“page-your_template_name.php”

Creating New Sidebars

- Copy the sidebar.php file into a text editor
- Add/change content as needed
- Save as “sidebar-your_template_name.php”

Now you have a new page template
with new sidebar

The screenshot shows the 'Add New Page' interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, Akismet Stats, Posts, Media, Links, Pages (circled in red), Edit, Add New, Comments, Appearance, Plugins, Users, Tools, and Settings. The main content area has a title field 'Page Title' and a large text area 'Page content'. Below the title field is an 'Upload/Insert' toolbar with icons for image, audio, video, and a star icon. Below that is a rich text toolbar with buttons for bold (b), italic (i), link, blockquote (b-quote), delete (del), insert (ins), image (img), unordered list (ul), ordered list (ol), list item (li), code, more, lookup, and close tags. On the right is a 'Main Page (no parent)' dropdown menu with a list of categories: Calendar, Ask a Librarian, A-Z List of Databases, Research a Topic by Subject, Services, Find Books & More, Book a Meeting Room at the Library, Reviews of Books, Music, & Movies, Teens, Homework Help, Reading Lists, Your Life, 13th Annual Teen Poetry Contest, Submit Your Poem Online, Summer Reading 2009, Kids, Children's Programs & Events, Homework Help, Reading Lists (circled in red), and Main Page (no parent) (circled in red). Below the dropdown is a 'Template' dropdown menu with 'Default Template' selected (circled in red). At the bottom right, there is an 'Order' dropdown menu.

**Clicking on "Add New"
opens this page**

**If the page has no parent, leave this section alone.
If the page has a parent, use the drop down list to select it.**

**The default template is page.php.
Once you have uploaded new page templates,
they will appear here.**

Use the "Order" drop down menu to determine page order

Plug-ins

- Wordpress plug-ins are PHP programs that add specific features or services to a blog

Examples:

[Add to any](#)

[Akismet](#)

[Google analytics](#)

NOBLE Libraries Using Wordpress

- <http://www.beverlypubliclibrary.org/>
- <http://www.noblenet.org/lynnfield/>
- <http://maldenpubliclibrary.org/blog/>
- <http://www.readingpl.org/>
- <http://www.noblenet.org/swampscott/>
- <http://www.wakefieldlibrary.org/>

Questions?

Wordpress Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Main_Page

Wordpress Forums

<http://wordpress.org/support/>

Building a WordPress blog people want to read
by Scott McNulty

Theresa Maturevich

Beverly Public Library

maturevi@noblenet.org

(978) 921-6062