



Cara Mooney Designs

# WORDPRESS

## **WHAT IS WORDPRESS?**

WordPress is a free and open source blogging tool and a content management system (CMS) based on PHP and MySQL, which run on a web hosting service. Features include a plug-in architecture and a template system. WordPress is currently the most popular blogging system in use on the Web, powering millions websites worldwide.

## **SHOULD I USE WORDPRESS?**

WordPress is extremely powerful, some might say too powerful. It depends on what you are looking to get out of it and what kind of usability you are looking for.

WordPress has a great administrative editing system, with an interface similar to an email or Microsoft Word

document. It has a excellent blogging platform, so if you intend to have a blog on your website, getting WordPress is practically your only option. If blogs are not your thing, then you might want to think your decision to use WordPress.

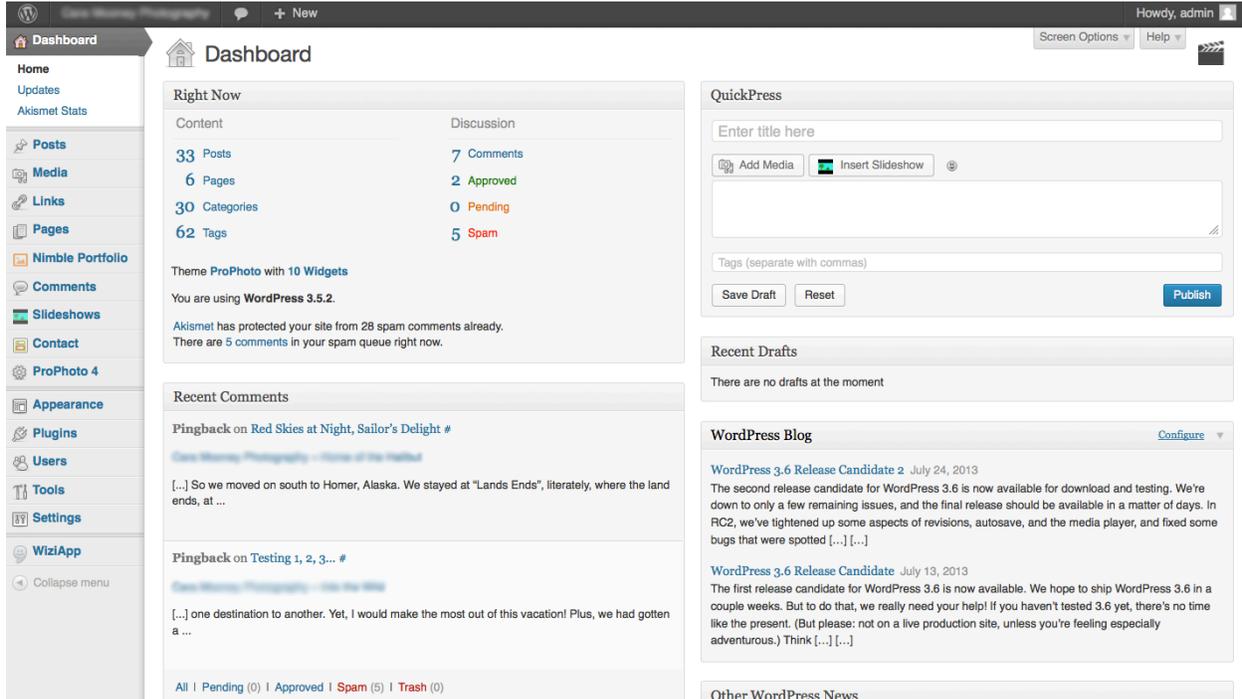
## **MAJOR PROS**

- Backend editing is very straightforward and made so that anyone can do it with some practice and training. This is usually the biggest reason to get WordPress.
- (see images of Dashboard below)
- Top of the line blogging system
- Thousands of available “Plugins” or applications that add certain features to your website
- Multiple editors and themes
- Widgets

## **MAJOR CONS**

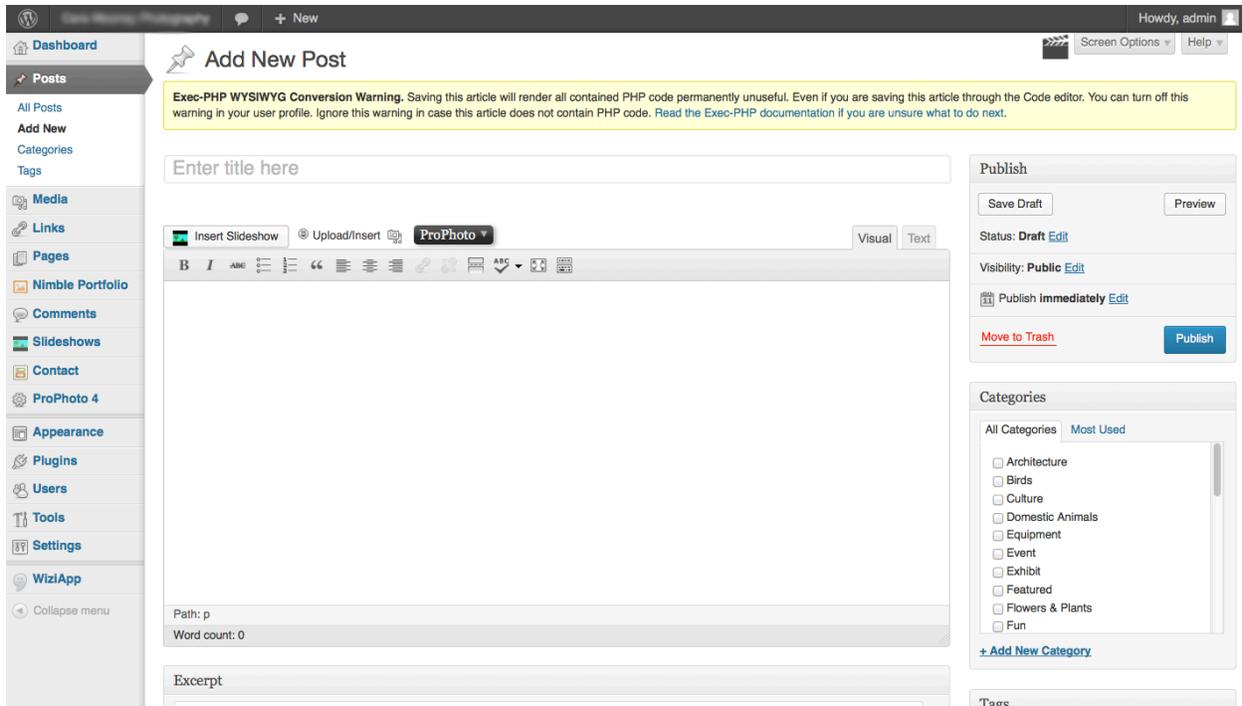
- Needs to be updated frequently to avoid outdated software errors and malfunctions
- Must back up files, just in case website should crash, which especially with WordPress is always a possibility
- With a more complex system, there are little tricks that you have to learn to keep things running smoothly
- Often seen as overkill, especially if your website is simple with minimal content changes
- Can be very costly to design and develop

## WordPress Dashboard – the main page of your backend editing system



The screenshot shows the WordPress Dashboard interface. On the left is a sidebar menu with categories like Home, Posts, Media, Links, Pages, Appearance, Plugins, Users, Tools, Settings, and WiziApp. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and contains several widgets: 'Right Now' showing site statistics (33 Posts, 6 Pages, 30 Categories, 62 Tags, 7 Comments, 2 Approved, 0 Pending, 5 Spam), 'QuickPress' for creating new posts, 'Recent Drafts' (empty), 'WordPress Blog' with news about release candidates, and 'Recent Comments' with two entries. A top navigation bar includes a '+ New' button and the user name 'Howdy, admin'.

## Adding a post to the blog or adding a new page (similar setup)



The screenshot shows the 'Add New Post' screen in WordPress. A yellow warning banner at the top states: 'Exec-PHP WYSIWYG Conversion Warning. Saving this article will render all contained PHP code permanently unusable. Even if you are saving this article through the Code editor. You can turn off this warning in your user profile. Ignore this warning in case this article does not contain PHP code. Read the Exec-PHP documentation if you are unsure what to do next.' Below the warning is a text input field for the title. The main content area features a rich text editor with a toolbar and a 'ProPhoto' dropdown menu. On the right side, there are sections for 'Publish' (with 'Save Draft', 'Preview', and 'Publish' buttons), 'Status: Draft', 'Visibility: Public', 'Publish Immediately', 'Move to Trash', and 'Categories' (with a list of categories like Architecture, Birds, Culture, etc.). At the bottom, there are fields for 'Path: p', 'Word count: 0', and 'Excerpt'.

# NON-WORDPRESS EDITING (direct code)

If you do not use WordPress, you will be editing something like this:

```
Editing: /home4/... Encoding: utf-8 Re-open Use code editor Close Save Changes

<div id="header1"></div>

<div id="content">

<h1>About Cara Mooney</h1>

<p>Hello. <br />
For those of you who don't know me from my old blogger days, my name is <strong>Cara Mooney</strong>. By day, I am a college student studying psychology and Spanish, with minors in Global Studies and Music performance (violin). By night, I enjoy art and photography, and design, among many other things.</p>

<p>I have dabbled many areas, having practiced everything from traditional mediums like graphite, charcoal and oil paint to basket weaving and calligraphy. I also enjoy digital art, and have managed to make a smooth transition into digital photography, graphic and website design.</p>

<p><a href="http://caramooneyphoto.com/" target="_blank">Photography</a> and <a href="http://caramooneydesigns.com/portfolio.php" target="_blank">digital art</a> have become my main focus (also, since in a dorm room, I have little space to break out the messy paints!). I love to travel, and have had the wonderful opportunity to travel extensively across the globe. I have been able to document all my trips in full 300dpi.</p>

<p>I also run my own freelance, graphic and website design and development business: <a href="http://caramooneydesigns.com/" target="_blank">Cara Mooney Designs</a>. If you are interested, please feel free to make an inquiry and get a free project estimate. You can also find my business on <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cara-Mooney-Designs/207134336091882" target="_blank">Facebook</a>.</p>



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<h3>The Design</h3>
<p>This has been over a two-year long project of mine. After letting <em>EverImagine.net</em> fall to the wayside, I finally designed a new design, which featured an <a id="one" href="http://caramooneydesigns.com/folio/web/everimagine2.jpg" title="EverImagine.net - New design, owl vector">owl vector</a> made in Illustrator with slow-scrolling scripted pages. It was a distant change from my <a id="single" href="http://caramooneydesigns.com/folio/web/everimagine1.jpg" title="EverImagine.net - Version 6.0, 2010">original design</a> that was the last design <em>EverImagine.net</em> had as a blog back in 2010.</p>

<p>Unfortunately, things got overly complicated with jQuery and everything, and as school set in, I had little free time to deal with it. After much deliberation, I finally set that design aside. This design is simple with grey-scaled photographs, allowing the focus to remain on the artwork in my portfolio.</p>

<h3>History</h3>
<p>I got involved in online world back in 2004 with Proboards forums (and still am: <em><a href="http://asaeria.proboards.com" target="_blank">Asaeria</a></em> and <em><a href="http://writersflight.proboards.com" target="_blank">Writers Flight</a></em>. Not long after, I moved
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**The whole system can be very intimidating at first**, but with simple directions, it can be very easy to edit text and make small changes to your website. This is optimal for websites that do not need a blog, and are not looking to make frequent and major changes to the content of their website. It can also be color-coded, which is often helpful to see what text is where and different elements that may need to be added.

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90 <em><a href="http://writersflight.proboards.com" target="_blank">Writers Flight</a></em>. Not long after, I moved to Webs.com, which then was still Freewebs. I was still
91 very new to the whole <em>website</em> thing, using site builders and eventually pre-made HTML layouts. In subsequent years, I moved to a subdomain (Silver Reverie) and
92 designing my own website designs. In 2009, I won <em>everimagine.net</em> in a contest, my first TLD. It was your "typical" website; I used this website to store my
93 artwork, writing, and ramblings. There was a large online community surrounding it (if you remember me from old days, welcome!). It evolved into a teenage blog, which
94 expanded perilously into a tutorial, resource, website reviews, graphic design, writing hub. Bleh!!!</p>
95
96 <p>In the last year of high school, I made the move to remake my whole online presence. I stripped <em>EverImagine.net</em> of all it used to be, recreating it into my
97 personal portfolio. I purchased a number of top level domains for my website design business, and my photography. If you have come here from an old link-back (if anyone
98 is still active), this is what has happened to the website you used to know. </p>
99
100 <p><strong><a href="http://everimagine.net/history.html">[SEE FULL DETAILED HISTORY HERE]</a></strong></p>

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