

Beginning with WordPress

- How to setup WordPress.com

http://shaziamistry.com/tutorials/getting_started_with_wordpresscom/

WordPress.com is the easy alternative to setting up your own host. I recommend using their domain service so you can have your own domain name from the start instead of using a wordpress.com one, which would make everything much easier if/when you do decide to have your own host.

- How to install WordPress with your own host

http://codex.wordpress.org/Installing_WordPress (how to install manually)

You will need to purchase a hosting package - there are many different hosting providers, make sure that the package you purchase can support WordPress installs. I recommend BlueHost, <http://www.bluehost.com/track/shaziamistry>.

The easiest way to install WordPress is to use Fantastico or other automatic install services (usually provided by hosting companies). It would allow you to select a directory for your install, then your username/password, and it automatically creates the database and installs WordPress. Another great part of using Fantastico is that it also provides you with one-click upgrades, so you do not need to worry about manually having to update WordPress every time a new version is released.

There is also a volunteer service called "Install 4 Free", <http://install4free.wordpress.net> and they basically take your hosting information and installs WordPress for you - for free!

- How to install a plugin

http://codex.wordpress.org/Managing_Plugins

Plugins need to be uploaded to your server into a directory called wp-content/plugins and then activated from within the WordPress control panel. Plugins may require configuration and coding changes, depending on the purpose of the plugin, but usually instructions are included and are not very difficult to follow.

Plugin Repository: <http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/>

- How to install a theme

http://codex.wordpress.org/Using_Themes

Themes basically give your blog it's "look and feel". Themes are installed in almost the same matter as Plugins - uploading the theme to the directory called wp-content/themes and then activating the theme from within your WordPress control panel.

Themes: <http://themes.wordpress.net/>

Notes: It's a good idea to get themes from this Theme viewer website as they are pre-checked and safe for use on your blog. Be careful of using themes that are not on this site as they may contain code that could compromise the security of your blog.

- How to move from WordPress.com to your own hosted WordPress

It's an easy transition from WordPress.com to WordPress - within your control panel, there

is an "export" function which saves all of your posts, categories, pages, and comments into an xml file, which can then be imported into any WordPress blog.

If you already have your own domain, you would need to setup your new hosted WordPress (instructions above), use the "import" function to import all of your content, then from your domain manager, change the DNS to your new nameservers (you can obtain this from your hosting provider). You do not need to change anything else, your readers will automatically be served your new blog.

If you do not have your own domain, you will need to purchase one, from GoDaddy, or Namecheap, or any domain provider of your choice, then follow the same steps above. An easy way of redirecting your readers from your old domain to the new one would add your new domain name into your WordPress.com account, then select it as the primary url - this will automatically serve your new blog to anyone requesting your old wordpress.com blog.

- How to use excerpt

<http://codex.wordpress.org/Glossary#E>

You may use the "excerpt" field to display information that may be related to your post, but that you want to display in a different area, or with different formatting. When you need to display the contents of your "excerpt" field, you need to use [the_excerpt\(\)](#) within your page template.