



Power WordPress Plug-in Guide

WordPress has an incredibly powerful plug-in system that allows for a nearly ridiculous amount of extensibility.

Beware though, some plug-ins will destroy performance on your site.

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MUST HAVE PLUGINS

Akismet (<http://akismet.com/>)

The one and only spam blocker you need. Don't bother with the other more complicated ones as they just introduce more headaches.

Full Text Feed (<http://cavemonkey50.com/code/full-feed/>)

WordPress truncates RSS feeds at the `<!-- more -->` tag. This is not terribly friendly and this plugin will simply stop that behavior.

Google XML Sitemaps (<http://www.arnebrachhold.de/projects/wordpress-plugins/google-xml-sitemaps-generator/>)

A good sitemap is *the most important thing* you need to do for search engines. This makes life simple with tons of features.

Subscribe to Comments (<http://txfx.net/code/wordpress/subscribe-to-comments/>)

This plugin gives your visitors the option of getting an email if people comment on a post they comment on. It's a great way to get people to know when to return to your site.

Ultimate Google Analytics (<http://www.oratransplant.nl/uga>)

You need your dashboard, and Google Analytics is great for that. Note, WordPress.com Status (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/stats/>) is really nice too and I use both.

WordPress Automatic Upgrade (<http://techie-buzz.com/wordpress-plugins/wordpress-automatic-upgrade-plugin.html>)

WordPress upgrades are frequent, and it's critical that you get them installed. This plugin makes the process as simple as a click.

wp-cache (<http://mnm.uib.es/gallir/wp-cache-2/>)

Even if your site doesn't get a lot of traffic, get wp-cache and just make it part of your workflow. Beware for plugin challenges though.

ADVANCED PLUGINS

All in One SEO Pack (<http://wp.uberdose.com/2007/03/24/all-in-one-seo-pack/>)

WordPress is a great SEO package right out of the box. This package is a must have to get the additional SEO juice you want.

cforms (<http://www.deliciousdays.com/cforms-plugin>)

You should always have a way for a visitor to your site to contact you. You don't want to put your email address on the site. This is a veritable Swiss Army knife of capabilities.

Exec-PHP (<http://bluesome.net/post/2005/08/18/50/>)

This little tool allows you to start putting PHP code all over the place, most importantly in your sidebar widgets. It's a critical piece to keeping your theme clean and upgradeable.

Redirection (<http://urbangiraffe.com/plugins/redirection/>) **Must Have!**

This is a great plug-in to deal with ever changing URL patterns. You can create complicated regex patterns and forward users along.

Search Regex (<http://urbangiraffe.com/plugins/search-regex>) **Must Have!**

This plugin has saved me more time than any other plugin period. You can pass a simple search through every post on your blog, or do something more complex with a regular expression pattern. For example, changing your permalink structure from `/%year%/%monthnum%/%postname%/` to `/%postname%/` is a simple regex replace `/mysite.com\/(\d*)\/(\d*)\/(\S*)\/` replaced with `mysite.com/$3/`.

Simple Tags (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/simple-tags>)

WordPress finally gave us great native tag support, but the management of them is horrible. This tool helps this out.

Tidy Up (<http://www.urbangiraffe.com/plugins/tidy-up>)

Do you have junky HTML? Fix it quickly with this great plugin that passes every post or comment through the HTML tidy utility.