

Word Press Plugins

- WP provides a basic platform using PHP & HTML for you to build your website
- WP uses a Block Editor to build your pages and functions
- The Block Editor provides basic functions like:
 - TEXT: headings, lists, quotes, tables
 - MEDIA: images, gallery, audio, files, media & text, video
 - DESIGN: buttons, columns, rows, groups, page breaks, separators
 - EMBEDS: Twitter, YouTube, FaceBook, Spotify

You can build a website without plugins

Plugins are tools that extend and add functionality to WordPress

Plugins offer custom functions and features you can use to tailor your site for specific needs

There are thousands of plugins

Use as many as you want but be aware:

- Unnecessary Plugins can slow the operation of your site and threaten your security
- As software is enhanced, they can cause compatibility issues

What Plugins do

- Provide site management to maintain site health
- Provide security to keep the bad guys away
- Provide tools to make your site more effective
- Provide tools to enhanced site development

Provide site management & maintain site health

- Backup and restore Databases and Files
 - Updraft Plus: take backups locally, or backup to Amazon S3, Dropbox, Google Drive, Rackspace, (S)FTP, WebDAV & email, on automatic schedules.
- Data migration for backup and restore of entire site
 - All-in-one WP Migration and Unlimited Extension enables unlimited size exports and imports
- Manage and disable WordPress updates, including core, plugin, theme, and automatic updates
 - Easy Updates Manager manage and disable updates
- Rollback (or forward) any WordPress plugin or theme
 - WordPress Rollback
- Provide 404 error page for when something goes wrong
 - 404 Page: Custom 404 the easy way!
- Website statistics for information on site visitors
 - WP Statistics or MonsterInsights

Provide security to keep the bad guys away

All plugins are not necessarily good.

- Security plugins are advertised as a way to protect your site from spam, malware, hackers, and suspicious activity
 - Experience is that properly-maintained sites do not need these. Over recent weeks the SIR Web Support team has spent hours working around problems caused by conflicts between incompatible security plugins on a branch website.
 - Security plugins are just one example of products that play on our fear of things we don't understand. They give us a false sense of security while providing little actual benefit.

Some security plugins are necessary

- Provide password protection
 - Password Protect WordPress Lite: Password protect the entire WordPress site, unlimited pages and posts by user roles.

Provide tools to make your site more effective

- Provide SEO (search engine optimization) to make your site more visible and improve ranking when searched
 - Yoast SEO , All-in-one SEO
- Provide Caching and image/CCS/JS Optimization to speed up your site
 - W3 total Cache, Hummingbird
- Reduce/optimize image file sizes to speed up your site
 - Smush
- Provide Analytics to monitor your site performance
 - WP Statistics, Monster insights google Analytics
- Keep you in contact with users
 - WP Forms

Provide enhanced site development tools

- Build Contact Forms
 - WP Forms
- Make image Galleries
 - Photo Gallery by 10WEB, Modula Image Gallery
- Make custom links to images
 - Gallery Custom Links
- Build tables
 - TablePress
- Organize media library
 - Real Media Library
- Establish an on-line store or just sell tickets
 - WooCommerce, Event Tickets
- Add calendar
 - Events Calendar, Events calendar for Google
- Select Fonts
 - Font Awesome, Google Fonts Typography

How do you select one

The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Add Plugins' interface. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Dashboard' (1) and 'Plugins' (2) highlighted. The main content area features a search bar (3) and a grid of plugin cards. The 'Classic Editor' plugin card (4) is circled in red, showing a 5-star rating from 1,059 reviews, over 5 million active installations, and a last update date of 8 months ago. Other visible plugins include Akismet Spam Protection, Jetpack, Classic Widgets, Gutenberg, and Health Check & Troubleshooting.

How do you select one

1. Look for Plugin recommendations at [Webmaster Resources – SIR \(sirinc.org\)](http://sirinc.org)
2. Go to your Dashboard
3. Select Plugins add new
4. Search for your plugin type
5. Review each plugin for: functionality/description, number of users, compatibility with WP version, when last updated
6. Select plugin and click “Install Now”

Reference

- <https://sirinc.org/webmaster-resources/>
 - WordPress [Plugin Recommendations](#)
- [WordPress Plugins | WordPress.org](#)
 - The **WordPress Plugin** Directory is the largest directory of free and open source **WordPress plugins**.
- [Blog Tool, Publishing Platform, and CMS | WordPress.org](#)
 - Meet Word Press
- **Beginner's Guide for WordPress**
 - [WordPress Beginners Guides - Essential Tips for Beginners \(wpbeginner.com\)](#)

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