20 Killer Resources For WordPress Users & Developers

I've been using WordPress since 2005 and I swear by it these days, simply because its so versatile, infinitely customisable, robust, oh, and its free too. My early experience with content management systems was with PHP-Nuke, then Mambo, Joomla and B2Evolution (B2/Cafelog, was the precursor to WordPress).

But there has been incredible development on WordPress in the following years and I really couldn't see myself using anything else, such is the support, the plug-ins and the adaptability of the platform. Its something you never stop learning too, learning about plug-ins, themes (free and paid), how to tweak themes, add text widgets….

Anyway, I've collected a whole box load of very useful resources over the years and really that's the thing, if you're prepared to read a lot you can turn yourself into something of a WordPress guru with a little patience.

Remember that old Chinese proverb:

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

I'm not saying this is the definitive list of WordPress resources but its a great starter kit and will save you a lot of time should you be considering whether to go it alone with your own install, or whether you'd prefer to let someone else do the heavy lifting for you!

Getting Started Resources

Getting Started With WordPress from Tasty Placement is a great instructional that holds your hand with writing and editing webpages on your WordPress site and shows you the basics on how to manage WordPress, including logging in, posting new articles and pages, uploading images, creating and editing menus and widgets and some more advanced features.

Another good easy to navigate WordPress starters guide with easy to understand instructions is 'A Simplified Users Guide to WordPress', which, according to the authors is intended to be a simple guide to using WordPress for those new to managing a WP powered site. In particular those who've had their WP site set up for them by a web designer or developer.

And another worthwhile guide,if you had any lingering doubts, is from WPBeginner, called 'Why You Should Use WordPress?'.

WordPress Mentor has a very handy WordPress setup checklist which runs through five difference stages and checklists to tick off. **Install:** The basic WordPress installation. **Secure:** Hardening the WordPress installation. **Configure:** Adjust WordPress settings. **Connect:** Connect WordPress to online services.**Optimise:** Adjust WordPress performance. There's the HTML version or a much neater PDF download which you can get free for an email address. Worth it.

As if that wasn't enough to read, Tentblogger has a huge series of blog posts under the umbrella, 'The Ultimate Guide to Launching a WordPress-Powered Blog'. Sit yourself down, strap yourself in, there's 55 posts on everything from WordPress security settings, SEO tips and tools, recommended Plugins, setting up Google Analytics and all points in between. Brilliant.

Not forgetting the help pages from WordPress themselves, which of course are very detailed. There's also support forums and a repository of Themes and Plugins.

Another useful tool that is aimed squarely at developers, is DesktopServer from ServerPress, which basically enables you to have a server on your desktop machine (PC/Mac) so you can test and develop your WordPress install locally without publishing online until you're quite happy with the results.

There's a basic free edition which allows you to create up to three websites, or the paid version which has unlimited website projects. There are several other similar tools for Devs, like Bitnami, Instant WordPress and WampServer (and the Mac equivalent MAMP).

Now We're Up And Running.

Things to consider after your WordPress install is up and running. Content writing tips, SEO and tech tools.

'Ready, Set, Write: The Ultimate Guide to Blogging', is a free PDF guide to getting the most from your blogging experience. Put together by the Content Marketing Institute, the 37 page guide runs through everything from developing your blogging voice and strategy, tips for writing really amazing content, getting your content seen and shared, measuring your impact and ensuring success. There's a host of tips, case studies

and tools here you can use to build and maintain a successful blog that benefits you and your business.

And, a really handy infographic on finding inspiration for great content, which today, a lot of the time means re-imagining other people's ideas as infographics, but, seems to work for many. The title of the piece says it all, '22 Ways to Create Compelling (When You Dont Have a Clue)'.

And more content ideas from the Content Marketing Institute. '12 Things to Do After You've Written a New Blog Post' , ideas that I'm going to have to put into action once I've finished writing this blog post! But basically the post
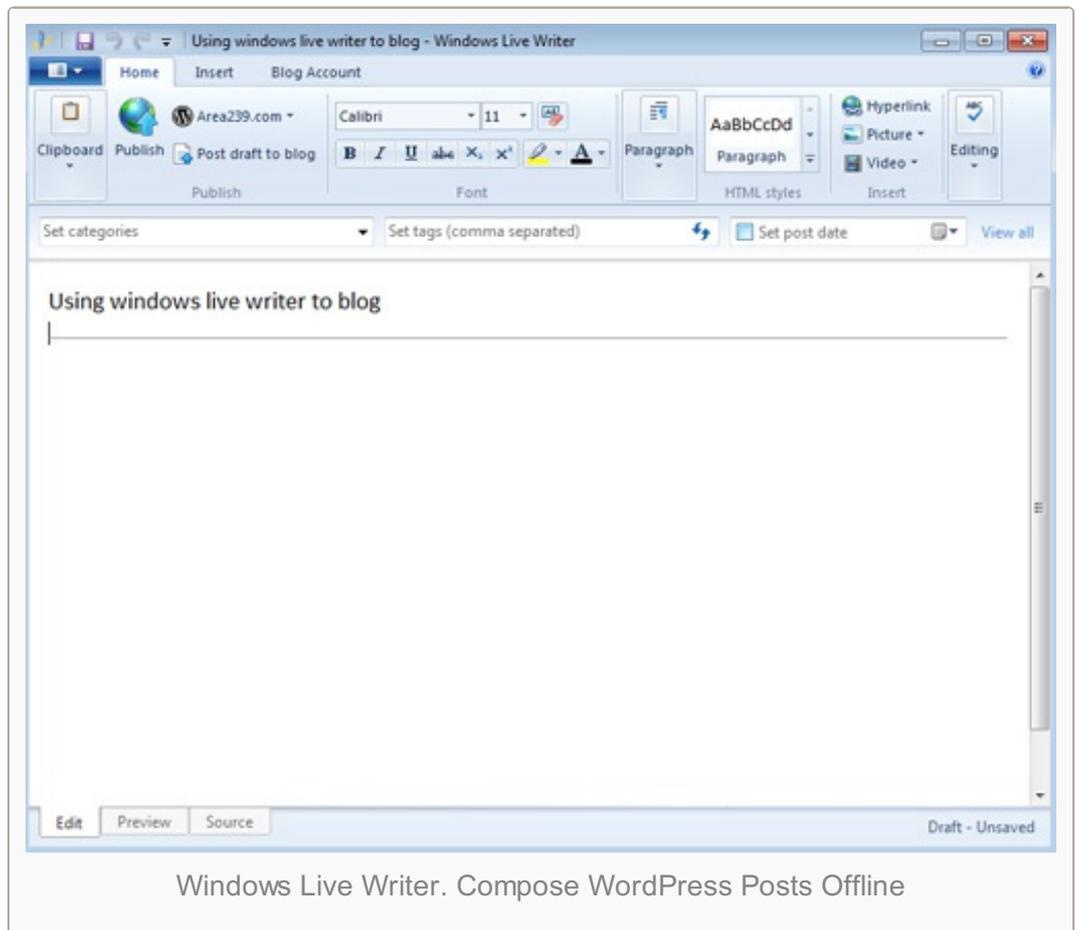

Ways To Create Compelling Content:Infographic.

delves into ideas on how to spread your content successfully using social media, RSS and forums. Its basic stuff nowadays, but if you need some kind of bullet list you could do worse than start here.

You don't always have

WiFi when you're on the move, despite this utopian dream of always on, everywhere, that's hardly the case for most unless you have bottomless pockets! So, if I get the urge to write offline, Windows Live Writer is my weapon of choice. Why not just use Open Office, MS Office Word or a text editor?

Well, the advantage of Windows Live Writer is that as long as you sync it up with your WordPress blog (or multiple blogs) when you first set it up, it formats everything just like it would in WordPress and it has

Windows Live Writer. Compose WordPress Posts Offline

a preview function. You might even like it so much you could bypass going into the WordPress admin all together and use Live Writer from your desktop. Excellent tool.

Performance & Plugins

Here's a really cool infographic that lays things out in easy to digest nuggets with instructions on 'How To Speed Up WordPress And Boost Site Performance', which kind of speaks for itself and looks into problems and solutions, like database cache and maintenance, javascript and stylesheets. Unashamedly geeky.

More geekiness (I guess!) from DBS Interactive who have an awesome WordPress reference guide, which basically

How To Speed Up WordPress And Boost Site Performance

is an online handbook 'WordPress V3.0+ Template Tag Reference Guide', which guides you

through the various template tags (obviously!) and is one of the best reference's I've seen of this nature, comprehensive, well laid out and extremely useful. Naturally if you haven't got to the stage where you want to get your hands dirty with coding then fair enough, but if you do….

And finally a couple of SEO resources.

The first is from Yoast, 'The Definitive Guide To Higher Rankings For WordPress Sites'. Yoast know a thing or two about WordPress SEO, being the people behind the super popular WordPress SEO Plugin and this is one of the most complete SEO guides you're likely to see. Essential. And if you want a second opinion, DIYThemes have an equally essential, self explanatory guide, 'WordPress SEO for Everybody'. An ongoing tutorial which the writers say, "in it, you'll learn how to use ethical, legitimate ways to get your WordPress blog ranking higher in the search engines." Good enough, and it certainly is.

That should be enough to keep you going for weeks I hope. If you have any further tips and resources I've missed out please mention them in the comments and we'll keep this thing updated.

Related Reading

WordPress Now Powers 22 Percent Of New Active Websites In The U.S. (Techcrunch)
How to install and test WordPress on a local server (CNET)
7 Ways to Build a Business Around WordPress (Mashable)
The Reason You Should Draft Your Blog Posts Outside WordPress (Tentblogger)
WordPress Support Forums (WordPress.org)
The Many Advantages (and Secrets) of WordPress Sites (Blueglass.com)
Manage All Your WordPress Sites From One Dashboard (ManageWP)

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