
WORDPRESS

BUILDING
WEBSITES



EDUCATE... DECORATE... FASCINATE!

What is WordPress?

- Software you can use to create a blog or website
- Open source, so it is free
- Most popular blog software on the internet
- Constantly being developed and updated



Why Use WordPress for Your Christmas Website?

- Very easy to install
- Lots of add ons and features
- Many Christmas themes already available
- Integration with other social media is readily available
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
 - YouTube
 - Vimeo



What are We Going to do Today?

- Install WordPress from scratch on a webserver
- Configure the basic setup
- Add some plugins and widgets
- Create a Guestbook
- Configure a Contact Form
- Create a map to our show
- Add some content
- Add some social media interaction



Let's Back Up

- What is a plugin?
- What is a widget?
- What is a contact form?
- What is a guest book?
- What is social media interaction?



Let's Get To It

- First we setup our webhost. I've configured this part already

<http://christmas.ronstarnet.com>

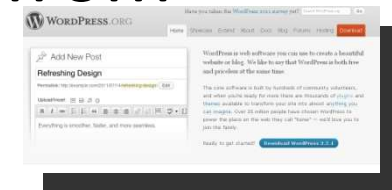


A screenshot of the MySQL Users 'Add New User' form. It includes fields for Username (with 'rca_' pre-filled), Password, and Password (Again). A strength indicator shows 'Very Weak (0/100)' and a 'Password Generator' button. A 'Create User' button is at the bottom.

- Configure our MySQL database

- Download the WordPress software from

<http://www.wordpress.org>



- Upload the software to the website

- Edit our config.php file (tells WordPress database to use and our passwords)

```
wp-config-sample.php
16 // MySQL settings - You can get this info from
17 // ** The name of the database for WordPress **
18 define('DB_NAME', 'rca_');
19
20 // MySQL database username **
21 define('DB_USER', 'rca_');
22
23 // MySQL database password **
24 define('DB_PASSWORD', ' ');
25
26 // MySQL hostname **
27 define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
```

Run the Installation Script

- Point your web browser to your site, in our case <http://christmas.ronstarnet.com>
- Fill out some basic site information
- Click the Install WordPress Button



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation 'Information needed' form. At the top is the WordPress logo and the word 'WordPress'. Below it is a 'Welcome' message. The main section is titled 'Information needed' and asks for the following information:

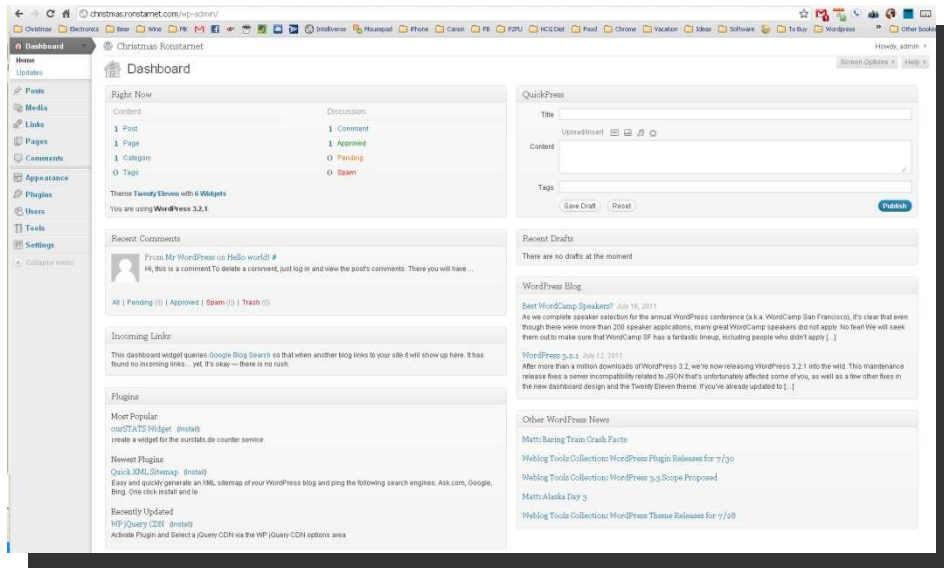
- Site Title:** A text input field containing 'Christmas Ronstarnet'.
- Username:** A text input field containing 'admin'. Below it is a note: 'Usernames can have only alphanumeric characters, spaces, underscores, hyphens, periods and the @ symbol.'
- Password, twice:** Two text input fields for password, both containing asterisks. Below them is a strength indicator showing 'Medium' in a yellow box. A hint below reads: 'Hint: The password should be at least seven characters long. To make it stronger, use upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols like ! ? \$ % ^ & * .
- Your E-mail:** A text input field containing 'rcallison@gmail.com'. Below it is a note: 'Double-check your email address before continuing.'

At the bottom, there is a checkbox labeled 'Allow my site to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati.' which is checked. Below the checkbox is an 'Install WordPress' button.



Login to Your WordPress Site

- Login with admin and your chosen password
- Check out the Dashboard



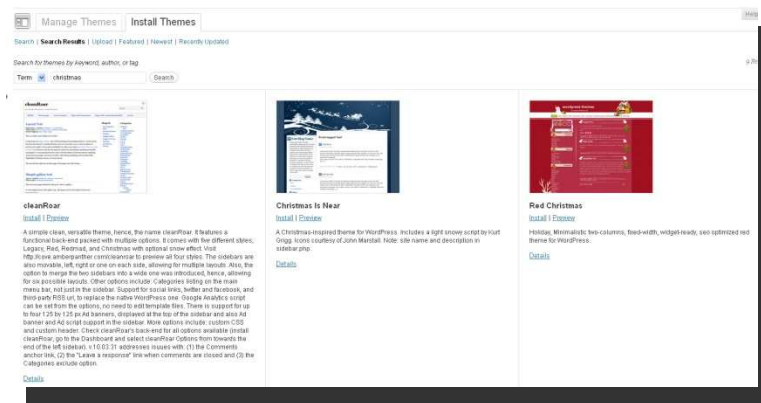
Create a User

- A good idea to create a user and not use the Admin on a daily basis
- Click the User tab on the left of the screen
- Click the Add User button at the top
- Fill out your information
- Make sure to change your role to Administrator (that way you can administer the website with this user)



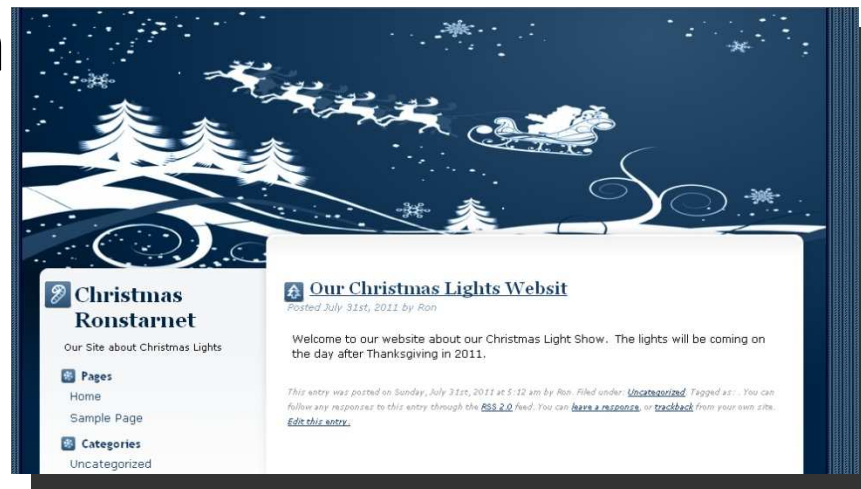
Install some Christmas Themes

- Click on Appearance, Themes
- Click the Install Themes tab at the top
- In the search box, type “Christmas”
- It should search the internet for you and provide some options for Christmas themes
- Install a few
 - Christmas is Near
 - Red Christmas
 - Christmas 1



Select a Theme

- After the themes install
- Click the Manage Themes tab
- Click Activate under any installed theme
- Check out your site, it should have a Christmas Theme



Search Google for Themes

- Google WordPress Christmas Themes
- Some nice free Christmas Themes
 - Vermillion can be found at <http://wpthemes.amazing-christmas-ideas.com/>
 - WordPress Christmas Theme by Instashift <http://www.instantshift.com/2009/01/02/wordpress-christmas-v11-a-free-wordpress-theme/>
(this is the one I use)
- Download them, then upload to your site



Add Some Posts

- Select Posts
- Add New
- Add a Title
- Type in what you would like to say
- Click the blue publish button on the right to save and publish your post
- Check out your website



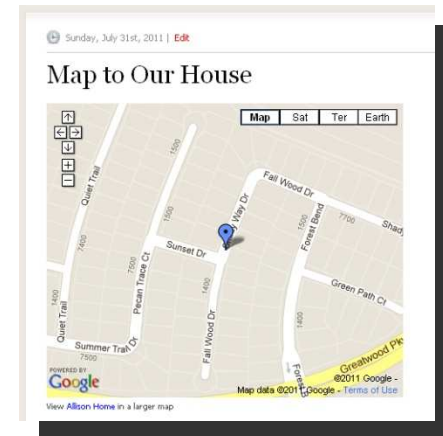
Add a Map to Your House

- Go to maps.google.com, put in your address
- Click the link button on the upper right side of the page, copy the



“Paste HTML to embed in website” link

- Add a New Page
- Add a Title, Map to Our Display
- Click the HTML tab
- Paste in the URL and Publish



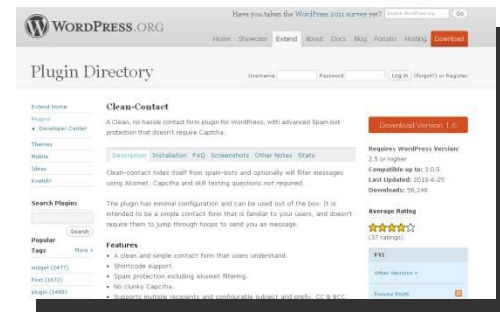
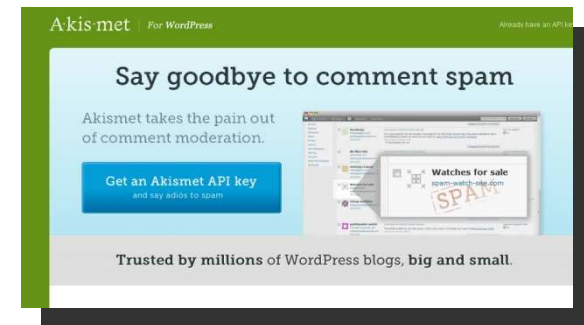
How to Embed Video

- Embedding Video on a WordPress site is very easy
- Find your video URL
- Click Posts, Add New
- Add a Title for your post
- Select the HTML tab
- Paste in your video URL
- Save it, WordPress does the rest



Install/Configure some Plugins

- First Activate Akismet, it will help with spam
 - You have to register for an API key, very easy to do just follow the instructions
- Search the WordPress plugin directory
 - <http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/>



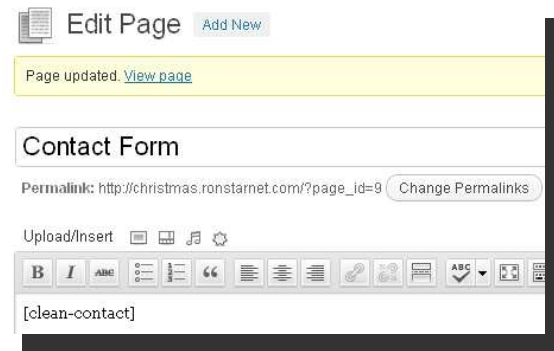
Good Plugins to Start With

- Clean-Contact
 - Nice and easy contact form for your website
- Social Media Widget
 - Allows you to configure links for your various social media accounts like Twitter, Facebook, etc.
- Gwolle-GB
 - An easy to use Guest Book
- HL Twitter
 - Easily add your Twitter feed to your site



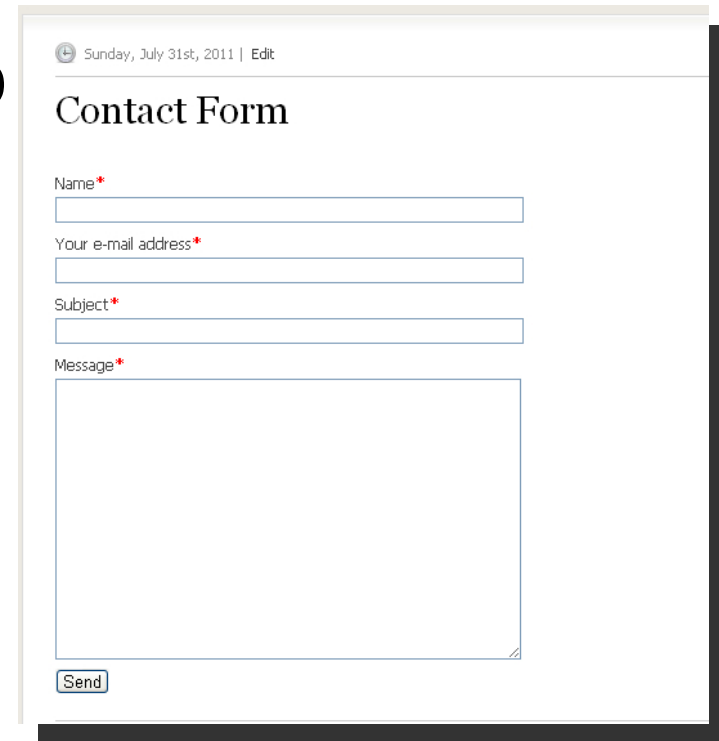
Configure Clean-Contact

- Download it and copy it to your plugins directory
- Activate it under Plugins
- Click the Pages Tab and create a new page with title Contact Form
- Click the HTML tab
- Type in [clean-contact]
- Click the Save button and view your form



Try Your Contact Form

- Go to your main webpage
- Click on Contact Form Tab

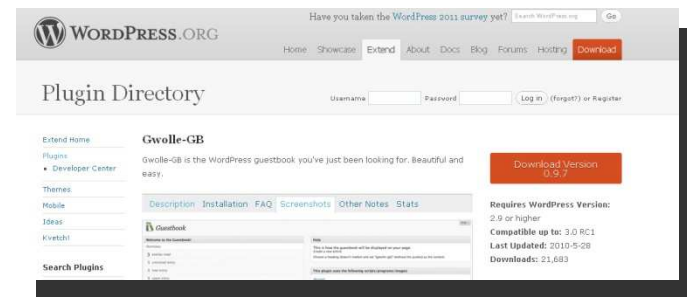


Screenshot of a contact form interface. The form is titled "Contact Form" and includes fields for Name*, Your e-mail address*, Subject*, and Message*. A "Send" button is located at the bottom left of the form. The form is displayed within a browser window showing the date "Sunday, July 31st, 2011" and an "Edit" link.



Setup a Guest Book

- Download the Gwolle-GB plugin
- Copy it to your plugins directory
- Activate the plugin
- Create a New Page
 - Title it Guest Book
 - Add [gwolle-gb] to the HTML tab
- Save it
- Check out your guest book



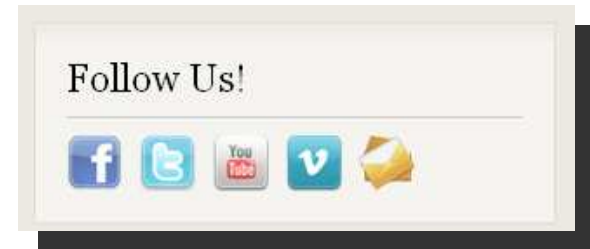
Sidebar Widgets

- What is a Sidebar Widget
 - Drag and drop available widgets to your sidebar
 - Configure any available parameters
 - Automatically activated
 - They show up on your website as menu items
- Many available on the WordPress Site



Setup Social Media Widget

- Download the Social Media Widget
- Copy to your plugins directory
- Activate the plugin
- Configure the plugin
 - Go to Appearance, Plugins
 - Make sure the Social Media Widget is in Sidebar 1
 - Click the down arrow on the Social Media Widget
 - Enter your Social Media Information



Add Your Twitter Feed

- Lots of ways to do this, but I like the plugin HL Twitter Feed
- Download and install the plugin
- Activate the plugin
- Creates its own menu tab
- Select Users, Add your Twitter name
- Import tweets
- Check out your Twitter Feed



Website Links

- WordPress
 - www.wordpress.org
- WordPress Plugin Directory
 - www.wordpress.org/extend/plugins
- WordPress Embedding videos information
 - Codex.wordpress.org/Embeds
- Hostgator – good web hosting
 - www.hostgator.com



Questions

- Q&A
- Contact me: ron@ronallison.com
- Website: www.christmasingreatwood.com
- Thanks for your time

