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Installing a WordPress Blog with Fantastico

Revision 2

Requirements:

- A host with a cPanel and Fantastico or auto install.
- A host account with at least one mysql database

Open an account with BlueHost or another affiliated WordPress blog host. <http://WordPress.org/hosting/>. This will meet the two requirements above. Check out the freebies for your host account.



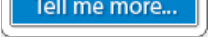
BlueHost has one button updates for WordPress, free domain name and pay per click advertising credits.

This will make future updates a breeze. One button update. However, you can do this with your present host if you have Fantastico or auto install. But I **do not like updating WordPress** (blog software) and they have endless updates. That's what programmers love to do—throw updates at you so they can watch the technically-challenged squirm.

So if you have a hosting account already that has cPanel and Fantastico, you can download WP (WordPress) from there. Updates just won't be as easy as one button click.

When you register your hosting package, you don't have to get the largest package. You can get the smallest one at first.

As you open your account, you choose your domain name and you'll find out what is available. If you have already bought one, you need to call **that** registrar or login and change the DNS to point to the new ip address once your new host account is set up. If you have questions about this, tech support at the registrar will help you with this step. If you have a website and want to add a blog, simply do mywebsite.com/blog/. /blog/ is a folder that you can create by typing in the word **blog** in a form field when you install WordPress.

If you are not familiar with a cPanel and fantastico, check out the demo  at bluehost.com to see what it looks like and take it for a live, free test drive. [cPanel Free Demo](#). Click the **tell me more** button then the **demo login**, to go to the demo page.

I, personally, like to buy a host package with the domain name and package together since they expire at the same time. Make sure you put the domain on **automatic renew**. There are companies waiting for expiration to buy up your name when it expires. Then you have to pay \$500 or so to get it back. Either you pay up or someone else buys it and gets the traffic you worked so hard to get.



Once your account and domain name are purchased, it might take about 24-48 hours for The host to set it up. When it is set up, log into your host account at your host or BlueHost or whomever you chose and you'll see a cPanel with icons. Look for Fantastico which is a little smiley face under **Software/Services**.

Look for **Blogs** on the Fantastico page and you'll see WordPress. Click on the icon and look on the left hand side for WordPress and click on that link.



Then click install. It will ask you if you want to put your blog in a folder. Leave it blank if you do not. Add a name if you do. If you leave it blank it will place the index file at mywebsite.com. If you have a website at that location already, you need this to go in a folder.

How to make a folder. It's really easy. I promise. If you specify a folder, it will place your blog at mywebsite.com/foldername/. I have actually named the folder blog which can have some SEO (search engine optimization) advantages. So my folder name is typically [/blog/](http://blog/).

Panel

WordPress

Navigation

- Fantastico Home
- Control Panel Home

Blogs

- b2evolution
- Nucleus
- WordPress**

Content Management

- Drupal
- Geeklog
- Joomla 1.5
- Joomla
- Mambo Open Source
- PHP-Nuke
- phpWCMS
- phpWebSite
- Post-Nuke
- Siteframe
- TYPO3
- Xoops

Customer Relationship

- Crafty Syntax Live Help
- Help Center Live
- osTicket
- PeriDesk
- PHP Support Tickets
- Support Logic Helpdesk
- Support Services Manager

Discussion Boards

WordPress

Install WordPress (1/3)

Installation location

Install on domain

Install in directory

Leave empty to install in the root directory of the domain (access example: http://domain/).
Enter only the directory name to install in a directory (for http://domain/name/ enter name only). This directory SHOULD NOT exist, it will be automatically created!

Admin access data

Administrator-username

Password (you need this to enter the protected admin area)

Base configuration

Admin nickname

Admin e-mail (your email address)

Site name

Description

For example, I have a website at annemoss.com. If I were to have a blog on my site, I would do annemoss.com/blog/ because I have a website at the root level. The blog software needs a root level file called [index.php](#) so it needs its very own folder. You can see a genuine example at <http://webprepro.com/blog/>.

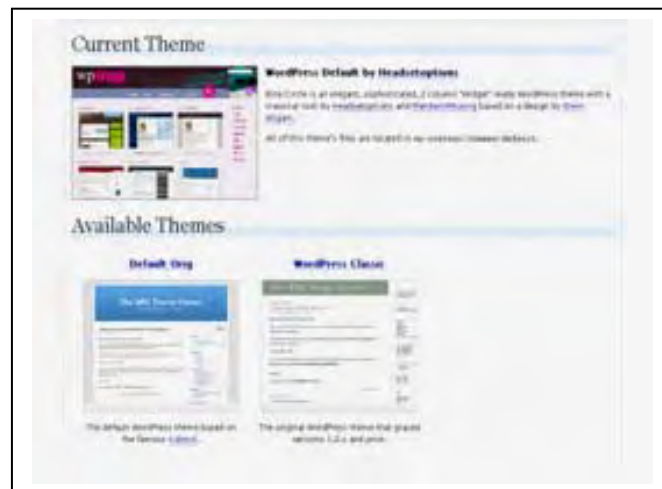
Fill in the details such as admin login name, email and password. Click install and you should have a blog at the location you specified in 30 seconds. If you put it on mywebsite.com, you go to that location and see it. If you put it at mywebsite.com/blog/, you can see it there.

Log into your WordPress admin panel. You can go to the url and look for “login” under META. Or go to <http://myblog/wp-login.php>. If you put the blog in a folder, it would be <http://myblog/folder/wp-login.php>.

Login to WordPress at your admin panel (see below) and you are at your dashboard.



At the Dashboard, go to *Change your site's look or theme*. You'll see two themes: the default and the classic. WordPress has tons of themes on the internet, both free and paid. It is easy to upload a theme.



A word about themes on the internet. Be careful because some sites with free themes are bogus and will add Trojans in your download or simply rip off themes from other designers and websites so security is lax in the name of making a buck on advertising.

Here are two reputable template website resources. There are others. I'm just giving you the gold standard in security website resources. You pick one (there is usually a demo) then click the download button and save the zip file to a folder on your local computer system. Do not unpack it yet.

Theme Resources:

- <http://themes.WordPress.net/>
- <http://www.webshapes.org/template/category/WordPress>

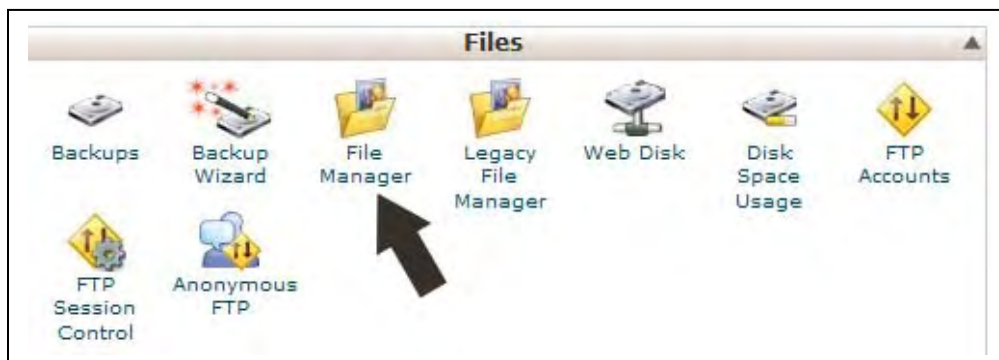
To install a theme you generally just need to upload the theme folder into your **wp-content/themes** directory. Once a theme is uploaded, you should see it on that themes directory page in the WordPress admin area pictured at the bottom of page 3. Once uploaded, you just go back and click on that theme. But first, uploading the theme.

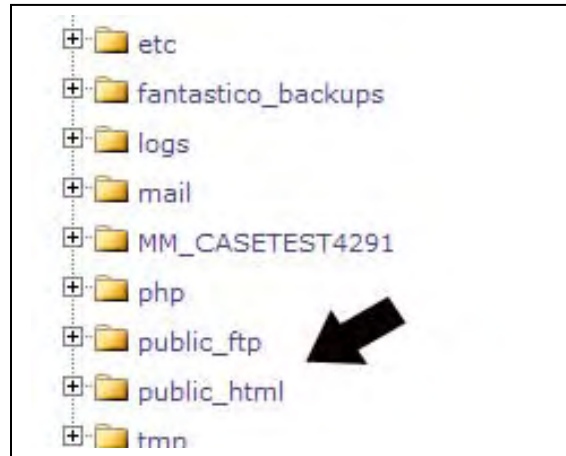
You can install this one of two ways. You can ftp it from your local system or login the host cPanel and upload it from there.

1. *FTP from your local computer:*

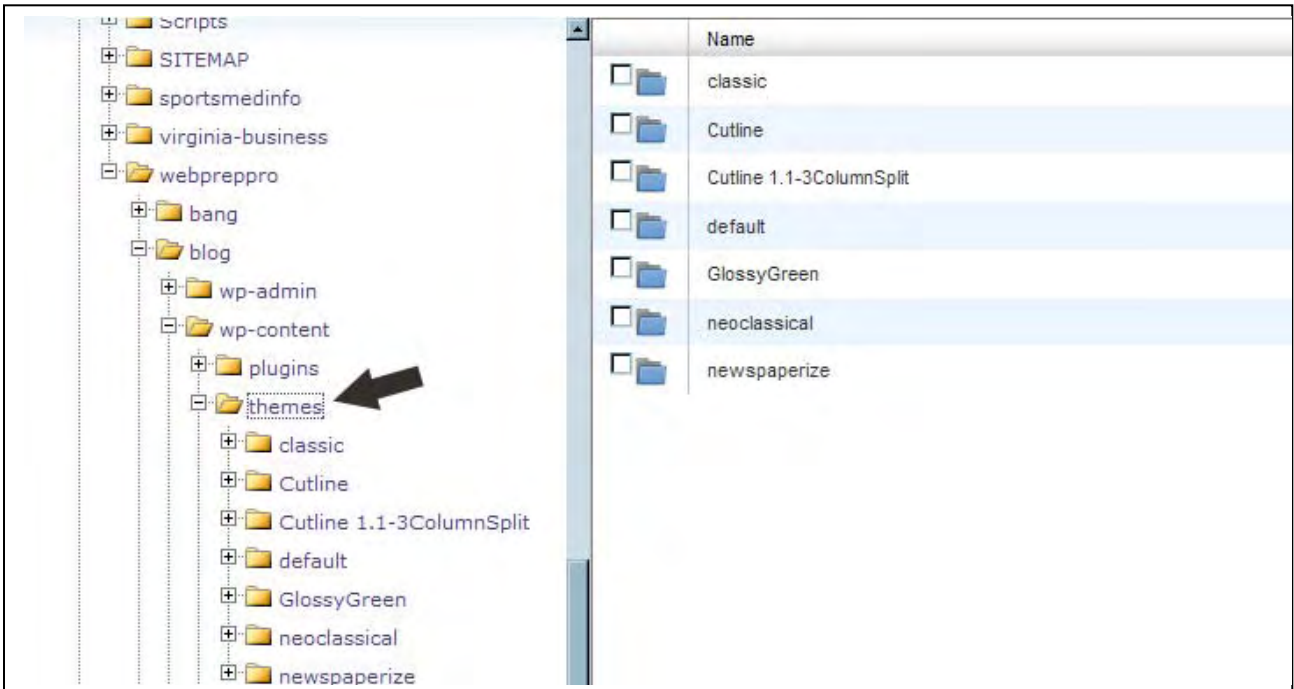
- So when you find a theme you want, click “save as” and put it in a folder.
- **Unzip the theme** into that folder and ftp that folder (named as the theme)
- Then you upload that to **wp-content/themes/mythemename**

2. *By logging into cPanel host account.* On the cPanel icons look for **File Manager**

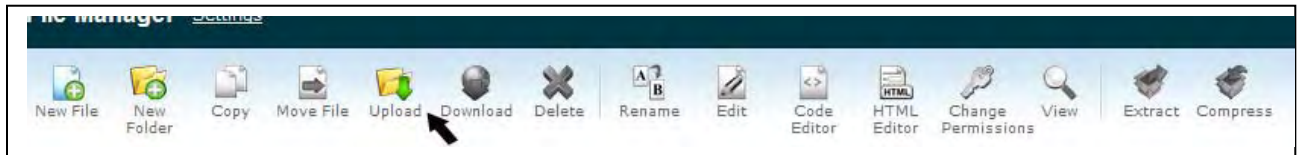




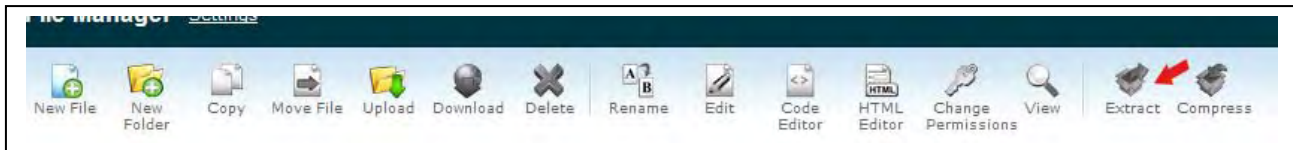
- Click the **+** sign on left. Click on the **+** sign next to click **public-html**. Click the **wp-content +** sign on left. You are opening folders. (note: Sometimes the public-html is called www or httpfiles. Depends on the host.)
- Click on the **word** “**themes**” on the left hand side. (not the plus sign)



- And at least the two themes that come with WP will be listed on the right hand side: **classic** and **default**.



- Click on the upload icon at the top (the theme will make its own file).
- Click **browse** to your .zip file on your local computer and once you click on the zip file, it will automatically begin to upload. (It will go into this folder: **/home/myblog/public_html/wp-content/themes/**)
- Click on the “back to” link at the bottom once it says *upload is 100% complete*.
- Click the box next to the mythemename.zip file to check it.
- At the top of the page, look for “**Extract**” (it will create its own folder)



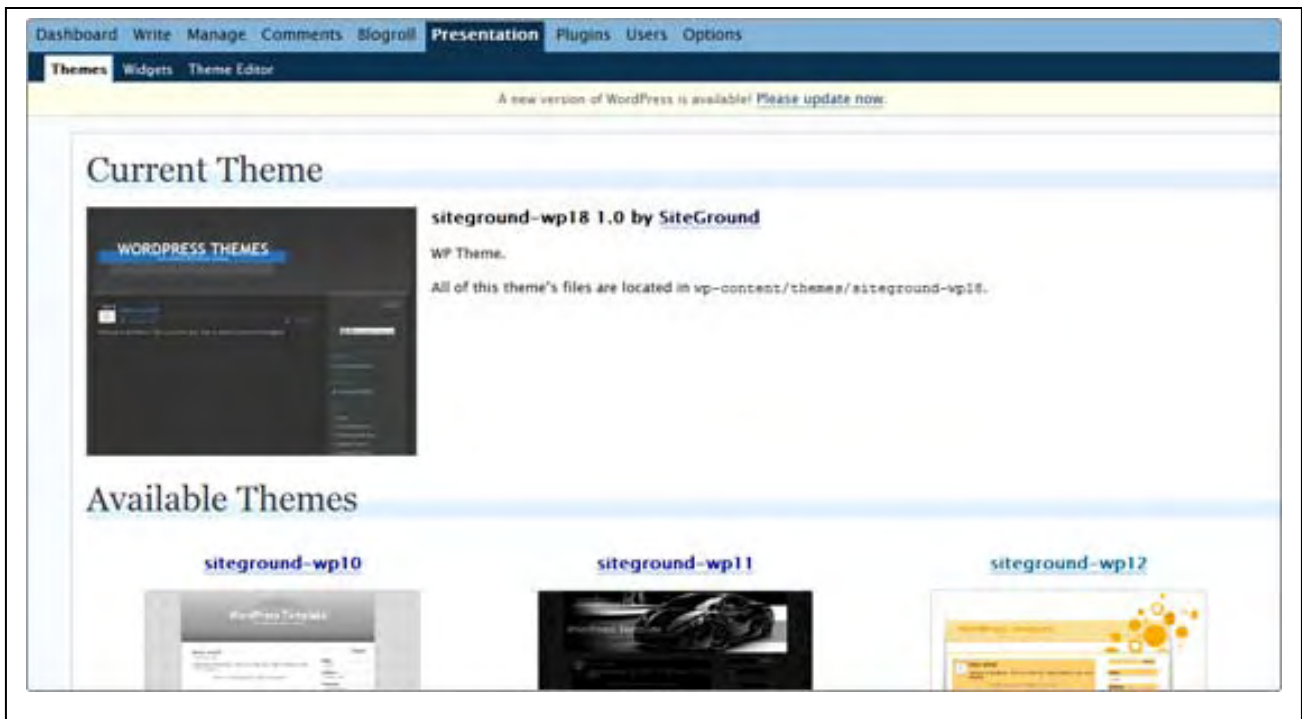
- Click the close button. You can delete the theme zip file. To do this, check the box, hit delete at the top.

Then you'll go to a page where you can upload the contents of the file you unzipped. Go back to the WordPress panel and login because you will choose your theme in the admin panel on WordPress.



From the Dashboard > go to **Change your site's look or theme.**

On the themes.php page, you should see your new theme in thumbnail version. Just click on it to choose it. Take a look and there it is in all its thematic glory.



To customize is a whole 'nother tutorial. But basically, you find the .css style sheet in that theme's folder. You can access the stylesheet in the WP admin panel, but you need to set permissions (777) in the host panel so you can make .css changes. **Back up your stylesheet.** That means make a copy of the original and call it something else. The banner is usually in the folder: [wpcontent/themes/mythemename/images/banner.jpg](#)

A right click on the actual live banner and scroll to properties (windows pc) should tell you where it is so you can replace it. Stick to about the same size, at least the width. So you could just FTP a banner you made by the same name to the same folder and it will replace what's there. Or you go in the host and use the file system to upload a banner.

There is an extra bonus pdf with this tutorial about setting permissions. Click the paper clip if you need that so you can change pictures, banners etc.

Thank you to those who provided feedback for this new, revised version of the tutorial. If you want to add your comments or suggestions, go to the [webprepro.com/blog/](#). You do not have to login or register to leave a comment. See the [Privacy Policy](#).