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# Lesson 7: Creating Your Hosted WordPress Site

## INTRODUCTION

This lesson covers the process of building your new **WordPress** site using a commercial internet service provider.

This lesson assumes the competencies gained in the previous lessons.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Describe the issues related to selecting a commercial web hosting company.
- Describe how to create a name for your website.
- Describe how to create a strong password for your website administration.
- Describe how to acquire a commercial website account.
- Demonstrate how to open the cPanel.
- Demonstrate how to use a one click installation to install the current version of WordPress software.

## LEARNING SEQUENCE

| | |
|---|---|
| Required Reading | Read the following:<br><br>Lesson 7: Creating Your Hosted WordPress Site<br><br>• *Hosting*<br>• *Software Download* |
| Video Resources | Watch the following:<br><br>• *Signing Up for Bluehost: WordPress Hosting Step by Step* (6:33) *(optional)*<br>• Bluehost: *How to use WordPress (1 of 7) - Introduction* (2:11)<br>• Bluehost: *How to Use WordPress (2 of 7) – Installing WordPress on your Bluehost Account* (3:41) |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Assignments | Complete the following:<br>• Assignment 7a: Creating a name for your website<br>• Assignment 7b: Preparing to create your account with a web hosting company<br>• Assignment 7c: Creating your account with a web hosting company<br>• Assignment 7d: Daily Post |

## INSTRUCTION

In the previous Lessons you walked through the process of configuring your free **WordPress** accounts to establish a basic web site functioning as a blog. In this Lesson you must apply what you learned previously as this Lesson will only refer to those tasks. Refer back to previous Lessons should you need to review.

### WordPress – Acquiring a Commercial Web Host

For the rest of our lessons you need to now acquire a commercially hosted web site by creating an account with a web hosting company. We will focus on using a web hosting company that offers what is referred to as a *single click **WordPress** installation*. For most individuals and small-to-medium size businesses this is the preferred method.

> ***Something to Think About***
>
> The other method, manually installing the **WordPress** software on an appropriate server, is well beyond the scope and prerequisites of this class. For example, open.nasa.gov was created using this method. You can take a look at WordPress.org for more information regarding manually installing WordPress: Download WordPress.
>
> If you are interested in pursuing this further it is recommended that you take a course in Linux systems administration.

You will need to identify an appropriate web hosting company (also known as an internet service provider). WordPress currently recommends three web hosting companies:

- Bluehost
- Dreamhost
- Laughingsquid

Another web hosting company popular with some WordPress professionals is:

- Hostgator

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While there are many - probably hundreds - of companies that offer web hosting, for the purposes of this class we will focus solely on one of the three web hosts recommended by **WordPress** hosting. And for the purposes of this class all discussion will focus on one of the three web hosting companies recommended by **WordPress**: **Bluehost.com**

You are welcome to select any appropriate web hosting company but please realize you will need to adapt some of these tutorials to a different environment. And before you select your own host you need to carefully examine what they provide and the terms and conditions of their web hosting. Include some of these thoughts in your decision process:

- Are they optimized for WordPress?
- Do they offer a single click installation process?
- What is the monthly cost?
- Can you cancel your account at any time?
- Do they provide free technical support?
- What does an internet search for reviews and comments for this specific company show?

All of the tutorials and references in this and the following lessons will relate specifically to **Bluehost**. If you select a different web host you will need to follow their instructions for setting up your account.

### Naming Your Website

When you sign up for an account with your web hosting company you are going to create a unique domain name for your website.

This unique name is also called a **URL** (uniform resource locator).

You are familiar with using these, for example if you wanted to use the Google® search engine you would enter the following domain name in your browser: **www.google.com**

The complete URL long form of this name is: **http://www.google.com**

So, you need to decide what name your website should have. Realize that with millions of domain names in existence it is very likely the specific domain name you would prefer has already been taken. You are probably the most familiar with the domain ".com" which is the preferred business domain. But there are others such as ".net" and ".biz".

So how do you create a name? Answer some questions:

- What is your website about (cars, shoes, horses, golf, books, etc.)?
- Are there names (key words) that might further distinguish your website (collectible, running, miniature, clubs, antique, etc.)?
- Is there a specific name you would like to include (your name, your business name, a state or country name)?

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- Is there a number you could use at the end if necessary that is not just a random, meaningless number (the current year, the year your business was established)?

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## Assignment 7a: Creating a name for your website

Your first assignment is to decide on a domain name.

Then make a list of 9 variations of that name.

Hopefully one of the ten names will be available. It is possible you may have to revisit this process at the time you sign up for your web site. But you need to be as prepared as possible BEFORE you start the process.

You may really want "ilovereallyoldbooks.com" but it is very possible that name is taken. However, you may find that "ilovereallyoldbooks.net" or "ilovereallyoldbooks1436.com" available.

When you sign up for your web site your web hosting company will let you know if a desired name is available.

Turn in: Email your instructor your list of 10 possible domain names.

## Assignment 7b: Preparing to create your account with a web hosting company

In order to complete this exercise you must either already have access to a commercial or commercial-grade web host account or you must rent an account. If you already have access to an appropriate web host account you can skip the sign-up process and go directly to installing **WordPress**.

Please note: most commercial web host companies require that you provide payment either through a credit card, PayPal®, or in some cases by check. If you have any questions you need to contact the web host company and determine your options.

It is recommended that for class purposes you sign up for a "monthly" account rental that can be discontinued at the end of this class or at some later time of your choosing.

Again, for demonstration purposes, Bluehost.com will be used to represent the commercial web hosting company.

If you would like a preview of the sign-up process, here is an optional video you can watch: *Signing Up for Bluehost: WordPress Hosting Step by Step* (6:33)

Watch the following videos and take notes as you have done in previous lessons:

Bluehost: *How to use WordPress (1 of 7) - Introduction* (2:11)

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Bluehost: *How to Use WordPress (2 of 7) – Installing WordPress on your Bluehost Account* (3:41)

Turn in: A copy of your notes for each video.

## Assignment 7c: Creating your account with a web hosting company

It's time to begin!
A resource guide has been created to step you the process of selecting and inserting widgets. Review the following guide to work through the steps needed to complete Assignment 7c: Creating your Account with a Web Hosting Company Tutorial.

Creating your Account with a Web Hosting Company Tutorial

Turn in: Email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete domain name for this website: Assignment 7c your website domain name.

## Assignment 7d: Daily Post

For now you will continue your Daily Posts on your original project blog site.

- Sign into your second **WordPress.com** account
- Open your project blog
- Post to your blog **5 days per week** for the next two weeks. You are welcome to post every day.
- Be sure to announce to those following your blog the domain name of your NEW website so that they can follow your progress.

Turn in: Email your instructor the name of this assignment and the complete blog address for this blog: Assignment 7d - blog address.

## PRACTICE

1. Explain what the most challenging aspect of creating your website.

2. What the most rewarding aspect of creating your website.

## SUMMARY

So what should you take away from this lesson?

- Be able to describe the issues related to selecting a commercial web hosting company.

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- Be able to describe how to create a name for your website.
- Be able to create a strong password for your website administration.
- Be able to describe how to acquire a commercial website account.
- Be able to demonstrate how to open the cPanel.
- Be able to demonstrate how to use a one click installation to install the current version of WordPress software.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Assignment details are located within the lesson.

1. Assignment 7a: Creating a name for your website
2. Assignment 7b: Preparing to create your account with a web hosting company
3. Assignment 7c: Creating your account with a web hosting company
4. Assignment 7d: Daily Post

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