WordPress Top Plugins

Brandon Corbin

WordPress Top Plugins

Find and install the best plugins for generating and sharing content, building communities, and generating revenue

Community Experience Distilled

Brandon Corbin

Chapter No. 2
"Generating Content"

In this package, you will find:

A Biography of the author of the book

A preview chapter from the book, Chapter NO.2 "Generating Content"

A synopsis of the book's content

Information on where to buy this book

About the Author

Brandon Corbin is an accomplished web enthusiast with a background in advertising, and has used his knowledge of design and marketing to create websites for many of the Fortune 500. For more than a decade, he has applied his passions to several industries—including radio, real estate, pharmaceuticals, recruiting, and e-Commerce—with an obsessive attention to creating a smooth user experience.

> I would like to thank my wonderful wife Emily and my awesome children—Maddy and Ethan, all of whom put up with my absence during the writing of this book. You guys mean the world to me.

WordPress Top Plugins

WordPress has thousands of plugins available—most of them don't work as advertised, are out dated, or simply don't work. Wordpress Top Plugins takes you through the process of finding the very best plugins to build a powerful and engaging website or blog.

With access to over 10,000 plugins, finding the ones that actually work as advertised is becoming exceedingly difficult and time consuming. Wordpress Top Plugins removes this time-consuming act by delivering only the best free plugins available on WordPress today.

Each chapter tackles common objectives most websites need to achieve, such as: building a community, sharing content, working with multiple authors, and securing your website. With exact search terms, screenshots, and complexity levels, you'll find exactly what you need to quickly install and setup each of the plugins that fits your technical skills.

What This Book Covers

Chapter 1, Plugin Basics covers the basics in finding, choosing, and installing plugins on your WordPress powered blog.

Chapter 2, Generating Content will expose the top plugins for dynamically creating content on your blog.

Chapter 3, Sharing Content will help you turn your blog in to a content sharing machine by making it easy for your readers and yourself to promote your blogs content across the entire social web.

Chapter 4, Style and Function covers the best WordPress plugins for increasing your blog's usability, beauty, and fun.

Chapter 5, Building a Community with BuddyPress shows you, step by step, how to turn your blog into a full blown social network.

Chapter 6, Generate Revenue will show you the best plugins for creating on-going automated revenue for your website.

Chapter 7, Working with Multiple Authors highlights the best plugins for websites with multiple writers.

Chapter 8, Security and Maintenance covers plugins that help maintain a healthy and secure WordPress blog.

Chapter 9, Power Admin covers the plugins that will turn you in to a WordPress administrating juggernaut.

Chapter 10, Time for Action covers some of the best external resources for continuing your WordPress education.

2
Generating Content

A blog without content is like a dinner plate with no food. And while WordPress makes it easy to generate content for your blog, out of the box, it's an empty canvas waiting to be filled with dazzling content.

In this chapter, we cover the following:

- Adding ratings to your blog posts
- Automatically creating links to similar blog posts
- Easily including videos from YouTube, Vimeo, and many more
- Creating personalized greetings for your visitors
- Creating slideshows
- Building forms
- Improving WordPress's search
- Automatically pulling content from your other websites

GD Star Rating

By Milan Petrovic (`http://dev4press.com/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Quickly adds ratings and ranking to your blog posts
- **Why it was picked**: Super easy to get running, offers lots of customizations

Rating: 6.0/**10** (1 vote cast)

- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/gd-star-rating/`

- **Automatic Install search term**: GD Star Rating
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Top Navigation | GD Star Rating**
- **Used in**: Posts, comments, pages

If you want to know what your readers like, then you need to allow them to quickly rate your individual posts and rank other readers' comments; **GD Star Rating** does exactly this. Don't be fooled by its deceptively simple outer shell. Those rating stars are backed by a massive administrative area that allows you to customize virtually every aspect of how a user rates your blog's content. For example, you can change how the stars look, how many times to allow users to vote, where to display ratings, and much, much more. In addition to being crazily customizable, GD Star Rating also offers awesome analytics on who's rating what, which items are popular, and virtually any other data point you could imagine.

Fixing the default ratings

Out of the box, GD Star Rating will include both a 10 Star Rating bar and a Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down ranking scale. Obviously, a post doesn't need both, and 10 Star Rating will work just fine for all of our blog posts. The Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down will be great for our comments.

> To access GD Star Rating's main settings, visit **GD Star Rating | Settings**.

Turning off Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down on posts

Uncheck the checkbox next to **For Individual Posts** and **For Individual Pages**.

Turning off Star Ratings on comments

Uncheck the checkbox next to **For Comments for Posts** and **For Comments for Pages**.

Better Tag Cloud

By Nicolas Kuttler (`http://www.nkuttler.de/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: It's not really awesome, just wonderfully practical and create a nicely customizable TagCloud

- **Why it was picked**: Updated often, flexibility of placement, color customizations

- **Manual Install URL**: `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/ nktagcloud/`
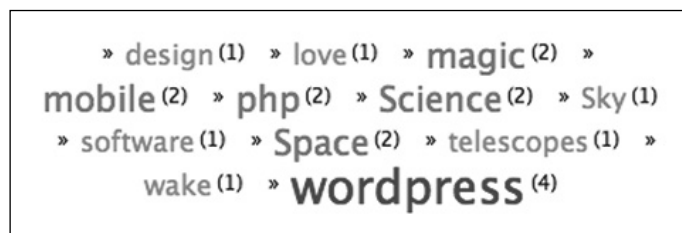
- **Automatic Install search term**: Better Tag Cloud

- **Geek level**: Newbie

- **Configuration location**: **Settings | Better Tag Cloud**

- **Used in**: Posts, pages, widgets

The Tag Cloud widget that comes with WordPress is very simple. Luckily, Nicolas Kuttler took the initiative to create a wonderful replacement. Not only does **Better Tag Cloud** give you a new widget, it also lets you include your tag cloud in posts and pages.

> Use the shortcode `[nktagcloud]` to include *Better Tag Cloud* in a post or page.

Yet Another Related Posts Plugin (YARPP)

By Michael Yoshitaka Erlewine (`http://mitcho.com/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Search engine optimization and increasing average time on site for you visitors
- **Why it was picked**: Accuracy of the relation algorithm

- **Manual Install URL**: `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/yet-another-related-posts-plugin/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: YARPP
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | Related Posts (YARPP)**
- **Used in**: Posts

Yet Another Related Posts Plugin (**YARPP**) helps your readers and the search engine bots to find other posts on your website that are similar to the one they are currently reading.

Once installed and activated, the YARPP plugin is virtually done. Check out one of your blog posts, and see if you like the results. Below the article will be a list of similar posts to the one you're reading. While out of the box YARPP will satisfy 80 percent of the people, you should check out the YARPP settings, as it offers a ton of configuration options.

My Page Order

By Andrew Charlton (`http://www.geekyweekly.com/`)

| Tag Cloud |
| Plugins |
| Location |
| Awesome Stuff! |
| About |
| Ask Me Anything |
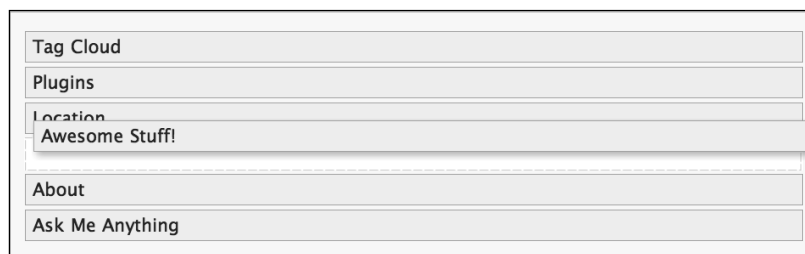
- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/my-page-order/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: My Page Order
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Pages | My Page Order**
- **Used in**: Navigation

My Page Order, by Andrew Charlton, allows you to reorder your WordPress pages using a super simple drag-and-drop interface.

HOME   TAG CLOUD   PLUGINS   LOCATION   ASK ME ANYTHING   RSS

Get Recent Comments

By Krischan Jodies (`http://jodies.de`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Helps search engine optimization and the visitors know what content is the most talked about
- **Why it was picked**: Simplicity and search engine optimization

NextGen Gallery Example
January 17th, 2010

Boy by the Water

Recent Comments

» Michael: Yep, I can see one of the oil rigs in the background!

» Jes: Wow, I love the colors!

» admin: That photo was taken by my wife during our vacation to Gulf Shores Alabama. I absolutely love this photo.

» Mr WordPress: Hi, this is a comment.To delete a comment, just log in and view the post's comments. There you...

- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/get-recent-comments/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: Get Recent Comments
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | Recent Comments**
- **Used in**: Widgets, templates

The default **Recent Comments** widget in WordPress is shockingly incomplete; luckily, Krischan Jodies spent his personal time to build a proper Recent Comments widget. Once activated, you will need to visit **Appearance | Widgets**. A new **Recent Comments** widget will be available to drag to your sidebar. Out of the box, the plugin needs no configuration, but Krischan provided a very comprehensive configuration engine that can be accessed through **Settings | Recent Comments**.

The plugin, Recent Comments, also comes with a **Recent Trackback** widget. You might ask "What's a Trackback?"; a Trackback is simply when someone mentions your post or website on their blog or website.

Viper's Video Quicktags

By Alex—also known as Viper007Bond (`http://www.viper007bond.com/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Add and embed a video from the most popuplar online source
- **Why it was picked**: Simplicity and number of video services support
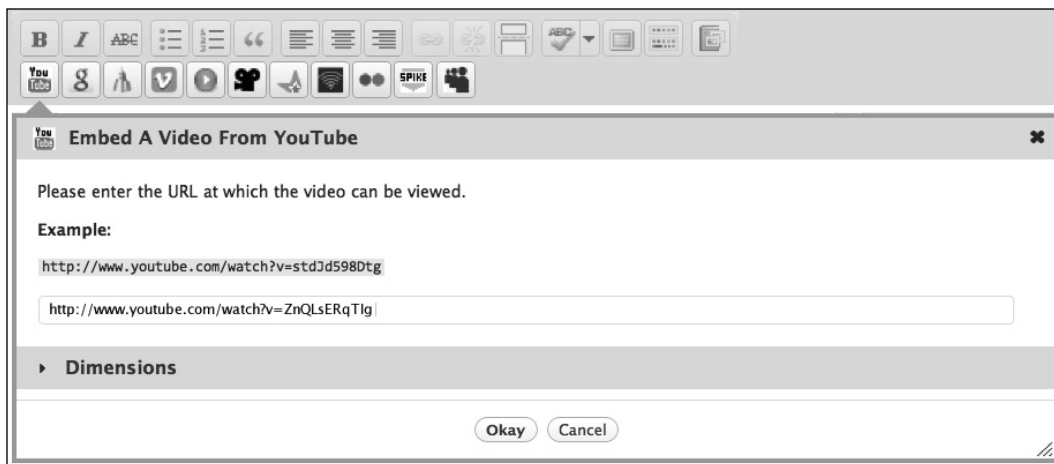
- **Manual Install URL**: `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/vipers-video-quicktags/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: Vipers Video Quicktags
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | Video Quicktags**
- **Used in**: Posts

Embedding videos has never been easier, thanks to **Vipers Video Quicktags**. This plugin removes the need to copy and paste "embed" code from the different video sharing sites into your posts' body. Instead, you click the icon for a specific video site, for example, YouTube. Then all you need to provide is the URL to the video. Viper's Video Quicktag goes to the URL and extracts the embed code automatically.

WP Greet Box

By Thaya Kareeson (`http://omninoggin.com`)

- **Why it's awesome**: It just works, and it offers the user a direct call to action
- **Why it was picked**: Simplicity and customizability
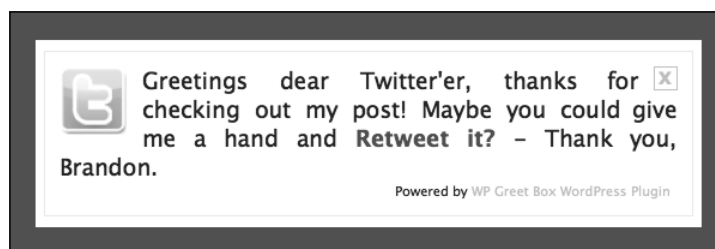
- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-greet-box/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: WP Greet Box
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | WP Greet Box**
- **Used in**: Posts, pages

WP Greet Box allows you to display custom messages to visitors, depending on where they originated from. For example, if a reader comes to your blog from Google Reader, the default message will welcome them as a "Google Reader" and give them the ability to subscribe to your blog's RSS feed. Similarly, when a visitor comes from Twitter, you can welcome the Twitter user with the option of following you on Twitter.

NextGen Gallery

By Alex Rabe (`http://alexrabe.de/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Produces beautiful slideshows quickly
- **Why it was picked**: Continually updated by the developer and ease of install and use

- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/nextgen-gallery/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: NextGen Gallery
- **Geek level**: Webmaster
- **Configuration location**: **Top Navigation | Gallery**
- **Used in**: Posts, pages, widgets

Alex Rabe's **NextGen Gallery** is hands down the most popular plugin(by means of total downloads) available for WordPress. NextGen Gallery supports multiple photo galleries, multiple ways to display your photos, and other developers are even creating sub plugins for it! Once installed, you will be able to include your photo albums on both Pages and Posts, as a slideshow (see the following note), image list, or image gallery.

Note: To take advantage of the Flash Slideshow display, you will need to download *JW Image Rotator* from `http://www.longtailvideo.com/players/jw-image-rotator/`. Once downloaded, you will need to put the SWF file in your `wp-content/uploads` directory. JW Image Rotator is released under the Creative Commons license.

Setting up your first gallery

Start off by clicking **Add Gallery | Image** in the Gallery navigation. The screen will display a tabbed interface, allowing you to add a new gallery, upload a ZIP file of multiple images, import an image folder (located on your server), or manually upload an image one at a time.

| Add new gallery | Upload a Zip-File | Import image folder | Upload Images |

Add new gallery

New Gallery: Your-Gallery-Name

Create a new , empty gallery below the folder **wp-content/gallery/**

(Allowed characters for file and folder names are: a-z, A-Z, 0-9, -, _)

Add gallery

- Give a name to your gallery. For this demonstration, I named mine **Your-Gallery-Name**. Then click **Add Gallery**
- Click the **Upload Images** tab
  - Click **browse** and select your first photo
  - Select which Gallery you would like to put this photo in
  - NOTE: you will always need to select this for each photo you upload
  - Click **Upload Image**
  - Rinse and repeat as needed

Congratulations, you just created your first photo gallery. Now that we have a gallery with photos, let's insert it into a post. The process for adding a gallery to a post is exactly the same as adding it to a page.

Adding your gallery to a post or a page

Once you visit your **Add Post** or **Add Page** area of WordPress, you should notice a new icon available—this is your NextGen Gallery button.


On clicking the newly created button, a new pop-up window will give you the option to select which gallery to include and which method the gallery should be displayed in. Also available from this pop-up window is the option to include an individual photo or an album that contains multiple photo galleries.
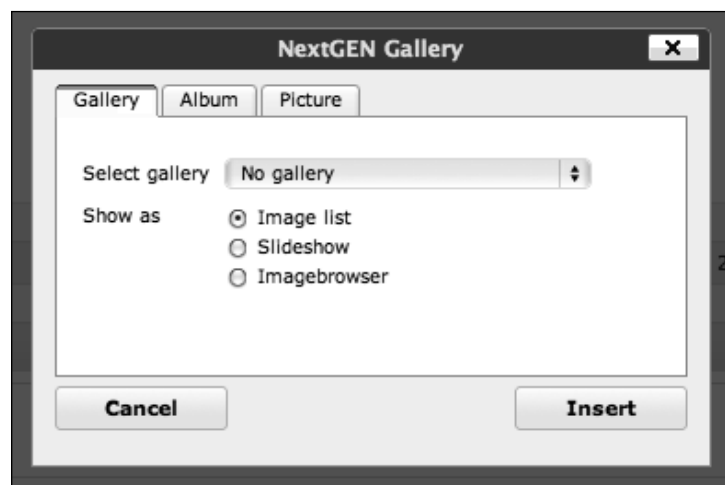
Zemanta

By Thaya Kareeson (`http://zemanta.com`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Zemanta makes it a snap to have posts with relevant imagery and links
- **Why it was picked**: Auto linking content, creative common images, and related posts from all over the net
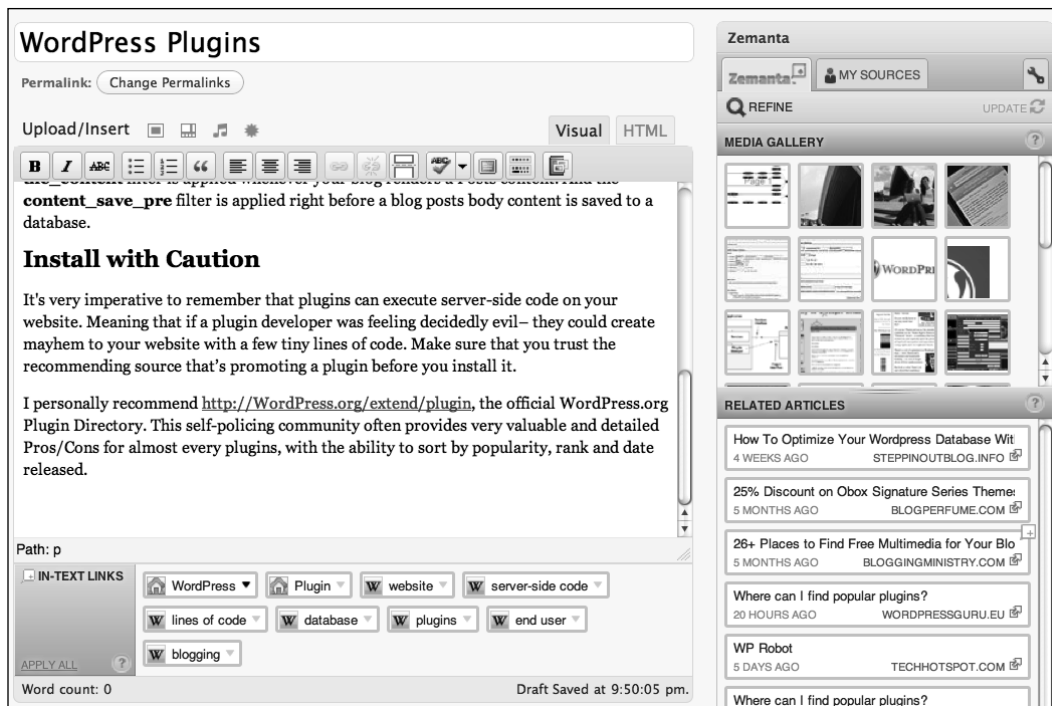
- **Manual Install URL**: `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/zemanta/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: Zemanta
- **Geek level**: Webmaster
- **Configuration location**: **Plugins | Zemanta Configuration**
- **Used in**: Posts

Zemanta is an awesome plugin that helps you automatically find helpful links, photos, and other online sources that relate directly to the post you're writing. Once installed, you will see a new side-panel when you create or edit a post or page. Once you start typing in the body of your post, Zemanta will automatically scour the web looking for photos and other blog posts that cover similar items.

To use Zemanta, simply start writing a new blog post. Beneath the post, you will find a panel called "IN-TEXT LINKS". As you write, specific keywords will be listed in this panel. These keywords are links to websites that Zemanta found online. Clicking one of these keywords will automatically create a link to the website.

In the side-bar panel, Zemanta includes a panel of related images and a panel of related posts online that relate directly to the content you are producing. Clicking on one of the images Zemanta found will insert the image at the current cursor position.

CForms II

By Oliver Seidel (`http://deliciousdays.com`)

- **Why** it's awesome: Super easy to create engaging and secure forms
- **Why it was picked**: Popularity and ease of use

- **Manual Install URL**: `http://deliciousdays.com`
- **Automatic Install search term**: CFORMS
- **Geek level**: Webmaster
- **Configuration location**: **Top Navigation | cforms II**
- **Used in**: Posts, widgets, pages

WordPress lacks any methods for creating a form (beyond the comment form) to collect visitor questions, contact info, or any other type of communication data. CForms makes creating custom forms as easy as pointing and clicking. Forms can be embedded throughout your blog, including widgets, posts, and pages.

CForms administration

CForms is a very powerful and somewhat complex plugin, so let's take a moment to get familiar with the Administration section.

- Form Action is the somewhat hard-to-find **Admin Actions**. You will use this expandable menu to save your changes, delete, create, and back up your forms.

- Form Selection is how you switch between your different forms.

- Form Name is where you will define your form's name. This name will be used when you want to insert this form into a blog post, page, or widget.

- Fields are the individual inputs your form will contain.

- Kind of Field allows you to define a field as either a single line of text, multi-lined text, multiple-choice, captchas, file uploader, and a lot more.

- Add New Field will insert a new field into your form.

Modifying the default form

Once inside the CForms Administration, located at **Settings | CForms II**, you will see your "default form". This default form is the basic information needed to create a "Contact Us" form on your blog, including the field's name, e-mail, website, and message.
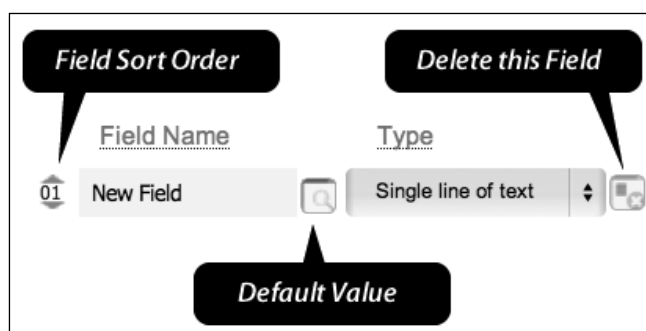
Click the **Field Sort Order** icon, and drag it to reorder the field to any other position. Use the **Default Value** icon to specify what the field's default value should be, as well as mouse over values and error messages. Use the **Delete this Field** icon to remove a field from your form.

Adding your form to a page, post, or widget

CForms can be inserted into pages, posts, and widgets. However, the widget version is awfully wide and will most likely not look right in your sidebar. At the time of writing, there is no apparent way to modify this.

Once inside the page or post editor, you will find a new icon added to your "Descriptions" toolbar.

Once you click the **CForms** icon, you will need to select which form you would like to include. The drop-down box will contain all of the forms you currently have active. If you would rather use the coding method to insert your form, use the WP tag `<!--cforms name="My Form Name"-->` or the PHP tag `<?php insert_ cform("my form name"); ?>`.

Advanced CForms customizations

While CForms might not be the easier form/mailer plugin available, it is hands down the most flexible. Make sure to delve into the additional options towards the bottom of the *Form Manager*.

File upload settings

If you will be using the *File Upload* field, you will need to provide some additional server information for it to work properly. Specifically, you will need to define where your file should be uploaded to, the maximum file sizes, and what type of files are allowed to be uploaded.

Messages, text, and button label

Customize your buttons, error messages, and text non-fictions for a given form.

Core Form Admin / e-mail options

Inside the Core Form Admin, you will be able to turn on and off the ability to track submissions in the RSS feed, set redirection rules, set start and end dates when a form will be shown.

Admin e-mail message options

Configure the e-mail message that will be sent to the administrator, once a user submits a form—including setting which e-mail address to send to, the header and footer html, and the from e-mail address.

Auto confirmation

Automatically send your visitor a confirmation e-mail, once they submit a form by clicking the **Activate Auto confirmation** link. Through this option, you will be able to configure the subject and message to send, the moment a form is submitted.

Multi-part / multi-page forms

Create multiple page forms by activating the Multi-part form option. Once activated, the Multi-part forms panel will allow you to define what step the current form in your process is, along with the ability to add **back** and **next** buttons.

Tell-A-Friend form support

The *Tell-A-Friend* field must be activated before you can leverage it. Once activated, you will have a new field type called "tell-a-friend". This "field" is actually multiple fields that are required to tell a friend about a given web page.

WP comment feature

You can actually replace WordPress' comment system with CForms. This might be helpful if you would like to customize the fields that a user can submit on a comment, or if you want the user to be able to send the author an e-mail opposed to a public comment.
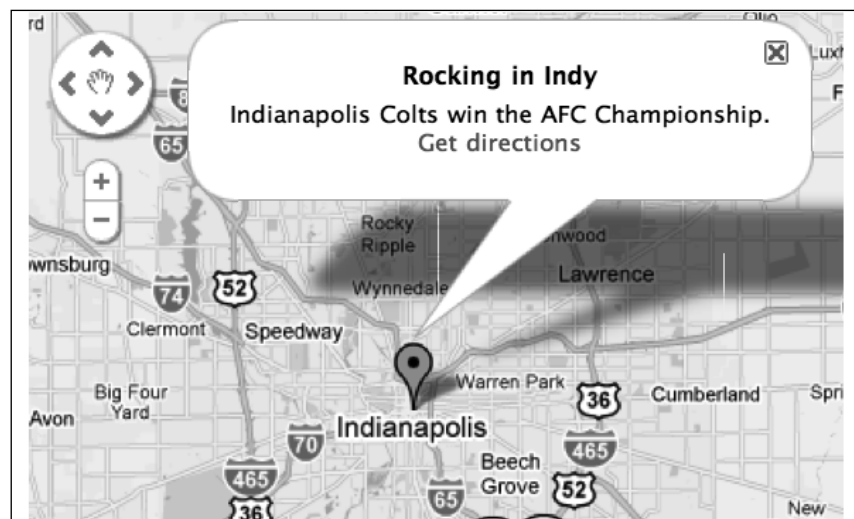
Third-party read-notification support

CForm offers integration with notification services `readnotify.com` and `didtheyreadit.com` to notify you if a user reads your e-mail. These services might cause your e-mails to be triggered as spam.

MapPress—Google maps

By Chris Richardson (`http://wphostreviews.com`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Easily hack together some neat mashups on Google's dime
- **Why it was picked**: Popularity, ease of setup

- **Manual Install URL**: `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/mappress-google-maps-for-wordpress/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: Mappress
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | MapPress**
- **Used in**: Posts, pages

MapPress makes it easy to insert custom Google Maps into your blog. Once installed, you will have the option to add multiple locations by address or lat/long. You will need a Google Maps API-key, which can be obtained from `http://bit.ly/gmap-api`. Google requires users who customize maps to have an API key. This allows them to track usage and ensure that people are not using Google Maps outside the 'Terms and Conditions'. If you do not have a need for customizing the content on the map, then you could always bypass installing this plugin and use the embed code directly from Google Maps.

Adding a map to a post or page

You will now have a new panel titled MapPress during the editing or creation of a post/page. The MapPress panel is where you define the size of your map, and the specific points of interest.

WP-O-Matic

By Guillermo Rauch (`http://devthought.com/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Great for automatically pulling content from your other blogs or online applications
- **Why it was picked**: Flexibility and data import consistency
- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-o-matic/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: WP-O-Matic
- **Geek level**: WordPress Ninja
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | WP-O-Matic**
- **Used in**: Posts

WP-O-Matic is used to automatically create posts from an RSS or ATOM feed. This plugin is by far one of the more complicated plugins available, but insanely powerful. Imagine being able to take content from any website virtually, and automatically add it to your blog every time it is updated. With this plugin, you could hypothetically build a gigantic blog filled with tons of content, without ever manually posting.

Before you can begin, there are a few steps you need to go through to ensure that you have all of the right software available for this plugin to work. The first time you visit **Settings | WP-O-Matic**, you will be asked to click through a series of configuration options.

The first step makes sure that you have the right SimplePie installed. **SimplePie** is a wonderful piece of software that makes consuming RSS and ATOM feeds very easy.

The second step allows you to select how automatic updates will occur; your options are using a CRON job or a pseudo-automatic process. The **CRON** job does require you to do some server magic in the SHELL. For those of you who have no idea what that last sentence meant, uncheck the box at the end of the second step.

Creating your first campaign

In WP-O-Matic, a **campaign** is a collection of feeds (or a single feed) that will be imported into a specific area that you define. For example, let's say you want to create a new category dedicated to news about Space. Then you would create a new campaign called "Space news" that would contain multiple RSS feeds from other websites and blogs that write about Space. Then, on a schedule which you define, WP-O-Matic will automatically grab the latest news and create a post for each new item in the feed.

Adding feeds

The **Feeds** tab is where you will define each of the RSS or ATOM feeds you would like to include in your newly created campaign. WP-O-Matic has a great feature if you are unsure what the RSS feed is for a given website; all you have to do is provide the website's URL. For example, enter `http://universetoday.com`, and WP-O-Matic will automatically locate the websites' feed for you.

For More Information: www.packtpub.com/wordpress-top-plugins/book

Categories

WP-O-Matic allows you to specify different categories for different feeds. This feature is awesome when you have a site that covers multiple topics and will be importing multiple types of content from different feeds.

Understanding WP-O-Matic's options

Each campaign has a slew of options available during import. The following is a breakdown of what each of the options will do.

- **Custom Post Template**: When WP-O-Matic is importing the text of a feed, you have the option of adding additional content to the post. This is helpful if you want to add a "Read More" link to the end of the post or include additional details about the feed.

- **Frequency**: By default, WP-O-Matic checks for new posts every day and a half. To change this to a different time delay, simply provide the number of days, hours, and minutes.

- **Cache Images**: Many times, feeds have images embedded in them. This setting automatically downloads the files to your own server. In this way, if the original publisher of the post deletes or changes an image, your blog still displays the original post images.

- **Perform Ping Back**: A **Ping Back** is a way to automatically notify another blog that you referenced one of their posts on your blog. If checked, the **Perform Ping Back** will automatically "ping" the blog post that WP-O-Matic adds to your blog. It's recommended that you check this option to give proper attribution for the posts you are importing.

- **Type of Post**: By default, new posts will automatically be published. You can change this setting by selecting either "draft" or "private".

- **Max items to create on each fetch**: Change the Max Items number if you want to import more than ten posts each time WP-O-Matic goes to work. Setting this number to 0 will import the maximum items in a feed.
- **Post title link to Source**: When a post is imported, you can either link the headline to the post on your blog or send the user directly to the original blog that posted the article.
- **Discussion Options**: Use the Discussion Options drop-down box to turn public commenting on or off.

Search unleashed

By John Godley (`http://urbangiraffe.com/`)

- **Why it's awesome**: Turns WordPress' basic search into a full text searching monster
- **Why it was picked**: Easy setup, multiple search algorithms

- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/search-unleashed/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: Search Unleashed
- **Geek level**: Newbie
- **Configuration location**: **Tools | Search Unleashed**
- **Used in**: Posts, widgets, pages

Search is significantly more important than most people credit it. The ability to find content on your site is probably the most important aspect to running a successful blog. The Defacto search built in to WordPress is nice, but far from perfect. **Search Unleash** introduces powerful new methods to scour through your blog's data, including full text searching and Lucene powered searching.

Setting up your search index

A **search index** is a collection of information that is stored about each of your posts, pages, and other elements that contain text. This "Index" is then used during the searching process to quickly find the information that is relevant to the search terms provided by the user. Search Unleashed offers three types of search indexes.

> To select your search index type, click on "Options" within **Tools | Search Unleashed**

1. **Default WordPress**: The **Default WordPress search index** is what all WordPress blogs come with out of the box, and while this search is acceptable for most blogs, it's a bit slow and doesn't offer much intelligence.

2. **Full-Text Search**: As WordPress uses MySQL as its database, it's able to leverage MySQL's built-in full-text searching. MySQL's indexes are super fast, tested, and true. However, it can become slow when you are dealing with a blog that has more than 10,000 or more posts.

3. **Lucene**: **Lucene** is an open source product released by the Apache Foundation. The same company that brought us the insanely popular Apache web server that your blog most likely runs on. Lucene is the undisputed heavyweight in open source searching. With its unique searching and indexing algorithms, Lucene will absolutely deliver the search goods.

Spider Options

Changing any option in this section will require rebuilding the search index.

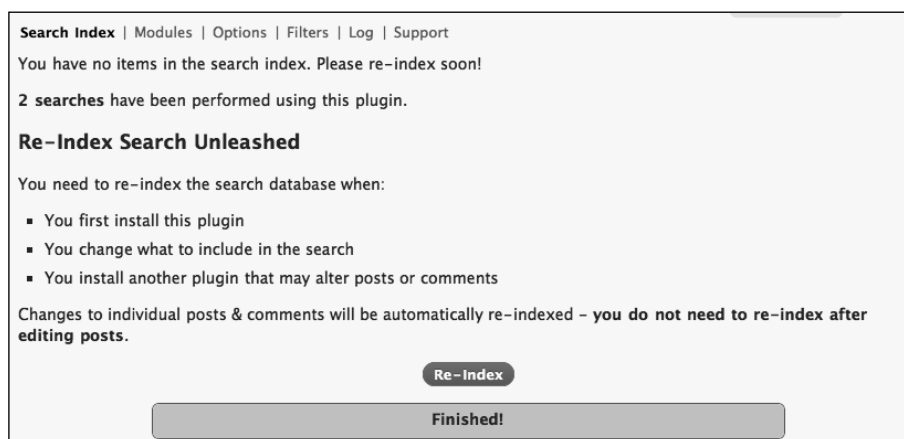|	
Search Engine:	Lucene ▼
Pages to exclude:	0 Comma-separated list of page/post IDs
Categories to exclude:	0 Comma-separated list of category IDs
Include:	☑ pages ☑ posts (☐ password-protected ☐ private ☐ draft)

Creating your first index

Once you have decided on which Search Index to leverage, you will need to build your first Index; we highly recommend Lucene. If you have decided to use the default WordPress index, then you can skip this section.

> To run your first index, click **Search Index** from within
> **Tools | Search Unleashed**.

Search Index | Modules | Options | Filters | Log | Support

You have no items in the search index. Please re-index soon!

2 searches have been performed using this plugin.

Re-Index Search Unleashed

You need to re-index the search database when:

- You first install this plugin
- You change what to include in the search
- You install another plugin that may alter posts or comments

Changes to individual posts & comments will be automatically re-indexed – **you do not need to re-index after editing posts**.

(Re-Index)

Finished!

To initiate the indexing, you will need to click **Re-Index**.

Once you have completed your first index, you will not need to rerun it, as this process will now happen automatically. However, re-indexing your site is one potential solution if your blog search is not behaving properly, which can happen if data corruption happened during the indexing process.

WP Web Scrapper

By Akshay Raje (`http://webdlabs.com/`)
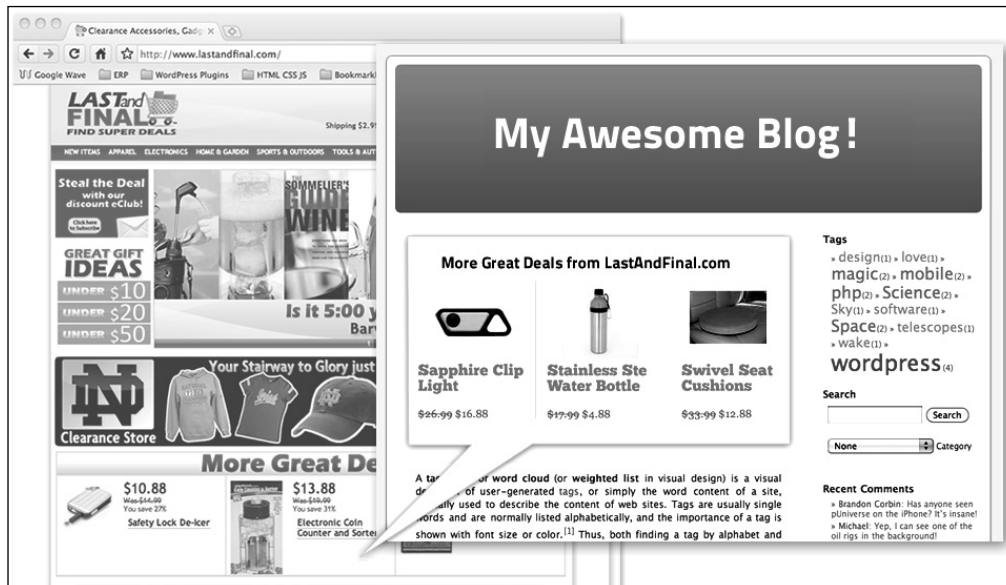
- **Manual Install URL**:
  `http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-web-scrapper/`
- **Automatic Install search term**: WP Web Scrapper
- **Geek level**: WordPress Ninja
- **Configuration location**: **Settings | WP Web Scrapper**
- **Used in**: Pages, posts

WP Web Scrapper is definitely not for the weak of heart, but it is for those of you who know what a "JQuery Selector" is. If you know what a "JQuery Selector" is, then you are in for one awesome coding treat. WP WebScrapper makes grabbing parts of ANY website and including it in a post or page on your blog, a snap!

WP Web Scrapper uses CURL and phpQuery to grab and manipulate data from any public website. Because WP Web Scrapper uses phpQuery, you have the luxury to select which elements you want from the external website using jQuery Selectors. Plus you do not need to be afraid if the external website changes, as WP Web Scrapper degrades gracefully if any changes occur.

Copyright warning

It's important to note that while WP Web Scrapper makes ripping content from a website super simple, it doesn't mean that it's legal. There are many big websites out there that will not take kindly to someone stealing their content. Make sure that you have permission before you take another website's content, or you might find a nice letter from some law firm in your mailbox.

Adding a scrapping

To create a new Web Scrapping, you edit a post or a page. Once installed, WP Web Scrapper will include a new button in your Toolbar that looks like a Gear.
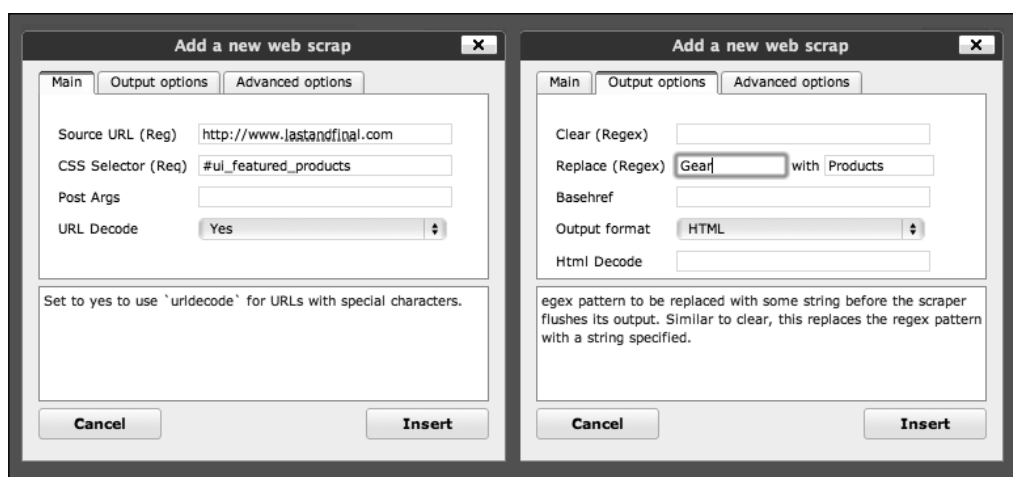
All that is needed for WP Web Scrapper to work is a valid website URL (**Source URL**) and a valid **CSS Selector**. Once you have added the external website's URL (don't forget the *http://*) and added your selector, click **Insert**. This plugin will create a short code that is inserted into the body of your post. Once you get familiar with the WP WebScrapper syntax, you will be able to add them without ever clicking the "Gear". For example:

```
[wpws url="" selector=".product" ]
```

Learn more about CSS Selectors by visiting
`http://code.google.com/p/phpquery/wiki/Selectors`

Summary

When it comes to blogging, content is king, both for your readers and for the search engine. The more unique content you spread on the internet, the better-off your blog will fare in this competitive landscape. In this chapter, we covered the following:

- GD Star Rating—add ratings and ranking to your blog content
- Better Tag Cloud—replace WordPress' default lackluster tag cloud with a customizable one
- Yet Another Related Posts Plugin—automatically link to similar posts throughout your blog
- My Page Order—easily reorder your blog's navigation with drag-and-drop ease
- Get Recent Comments—showcase the latest chatter on your blog
- Viper's Video Quicktags—quickly include videos from many popular sources
- WP Greet Box—greet your visitors differently, based on where they hail from
- NextGen Gallery—include dynamic and beautiful slideshows simply
- Zemanta—add context, images, and links to related content online
- CFormsII—build powerful forms
- MapPress—customizable Google Maps embedded into your blog
- WP-O-Matic—automatically pull and publish RSS and ATOM feeds
- Search Unleased—give WordPress full text searching
- WP Web Scrapper—automatically pull content from your other websites

Where to buy this book

You can buy WordPress Top Plugins from the Packt Publishing website:
`https://www.packtpub.com/wordpress-top-plugins/book`

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