Using WordPress as a
Content Management System
Easy-to-use, Powerful, and FREE

Are you searching for a Web CMS solution that's easy-to-use, powerful, and free? You may not know this, but if you use WordPress as your blog du jour, you have one right at your fingertips. WordPress and its associated plug-ins is one of the most powerful Content Management Systems available on the Web, and the great thing about it is that it's free. In this article, we'll take a look at how WordPress can be used as a Content Management System.

What is a Content Management System?

In order for a Web development tool to be classified as a CMS, there are certain criteria that it should meet. A CMS, by definition, generally provides a user with the ability to manage Web workflow in a collaborative manner. In most cases, these systems are Web-based, which allows users to have access to them anywhere there is a browser and Internet connection. WordPress fits within this definition quite nicely, but to be sure, let's do a quick comparison between what a CMS should do and what WordPress does.

CMS	WordPress
Allows multiple users to share, store, and contribute to your Web site.	Administrators of a WordPress site can allow users to contribute, share, and store information on the site.
Controls data access based on a user's role (page manager, editor, publisher, administrator).	Administrators can create user access under Administrator, Editor, Author, Contributor, and Subscriber categories.
Easy to retrieve and store data.	PHP and MySQL provide easy storage and data retrieval on a WordPress site.
Helps reduce redundant information and input.	Version control for pages and posts are handled by plug-ins that reduces any redundant input.
Enables communication and collaboration between users.	WordPress provides Email notifications to users and groups for updates, page creation, and posts.

Using WordPress within a CMS

There's no doubt that WordPress is a great tool for blogging right out of the gate. However, if you want to utilize its powerful CMS tools, you'll need to do some customization with widgets and plug-ins. In some cases, if you need to match your company Web site, you may even need to do a bit of customization to the overall look and feel. Here are some tools you'll need in order to accomplish this.

WordPress Plug-Ins

WP-CMS Post Control
This plug-in is highly valued for its ability to customize your WordPress site. It allows you to hide items, and provides a lot of control over the way in which WordPress creates and displays content. WordPress.org gives this plug-in a 4.5 out of 5-star rating.
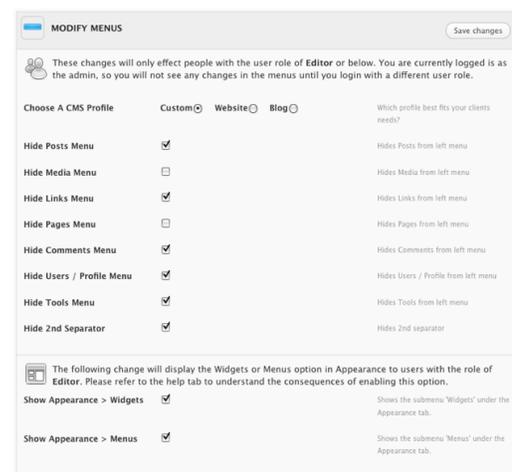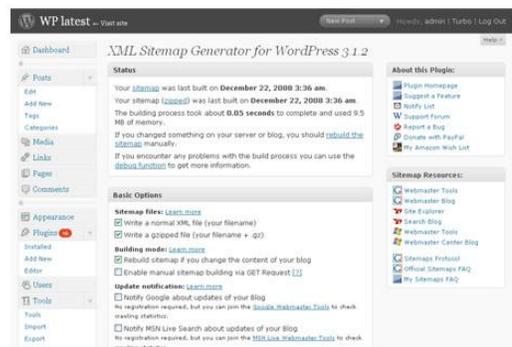
CMS Tree Page View
This plug-in provides a directory-style outline of your entire WordPress site. This includes both pages and posts. It also allows you to re-order pages, search, view, and edit pages with a click of the mouse.

White Label CMS

This WordPress plug-in allows you to have a lot of control over how your WordPress site looks. You can access widgets and menus with it, and you can also customize the dashboard, logos, and remove menus. If you're a developer, this plug-in will allow you to provide a simplified and customized look and feel to your client's WordPress sites.

White Label CMS also provides you with the ability to remove the panels from the dash-board and add your own customized panel, add custom logos to the footer and header, and customization of the login page, which allows you to customize your WordPress site with your own branding.

CMS

CMS is actually a collection of plug-ins that creates the look and feel of an actual Content Management System.

It provides an administrator panel that allows you to access all of the WordPress controls, enables easy deployment of Web sites created with WordPress, and gives you an easy way to manage the content and functionality of your WordPress site.

As you can see, WordPress is a powerful tool that can be easily converted into a Content Management System. These plug-ins are only a few of the options that you can use to convert your WordPress site into a full-blown CMS. With a little bit of research, you'll be well on your way to creating sites that are easily managed and highly customized Content Management Systems.

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