

## Basic WP Plug-ins as of 03-10-2011

**Please note: Never install and activate more than one new plug-in at a time.** Configure and check each one to be sure it is working properly before installing the next. Occasionally they conflict, and the resulting clean-up is not fun unless you know exactly which plug-in is causing the problem!

The more plug-ins you add, the slower your site will load, which does NOT enhance the user experience! Start with a few designed to improve the performance of your blog (\*\*). Add "gadgets" sparingly to enhance the visual effect for your visitors, but keep it simple and uncluttered, with plenty of white space.

The plug-in names are linked to the [www.Wordpress.org](http://www.Wordpress.org) page where you can find information about what each does (for due diligence purposes) and help with installation and/or set-up if needed.

	<b>Plug-In Name &amp; WordPress.org link for more information</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b><u>To Improve Performance:</u></b>		
**RD	<a href="#">Akismet</a>	NOTE: No longer free for business sites. Free alternatives for business sites include - Defensio Anti-Spam or TypePad Anti-Spam.
	<a href="#">JetPack</a>	Supercharge your WordPress site with powerful features previously only available to WordPress.com users. NOTE: This may eliminate the need for some of the following plug-ins.
**RD	<a href="#">Platinum SEO Pack</a>	Replaces All-In-One SEO Pack, which is no longer free
**RD	<a href="#">WP DB Backup</a>	Don't leave home (your site) without it!
**RD	<a href="#">Broken Link Checker</a>	The free version is all you need.

RD	<a href="#">WP Super Cache</a>	Speeds up your site considerably. <b>NOTE – Select one or the other, NOT both.</b>
Alternate	<a href="#">W3 Total Cache</a>	Some feel this is easier to configure than WP Super Cache. <b>NOTE – Select one or the other, NOT both.</b>
**RD	<a href="#">Chennai Central</a>	Stops bots from spidering unchanged pages.
**RD	<a href="#">cbnet Ping Optimizer</a>	Don't get flagged as a Ping Spammer
**RD	<a href="#">Dagon Design</a>	Two Types of sitemaps: 1) Sitemap for visitors (Dagon) 2) Sitemap for search engines
**RD	<a href="#">Google XML Sitemaps</a>	Sitemap for search engines
**	<a href="#">All in One Webmaster</a>	Takes care of getting Google Analytics to your site.
**RD	<a href="#">Fast Secure Contact Form</a>	A contact form is a necessity for any site or blog! <b>NOTE – Select one or the other, NOT both.</b>
Alternate	<a href="#">Contact Form 7</a>  Some feel this is easier to set up than Fast Secure Contact Form.	Just another contact form plugin. Simple but flexible. Has an optional captcha plugin. <b>NOTE – Select one or the other, NOT both.</b>
	<a href="#">Conditional CAPTCHA</a>	Protect your site against automated comments. (For use with Fast Secure Contact Form if selected.)
<b>Optional for Social Proof, etc</b>		
	NetworkedBlogs Widget (on your Facebook account_	Activate the NetworkedBlogs Application & register your blog on Facebook
	<a href="#">Google Friend Connect</a>	You probably do not want to use both of these
<i>Select one or two of the following – not all</i>		
	<a href="#">Share and Follow</a>	Simple & adaptable social network tool. Configurable sidebar.

	<a href="#">Wibiya Web Toolbar</a>	Toolbar adds Facebook Like, Twitter, Social Media options & more in page footer. If you use this one, use the same code on all blogs. Not necessary to reconfigure each time.
	<a href="#">AddThis</a>	Choose only one of the Social Media button plug-ins.
	<a href="#">AddToAny</a>	
<b>Other Optional "Goodies"</b>		
	<a href="#">Tweet Old Post</a>	Don't activate this one until you have quite a few posts to rotate.
	<a href="#">WP OnlyWire Auto Poster</a>	You must have an account with OnlyWire to use this plug-in. Set-up required.
**	<a href="#">Post Public Preview</a>	Send a link to your MasterMind Group before publishing posts.
	<a href="#">Google FeedBurner</a>	Allows you to control the look of your RSS feeds to enhance the reader's experience.

The plug-ins you select will be determined in part by the WordPress theme you have chosen. Those listed above installed properly in a fresh install of WP 3.1 with the Twenty-Ten theme (WP default). All seem to have installed properly.

Some plug-ins require additional "Settings" configuration and set-up to work properly. The basic installation instructions are presented here, and additional information may be found at [www.WordPress.org](http://www.WordPress.org) on the links provided for each plug-in.

In your WordPress Dashboard, go to:

1. Plug-ins
2. Add New
3. Enter the plug-in name (see above) into the "search" field
4. Click "Search Plugins" button

5. Click "Install Now"
6. Click "OK"
7. Click "Activate" (a few will activate automatically in the installation process.)
8. Perform any needed configuration if there is a "Settings" link after installation.
9. Be sure to check the left panel of your Dashboard for additional configuration requirements.

Enjoy!

If you have trouble setting up your self-hosted WordPress blog, please contact the person who invited you to this call. If they cannot direct you to someone who can help, I can be reached at:

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(Be sure to put "MFF Plug-in Class" in the subject line)