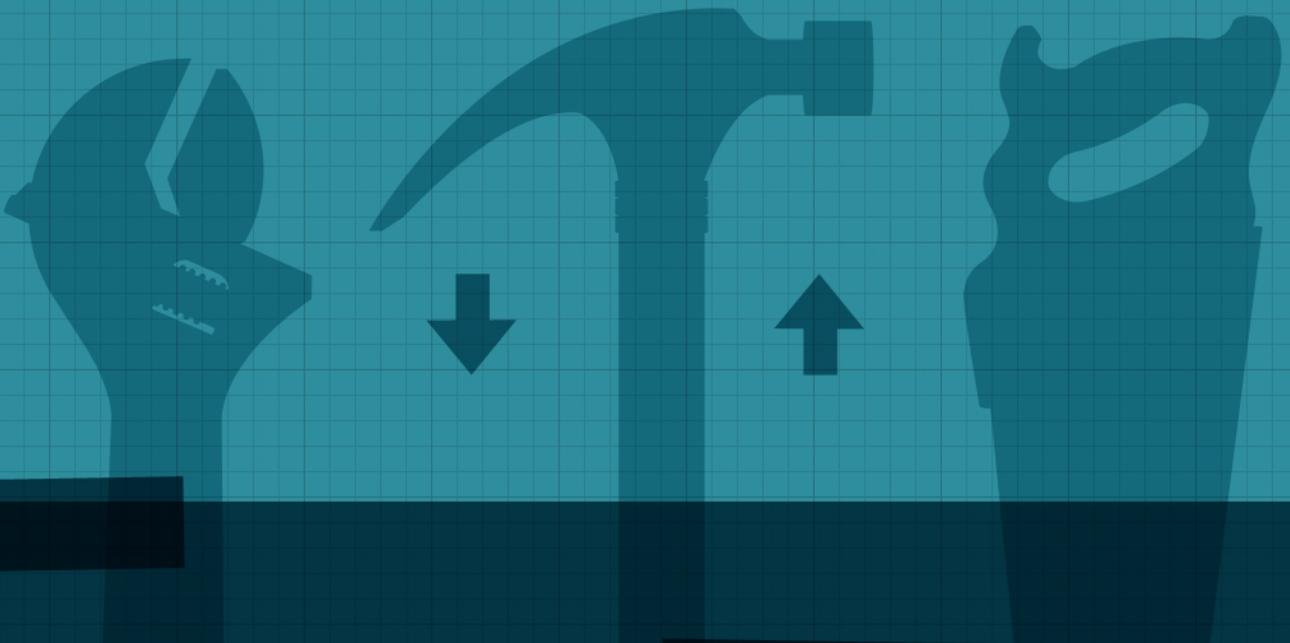


HOW-TO

**INSTALL
WORDPRESS
MANUALLY**

***SECURING & DE-BLOATING
WORDPRESS***



How to Install WordPress Manually: Securing and De-Bloating WordPress



Meet iThemes.

iThemes Media, LLC was founded in 2008 by Cory Miller, a former newspaper journalist and public relations/communication practitioner, turned freelance moonlighting web designer, turned full-time entrepreneur. Miller founded iThemes in his home, fulfilling a lifelong dream of running his own company.

Since then, the company has grown into a full enterprise providing professional, premium themes (iThemes.com), professional plugins (PluginBuddy.com) and over 350 hours of professional web design and WordPress developer training – with 15-20 new courses being added each month (WebDesign.com). These three brands make up what is generally referred to as the iThemes brand.

This guide will show you how to manually install WordPress for your website. We'll walk you through the process step-by-step, starting with why you should even bother with a manual install.

Let's get started!

—The Team at iThemes

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Why Do a Manual Install?

There are certain security risks involved with doing a quick install of WordPress that doing a manual install can alleviate. Doing a manual install of WordPress is relatively straightforward and more secure than any of the quick install applications available.

While a manual install does take a little bit longer, it helps to correct the security issues associated with a quick install of WordPress and does not require any additional files.

What are some of the security and “bloat” issues involved with a WordPress quick install?

- The installer creates your database for you, naming it *wrdp1*. If you create another, the database will be called *wrdp2*. This is common knowledge and makes your site easier to hack.
- Quick installs add a prefix of *wp_* to your tables. Hackers know this and can use it to break your site.
- At the time of this writing, quick install programs like *Fantastico* are not installing the latest version of WordPress. It’s important to install the latest version of WordPress whenever possible as WordPress updates often include security updates.
- Quick install applications like *Fantastico* adds additional files to your server in order to help it keep track of itself. This adds additional, unnecessary bulk or “bloat” to your site.

Creating your own database is very simple to create, depending on your hosting service quality (for the purposes of this instruction manual, HostGator is the host used). You don’t have to know how to write PHP or build complicated databases, since most of what you’ll change in the WordPress files will just be a matter of copying and pasting information.

So instead of asking *why* do a manual install, a better questions is *why not* do a manual install?

How to Install WordPress Manually

Creating Your Database & User



The first thing you'll need to do is create your database and user in your host's CPanel. When working in HostGator, you'll go to the "Databases" section and select the "MySQL Databases." You'll start by creating a name for your database. You can name your database whatever you'd like, though, HostGator will always add your HostGator username as the prefix to your database.

A screenshot of the "Create New Database" form in HostGator's CPanel. The form has a title "Create New Database" and a link "Jump to MySQL Users". Below the title is a text input field labeled "New Database: ecalley_" with a cursor in it. Below the input field is a "Create Database" button. Below the "Create Database" button is a "Modify Databases" section with a "Check DB:" label, a dropdown menu showing "ecallev DivTerns", and a "Check DB" button.

Once you've created a database, you'll need to create a user for the database. Again, you can use whatever name you'd like as your user name and HostGator will precede the name with your HostGator username.

A screenshot of the "MySQL Users" form in HostGator's CPanel. The form has a title "MySQL Users" and a subtitle "Add New User". Below the subtitle is a "Username:" label followed by a text input field containing "ecalley_". Below the username field is a "Password:" label followed by a text input field. Below the password field is a "Password (Again):" label followed by a text input field. Below the password fields is a "Strength (why?):" label followed by a dropdown menu showing "Very Weak (0/100)" and a "Password Generator" button. Below the strength dropdown is a "Create User" button.

If you are also working in HostGator, they will require that the password you create for your user have at least a strength of 5. You can do this by creating a password that includes any combination of numbers, letters (upper and lowercase) and/or symbols.

Once you've created both your database and your user, you'll have to add your user to the database. If you have more than one user and database, you'll select the appropriate options from the dropdown menu then click "Add."

Add User To Database

User:

Database:

Current Users

You will then be given the opportunity to determine what privileges you want to give that user. For your WordPress installation, you need to allow all privileges to that user.

MySQL Account Maintenance

Manage User Privileges

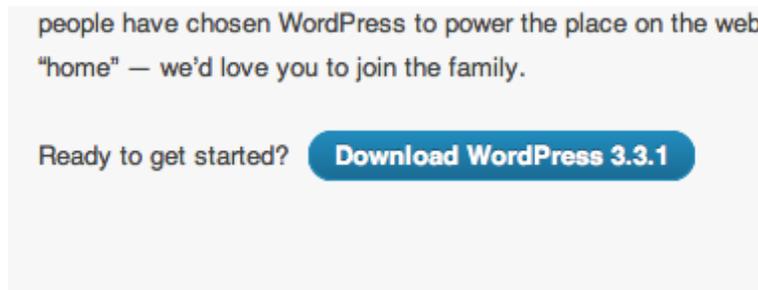
User: **ecalley_tutorial**
Database: **ecalley_itthemes**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALL PRIVILEGES	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE ROUTINE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CREATE VIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DELETE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DROP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INSERT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOCK TABLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REFERENCES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SELECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRIGGER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UPDATE	

Click the "Make Changes" button and you've finished with the databases.

Downloading WordPress & Making Changes to *wp-config-sample.php*

To download WordPress, you'll go to wordpress.org and download the latest version of WordPress:



By default, WordPress downloads as a .zip file (you can also download it in .tar.gz format). Simply double-clicking on the .zip file will open it as a folder where you can access the individual files. The file you will make changes to is called *wp-config-sample.php*.

Open the *wp-config-sample.php* file in the texteditor of your choice and look for the section on databases. This is near the top of the file.

```
// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //  
/** The name of the database for WordPress */  
define('DB_NAME', 'database_name_here');  
  
/** MySQL database username */  
define('DB_USER', 'username_here');  
  
/** MySQL database password */  
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'password_here');
```

You'll change the first line to include your database including the prefix added by HostGator:

```
define('DB_NAME', 'ecalley_ithemes');
```

The next line of code will be the username you created, again, including the prefix added by HostGator:

```
define('DB_USER', 'ecalley_tutorial');
```

And the last line will be the password you created:

```
define('DB_PASSWORD', 'password_goes_here');
```

For additional security, it is a good idea to add keys and salts to your site. Essentially, these are additional passwords for your site. Whereas a simple password like “password,” “test,” etc. are easy to break, these unique strings would take an extended amount of time to break, even a year or more.

```
* Authentication Unique Keys and Salts.
*
* Change these to different unique phrases!
* You can generate these using the {@link https://api.wordpress.org/
secret-key/1.1/salt/ WordPress.org secret-key service}
* You can change these at any point in time to invalidate all
existing cookies. This will force all users to have to log in again.
*
* @since 2.6.0
*/
define('AUTH_KEY',          'put your unique phrase here');
define('SECURE_AUTH_KEY',   'put your unique phrase here');
define('LOGGED_IN_KEY',     'put your unique phrase here');
define('NONCE_KEY',         'put your unique phrase here');
define('AUTH_SALT',         'put your unique phrase here');
define('SECURE_AUTH_SALT',  'put your unique phrase here');
define('LOGGED_IN_SALT',    'put your unique phrase here');
define('NONCE_SALT',        'put your unique phrase here');

/**#@-*/
```

To generate these for your site, go to <https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/>. You can then just copy and paste them into your code as below (note: **do NOT use the keys below**; follow the link to create your own):

```
define('AUTH_KEY',          'STtJ3*Uanv;w+}[T/]!bm9{{{{QK<NB2LX9?=svna0|f!Y~X*:7j{{4rF&*HB$4RN'});
define('SECURE_AUTH_KEY',   'f4#*=?-l(K:odwZS2/y==Sblheu`>}/D>tF=0G )s^uX$w%kzs5-/|i#)P$`.;iQ');
define('LOGGED_IN_KEY',     'Zl3j1djTr7F|o!g$|U^{q6/Qd~, (uU?]-V,`v(G#~wPKWJBkx;p54FQF<T:x^qIQ');
define('NONCE_KEY',         'Ynu.)bF}_a`6%`^9{L~3wFaM=(s80esi--<MMsQDpS024C0aA0B1yH>|Cg/.=.1');
define('AUTH_SALT',         'V.|oDGxU|HJ.j:uz4z!m-bVc5{|0hv)cX(3(=C@|[#K=59lS?fa+6a<ykD@S81Q+');
define('SECURE_AUTH_SALT',  'XoTM2~`?Qr{s|Y3Z7:y|Mse|+X]WJ~dJ3G6eUE`%x@;/((@cYohS-%L|@e]wPH0');
define('LOGGED_IN_SALT',    'C%ie6 mZ+,o+<ZqKPM@I49C;rsI%Y-!mENd~u<e~0 |L`|@.*;|Y:@ZTc.X)rwC@');
define('NONCE_SALT',        'md=r|jS/Bfn]h@2#G`%T|NQ7V>TW6~sc|-w*{;Jn: bi8hJ[j2n+>*/+|~}I{K~l}');
```

The last change you’ll want to make to your `wp-config-sample.php` file is the prefix that is assigned by default to your tables. When installing WordPress, it automatically adds the prefix `wp_` to each of the tables created in your database.

To change this simply find this block of code:

```
/**
 * WordPress Database Table prefix.
 *
 * You can have multiple installations in one database if you give each a unique
 * prefix. Only numbers, letters, and underscores please!
 */
$table_prefix = 'wp_';
|
```

You'll then change the `wp_` to a prefix of your own choosing. This can be whatever you like, it just needs to be followed by an underscore:

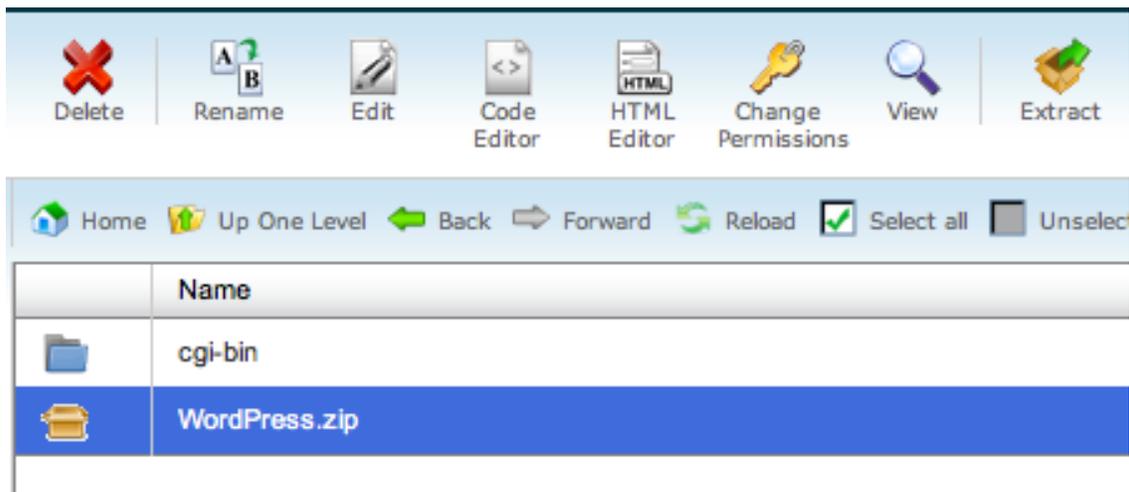
```
| $table_prefix = 'main_';
```

Once you have made these changes to `wp-config-sample.php`, you can simply save the file or “Save As” `wp-config.php`.

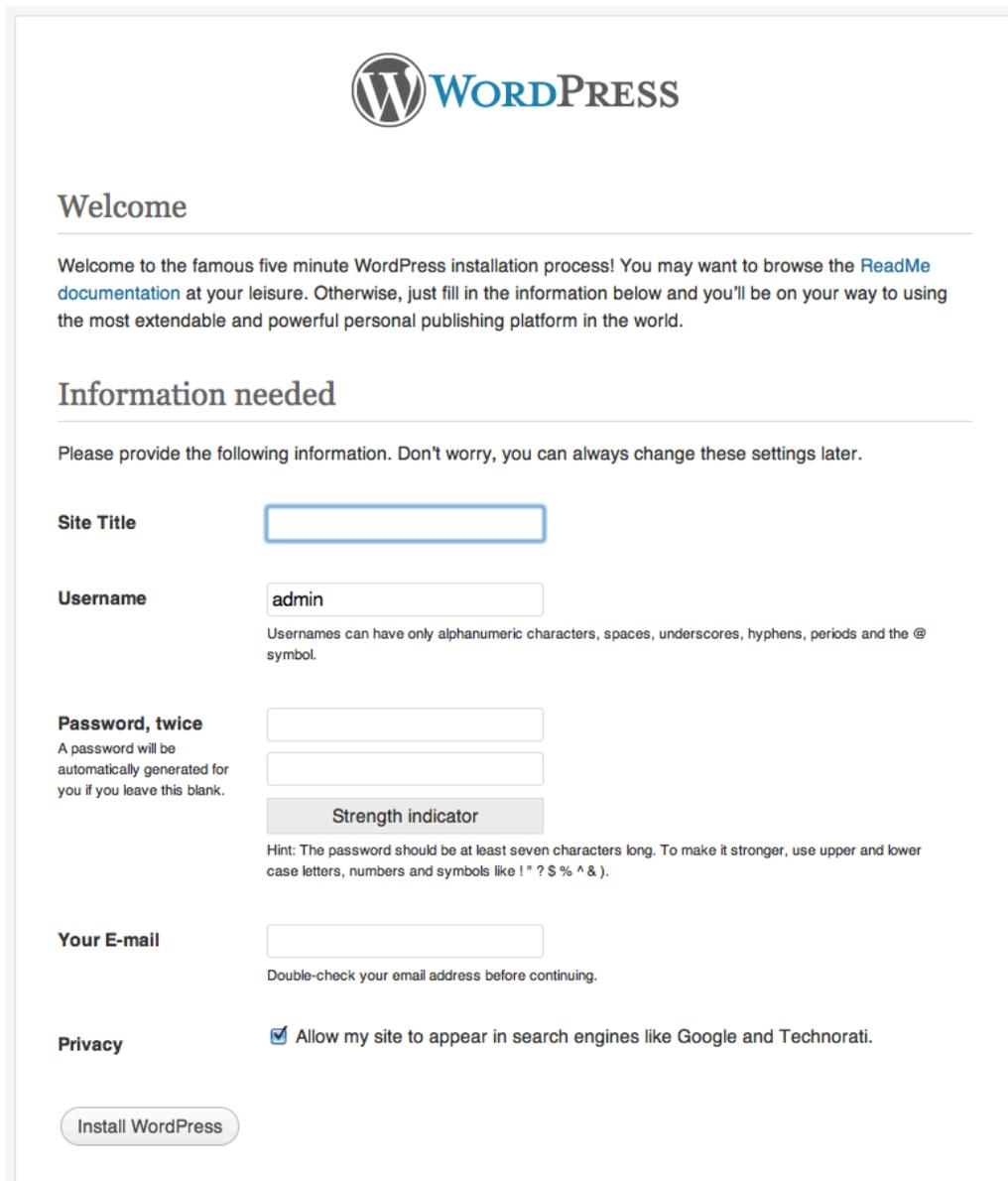
Installing WordPress



To install WordPress, you'll first log back into your host's CPanel and open the location you wish to install WordPress. You will then select "Upload" and upload all the files into this location. Depending on the host you use, you can upload .zip files and extract them in the CPanel, saving you from uploading multiple files.



Once you have uploaded (and extracted if you uploaded a .zip file), you can go to your domain where you will find the following form to complete:



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation 'Information needed' form. At the top is the WordPress logo. Below it is a 'Welcome' section with a horizontal line. The text reads: 'Welcome to the famous five minute WordPress installation process! You may want to browse the [ReadMe documentation](#) at your leisure. Otherwise, just fill in the information below and you'll be on your way to using the most extendable and powerful personal publishing platform in the world.'

The 'Information needed' section follows, also with a horizontal line. It says: 'Please provide the following information. Don't worry, you can always change these settings later.'

The form fields are:

- Site Title:** An empty text input field.
- Username:** A text input field containing 'admin'. Below it is a note: 'Usernames can have only alphanumeric characters, spaces, underscores, hyphens, periods and the @ symbol.'
- Password, twice:** Two empty text input fields. Below them is a 'Strength indicator' button and a hint: 'Hint: The password should be at least seven characters long. To make it stronger, use upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols like ! * ? \$ % ^ & ; .',
- Your E-mail:** An empty text input field. Below it is a note: 'Double-check your email address before continuing.'
- Privacy:** A checked checkbox followed by the text 'Allow my site to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati.'

At the bottom left is a button labeled 'Install WordPress'.

You'll give your site a title, create a username for yourself ("admin" is not recommended for security reasons), create a password, enter the email you want to receive notifications about your site at and then check the box to determine if you want search engines like Google to be able to find your site.

Click the "Install WordPress" button and you'll be taken to a screen reviewing your information and that has a link to your login.

Success! And with that, you have completed the manual install of WordPress:



Success!

WordPress has been installed. Were you expecting more steps? Sorry to disappoint.

Username elise

Password *Your chosen password.*

[Log In](#)

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