More about Blogs.ed and Plugins

Processes and Plugins

I admit, I may be cheating a little here. As part of HeyPresstoConf20 I really wanted to be able to talk about our Plugins and Processes but couldn't fit into the Tweet limit so I'm putting it all here. This should be helpful if you are planning on building your own WordPress Multisite at your institution, as ever, if you want to discuss this feel free to get in touch.

Firstly let's talk about how we go about selecting Plugins. We start to look when multiple users all ask for the same of similar plugin/function or if we encounter and issue that needs a plugin to be resolved. Thankfully we have an inhouse development team that can be called on if we cannot find something which is a blessing but they support multiple platforms so we do need to have good reason. If we do find a plugin or multiple plugins then we start to investigate whether they actually resolve our issue and if they add any issues or have unexpected behaviour, so far this seems to make basic sense. We have, however, developed a process to audit plugins to ascertain whether they are well supported, well reviewed and also if they contain privacy invasive cookies using the following criteria:

Plugin / theme name:	Yes / no	Comments	Date requested	Date installed
What does it do?				

How much does it cost? • Cost of adoption • Cost of training • Cost of usage				
Author background				
Is the documentation good?				
Who will use the add-on? • admins / authors				
Feedback / reviews • Is it used by many, reviews / comments				
Technical status: • Is it up to date, compatible with our version of wordpress? • Is it well written? • Does it backup/restore? • Is it secure? • Is data shared outside of wordpress? • Type of cookies set				

Accessibility:				
• Check any spellcheck functionality on free data entry boxes/forms that is either automatically run by the system or that requires users interaction • Describe any data validation that is automatically run by the system to ensure users enter data in the correct formats. Check error messages are in sufficient colour contrast, accessible font, clear location, not pop ups. • Check whether the template scales correctly using different resolutions and whether there are any resolutions that are not recommended, tested using ctrl + and Windows Magnifier • Check the colours and colour contrasts and font types and styles used i.e. are italics and continuous capitals avoided? • Check functionality that would allow users to customise their views (i.e. font size, colours, contrast ratios). This is by altering browser settings. • Check whether all content is accessible through a keyboard interface and whether it requires specific timings for keystrokes. I.e. is it possible to navigate around the template and complete any forms etc without ever using a mouse. • Check there is an indication or warning of links which will open a new tab or window and check that these warnings are accessible • Check that the template conveys no information in only colour or sound. • Check there is no flashing or scrolling text? If so does the text flash 3 or more times per second and can it be paused? If there is flashing or scrolling text please provide more details. • Check that Zoomtext is compatible with the template without plug ins • Check that JAWS is compatible with the template without plug ins • Check that TextHelp Read and Write Gold is compatible with the template in terms of spellcheck, hover highlight and highlight and read without plug ins. • Check that tooltips are clear and enabled by default on the template. · Check that there are text alternatives for any non-text content. • Check that for any audio/visual items are there captions available and theses have been checked for accuracy. • Check there are no time limits prescribed for the viewing/inputting of content to the template • Check what specialist help is linked to on the template and that this includes a method of contacting someone for assistance? • Check that if the template is accessed via a mobile or tablet device the user system does not require to use any requires any specific timings/specific keystrokes to complete tasks • Check the template works with mobiles/tablets to offer any text to speech functionality of the results for those with visual impairments?				

You can also read more about this process in this blog post by Callum, one of the original service managers who has since moved to greener pastures (about 5 metres away when we were in the office) – Cookie Audit Process Blog

Lastly, here is a comprehensive list of all of the plugins that we currently use, all of these have been vetted through

our process so should provide a good starting point.

Plugins

Plugin	Developer	Description	Network Activated?
Add Existing Users	WPMUDEV	Allows you to bulk add existing users to a site, including the facility to set their role.	N
Add Multiple Users	HappyNuclear	This plugin allows you to add multiple user accounts to your WordPress blog using a range of tools.	Y
Akismet Anti-Spam	Automattic	Used by millions, Akismet is quite possibly the best way in the world to protect your blog from spam. Your site is fully configured and being protected, even while you sleep.	Y
Batch Create	WPMUDEV	Create hundred or thousands of blogs and users automatically by simply uploading a csv text file – subdomain and user creation automation has never been so easy.	Y
BeeHive Pro	WPMUDEV	Basicall Google Analytics, users can use their own ID or apply for access to the University managed one	N
Broken Link Checker	ManageWP	Checks your blog for broken links and missing images and notifies you on the dashboard if any are found.	N
Classic Editor	WordPress Contributers	Enabled at network level to remove block editor default	N
CommentPress Core	Institute for the Future of the Book	CommentPress allows readers to comment in the margins of a text. You can use it to annotate, gloss, workshop, debate and more!	N
Cookies for Comment	Donncha O Caoimh	Sets a cookie that must exist for a comment to be allowed through	Y
Cryout Series Slider	Cryout Creations	accessibility ready free image slider for WordPress.	N
Disable Comments	Samir Shah	Allows administrators to globally disable comments on their site. Comments can be disabled according to post type.	N
EdSolr	UoE	Integrates Apache Solr with a WordPress Multisite Installation.	Y
Email Subscribers & Newsletters	Icegram	Add subscription forms on website, send HTML newsletters, and automatically notify subscribers about new blog posts once they are published.	N
Enlighter – Customizable Syntax Highlighter	Andi Dittrich	Syntax Highlighter	N
FeedWordPress	C. Johnson	simple and flexible Atom/RSS syndication for WordPress	N
Flickr Album Gallery	FARAZFRANK	Flickr Album Gallery is on JS API plugin to display all public Flickr albums on your WordPress website.	N
Force Regenerate Thumbnails	Pedro Elsner	Delete and REALLY force the regenerate thumbnail.	N

Google XML Sitemaps	Arne Brachhold	This plugin improves SEO using sitemaps for best indexation by search engines like Google, Bing, Yahoo and others.	Y
Image Attribution Tagger	Red8 Interactive	A plugin that adds image credits to licensed images	Y
MimeTypes Link Icons	Toby Cox, Juliette Reinders Folmer	This will add file type icons next to links automatically.	Y
Multisite Plugin Manager	Aaron Edwards	The essential plugin for every multisite install! Manage plugin access permissions across your entire multisite network.	Y
Multisite Privacy	WPMUDEV	Adds more levels of privacy and allows you to control them across all sites — or allow users to override them.	Y
NS Cloner — Site Copier	Never Settle	Allows us to create sites from a template	Y
NS Cloner Pro	Never Settle	add-ons to the NS Cloner Core	Y
Open Attribute	OpenAttribute		Y
PDF & Print	BestWebSoft	Generate PDF files and print WordPress posts/pages. Customize document header/footer styles and appearance.	N
Reading Time WP	Jason Yingling	Add an estimated reading time to your posts.	N
Remove Email Verification	WPMUDEV	Removes need to send a verification email when adding users to site or blogs	Y
TinyMCE Comment Field — WPSIWYG	Stefan Helmer	This plugin turns the comment field from a primitive into a WYSIWYG editor, using the internal TinyMCE library bundled with WordPress.	N
Titan Framework	Benjamin Intal, Gambit	Titan Framework allows theme and plugin developers to create a admin pages, options, meta boxes, and theme customizer options with just a few simple lines of code.	N
True Multisite Indexer	Misha Rudrastyh	Indexes all posts across your network and brings them into one spot — a very powerful tool that you use as a base to display posts in different ways or to manage your network.	Y
Ultimate Category Excluder	Marios Alexandrou	Easily exclude categories from your front page, feeds, archives, and search results.	N
WordPress Importer	wordpressdotorg	Import posts, pages, comments, custom fields, categories, tags and more from a WordPress export file.	Y
WordPress.com Theme Updates	Automattic	Update themes downloaded from WordPress.com seamlessly with the rest of your WordPress updates.	Y
WP Accessibility	Joe Dolson	Helps improve accessibility in your WordPress site, like removing title attributes.	N
WP Crontrol	John Blackbourn & contributors	WP Crontrol lets you view and control what's happening in the WP-Cron system.	N
WP QuickLaTeX	Pavel Holoborodko	Access to complete LaTeX distribution. Publish formulae & graphics using native LaTeX syntax directly in the text. Inline formulas, displayed equations auto-numbering, labeling and referencing, AMS-LaTeX, TikZ, custom LaTeX preamble. No LaTeX installation required. Easily customizable using UI dialog. Actively developed and maintained. Visit QuickLaTeX homepage for more info.	N

WP to Twitter	Joseph C Dolson	Posts a Tweet when you update your WordPress blog or post a link, using your URL shortener. Rich options to customise and promote your Tweets.	N
WPMUDEV Dashboard	WPMUDEV	Brings the powers of WPMU DEV directly to you. It will revolutionize how you use WordPress. Activate now!	N

Themes

Theme Name
Apostrophe 2
AwesomePress
Baskerville
Bhari
Blask
Cover
Cover2
Cyanotype
Davis
Fluida
Fukasawa
Garfunkel
Hitchcock
Intergalactic
Intergalactic 2
Isola
Lovecraft
Make
Period
Radcliffe
Sorbet

SPLOTpoint
Tiny Framework
Twenty Fifteen
Twenty Nineteen
Twenty Seventeen
Twenty Sixteen
Twenty Twenty
Writee