

How to Create a WordPress Blog Cheat Sheet

Note: Before you get the process started you need to know what type of blog you are going to set up so that you can choose the right domain name for your blog. You can use your blog name as the domain (example: myreallycoolblog.com).

Unless you are 100% certain that you will never change the niche of your blog you may want to consider using your name as the domain name. If you have a popular name you may need to throw in a middle initial if the domain has already been snagged. Or you can choose .net instead of .com but people will have an easier time remembering .com.

You can also choose something with your name in it but not your full name like I did (GrowWithStacy.com) which also allows for flexibility in the blog's niche.

Cheat #1 *Buy your domain name.* I used [GoDaddy](http://GoDaddy.com) and have been happy with them.

Cheat #2 *Choose a hosting site,* I use and am extremely happy with [HostGator](http://HostGator.com). Anytime that I have had a problem or question their service department has been very quick to help me and/or solve the problem.

Cheat #3 *Connect the hosting account with the domain name.* Once you have purchased your hosting site you will need to connect it with your domain name service in order to be able to start your blog.

****The instructions that I'm giving you here are for [HostGator](http://HostGator.com), if you choose a different site then you will need to find directions that apply to that site.****

After you have purchased a hosting account, HostGator will ask if you want to add-on a domain, click YES and enter your new domain name (from GoDaddy). HostGator will email you the nameservers of your account. Copy the nameservers from your email and go back to GoDaddy and paste your nameservers.

Domains → My Domains → Nameservers.

Click the option that you host your domains with another server and then paste your name servers into the right boxes. Click OK.

Cheat #4 *Add WordPress to your domain.* Return to HostGator and follow the directions in your email to login to your control panel (c-panel). Once there click on Fantastico Deluxe under Software/Services.

Follow the directions to install Wordpress to your blog:

Blogs → WordPress → New Installation

Choose your domain name for the installation location

Leave the directory blank and create a name and password that you will remember.

Enter the necessary information before you click Install WordPress. Then click Finish Installation and it's installed to your domain!

Congratulations you now own a self-hosted WordPress blog!

Cheat #5 *Login to your WP dashboard.* In your web browser type in yourdomainname/wp-admin (example: mycoolblog.com/wp-admin) and login using the login that you set up when you installed WP in your control panel.

You will want to do a few things first to set your blog up.

On the left side panel you will want to click on “Settings” and fill out your blog's information: title, tagline, etc.

You will want to set up important pages such as: About Me, Work With Me, Recommended Tools, Contact Me, Newsletter, etc. These will be important pages that your new readers will be interested in to find out more about you.

You will also want to add some widgets so that you have fun stuff on your sidebars such as popular posts, recent posts, top commentators, etc. Play around and have fun experimenting.

Don't forget about the plugins!! Those are what really make the blog fun!

For more information about basic blogging, plugins and more see my [Blogging Tips](#) and my [Recommended Tools](#) pages. You will find a LOT of help for your blogging experience!

Congratulations and I will see you in the blogosphere!

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