

# Difference Between WordPress.org and WordPress.com

It's a frequent point of confusion — what's the difference between WordPress.com and WordPress.org?

WordPress itself is a publishing platform that makes it easy for anyone to publish online, and proudly powers millions of website. It comes in two flavours: the fully hosted WordPress.com, and the self-hosted version available at WordPress.org.

<b>WordPress.com (DIY Option)</b>	<b>WordPress.org (Custom Option)</b>
<i>Lets you focus on the content while wordpress.com handle the rest.</i>	<i>Host your website yourself and have it custom designed the way you want.</i>
<b>Limited control</b> This is a free platform and therefore has limitations over what can be achieved. You have the option to pay for some features, however can not install custom plugins, custom themes or use ftp to access files.	<b>Full control</b> When you setup a wordpress site on your own server, you have freedom to do whatever you want with it, this includes the design / themes, plugins /addons, content, etc.
<b>Limited Designs</b> Unless you pay \$30 per year, you can't have a custom design. Your limited to 100 or so themes, with only the option of those themes included. Most of those there are okay, but you can't make many changes to them to reflect your own personal style. You can however, pay anywhere from \$30 to \$100 for a premium theme.	<b>Custom Designs &amp; Themes</b> Install custom themes, custom layouts, etc.  You can choose free themes or buy a premium theme from one of many sites and then even have it customized thereafter to suit your needs. Alternatively you can even have a completely unique theme built from scratch.
<b>Limited Storage Space</b> 3GB and no videos (unless you pay more)	<b>More Storage Space</b> Get as much space as you need when you have your website hosted with any hosting provider you choose.
<b>Limited Content Control</b> Unless you pay to remove ads, you have limited control over what content and ads appear on your wordpress.	<b>Full Content Control</b> No ads. Full control of your content on your own hosting account.

#### No Custom Plugins / Add-ons

This version only enables use of a limited range of freely available plugins.

#### Ecommerce / Shopping Cart Functionality

Unfortunately this is an advanced plugin which is not available on this version

#### Any Custom Plugins / Add-ons

Huge range of free, paid and custom built plugins may be installed.

#### Ecommerce / Shopping Cart Functionality

There are plugins which can be installed and configured to offer this functionality.

## WordPress ORG or COM — Which is Better for Me?

The cost should not be the primary factor in your decision, though it's always important to recognize a simple truth — you get what you pay for — period. The deciding point should be how you wish to present yourself.

For certain types of blogging or personal sites, WordPress.com hosting offers an inexpensive method to share your thoughts, images, and connect with others. Are you planning a private “our family” site? For free, or near-free, you can probably ignore the clumsy “domain” name, the design limitations, and general “ad and link” clutter.

On the other hand, if you run a professional site — your portfolio, an industry blog, a business — then you are much more likely to need total control over your hosting, advertising, branding, and more. You'll want to pick a great framework — as well as plugins that serve your needs.

To make the most of your voice and brand, you'll also want to dive — or hire a pro to dive — directly into FTP, PHP, and all the other goodies that can bring your site bubbling to the top.

And if you're a professional currently hosting with WordPress.com, don't worry — you can migrate to a self-hosted platform at any time.

#### Sources:

<http://en.support.wordpress.com/com-vs-org/>

<http://wpmu.org/wordpress-org-vs-wordpress-com/>

<http://diythemes.com/thesis/rtfm/differences-wordpress-com-org/>